

# Appeal Tribune

50 CENTS • VOL. 135, No. 19

SILVERTONAPPEAL.COM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016

## Students help strengthen fire safety

JUSTIN MUCH  
STAYTON MAIL

Silverton-area fire safety was fortified this past weekend following a joint effort involving Silverton High School students.

On Saturday, April 23, American Red Cross volunteers took part in the regional "Home Fire Campaign" by locally installing free smoke detectors at residences in Silverton, Mt. Angel and Scotts Mills.

The groups, which included a number of Silverton High School Students and Silverton Fire Cadets, engaged in the fire-safety activity locally just as a number of others have in communities throughout the region.

Silverton Fire District Chief Bill Miles called the campaign a "great extension to what we are doing."

The chief said his fire prevention officers met with the

Red Cross representatives to help facilitate the outreach.

"For us this is great because it just extends what we are able to do," Miles said. "We get to a lot more folks this way."

Miles said the district has smoke alarms and batteries on their units that they can install when they spot a need, but the Red Cross reach helps to augment Silverton Fire's reach.

Red Cross officials, who are spearheading this campaign throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington, said that home fires are the single greatest disaster threat to individuals and families nationwide.

Monique Dugaw, spokeswoman for American Red Cross Cascades Region, said in a press release that more than a dozen Silverton High School students volunteered to help install smoke alarms.

"At least three of the students have been affected by a



SHELDON TRAVER/SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Silverton Fire District volunteer firefighters work during a practice burn.

home fire, themselves, and are now giving back to help others in the community," Dugaw noted. "Many of the students have volunteered with the Red Cross throughout high school and have helped out at Red Cross shelters, including the one established in Oregon City during the record winter storms last

year."

The Silverton students are part of the school's very active Red Cross Youth Club, led by teacher Kirsten Barnes.

Barnes, Salem's Dianne Mekkers and Portland's Cara Sloman recently received the National Presidential Award for Excellence in Washington,

D.C. for their work to set up a training academy for disaster responders. The model they developed is now being implemented throughout the country.

"The volunteer power of the Red Cross is one of our greatest strengths. When there is a community need, Red Cross volunteers are there," said Red Cross CEO Amy Shlossman. "We know that home fire is the single greatest disaster threat in Oregon. The Silverton High School Red Cross Youth Club is creating meaningful and life-saving change by installing smoke alarms in homes that need them. They are truly living the Red Cross mission."

The Red Cross Cascades region responds to an average of two home fires every day.

For information visit [www.redcross.org/CascadesHomeFire](http://www.redcross.org/CascadesHomeFire) or email [volunteer.cascades@redcross.org](mailto:volunteer.cascades@redcross.org).

## INFORMATION SURFACES ABOUT DETROIT ARTIFACTS

CHRISTENA BROOKS  
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Six months after a pair of artifacts surfaced from drought-shrunken Detroit Lake, clues about one of them have emerged too.

A concrete pit found in the mud next to a wooden cargo wagon at the Old Detroit town site was apparently last used as a fishpond at the original Detroit Ranger Station. Along with the rest of the town, it was abandoned and purposely flooded in 1953.

Terry Dean, of Springfield, was 6 years old when Detroit Dam was completed, turning this section of the North Santiam River into a 3,580-acre reservoir. He remembers Old Detroit's ranger station — its remnants now underwater much of the year — because he spent many days playing there as a young boy.

Near the ranger station's open storage barns was a concrete fishpond with similar dimensions to the concrete octagonal feature found by a few people this fall when the lake was at a 46-year low.

Dean said he recalls the octagon clearly. In the 1950s, it was a rock-lined pond filled with goldfish of all sizes.

"All the kids would lay there on the grass and watch the fish swim in the pond," he said. "There was a lattice screen over it so you couldn't fall in."

By the time Dave Zahn, a marine deputy with Marion County, stumbled upon the octagon last October, it was partially filled with mud and foul-smelling water. Guessing it was about 5 feet across and less than 2 feet deep, Zahn wondered what it could've been.

