

# Appeal Tribune

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 | SILVERTONAPPEAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Scammers meet their match in small town

**Bill Poehler**

Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

When the contents of a package are listed as 'cake in foil,' something is amiss.

Someone tried to mail that package at Postal Connections in Stayton, but one of the employees thought it sounded strange and alerted owner Sue Harteloo.

After witnessing the rise in scams during the COVID-19 pandemic, Harteloo contacted the Stayton Police Department to investigate the package.

They found a stack of \$100 bills inside.

It was one of three incidents of fraud Harteloo and her staff identified and reported to Stayton Police in July, and the department was able to recover \$22,000 in cash and return it to those who had been scammed.

"Any amount of money like that is a big hit for any of us," Stayton Police Chief David Frisendahl said. "Having fellow community members that are looking out

for your best interest is a great thing."

Scammers have grown aggressive in the past few months, and people have been vulnerable enough to fall for them.

"As much as you try and warn some people, they don't want to hear that maybe they've been suckered into a situation that's not quite right," Harteloo said.

"They're neighbors and friends who have supported us over the years and I don't want to offend anybody, but I don't want to hurt anybody either."

Harteloo said she took the actions to protect her customers; Stayton Police awarded Harteloo a certificate of appreciation for her efforts.

### Helping protect her community

Harteloo and husband, Don, have lived in Stayton since 1989. They purchased the Postal Connections

See **FRAUD**, Page 2A



Postal Connections of Stayton owner Sue Harteloo (second from right) holds the certificate of appreciation she received from the Stayton Police Department after preventing \$22,000 in fraud from occurring. BILL POEHLER/STATESMAN JOURNAL



Bob's Drive-In opened in the summer of 1955 at 1415 Capitol St. NE. It was the flagship restaurant of a beloved regional chain built by Bob Corey. SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

## Founder of Bob's Burgers turns 100

**Capi Lynn**

Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Bob Corey is living proof that cheeseburgers may not be so bad for your health.

He had one for lunch practically every day for 35 years while building a regional chain of hamburger restaurants bearing his name.

"I have some good genes and good doctors," said Corey, who celebrated his 100th birthday on Friday, Aug. 28.

His mother lived to be 99, and his only sibling, a brother, is 94 and lives in Palm Desert, California.

Corey is a legend in these parts, the man who brought the drive-in to Salem. His first restaurant opened in the summer of 1955, the same year Ray Kroc opened his first McDonald's franchise in Illinois and eight years before the golden arches would come to Oregon's capital city.

If you grew up around here, you're sure to remember Bob's Hamburgers, famous for its 19-cent burgers and secret sauce. If you're new to the area, we're not talking about the TV cartoon.

The name was tweaked over the years, from Bob's Drive-In on Day 1 to Bob's Burger Express when Corey sold the company 30 years ago. Most of us simply refer to the homespun phenomenon as Bob's.

At its peak, there were 17 restaurants. Ten cities had Bob's locations at one time, stretching as far



Bob Corey, reminiscing about the regional burger chain he founded in 1955, at his South Salem home on Wednesday, Aug. 26 two days before his 100th birthday. CAPI LYNN / STATESMAN JOURNAL

south as Medford.

Salem had seven.

Corey, whose memory is something to marvel, can just about reel off the entire list in the order that they opened.

"I was just a Depression kid," he reminisced during a visit this past week at his South Salem home. "Things worked out very well."

See **BOB'S**, Page 3A

## Governor eyes more inmate releases due to virus

**Whitney Woodworth**

Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

With 811 coronavirus cases among Oregon prison staff and inmates, Gov. Kate Brown is considering another round of commutations to protect medically vulnerable inmates and those nearing their release dates.

In a letter to corrections Director Colette Peter sent Tuesday, requested a list of inmates who are medically vulnerable or within two months of their release.

Brown stressed she would not release any inmates who would present a risk to public safety.



**Brown**

She said she would commute the remainder of the inmates' sentences pursuant to her authority as governor.

The request comes after Brown ordered the release of 57 medically vulnerable inmates in June.

She previously panned a "mass release" in April after receiving a list of 2,836 inmates meeting various criteria outlined by the Department of Corrections, including those over 60, medically vulnerable or with less than 12 months left in their sentence.

But she said she would continue to consider re-

See **GOVERNOR**, Page 2A

## Can theaters reel customers back in?

### Salem cinemas reopening; whether people show up in doubt

**Bill Poehler**

Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

When the Star Cinema in Stayton reopened July 3, owner Jeff Mexico took every precaution to keep customers safe and comfortable while watching movies during a global pandemic.

He invested in a new ticketing system and reduced capacity so groups of patrons would remain separated, upgraded the air filtration system and added staff to disinfect the seats and the rest of the facility between shows.

For an independent theater owner, it required a significant investment, but Mexico hoped it would be recouped as people who had been trapped in their homes for months would want to venture out to be entertained, even for movies they've seen like "Grease" and "The Empire Strikes Back."

Where the Star Cinema and Dallas Cinema, also owned by Mexico, would typically draw 100 to 200 people for every showing of blockbuster summer movies like "Avengers: Endgame", he has been drawing six to 28 people per showing.

With Regal Cinemas reopening its three Salem multiplex theaters – Willamette Town Center, Santiam and Cinnebarre Movieland – Friday and new movies being released by Hollywood studios for the first time in six months, the appetite for entertainment and people's willingness to sit in enclosed spaces around strangers for long periods of time will be tested.

"The public is not yet ready to go out into an auditorium or a mass gathering situation as long as COVID is still out there," said Stu Rasmussen, co-owner of Silverton's Palace Theatre, which has yet to reopen.

"We've taken a wait and see approach. We're very cautious about that."

### Movies not a draw during a pandemic

Most theaters in Oregon closed in early March – even before Gov. Kate Brown's executive order that required them to – as the COVID-19 pandemic hit the state.

Many theaters have struggled in recent years as people streamed movies at home, and the pandemic accelerated that trend as Hollywood studios released new movies solely digitally, such as the "King of Staten Island."

"People have got accustomed to watching movies on their telephones because you can stream Netflix on your phone," Rasmussen said. "I have heard people say, 'I'm going to watch that one on the big screen.' What that means is they'll watch it on their tablet. "It's tough for theaters without COVID."

While some businesses like restaurants and bars have slowly been allowed to reopen early in the summer, movie theaters were not allowed to reopen until their counties reached phase 2, which Marion and Polk counties did June 19.

Only a handful of independent theaters reopened – such as Independence Cinema and Salem's Northern Lights Theater Pub – and their results haven't been promising.

Salem Cinema owner Loretta Miles said she surveyed her regular customers and about 10% said they would return immediately.

"What that does is it tells me the majority of my audience is going to be moving more cautiously," Miles said.

She pointed to an industry survey that showed theaters that have reopened have had about 20% of their normal ticket sales and concessions sales have dropped to 10% of normal.

Meanwhile, the few remaining drive-in theaters, such as Newberg's 99W Drive-In, have played to large audiences this summer.

"I used to own the drive-in in Dallas, and I wish I still had that going," Mexico said.

Some theaters in the AMC, Regal, Cinemark and Marcus chains reopened last week for the first time

See **THEATERS**, Page 2A

Online at [SilvertonAppeal.com](http://SilvertonAppeal.com)

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

Photos: ● Photo galleries

Vol. 139, No. 37

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



©2020 Printed on recycled paper