

# Appeal Tribune

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## Bathrooms in Mt. Angel lead to a stink

### City council replaces abused facilities with portable toilets

**Bill Poehler** Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

MT. ANGEL – For years, the public bathrooms in Mt. Angel were repeatedly abused.

People would sit in the bathrooms and charge their phone, leave behind used condoms and needles, even smear feces on the walls.

The city council decided to address the problem by tearing out the bathrooms and installing portable toilets.

It's not popular with all of the town's citizens. "They're disgusting and they're disgusting. They're totally disgusting," Mt. Angel resident Mary Franklin said of the portable toilets. "People don't want to use them, so what do they do? They go to the Glockenspiel (Restaurant) and use the bathrooms and they go to the sausage company and they use them. They try to be hospitable.

"They like to portray themselves as a welcoming community. Going to one of those port-a-potties is not welcoming."

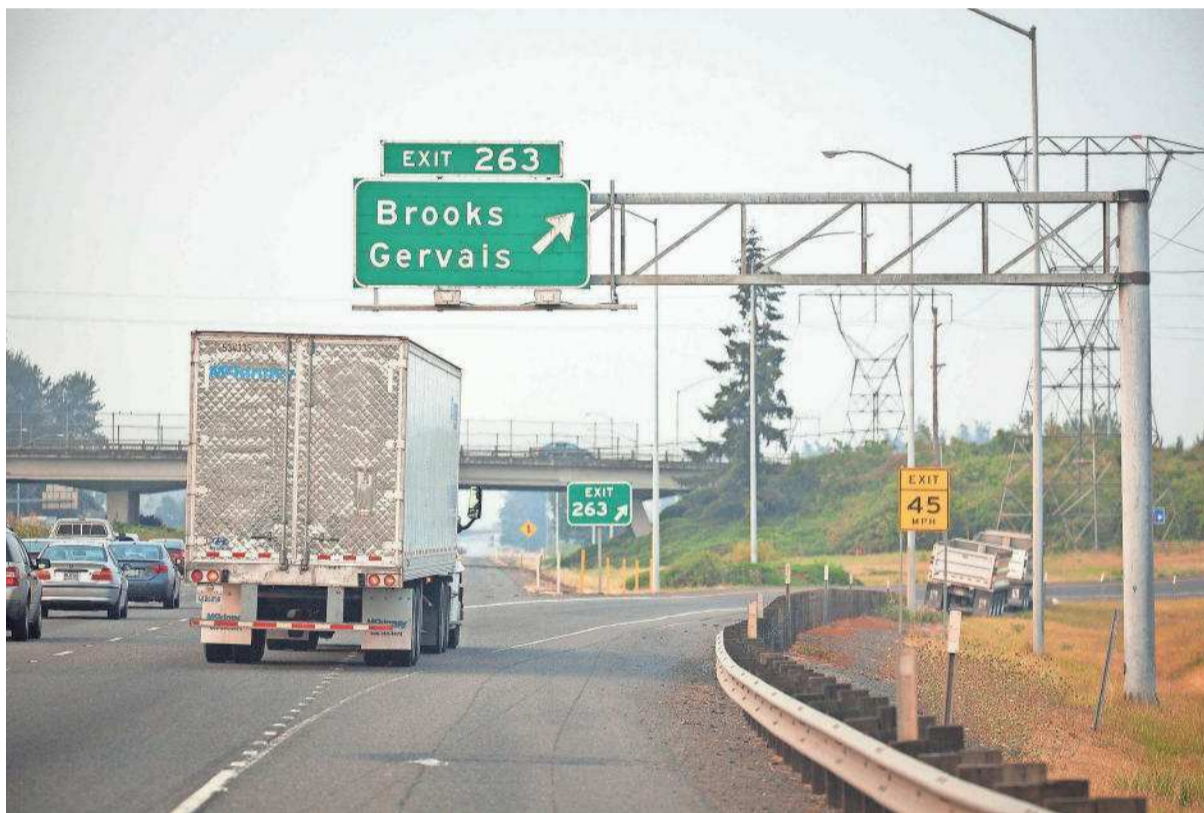
The bathrooms are in the small city park in the same block as Mt. Angel City Hall at the corner of

