

Mail-in

Continued from Page 1A

age to ballots. Since then, the percentage of mailed ballots increased to about 50%.

Voters can choose to mail in or drop off their ballot.

"If any Oregon voter is concerned about the upcoming election, there are multiple steps they can take to ensure their ballot is received in time to be counted," Clarno said.

She pointed to the wide availability of drop sites and ballot tracking.

Ballot drop sites, including 24 hours sites and a drive-up location on Nov. 2 and Nov. 3 along Court Street near the clerk's office, will also be available.

Voters can also sign up to track their ballots on oregonvotes.gov and Track My Ballot on the county clerk's website.

Those who are concerned that their ballot hasn't reached the elections office by Nov. 3 can walk-in to the clerk's office and request a new ballot.

Burgess stressed that people should check what ballot drop sites are open and which are unavailable due to the pandemic.

Unger said her office was working to



Burgess

make sure voters had options after two drop sites were shuttered due to closures during the May primary election. A drop site at the Monmouth Library that was temporarily closed during the pandemic will be relocated to a nearby Roth's grocery store.

A site in Grand Ronde that was closed in May is expected to be open in November.

No form of voting is 100% perfect, but Burgess said he has confidence in Oregon's process.

"We find with vote-by-mail that more people get to participate because they don't have to worry about being healthy and available and off work to go to the polls that day or have someone else give them a ride," he said. "They have plenty of time to plan how they are going to vote and get their ballot into us."

Information on drop locations and tracking ballots is available at the Marion County Clerk's Office website.

For questions, comments and news tips, email reporter Whitney Woodworth at wmwoodworth@statesmanjournal.com, call 503-910-6616 or follow on Twitter @wmwoodworth

Appeal Tribune

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

The undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the Estate of Duane N. Wagner, Deceased, by the Marion County Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, probate number 20PB05664. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same with proper vouchers within four (4) months after the date of first publication to the undersigned or they may be barred. Additional information may be obtained from the court records, the undersigned or the attorney.

Date first published: 8/20/2020

James R. Wagner
 Duana L. Wagner
 Co-Personal Representatives

c/o Lisa Andrach
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Silverton Appeal
 8/26, 9/2, 9/9/2020

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Salem-area colleges prepare for fall reentry

Natalie Pate Salem Statesman Journal
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Colleges and university in the Salem area are preparing to start the fall term, many of which are welcoming students back on campus.

Some are sticking to online-only models, while others give students the choice between remote, in-person or hybrid options.

Regardless, they all say they're complying with orders and guidelines from Gov. Kate Brown, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the Oregon Health Authority and their respective county health departments.

But the presence of any in-person activity has some students, staff, families and alumni worried about the health of these individuals and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of Tuesday, more than 400 individuals had signed a petition against Willamette University's decision to start the fall semester, beginning Aug. 24, with in-person instruction and dorm living.

The petition was largely circulated on Instagram, bringing in mostly students and alumni from current classes and graduates in the last ten years. However, professors and alumni from as far back as the Class of 1972 have signed as well.

Petitioners argue university administrators cannot guarantee the safety of all by reopening in-person, even with precautions in place, and therefore should change the university's plan to full-time, virtual learning.

They are collectively refusing to make any further contributions to Willamette until that happens.

"Requiring in-person instruction in the midst of a pandemic that has only continued to worsen in the past few months is gravely irresponsible and dangerous," the petition states.

The university is offering an online option that allows students to engage with the in-person class as well, and said about 90% of students have opted for in-person instruction.

But activists pointed out the dangers school faculty and staff are facing having to accommodate both.

Those who signed the petition believe dorms should remain open for students in need of housing, including students experiencing homelessness, former foster youth and students with abusive or otherwise unsafe home situations.

University President Stephen Thorsett has not formally responded to the open letter which was first sent to him Aug. 3, nor has any member of the administration, according to organizers of the petition.

The university has scheduled a virtual update and Q&A for alumni, but petitioners said it is unclear to what extent this is in response to the letter.

The virtual meeting is scheduled for Aug. 19 — the second day Willamette's first-year students arrive on campus — so those opposing the plan don't think they'll be heard.

Tim Cobb, vice president for Willamette's marketing and communications department, told the Statesman Journal school leadership is aware of the petition and "appreciate(s) the passion and concern of those who have signed it."

"We would not reopen if we did not think it was safe to do so," he said. "Ultimately, we felt it was unfair to create further inequitable educational experiences by solely operating in a remote environment."

