

Appeal Tribune

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OREGON PRIMARY

Marion County, Stayton levies failing

Bill Poehler
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A host of rural fire districts and cities in Marion County have measures on the ballot in Tuesday's primary election, most dealing with funding for fire departments. But there are also funding issues for pools and libraries, and a city charter amendment to loosen residency requirements for councilors.

Marion County Fire District 1 levy

The levy by Marion County Fire District No. 1 is failing in early returns.

Marion County Fire District 1 is asking voters to pass

a new two-year operations levy that would allow it to expand its staff and pay for the purchase and maintenance of equipment.

The district currently has 55 employees and covers 88 square miles including areas east of Salem and Keizer, and unincorporated communities such as Brooks, Howell Prairie and Pratum and over 50,000 residents in rural parts of Marion County and has mutual aid agreements with all fire districts in Marion County.

The district was asking voters to charge homeowners 99 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for the next two years and allow it to hire two more firefighters and a deputy fire marshal.

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More than 40 firefighters battled a fire at a hemp drying facility on March 3, 2020, on Sunnyview and Howell Prairie roads NE in rural Marion County.

MARION COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1



Silver Falls State Park reopened to the public on May 19, 2020 after being closed since March due to COVID-19 limits. ZACH URNESS / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Silver Falls reopens after COVID-19 closure

Zach Urness
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The 100-foot waterfalls are still there.

So are the wildflowers, emerald forest and, most importantly, the little cafe that serves hot chocolate (plus other snacks).

Silver Falls State Park reopened this week after a nearly six week COVID-19 closure, and everything looked pretty normal save a few hikers wearing masks.

The South Falls Lodge was shuttered, the campground remained closed and the playground equipment was wrapped in orange mesh fencing. But all the trails were open, the forest boasted every possible shade of green and the waterfalls were booming after the recent rains.

Spring is often viewed as the best time to visit Silver Falls, the gem of Oregon's state park system to the

east of Salem, but visitors are advised to be wary.

While crowds were thin Tuesday amid drizzle and gray skies, this weekend is expected to bring sunnier conditions and more crowds.

Parking at Silver Falls will be limited by 25 percent, and anyone who can't find a place to park will be asked to leave or directed to a different area, park manager Guy Rodrigue said.

"The reduction will be done by (gating off) some parking lots," he said. "Visitors will be asked to return during slower periods or directed to less congested areas of the park if we reach our reduced capacity."

The reduced capacity for parking will continue "until we can better evaluate congestion both in the day-use areas as well as the trails," Rodrigue said.

Four bathrooms are open, including three in the South Falls area and one at the North Falls Trailhead. The only bathrooms closed are those in the South

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Class action against Traeger grills dismissed

Bill Poehler
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A district court judge has dismissed a proposed class action lawsuit against barbecue grill manufacturer Traeger Pellet Grills, deciding the defendants failed to establish the court has jurisdiction.

In the opinion handed down May 1, U.S. District Court Judge Bruce Jenkins dismissed without prejudice the suit filed by plaintiffs Michael Yates and Norman Jones that alleged Traeger Pellet Grills doesn't

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Traeger Grills being sued for not using the same wood in their pellets as is advertised. Photographed in Salem on Oct. 24, 2019. ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL



Mikayla Wood
Oregon Connections Academy

A strange end for Class of 2020, but the future beckons

"Take pride in how far you have come and have faith in how far you can go" — fitting words from Christian Larson, a forward-thinking author, popular in the early 1900s about the same time the Spanish Flu pandemic spread across the globe.

As the class of 2020, we've had a rocky transition to adulthood. Some of us lost time in a beloved sport, couldn't participate in theater, or we missed out on a competition we prepared for since freshman year.

For most graduates, we've lost our senior prom and in-person graduation ceremonies. We've lost both of those rites of passage, but we gained much more than all our losses combined.

We gained time with our families, time to focus on hobbies, or create new ones. We gained time to serve and make a difference in our communities in new ways. We gained time to work on plans for college or career after we officially graduate.

At the end of an era, people often ask for more time and yet that is rarely granted. This year gave us the gift of time and we can all be grateful for that.

I understand the pain we all feel and the loss of the "ideal senior year." However, it's important to live in the present and enjoy what we have right now. Let's continue to look forward.

We made it! We graduated and that's just the first step, just the first accomplishment to the many more we'll achieve in the future.

We should count our blessings, and be glad we survived this health crisis. We should be thankful that we can seek the next adventure in our lives. Hopefully someday soon we'll be able to hug our classmates when we see them in the park or get together for a belated grad party.

Recognize that we are a part of history. Many of us were born in the aftermath of the last major crisis; 9/11. Now we're trying to celebrate a major milestone, graduating high school, during this devastating pandemic. Think about what you will tell your children and grandchildren about this moment in history. I will probably tell my kiddos and grandkids how I was able to get through this without going too crazy. Much of it has to do with my spirituality, the rest to gaining strength from past challenges in my life. For example, in middle school, I almost dropped out because of bullying and then switched to Oregon Connections Academy, which is a full-time online public school. I went from being very shy and withdrawn to more outgoing. I became involved in community volunteering and now I'm even student body president.

Over the past few years, I decided to pursue a career in the health care field, never realizing that when I graduated my chosen path would be headed right into this history-making crisis. My parents are both employed in the medical profession and it's been tough for them the past few months. When we reflect on where we've been and where we're going, it's important to thank our family members, teachers, coaches, friends, and others who've been there for us, guiding us on this journey. Without them providing the map, we would've veered off course more than many of us already did.

As the author noted, we should be proud of our accomplishments so far and have confidence in our future. The class of 2020 is resilient. This is not the end for us but rather a new beginning. While the world is changing, sometimes drastically it seems, this is our chance to be a part of that change, not only for ourselves but for generations to come.

I encourage the class of 2020 to be active citizens in our community, to be the class makes a difference in the lives of others. We are blessed with an opportunity to make a change for the better.

Have faith for what is to come, life is a journey that takes us on a wild ride, enjoy everything it has to offer — bumps and all.

Go out into the world and shape it, let's show the world what our class of 2020 is all about! Congratulations to everyone graduating this year, as we go on to greater things, may we all let our lights shine and brighten the world.

Mikayla Wood, Oregon Connections Academy Student Body President, Class of 2020, from Scio For information about Oregon Connections Academy please visit www.OregonConnectionsAcademy.com or call (800) 382-6010.

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