

Creekside chat

Legion of volunteers lends civic vibrancy



JUSTIN MUCH

Homer Davenport Community Festival presents a municipal paragon of sorts. Between the parade, parties, Davenport races, fun runs, historical exhibitions, and especially the overall bustle of mingling residents spilling out into the streets, it would be difficult to stage a more intricate illustration of a spirited community.

A significantly less flamboyant, yet vital, element within Silverton's vibrancy occurs behind the scenes. That's where you find, often out of sight, volunteers, underpinning not only

celebrations such as Davenport days, the pet parade, fine-arts festival and the like, but also creating a latticework upholding overall community quality.

Volunteer services fill the gaps, polish civic pride and help residents take ownership of their urban environs.

Consequently, a lack of volunteers could create an inverse effect, a basically livable but bland community with an unconnected, borderline apathetic populace.

A couple of local organizers – and volunteers -- **Sue Roessler** and **Jennifer Côté** contemplated just such a dissimilitude during the Aug. 3 Creekside Chat, just a couple of days shy of the Davenport celebration and



OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Homer Davenport's political cartoon of New York City's Tammany Hall

weeks away from their own After School Activities Program (ASAP) fundraising gala.

That ASAP gala is coming together nicely, in no small part to a nationally acclaimed and locally rooted country singer **Ben**

Rue, who will perform Aug. 18 at Vanderbeck Valley Farms. At the time of the chat, a few tickets were still available -- benrueasapbenefitconvert.e-ventbrite.com.

Looking beyond the immedi-

ate event, Sue and Jennifer mused on the inestimable value of volunteerism, the composition of current volunteers and local philanthropy and a desire to tap into a broader, sustaining generation of future volunteers.

ASAP may be the platform to that end.

"Something we are trying to do with this event is to create something that young folks can get involved with," Sue said, clarifying the "young" as essentially an under-40 demographic. "What kind of fundraisers are young people interested in going to?...Something fun, yet (serving) a good cause."

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Davenport activities

show Silverton spirit



ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL
A fountain was emodeled with mosaic designs to help mark the Homer Davenport Days celebration in Silverton on Aug. 7.



ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL
Peyton Rodman, 4, of Silverton, enjoyed a ride during Homer Davenport Days. The celebration included a parade, parties, races, fun runs and historical exhibitions.



Sanford Webb, 52, of Portland, carries a Homer Davenport drawing he found at a thrift store during Homer Davenport Days.

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Christian

School

slated to

open Sept. 6

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

One teacher, five students, four board members and a 5,000-square-foot church building.

Such is the beginning of Silver Falls Christian School, a kindergarten through eighth-grade school that will open its doors to students Sept. 6. Housed at Silverton Foursquare Church, it's as much a continuation of an evangelical school community as it is a brand-new venture.

"This is a rebirth of what Silverton Christian School used to be," said Jamie Runion, board chairwoman. "We're focusing on excellence in education and having a strong foundation in Christ."

The 36-year-old Christian school started by Silverton Friends Church lost its building last spring when the church separated from the school, offering its facilities to Community Roots Charter School instead. Facing financial difficulties, church members said the publicly funded Montessori-style school proffered lease payments that the Christian school couldn't match.

Silverton Christian School parents were largely shocked by the announcement in April that the K-8 school would close. Excluding the church's popular preschool, more than 50 students were enrolled in 2015, slightly above the 45 it has averaged over the years. However, an initial list of committed returners for 2016-17 had fallen to 28.

For Runion, parent club president, it was obvious the Christian school should continue – but where? After meeting with a handful of other church leaders, she heard that Silverton Four square Church at 606 North Second Street had an empty building that could be a good fit.

"They had been praying, not for financial relief, but for God to put this building to use," she said.

The two-story building is separate from the sanctuary and church offices and features a large fellowship hall, as well as multiple classrooms and offices. It was most recently used for preschool and counseling services. It'd been empty for a year, with Pastor Rob McKeown and his 50-person congregation waiting for the right ministry to come along.

"We are definitely viewing this as more than just providing a building,"

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Voters to decide marijuana-tax bump

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

In the Nov. 8 election, Silverton and Mt. Angel voters will decide whether their respective cities will tack a 3 percent tax onto the state's 17 percent recreational marijuana

tax.

The Silverton City Council already approved recreational marijuana sales inside the city limits, effective last October, following the passage of Measure 91. A "yes" vote on the tax measure in November will add an addi-

tional tax that goes into city coffers.

In Mt. Angel, voters will be asked two questions. First, do they want to legalize recreational marijuana businesses in their town? And, second, should these businesses be taxed?

More than 55 percent of Mt. Angel voters voted "no" on Oregon's Measure 91, a margin that allows the city to ban within its limits the kind of marijuana growth, produc-

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