

## YMCA plans CEO transition as building begins

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

Sam Carroll, by all accounts, saved the Family YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties. It was in grave financial trouble when he became CEO in late 2014, the decrepit headquarters building in downtown Salem bleeding the organization dry. Board members admitted the Y had a 50-50 chance of surviving — at best. Carroll made difficult decisions from Day 1 to keep things afloat, including staff cuts, and dared to promote the idea of a new facility, which his predecessors had tried and failed to do multiple times. He rebuilt relationships in the community and faith

in the organization. Fast forward to today, with \$12 million in Lottery funds from the Oregon Legislature and a \$7 million loan from the Faith Foundation, construction will soon begin on the corner of Court and Cottage streets NE, where the old YMCA stood for nearly a century. “I feel great about everything we’ve been able to do, but it’s not about me,” Carroll said this past week after it was announced he would retire in October. “It’s about the people that were involved: my staff, they’re the ones that do the real work; the board, continuing to have confidence and supporting me; and the community, who believed in it and continue to believe in it.” Carroll could have waited until the new facility was

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A rendering shows the south end of the planned Salem Family YMCA building downtown. COURTESY OF CB|TWO ARCHITECTS



Farmer Bill Case is fighting an EPA settlement that requires removing two rock walls on the North Santiam River. PHOTOS BY DAVID DAVIS AND ZACH URNESS / STATESMAN JOURNAL

## Stretch of river may get more dangerous

Removing dikes on North Santiam could mean more trees down

**Bill Poehler and Zach Urness**  
Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A dangerous stretch of the North Santiam River near Jefferson where people have repeatedly required rescue has the potential to become more hazardous in coming years. More than 20 people have been rescued, and some have nearly died, on the popular stretch of river between Greens Bridge and the town of Jefferson as the waterway became choked with downed trees this summer. Now a farmer’s removal of rock dikes from the edge of the North Santiam, in accordance with his settlement with the Environmental Protection Agency, has the potential to make problems worse. This week, farmer Bill Case started removal of one of two nearly 1,000-foot-long rock walls that serve as dikes to protect his farm outside Jefferson from flooding. When the lower dike is moved, a grove of roughly 40 trees, many over 150-feet tall, could suffer erosion and fall into the river. “It’s historically been a terrible corner and if he



A rock wall separates Case’s corn field from the North Santiam River near its confluence with the South Santiam River.

moves that levy, it’s going to totally change the river. (The river) is going to slam into the stand of trees,” said Linn County Sheriff Jim Yon. Case fought the EPA’s demands to remove the dikes for years, but no longer has a choice. He reached a settlement in May with the EPA that requires him to

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## Marion County cuts birth control, pregnancy tests

Report steep decline in number of patients seeking those services

**Bill Poehler**  
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After a steep decline in patients seeking reproductive health services over the prior decade, Marion County’s Public Health Department is cutting services like family planning, birth control, pap smears and pregnancy tests at its clinics in Salem and Woodburn. The county informed patients who have sought those services at its clinics of the change by letter in

mid-June. Shifts in funding from outside sources, such as state government, has made those services more accessible through primary care providers like doctors, leading to the county to stop offering those services, according to Marion County. Those seeking reproductive health services from the county will be referred to other health care providers, including those who do not have a primary care physician. “We’ll help them any way we can,” Marion County Health and Human Services spokesperson Jenna Wyatt said. The Marion County Public Health Clinic has been

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## OSHA enforces Oregon’s mask rules

Agency investigates complaints about workplace violations

**Claire Withycombe**  
Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Now that Oregonians are required to wear masks in indoor public spaces to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the state’s workplace safety agency is preparing to handle enforcement. Gov. Kate Brown ordered people to wear face coverings as COVID-19 cases continue to rise sharply in Oregon and elsewhere. She’s warned that tighter restrictions on businesses could return if Oregonians don’t take the mask requirement to heart. Oregon Occupational Safety and Health, commonly called OSHA, is already busy investigating thousands of COVID-related complaints at Oregon workplaces. Since early March, Oregonians have filed roughly 5,500 workplace complaints related to the pandemic. They have reported a variety of concerns, including worries about a lack of space between people and lack of protective gear like gloves. OSHA officials had by early June already received some complaints about face coverings, including reports of employees not wearing face coverings at a furniture store and at a restaurant, according to spokesman Aaron Corvin. Corvin said the agency is expecting more complaints to come in now because of Brown’s latest order. The volume of complaints has far outpaced the agency’s typical workload. Generally, the agency gets about 2,000 complaints total in a year, said spokesman Aaron Corvin. In addition to the coronavirus complaints, the agency has also received about 1,000 non-coronavirus complaints this year. “It’s been very busy for us,” Corvin said. But Corvin says that while it’s “an all hands on deck situation,” he said there are enough workers at the agency to field the thousands of complaints which are essentially tips that the agency investigates. Field staff across the state are screening complaints. Of the thousands of complaints that have been filed, the agency has done about 42 inspections, finding violations in roughly half of those inspections, Corvin said earlier this week. Several cases are still pending. The agency has 75 people who enforce workplace safety and health in the field, and on top of that there are technical, administrative and managerial staff who also help with complaints, Corvin said. And the agency is offering virtual consultations with businesses to help them comply with health and safety rules. “We’ve been able to absorb it,” Corvin said of the unusually high number of complaints. “I think it’s fair to say that it may have bent our system, but it didn’t break it by any stretch of the imagination. So we’ve been able to scale up and respond to this.” There hasn’t been a consistent stream of complaints, Corvin said — the volume has ebbed and flowed. The state received a lot of complaints in

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“If we all wear face coverings, practice six feet of physical distancing in public, wash our hands regularly, and stay home when we are sick, then we can avoid the worst-case scenarios that are now playing out in other states,” Gov. Kate Brown said. BETH NAKAMURA/ASSOCIATED PRESS