Willamette receives pushback, petition

Cobb said the concerns raised in the petition were things officials considered throughout their decision process.

They sought to provide flexibility for students and faculty to make the best decision for their own circumstances, he said, but "the overwhelming majority of our student community — 90% — is eager and planning to return."

Based in Salem, Willamette's undergraduate College of Arts & Sciences, previously known as the College of Liberal Arts, serves about 1,600 students.

With the spread of COVID still present in Salem, Cobb acknowledged there is no way to ensure cases will not occur on campus. However, he said they are confident they've provided the best opportunity "to meet the funding needs of our community while protecting health and welfare."

Among other precautions, Willamette officials said they are following the guidance of the Oregon Health Authority and Higher Education Coordinating



First-year student Ellie Petersen, from Houston, pushes a cart of her belongings during move-in day at Willamette University in Salem on Tuesday.

BRIAN HAYES/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Commission to "de-densify" the university's residence halls, assuring at least 64 sq ft. per resident in every room.

They're reconfiguring common spaces, enhancing cleaning protocols, requiring masks and closing the campus to the public.

But that hasn't convinced the few hundred people listed on the petition.

Adrian Uphoff — a 2019 graduate and current masters candidate in Minnesota — said he signed the open letter petition not only because student activism has led to notable change on campus in the past, but because there are students, faculty and staff who face "potentially dire repercussions for speaking out."

"Their realities deserve consideration, too, and signing this petition is a way to amplify their systematically muffled concerns," Uphoff said.

Uphoff argues Thorsett's administration has "repeatedly failed our community and has depended on the unpaid labor of students and alumni of color to rectify poor decisions," which he said could have been avoided by proactive conversations with these communities.

"I don't blame students for wanting a traditional in-person college experience. I don't blame parents for wanting that for their kids, either," he said. "This sucks, and grieving this lost experience is appropriate."

"What isn't appropriate is letting our grief of a lost experience lead to lost lives," he said. "This lost college experience will return in 2021, but the same can't be said for community members we lose because of reckless reopening policies."

Organizers behind the petition said the university's plan still requires faculty who don't qualify for health accommodations to work some in person, putting them at risk.

"These individuals taught and mentored us; some shaped who we are today," they said. "We do not want to see them die."

An alumna who recently received an award from the university published an opinion piece on Medium expressing her concerns for the reopening plan as well.

Alumnus Bill Harper sent his unique perspective to Thorsett in a private email.

A survivor of leukemia, fatal infections, cardiac arrest and multiple limb salvage surgeries, Harper walked across the Willamette commencement stage in 2012 with assistance from a walker and his best friend.

"I didn't have the choice of whether I would get the disease that almost took my life or not," he wrote

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PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Review Body: Planning Commission
Hearing Date & Time: September 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Hearing Location: Teleconference meeting via Zoom with a telephone call in number. Due to Executive Order 20-16, the Planning Commission shall hold public hearings by telephone, video, or through some other electronic or virtual means, whenever possible. The instructions to listen to or virtually attend the meeting will be included in the Planning Commission meeting agenda which will be posted on the City's website and outside of City Hall, 306 S Water Street, on September 1, 2020. This will include a hyperlink to the meeting and a call in number to participate by telephone.

Agenda Item #1: File Number VR-20-04. Variance application to allow a 3' 4" reduction in the rear yard setback from 15' to 11'8" at 228 Filbert Way to allow a converted unenclosed patio as dwelling space. Located on the Filbert Way cul-de-sac adjacent to Walnut Avenue and Vintage Lane; Marion County Assessor's Map 071W02DA Tax Lot 04100. The application will be reviewed following the criteria found in Silverton Development Code section 5.1.700.

Agenda Item #2: File Number CP-20-01. Comprehensive Plan amendment to adopt the 2020 Housing Needs Analysis and Housing Strategy as a support document to the Silverton Comprehensive Plan. The application will be reviewed following the criteria found in Silverton Development Code section 4.12.400.

Failure of an issue to be raised in a hearing, in person or by letter, or failure to provide enough detail to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond precludes appeal to LUBA based on that issue. Additional information and/or review of this application, including all documents and evidence submitted, may be obtained at Silverton City Hall, 306 South Water Street by telephoning Jason Gottgetreu at (503) 874-2212. Copies of the staff report will be available seven (7) days prior to the public hearing and are available for review at no cost at City Hall by appointment, a copy can be provided on request at a reasonable cost.

Silverton Appeal
 August 26, 2020