

# Appeal Tribune

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## Marion County to launch short-term housing

### Tiny home village would give fire survivors base to rebuild

**Bill Poehler**  
Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Ron Carmickle knows how important it is for someone to live near the home they're trying to rebuild.

After the Labor Day wildfires of 2020, Gates' mayor lived in his RV in front of

his son's home in Mill City for a few months. For nearly a year he has been living in a FEMA trailer in a park in Mill City while acquiring and renovating a used manufactured home on his property in Gates.

"It will be real nice when I get done with it," Carmickle said.

But not living on-site, like hundreds of Santiam Canyon residents displaced by the wildfires, has meant it has taken significantly longer than he hoped to get the place ready to be occupied.

To give wildfire survivors a better chance to focus on rebuilding, Marion County is trying to launch short-term housing options in their own communities.

In Gates, the county is planning to

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The Oak Park Motel & Mobile Home Park in Gates burned when the Beachie Creek Fire rushed through the area in the early morning hours of Sept. 8, 2020. Marion County now hopes to temporarily put tiny homes on the property for those who lost houses in the fire. STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

## FEWER EYES ON PATIENTS



Sonja Mullian visits her mom, Lois Dumont, 76, on Nov. 4 at McMinnville's Cherrywood Memory Care. Mullian worries about how her mother, who has Alzheimer's, is handling being isolated during the pandemic. ABIGAIL DOLLINS/STATESMAN JOURNAL

### Ban on visits, pause on thorough inspections meant fewer resources devoted to checking on Oregon eldercare residents

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

When Becky Shelton saw her mom for the first time in nearly a year, she was shocked. • Norma Kliever was lying in a bed in a hospital in Newberg. Her face looked somewhat sunken, and she didn't have her teeth in or her glasses on. • "I thought, 'Oh my gosh, she's so thin,'" Shelton recalled. "And when the doctor had come in, that was my comment to him: 'She's so thin.'" • Just over a month later, on March 10, 2021, Kliever died in her sleep.

"I feel that she starved to death," Shelton said. Praised as a critical move to stave off COVID-19 by advocates, some say a state policy limiting visits to elder care facilities also had negative social and health consequences for residents.

While the state ramped up its focus on helping facilities slow the spread of COVID-19, it stopped doing more thorough regulatory inspections at community-based care facilities for a year, and until November 2021 at nursing facilities, which took a second set of eyes off vulnerable residents.

"During the suspension, resources were focused on intensive infection control reviews in facilities with outbreaks including reviews through the Executive Order process," DHS spokesperson Elisa Williams said in an email to the Statesman Journal. "Investigations of serious complaints remained ongoing and were never suspended during the pandemic, however, investigation practices were adapted to limit potential COVID-19 exposure."

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## Former Silverton fire volunteer gets 5 years supervised probation

**Virginia Barreda**  
Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A former Silverton fire volunteer was sentenced to five years of supervised probation and ordered to register as a sex offender for inappropriately touching a minor while working at the fire station.

Jonathan Drew Lieuallen, 48, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor third-degree sexual abuse in Marion County Circuit Court earlier this month following a complaint and an investigation into a report of inappropriate touching, court records show,

Silverton police received a complaint on Dec. 13, 2020, and were told the incident happened earlier in the day while Lieuallen and the minor were volunteering at the Silverton Fire District headquarters.

Lieuallen volunteered as a support service member with the fire district for 10 years, Assistant Fire Chief Ed Grambusch previously told the Statesman Journal. His duties included directing traffic and assisting firefighters.

Grambusch said the fire district had not received similar complaints about Lieuallen previously.

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## \$280M proposal for casino draws support and concern

**Whitney Woodworth**  
Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

If approved by federal and state leaders, a proposed \$280 million casino could bring jobs, entertainment and tourism to north Salem, supporters say.

Supporters say the project proposed by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians would be an economic boon to the region and all Oregon tribes.

But opponents say the creation of the casino would be unfair to other tribes and harm the nearest casino to Salem. They warn it could bring traffic and crime problems to the area.

The public is invited to weigh in on the project as the federal government considers giving the casino the green light.

The plan includes a 180,800-square-foot casino, a four-star 500-room hotel, restaurants, nightclub, sports bar and event center on property the Siletz Tribe owns.

The political hurdles — review by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a decision from the Secretary of Interior and either a rejection or concurrence from Gov. Kate Brown — means it would be years before any casino could open on Portland Road near Interstate 5.

It would open in 2024 at the earliest.

The tribe said its casino would bring 1,200 living wage jobs in addition to 2,300 construction jobs. And it promises to share an "unprecedented 25% of the net gaming revenue with state and local government while splitting 50% of the net revenues with participating tribes," tribe officials said.

### A prior failed Salem effort

The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the authority of tribes to establish gaming operations in 1987, opening the door for tribes in Oregon to establish casinos.

Now, eight casinos are run by Oregon tribes. Efforts to build private casinos and casinos closer to urban areas have repeatedly failed.

Proposals for a north Salem casino from the Siletz faced strident opposition in the 1990s. A 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in 1997 upheld a governor's ability to limit or deny gambling facilities in urban areas like Salem, the Statesman Journal reported at the time. Then-Gov. John Kitzhaber was opposed to that kind of build-up off of reservations.

The ruling set a precedent for "one tribe, one casino" away from urban centers, but the rule is not set in stone.

### 'Impact would be devastating'

While the proposal creeps through government red tape, formal opposition has formed against the project.

The No Salem Casino website says, in bold letters, "Salem Doesn't Need More Traffic and a Las Vegas Casino in Our Neighborhood" and features statements of opposition by Marion County Commissioner Kevin Cameron and Salem City Councilor Jose Gonzalez.

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, which oper-

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Land owned by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz is proposed to be a casino near Astoria Street NE in Salem. ABIGAIL DOLLINS/STATESMAN JOURNAL

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