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Mt. Angel citizen Mary Franklin stands in front of the public bathrooms in Mt. Angel that were gutted and replaced with two port-a-potties in the building.  
BILL POEHLER/STATESMAN JOURNAL

## Shipping project carries potential



An area west of the Powerland Heritage Park in Brooks is being considered by group including former state representative Kevin Mannix to create Oregon Port of Willamette, an intermodal rail and freight site in Brooks. KELLY JORDAN/STATESMAN JOURNAL

### Intermodal facility in Brooks would have impact

**Bill Poehler** Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Over the past 100 years, Bill Smith's family has been farming the land near St. Paul in the North Willamette Valley.

Dozens of factors can impact his farm's profitability.

When Portland's Terminal 6 shut down in 2016, Smith and his family felt the impact directly as it cost more money to ship the crops they produce including straw, hay, grass seed, peppermint and hazelnuts.

Oregon's agricultural industry, which generates \$5.7 billion each year and is tied to over 200,000 jobs, relies heavily on the ability to ship goods out of the state.

In the Willamette Valley, 38,000 containers of commodities were shipped out of Oregon in 2016 including straw, hay, pulp, lumber, potatoes, seeds, grains, Christmas Trees and nursery stock.

To get most of those goods to shipping ports, the crops are loaded into containers and those containers are trucked to a port in Seattle or Tacoma.

A group of businessmen led by Kevin Mannix have formed Oregon Port of Willamette and is in a competitive bid process against a group in Millersburg for a

\$25 million grant to build an intermodal freight transport facility in Brooks.

Intermodal freight transport operations are areas where containers are taken from trucks and craned on to rail cars or from rail cars to trucks.

"It's not only a cheaper way to get our containers ... to a port, steamship port, but also, if you could just get some of the traffic off the road it would help everyone," said Smith, a long-time director at the St. Paul Rodeo.

A farm like Smith's 900-acre operation in St. Paul will ship 60 containers a month of goods and make twice as many trips for trucks through Portland to get them on ships.

The option of hauling the containers to Brooks – or Millersburg – would directly impact Smith in terms of man-hours and in profit.

But they're not the only ones who could profit from such an operation.

"In terms of the typical farmer in the Willamette Valley, they would benefit from having a place that they can truck their containers to, put them on rail to their ultimate destinations," said Mannix, a lawyer and former state lawmaker.

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## Firefighters advance against Detroit blaze

**Whitney Woodworth** Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Thanks to several helicopters, retardant drops and firefighters working on the ground, crews have made "considerable progress" on the 6-acre Byars Peak Fire Aug. 14, fire officials said.

The wildfire is burning about five miles north of Detroit Lake between Deadhorse Mountain and Byars Peak in the Willamette National Forest.

The fire was called in from Coffin Mountain Look-

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The Byars Fire burns in the Willamette National Forest four miles north of Detroit.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST

## Fix for Mt. Angel's water system could cost \$100K

**Christena Brooks** Special to Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

This spring, Mt. Angel was one of the lucky Mid-Valley towns unaffected by the toxic algae bloom that fouled municipal drinking water in Salem.

City staff and contractors have been busy here too, though, working to solve a problem with the water system's aging computerized controls and increasing the size of mainline pipes downtown.

On July 14, the wireless connection between Mt. Angel's two wells and its pair of water storage reservoirs atop the hill next to Mt. Angel Abbey and Seminary failed, causing one of the tanks to overflow. Downhill, residents at the Carmelite House of Studies worried because this had happened before.

A similar water reservoir overflow in 2016 resulted in water damage to the 19,000-square-foot house of

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