

# Appeal Tribune

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## Amazon shipping center to open in August

**Jonathan Bach**  
Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Amazon's packing and shipping center in southeast Salem should open in August, with about 1,000 jobs that are expected to pay at least \$15 an hour.

Hiring for the 1-million-square-foot building at 4775 Depot Court SE kicks off in June, Amazon spokeswoman Shevaun Brown said Tuesday. Jobs will range from line workers to management positions. The company in January also was advertising management jobs.

Amazon is building the crew "from the ground up,"

Brown said. The exact headcount is to be determined, but company officials are still tracking toward the 1,000-worker number, she said.

Construction also has been completed, Brown said. The Seattle e-commerce giant in 2018 announced it would adopt a \$15 an hour minimum wage. That could pressure other Salem business to increase wages.

Oregon's minimum wage is \$10.75 an hour in Marion and Polk counties, though it will increase to \$11.25 on July 1 and to \$13.50 in 2022, under state legislation enacted in 2016.

Taxpayers are helping foot the bill for Amazon's Sa-

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The Amazon packing and shipping center in southeast Salem opens in August, a company spokeswoman said. MICHAELA ROMÁN / STATESMAN JOURNAL



The Detroit Dam was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Willamette Valley and began operating in 1953. DAVID DAVIS AND KELLY JORDAN / STATESMAN JOURNAL

## Water rights up for grabs

### Cities, farmers, fish compete for water stored by Willamette dams

**Bill Poehler and Tracy Loew**  
Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Billions of gallons of water have been hidden behind the Willamette River Basin's 13 dams since they were constructed starting in the 1930s.

For 30 years, powerful interests including cities, farmers and industry have been slugging it out for access to that water, which has yet to be designated for a use. Fisheries and environmental groups also want a say in how the water is distributed from the dams, operated by the Army Corps of Engineers.

We're talking about stored water — not what flows freely down the Willamette and its tributaries. Who has a right to it, and when, mostly has never been decided.

That's about to change.

It's more than a drop in a bucket: 1.64 million acre feet of water per year is the equivalent of 534 billion gallons, enough to fill 809,381 Olympic sized swimming pools.

That water could have huge impact on the 2.9 million people living in the Willamette Valley, from Cottage Grove north to Portland, and the \$2.2 billion in agricultural goods the region produces each year.

Future demands are in play: expansion for municipal water providers, continued operation and development of farming and the health of the legendary, yet environmentally fragile, salmon and steelhead that spawn in the basin's tributaries.

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## Sublimity park gets spark from grant funds

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

SUBLIMITY — There were big problems with small bathrooms.

Early Settlers Park is the only park owned by Sublimity and in constant use for tee-ball and baseball games, family picnics, a summer free lunch program for children, a venue for day cares, movies in the park, First Tuesday gatherings, tennis matches and the site Christmas Tree that caps off the city's holiday parade.

The two-acre park — occupied on one corner by city hall — is the focal point of the community, but there has been a known weak spot: the bathrooms.

Not only were they not handicapped accessible,

they were precariously attached to another building and often in need of repair.

"We did have some issues ... with vandalism," Sublimity public works director Alan Frost said. "And they tried to start fires in this restroom, which is attached to the city hall with all the court documents and historical records."

A \$126,000 grant from the Oregon Park and Recreation Department's Land and Water Conservation Fund covered half of the \$252,000 cost to build new bathrooms in a corner of the park.

Along with hundreds of feet of new concrete paths throughout the park as part of the project, it ensures everyone can use Early Settlers Park and breathe new

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## 'No such thing as a routine traffic stop'

### Salem officer's shooting reveals everyday dangers

**Capi Lynn**  
Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Mike Stradley conducted thousands of traffic stops in his 30-year career as a Portland-area police officer. No one ever tried to shoot him from inside a vehicle.

It's happened to friends, though.

And it happened to a Salem Police officer on May 14.

"Every single day that's a possibility," said Stradley, skills manager at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. "The possibility always exists that the person you're stopping will try to kill you to get away. That's an extreme possibility. It happens very infrequently."

In the past three months, a K-9 officer in North Carolina and sheriff's deputies in Texas and Washington have been shot and killed during traffic stops.

The shooting here was far less tragic. The officer survived. The suspect was arrested and faces multiple charges, including attempted aggravated murder.

But it was a startling reminder of how vulnerable law enforcement officers are, even making what most would call a routine traffic stop in a northeast Salem neighborhood.

"Cops don't use that term," Stradley said. "There's no such thing as a routine traffic stop — until it's over."

Most stops on graveyard shifts

Traffic stops encourage driver safety and get real criminals off the street.

Local patrol officers may average one or two per shift if they work days or swing and as many as five on graveyard, according to Lt. Treven Upkes, a Salem Police Department spokesman.

He said the Patrol Division is staffed with a minimum of 33 officers per day.

Although officers are at risk every time, what happened to Salem Police officer Michelle Pratt was rare. Upkes estimated it had been at least 15 years since a Salem officer was shot at during a traffic stop.

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Law enforcement recruits go through traffic-stop scenario training as an instructor videos the exercise at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem. ANNA REED/STATSMAN JOURNAL

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