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Victor Point prepares for 'Big One'

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

It's been hard to miss the dialogue about "the Big One," a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami scientists expect to strike the Oregon Coast sometime in the next 50 years.

As state officials urge people to prepare individually by storing water, food and emergency supplies, they're also dispensing millions of dollars to protect Oregonians collectively. Since 2013, \$80 million in state funding has flowed into seismic rehabilitation projects at public schools and EMS buildings such as hospitals and 911 call centers.

Victor Point School, a rural K-8 in the Cascade foothills, is

the latest local school to benefit, landing a \$1.17 million state grant this spring to increase its ability to keep kids safe in the event of an earthquake.

This month, the Silver Falls School District hired ZCS Engineering to design and manage the school's rehabilitation. Now engineers are figuring out how to boost the 67-year-old concrete building's quake durability. They recently completed similar projects at Scotts Mills and Butte Creek schools.

What engineers devise for Victor Point will be limited in budget and scope to "life safety" improvements. These are designed to protect staff and students in a quake – allowing them to "safely exit" – but not

necessarily to save the building, according to Business Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority.

With the design phase underway, construction is on track to begin next year.

"We're firming up the timeline now, but we estimate completion of the project by September of 2017," said Silver Falls Supt. Andy Bellando.

ZCS signed a contract to design and engineer the plans, as well as to hire the contractor and manage the project, for \$141,000. The grant will pay for this; no district funds will be used on the project, Bellando said.

Zach Stokes, manager of ZCS Engineering's Oregon City

branch, already has a pretty good idea of what to do at Victor Point, but said he'll have more details as the company starts working.

"The biggest thing is the roof," Stokes said. "It's a light timber-frame roof assembly with a '1x' decking diaphragm, not a plywood roof, and connections between the diaphragm and the walls are not adequate."

To withstand an earthquake, a building must "function as a unit," he said. If its walls and roof aren't properly attached, they can separate and fall when shaken. The school's roof is made of 1x decking; it needs to be strengthened with plywood to properly support the heavy concrete walls.

The walls themselves may not need much more than better connections to the roof, if ZCS initial findings are true, he said. Reinforced steel appears to have been used in the concrete, but sections without it will require bracing.

"Early on, we'll be coming in to check if there's rebar on the concrete," Stokes said.

Victor Point's walls must be able to withstand shear force, a kind of push-pull force illustrated every time you tear a piece of paper in half with two hands. Wind and earthquakes put this kind of pressure on buildings; to combat it, the project could add bracing and/or reduce the number or size of windows in the school.

CREEKSIDE CHAT

Music, politics: Silverton keeping both harmonious



JUSTIN MUCH

Silverton streets will resonate a melodic charm the first Saturday in October, while the following Wednesday sights are set on harmonious discussions at the Silverton Grange.

Area residents look forward to the Fifth Annual Silverton Sidewalk Shindig, on Saturday, Oct. 1 as more than 30 venues about town will don the adornments of live music and or related activities.

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, no fewer than 11 local candidates are invited to discuss issues of importance right here at home during a public candidate forum hosted by the Silverton Grange, 6:30 p.m., 201 Division St.

Gregg Sheesley stopped in at the Silver Creek Coffee House for a Creekside Chat on the last day of summer, bringing a reminder that the first Saturday in October marks the Sidewalk Shindig. Gregg provided a glimpse of the event's program with a music and sponsor map, which attendees can use as reference while strolling through town to catch some tunes or perhaps partake in kids activities at the Town Square Park – that's where Hilary Dumitrescu is organizing a music theory workshop and youth activities ranging from face painting to making your own drum, kazoo, cigar-box ukulele or the like.

That shindig program has been supersized to fit this fifth rendition. Gregg also had a copy of the same program from the first shindig, a yellow 8 1/2 x 11 sheet easily eclipsed next to the flip-chart sized current roster.

Band names are listed along with numbers corresponding to the venue at which they will perform. Adjacent to the band name is the genre, or more precisely a pithy description of style, which is the most interesting script on the sheet in terms of demonstrating the event's eclectic nature: jam variety, brassy gusto, steel drum wizard, spreading more jam, violin duo, hula & more, guitar stylist, reggae & reggae, popular oldies, timeless oldies, Christian, fanning air, funky modern, mesmerizing marimba band, strumming & singsong, upbeat harmony, standards



Gregg Sheesley illustrates the growth of the Fifth Annual Silverton Sidewalk Shindig by juxtaposing this year's program (orange) with that of the event's first year.

& originals, rousing jug band, rare photo opp – and that merely gets us to 2 p.m. The event strikes up and noon and goes into the evening.

It may just be an ideal day to invite friends or friendly family to town, if you fancy showing off the community.

"It just has such a nice vibe," Gregg's enthusiasm brimmed in anticipation. "It's an unassuming presen-

tation of what music should be, because it's part of everyone's life."

Jan McCorkle said she looks forward to the shindig; it sounds like a wonderful event to check out.

Jan, who is a secretary at Silverton Grange #748, stopped by to fill us in on the candidate forum. She stressed that the event aims to introduce the public

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STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE

The Silverton Sidewalk Shindig kicks off with a performance by the Transcendental Brass Band at noon on Saturday in front of the Palace Theatre.

Musicians will take to the streets

CARLEE WRIGHT
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Music and merriment will fill the streets during the Silverton Sidewalk Shindig on Saturday.

Now in its fifth year, the downtown party is a free, family-friendly, grassroots event featuring an eclectic mix of music sure to please all tastes. Wander, explore and discover as more than 30 venues host about 120 hours of music.

Festivities kick off at noon with a performance by the Transcendental Brass Band in front of the Palace Theatre.

While the hours are roughly noon to 8 p.m., performances at some venues will continue until late in the night.

This year, a children's area has been added in Town Square Park. Open from 1 to 6 p.m., it will feature musical demonstrations, kids' performers and youth activities such as face painting and making your own musical instruments.

Ask questions, pick up a pamphlet, get directions and buy a limited-edition poster at the event information center at 107 N Water St.

And while the festival's big highlight is music, that's not all attendees can enjoy. It is an ideal time to visit Silverton eateries, watering holes and businesses, plus take in a viewing of the town's murals, too.

For information, call 971-322-6093 or go to facebook.com/sidewalkshindig.

Email cwright2@StatesmanJournal.com, call 503-399-6671, or follow on Twitter @CarleeWrightSJ

Get down at Oregon Garden hoedown

ANNETTE UTZ
FOR THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

The Oregon Garden sends a holler out to all cowboys and cowgirls interested in kicking up some good old-fashioned fun.

The 6th annual Barn Dance & Pig Roast, pre-

sented by Double "H" Western Wear, will be held from 6 p.m. - 11 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Grand Hall, 879 W Main St., Silverton.

The hoedown features dance lessons and DJ services by Rockin' Robyn's DJ and Dance. The best-dressed guy and gal will

each win a gift certificate from Double "H" Western Wear. Adam's Rib Smokehouse will provide the food, served alongside cold beer, wine and spirits.

Tickets cost \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door, which includes line dance lessons and one beer from

Seven Brides Brewing. The full-meal deal is \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door and includes admission, line dance lessons, a pig roast dinner, and one beer. The event is for ages 21 and older. Advance tickets

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