

Marion County SWAT executes warrant

Virginia Barreda
Salem Statesman Journal
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Deputies arrested a man and cited a woman Tuesday evening after executing a search warrant at a residence outside of Silverton.

Jonathon Younce, 39, was arrested on a parole violation warrant and taken to Marion County Jail. Rachel Vaneeten, 42, was cited and released for a probation violation for second-degree criminal trespass out of Washington County.

Around 10 a.m., Marion County Sheriff's office deputies responded to a house in the 11800 block of Silverton Road NE to serve a court order related to an active investigation.

The abandoned property, just west of Silverton, has been the scene of numerous police and fire calls for service dur-



Younce

ing the last year due to squatters, according to Sgt. Jeremy Landers, a spokesperson with the sheriff's office.

Multiple local law enforcement agencies have responded to repeated service calls on the property that have included suspicious activity, thefts, trespassing, assault, stolen vehicles, warrant arrests and several reported code violations.

Most recently, a large fire on April 30, resulted in a barn, a travel trailer and multiple vehicles being destroyed, Landers said.

"It's been quite the nuisance," he said. "The vast majority of the activity out there has been very noteworthy in the Silverton area."

The court order was to allow officials

to assist building inspectors to assess the condition of the building. The search warrant was also based upon the belief they're were still additional people inside the building which were obstructing the ability to do the inspection, Landers said.

When deputies tried to make contact Tuesday, the residents refused to come out of the house, preventing the order from being served.

Authorities called the sheriff's office SWAT team to assist with "safely securing the buildings on the property."

SWAT negotiators made contact with one of the residents by phone and were able to get two people to come out of the building just after 11 a.m.

Another man came out of the residence around three hours later.

Silverton Road between Brush Creek Road and Rail Way NE was closed to

traffic for about one and a half hours while SWAT entered the buildings to make sure no others were left hiding inside.

The road was reopened once the "property was safe and secure," just before 6 p.m., Landers said.

Investigators are working with Marion County Office of Legal Counsel and other county departments to resolve community concerns.

Younce was previously convicted of fourth-degree assault in 2014 in Marion County.

Virginia Barreda is the breaking news and public safety reporter for the Statesman Journal. She can be reached at 503-399-6657 or at vbarreda@statesmanjournal.com. Follow her on Twitter at @vbarreda2.

Council

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said Public Works Director Petra Schuetz. "It's stable, but the fish ladder doesn't function at all."

Last summer, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife employees, in town working on the fish ladder, observed water escaping through cracks in the dam's face and footing. City staff members had noticed cracks too but hadn't taken action because "last time we heard, to do an improvement to the dam would trigger making improvements to the fish ladder too," Schuetz said.

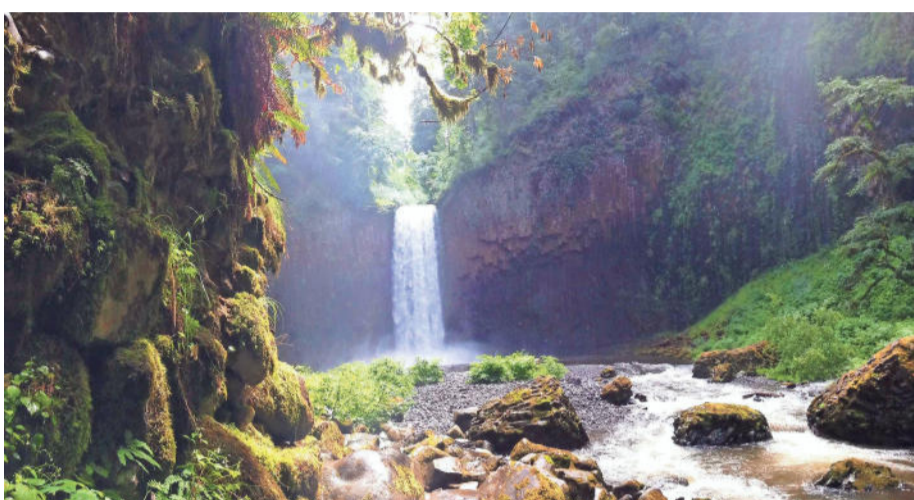
The price tag on a fish ladder overhaul? An estimated \$2.5 million, she said. So, with the state's interest in re-establishing passage for winter steelhead, spring Chinook and Coho salmon, the question is whether it might be more cost-effective to remove the dam and re-site Silverton's water intake further upstream.

