

Appeal Tribune

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020 ■ SILVERTONAPPEAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

School board members in Silverton won't be censured

Bill Poehler and Natalie Pate Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

SILVERTON – The Silver Falls School Board declined to censure its members for improper discussions outside of board meetings, but instead will require its members to undergo training about communications.

Two independent attorneys hired by the board investigated a complaint regarding email and text communications between Silver Falls School Board members. Board member Tom Buchholz recommended no action be brought against four of seven members: Jennifer Traeger, Jonathan Edmonds, Janet Allanach and Lori McLaughlin.

But Buchholz said he thought seven violations of board policy by member Shelly Nealon in the two investigations justified her censure, a public reprimand.

The board, however, voted 6-1 Monday to acknowledge the violations and require board members receive targeted training regarding the violations by Aug. 31, 2020.

"This response does not foster trust," said Owen Von Flue, a former school board member and representative of the group of community members who brought the complaint.

To date, Silver Falls School District has spent \$9,992 from its general fund to pay for costs associated with the complaint.

The complaint, which was brought by 112 communi-

ty members, alleged that five board members violated board policy concerning discussion outside of executive session.

It specifically pointed to Nealon's repeated communications with the board about the contract of former superintendent Andy Bellando, who resigned in July and now is the interim superintendent for the Dallas School District.

Communication between board members is to be held only in executive session, according to board policy.

"Discussing a superintendent's contract outside of executive session is dangerous," Buchholz said. "If the

See **SCHOOL**, Page 3A



Nick Haas, of Portland, opens a doorway that was boarded up on a home built 1864 on a plot of land west of Silverton that was used in the Alan Alda movie "Isn't It Shocking?". The house has been uninhabited and dilapidated for years. Haas purchased the home in 2017 on the condition he move it to a new location and restore it. Photographed on Feb. 4, 2020. ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL

House from Alan Alda movie gets new hope

Bill Poehler Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nick Haas thought his dream home was gone. For nearly a decade, the Portland resident had been fascinated with a picturesque, long-abandoned two-story farmhouse near Mt. Angel, even though he didn't know where it was located for much of that time.

The Wiesner Farm House, which was completed in 1880 and at one time was the key location in the Alan Alda movie "Isn't It Shocking?," was scheduled to be demolished by means of a practice burn by a local fire

department.

With help from the Wiesner family, Haas has undertaken the monumental task of moving the house to a new location a few miles away and restoring the house that has significant historical and popular culture value to the area.

"It was a dream of mine as a kid," said Chance Wiesner, the great-great grandson of its builder. Chance grew up in the house and now lives in Salem. "I didn't really get to fulfill it, but it's great to see it fulfilled."

See **WIESNER**, Page 3A

Oregon state parks offer free camping to minority groups

Zach Urness Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

State officials are looking to expand the diversity of people visiting Oregon's outdoors with a pilot program that offers a free weekend of camping at state parks.

Eight camping trips, each with two nights spent in yurts or cabins, will be available to people in groups underrepresented in the state park system during the summer of 2020, officials said.

The groups eligible include racial ethnic minorities, those with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ plus community and those living in poverty, officials said. Others could qualify as well.

"Parks are for everyone, and this small gesture eliminates a very real barrier — cost — from the equation," said OPRD's director Lisa Sumption. "We hope this is just a start for participants, and one camping trip will inspire many more outdoor adventures."

See **CAMPING**, Page 2A

Online at SilvertonAppeal.com

News updates: ■ Breaking news ■ Get updates from the Silverton area

Photos: ■ Photo galleries

Vol. 139, No. 9

Serving the Silverton Area Since 1880
A Unique Edition of the Statesman Journal



©2020 50 cents
Printed on recycled paper

Stayton city councilor wades into House race

Bill Poehler Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A lone Democrat has waded into a field brimming with Republicans.

Stayton city councilor Paige Hook has become the first and thus far only Democrat to file to run for House District 17, a long-time Republican stronghold, against a field that includes six Republicans.



Hook

"It has been a strategic choice to wait until now," said Hook, who works at the state legislature. "There are six people running on the Republican side and why put someone on the side for attacks until they had to."

"I would say it's a thing of I don't have to run against six Republicans; I have to run against one Republican."

Rep. Sherrie Sprenger has held the seat since 2008 and won the past six elections.

She announced last year she would not run for reelection for the position and instead would run for Linn County Commissioner.

Republicans Jami Cate, Susan Coleman, Bruce Cuff, Tim Kirsch, Dylan Richards and Scott Sword have filed for the May 19 primary election. The final day to file for the position is March 10.

Republicans have won every election for the seat since 2002, after the district was drawn into its current form.

Jim Moore, the Director of Political Outreach for the Tom McCall Center for Civic Engagement at Pacific University, said the greatest chance for a Democrat in such a Republican stronghold is in the final year before redistricting as the 2020 election is.

He said that demographics in a district can change due to new people moving into the district, and House District 17 has seen its largest gain in unaffiliated voters.

"A new name can break through more easily," Moore said. "Looking at the numbers here, that's probably not a factor."

House District 17 includes cities in east Linn and Marion County including Detroit, Gates, Idanha, Lebanon, Lyons, Mill City, Stayton, Sublimity, Sweet Home and Waterloo.

Hook said she wants to get the district more of a voice in the decisions made in the legislature, where the Democrats hold a supermajority.

See **RACE**, Page 3A



Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, R-Scio, speaks on the first day of the short legislative session at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem on Feb. 3, 2020. ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL

DITCH DISPOSABLES

REDUCEREUSE.NET

Each year you could use...

1 reusable coffee mug OR 500 paper coffee cups

WHAT WILL YOU CHOOSE?