

SILVERTON STUDENTS TAKE PART IN ORCA GRADUATION



Graduate Margaret Buckholz from Silverton shakes hands with Oregon Connections Academy Executive Director Allison Galvin from Salem during the online school's commencement ceremony at the State Fairground's Pavilion June 9. PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

Outdoor

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door recreation here,” said Lisa Sump-tion, Oregon Parks and Recreation De-partment director.

He will start work in Oregon in late June. The job pays somewhere be-tween \$70,000 to \$97,000 per year.

Officials had struggled to find the right person for the position. After a months-long process of reviewing more than 100 applications in March, state officials decided they hadn't found the right person and re-started the process.

Now, they've apparently got their oarsman.

The office will face major challenges. As a state-level job, the office won't have direct power over the 53 percent of Oregon that's managed by the federal government.

And the office will face skepticism from communities wary of bureaucra-cy or the type of recreation being pro-moted.

The group that supported the cre-ation of the office included businesses such as Keen Footwear and REI that are often seen as liberal-leaning and that primarily support recreation such as hiking, biking, and kayaking.

That made groups that support hunting, fishing and motorized recrea-tion nervous when the office was an-nounced.

In a sense, O'Brien-Feeney will have to be a Swiss army knife — able to speak with authenticity about the



Cailin O'Brien-Feeney was hired recently as the director of Oregon's Office of Outdoor Recreation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OPRD

state's numerous forms of recreation while also courting businesses, politi-cians and nonprofits.

Oregon is the fourth state to set up an office devoted to outdoor recreation, following in the footsteps of Utah, Washington, and Colorado.

In Utah, for example, the office awarded more than \$400,000 to recre-ation projects that funded everything from trails systems to an archery range.

It remains unclear exactly what Ore-gon's new office will focus on.

Zach Urness has been an outdoors writer, photographer and videographer in Oregon for 10 years. He is the author of the book "Hiking Southern Oregon" and the forthcoming book "Best Hikes with Kids, Oregon." He can be reached at zurness@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Twitter at @ZachsORoutdoors.

Miller

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items in the event of a call to nature.

Bagels being on the essentials list, with wood chips for the barbecue being on the other.

Here's a useful phrase for showing up at the check stand with one item in the basket ... for the second or time that day: "Isn't it always the case that you forget to put one thing on your list?"

By the third visit, you're using self-check.

The water crisis, on the other hand, was a wake-up call.

Heeding the admonitions about earthquake preparedness, Kay and I

were complacently smug in the knowl-edge that we had a full case of single-serving water bottles in the emergency stash.

We burned through those in a day, just as panicked buying had cleaned out the stores.

The cavalry arrived in the form of Kay's brother, Kent, who delivered a case of four one-gallon jugs of spring water to us, another to Kay's sister, Lin-da, and the last of three cases to Kay's brother, Jim, all in south Salem.

Kent added that we could re-fill them with the water from his tap in Keizer.

The lesson from all of this that it's better to think about earthquake or wa-ter-emergency preparedness as you do about backpack planning, stressing conservation and where you're going to

find the next water source.

On the other hand, you could take the approach of one of the Y member who was musing about the water emergency on Day 1, and the news saying that the shelves at stores from Albany to Wood-burn were bare.

"I think I'll just stop by the store and buy a couple of cases of Bud Light. It's about like water," he said with a laugh.

Desperate times, after all, call for cre-ative thinking.

Although the Y guy's approach could have led to over-watering of the plants in the back yard in my case.

Switching gears: Jon Yoder of Salem Environmental Education (SEE) will be leading, and I'll be joining him, on a July 14 outing to learn about Oregon's clams, then dig gapers and rake cockles at Ne-

tarts Bay west of Tillamook.

The outing titled "Clamming the Ore-gon Coast" is one of the Our Oregon se-ries sponsored by SEE. The cost is \$10 a person, and a \$10 annual shellfish per-mit is required for those 12 and older. Registration is required, and the group will be limited to 15.

For more information, go to the on-line event page at https://salemee.org/event/clamming-on-the-oregon-coast/?instance_id=119 or email Yoder at joyoder@wildblue.net

To learn more about SEE, go to the website at <https://salemee.org/> or call (503) 602-0745.

Henry Miller is a retired Statesman Journal outdoor writer and columnist. You can contact him via email at Henry-MillerSJ@gmail.com

Pac-12

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projected to increase by \$10 million to \$15 million after 2019, which would put payouts above \$40 million.

"They're saying this network should have the same kind of return that the SEC Network has had in their first cou-

ple of years," Wilcox said then.

In the Big 12, the league recently an-nounced an average distribution of \$36.5 million for fiscal year 2018. Unlike other conferences, the Big 12 payout fig-ure doesn't include individual schools' separate media rights deals for some games not selected by its big broadcast partners. Those separate deals boost those members' revenues even more and is almost \$20 million more at Texas

alone, Big 12 commissioner Bob Bowls-by said at league meetings on June 1.

Bowlsby also said his league is pro-jected to reach about \$40 million per school next year, not including the schools' separate media deals.

"We have escalators in several of our revenue streams, and so it could be that or more," Bowlsby said.

Gordon Gee, the president of Big 12 member West Virginia, was sitting right

next to Bowlsby when Bowlsby gave this estimate. He reacted to it with a state-ment that Pac-12 members only wish they could make.

"Well, I plan on spending \$40 mil-lion," Gee said to Bowlsby. "So get it up there, OK?"

Contributing: Steve Berkowitz Follow Schrottenboer on Twitter @Schrottenboer

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