For now, there are more questions than answers, but councilors agreed with staff that it's worth spending some money to get fourfold the investment back in grant dollars to learn more.

"We were surprised with this opportunity, one we'd be able to afford and that would be better for fish and the whole ecosystem," Schuetz said.

At the city's secondary source of drinking water, Silver Creek, a \$2.3 million project is still on-budget but six months behind-schedule. Environmental permitting has been slower than expected, pushing completion out from spring 2021 to December 2021.

The project means Silverton's getting an updated intake system at Silver Creek and new 16-inch pipe to pump the water from the creek to the city's water treatment plants atop the hill on Ames Street.



Abiqua Falls from the trail along Abiqua Creek.

ALISHA ROEMELING / STATESMAN JOURNAL

A federal grant is paying half the cost; the other half is coming from System Development Charges, or SDC's, the fees collected by the city from builders for infrastructure expansion associated with growth.

Lastly, at the sewage treatment plant on Schemmel Lane, city workers are finally ready to install the \$285,600 machine purchased last year to solve storage capacity problems. Sludge — that chunky liquid left after sewage treatment — has to be stored through the spring and summer at the plant until it can be sprayed on contracted farmers' fields in fall.

The screw press purchased is designed to remove water from the sludge, turning it from a 1.5-percent solid into a 17-percent solid. This dewatering process yields a much drier material that can be scooped and stacked, rather than pumped and sprayed. Best of all, it takes up less space.

Silverton's screw press was delivered at Christmas, about three months late, because its Japanese manufacturer was

affected by the June 18 tsunami, Schuetz said.

Also, crews at the Silverton plant spent time last year switching the system's chemistry, said Steve Starner, water quality supervisor. For 20 years, crews had used hydrated lime to control pH at the plant. Last summer, suddenly pH levels registered too high. Operators couldn't let that happen too many times; otherwise the microorganisms that reduce ammonia "wouldn't be happy," Starner said.

Crews researched alternatives, selected magnesium hydroxide as an alternate pH regulator, built a pilot plant, tested it and brought the news process

online by July. Cost to the city was \$35,000, and the new process is working, "extremely well," Starner said. Magnesium hydroxide — an ingredient in laxatives and antacids — is also used in the City of Cannon Beach, he noted.

Meanwhile, the screw press "still has its Christmas wrapper on," he said. Not for long, though. This summer, construction is set to begin on a covered storage pad and the pole building that will house the machine. Final installation costs are estimated at \$163,100, according to city council minutes.

In other business at the May 4 council meeting, held on Zoom and live-streamed at <https://silverfalls.vod.castus.tv/vod/?live=ch1&view=1>:

■ Silverton's July 3 fireworks show at the Oregon Garden has been cancelled due to the social distancing measures associated with COVID-19, reported City Manager Christy Wurster.

■ A new city engineer is set to start work at City Hall this month, councilors learned.

■ Three councilors' and the mayor's terms in office are expiring at year's end. Those seeking reelection, as well as new volunteers, can pick up candidate packets at City Hall, starting June 3, also the first day to file as a candidate in the November election. The last day to file is Aug. 25. Councilors whose terms are expiring are Jason Freiling, Laurie Carter and Matt Plummer. Kyle Palmer holds the mayoral position.

Constable

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The state's memorial contains the names of 187 men and women who died in the line of duty while serving as law enforcement officers since the 1880s.

The memorial includes officers from city, county, state, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies who have served as law enforcement officers, corrections officers, and parole and probation officers.

The Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund raised funds to build the state memorial more than 20 years ago and hosts the annual ceremony.

This year's memorial is closed to the

public due to the current COVID-19 health crisis.

The memorial will be a shortened version of the traditional ceremony, with honor guard, bagpiper, bugler and roll call. The ceremony is scheduled at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5th.

DPSST plans to video record the ceremony and post it after so family members, co-workers and friends of the fallen can watch.

For more information on the Oregon Fallen Law Enforcement Officer Memorial may visit the DPSST site.

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