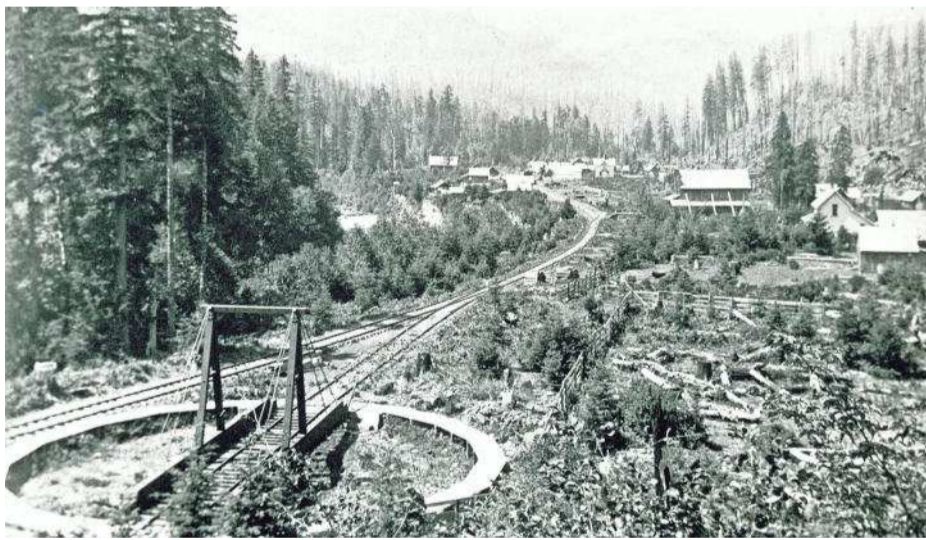
So did U.S. Forest Service archaeologist Cara Kelly, who trekked out to see the wagon and octagon before fall rains brought the lake level back up. She started talking to Old Detroit residents, many of whom she's interviewed over her 26-year career in the area.

Dean, 69, has good memories of the town, and many of them center on the ranger station, which was built in 1906. By the time Dean was born, more buildings had been constructed — a warehouse, open



SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

This pit, which was revealed during low water in Detroit Lake, might once have been a fish pond.



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The railroad turnout was too big to have been the source of the octagon-shaped pit.

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## Charter school may move to church

CHRISTENA BROOKS  
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Silverton's Montessori charter school has entered into negotiations with Silverton Friends Church to rent the building now housing a K-8 Christian school.

Until Sunday, the Community Roots School was slated to move from inside the old high school on Schlador Street into new modular buildings outside in a district-wide restructuring. But following the Friends church's consensus earlier this month to cease its 36-year-old Christian school ministry at year's end, the public charter school is seeking a long-term lease of the church's school facilities.

"We're working on a contract," said Christine Golden, spokesperson for the church. "We are very excited to be able to offer this facility to Community Roots."

Community Roots' principal, Miranda Traeger, couldn't be reached for comment.

While church leaders anticipate receiving much-needed rent payments on their building, they are sad to step back from the Christian school, Golden said. The Friends church is going through a time of transition, including the loss of some members and financing, and cannot continue to financially support the school.

"We cannot carry the school anymore," Golden said. "In all honesty, it would have taken us down."

Parents from the school are planning to strike out on their own but can't quickly come up with a way to pay rent at the church. So they're looking to continue operating elsewhere

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## 3 schools to make principal changes

CHRISTENA BROOKS  
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Principal changes are occurring at Silverton High School, Silver Crest School and Evergreen School.

Starting July 1, Silverton High School Principal Mark Hannan will work at Silver Crest, a kindergarten through eighth-grade site, half time as principal and half time at district jobs.

"Most of these (district level tasks) will be completed out of Silver Crest

School. This will increase the principal presence in the building on a more frequent basis than what has been possible in the past," Superintendent Andy Beldano wrote to parents. This year's Silver Crest/Victor Point Principal Jamie McCarty will change his duties to become next year's Victor Point/Evergreen principal. Evergreen principals Bob and Heidi Ostrom are planning to retire, staff said.

"This change will allow

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