

# Appeal Tribune

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## Is Stayton DMV office faster?



The Driver and Motor Vehicle Services office in Stayton COURTESY OF OREGON DMV

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

When Gary Tiffin needed to visit a DMV office, he had a choice.

The South Salem office is closer to home in Turner, but he went to the Stayton office.

Tiffin's view is based on four or five trips to the Stayton DMV office and is the same as many people have — it's faster to go to Stayton.

"I take my number and I've got five people begging me to come to their station," said Tiffin, the Mayor of Turner.

Indeed, on a recent Wednesday, the wait time at the two Salem offices peaked at 30 minutes (South Salem)

and 27 minutes (North Salem), and the wait at Woodburn peaked at 24 minutes.

The wait time at Stayton: six minutes.

The belief that the wait time is shorter in Stayton is a popular one. ODOT spokesman Lou Torres said when he took his children for their driving tests from his home outside Silverton, he went to the Stayton DMV because he heard it was faster.

The reality, according to DMV's statistics, is that on average the Stayton office is only a few minutes faster than either of the two offices in Salem. Through June 30, the average wait time at the North Salem office was 12.3 minutes, South Salem was 10.5, Woodburn was 10.7, Stayton was 9.3, and Dallas was 9.2

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## Army vet whose food truck burned rebuilds



Squatchy's BBQ owner Jason Lorraine stands at the counter of his new brick and mortar restaurant location in Stayton. Just over a year since his original Squatchy's BBQ trailer burned, he is opening at a new location thanks to the generosity of those who contributed through a Go Fund Me campaign set-up for Jason and his wife Julie after the fire. KELLY JORDAN/STATESMAN JOURNAL

**Emily Teel**  
Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Three Salem-area restaurants suffered fires this summer, but one was particularly devastating. It reduced Squatchy's BBQ, a food trailer opened by a U.S. Army veteran less than a year earlier, to a hunk of twisted metal.

Nothing was salvageable.

But an outpouring of generosity from hundreds of people, near and far, have helped Jason and Julie Lorraine rebuild from the ashes.

On a Sunday morning in mid-July, Jason Lorraine was towing the barbecue trailer, hitched to his truck, from their Molalla home to a food truck rally in Stayton.

He noticed smoke coming from the trailer while driving through Silverton and pulled over.

"I originally thought I could put it out with the fire

extinguisher, but the minute I got out of the truck I realized, that's not gonna work."

The trailer body, along with the attached grill, smoker and all of the affiliated equipment — refrigerators, slow cookers and signs — quickly became engulfed in flames.

Lorraine was able to unhitch his truck, but not before it sustained serious heat damage, scorching the body and melting the brake and tail lights.

"I grabbed whatever I could think to grab ... our phones, our cash," said Lorraine, but then, "I just had to stand there and watch it burn."

The Silverton Fire Department subdued the blaze, but the trailer — and the Lorraines' livelihood — was gone.

This BBQ we'll defend

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COURTESY OF OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

## Should Oregon kill more cougars?

**Zach Urness**  
Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

What happens now?

In the wake of Oregon's first fatal attack by a cougar — and the second deadly attack in the Northwest this year — the question of how best to manage the state's big cat population has reached the forefront.

Even before a cougar attacked and killed 55-year-old hiker Diana Bober in Mount Hood National Forest last week, mountain lions were already in the public eye.

Their increasing numbers — an estimated 6,600 statewide — have pushed the predators closer to Oregon's population centers, officials said. That's led to a series of high-profile incidents in The Dalles, Ashland, Silverton and Dallas.

Complaints about cougars have tripled in the Willamette Valley since 2011. And the number of cougars killed due to human or livestock conflicts reached 169 animals in 2016, according to state records.

Hunters say they've seen the problem coming for years, ever since a ballot initiative in 1994 outlawed the use of hounds to hunt cougars.

They say it eliminated the most effective tool for managing cougar numbers and allowed the population to skyrocket.

"This is a statistical problem now," said Jim Akenon, a longtime cougar biologist now working for the Oregon Hunters Association. "The more cougars you have on the landscape, the greater the chance of a negative encounter. If their numbers continue to grow, you do worry about this happening again."

Akenon said reinstating hound hunting would not only bring cougar numbers down to healthier levels — around 3,500 animals statewide, he said — it would also reestablish a greater fear of humans in animals increasingly brazen about showing up in populated areas, he said.

Akenon said he'd take a county-by-county approach, looking to cap cougar numbers based on local conditions.

Environmental groups strongly disagree. They point out how rare fatal attacks by cougars are and say hunting causes more problems than it fixes.

"This is an absolute tragedy — a person has died — but we have to remember that this is very, very rare," said Dr. John W. Laundré, a professor at Western Oregon University and a board member of the environmental group Predator Defense.

This is Oregon's first confirmed fatal attack over a long history, he noted.

Three people have been killed in California and Colorado in cougar attacks, while two have died in Washington, including earlier this year, when a cougar attacked two mountain bikers near North Bend, killing one of them.

"If you look at it objectively, how few incidents occur really speaks to how well cougars live with us," Laundré said. "Deer kill far more people than cougars by being on the highway and getting hit by a car. Should we wipe out every deer seen near a road?"

In terms of management, hunting is actually

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## Oktoberfest welcomes visitors



Macy Yanez, 3, of Salem, dances and watches the Glockenspiel play during Oktoberfest in Mt. Angel on Sep. 14. ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

The familiar smell of bratwurst and sausage, the sounds of German music and festivalgoers dressed in lederhosen filled Mt. Angel once again for the 52nd Annual Oktoberfest.

The four-day festival began in 1966 as a celebration of the fall harvest, attracting around 39,000 people that year. Over the decades, the celebration has grown to accommodate more than 300,000 visitors annually. For more photos, go to [StatesmanJournal.com/photos](http://StatesmanJournal.com/photos).

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