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Students to join solar eclipse study

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

Next summer's total solar eclipse just got a lot more real for students in the Silver Falls School District.

Silverton High School is one of a handful of high schools that will participate in a nationwide science project with NASA on the day of the eclipse, Aug. 21, 2017. Students will design, build and launch a high altitude balloon that will gather data and film the eclipse from 90,000 feet above the earth.

For local students, it's a case of being in the right place at the right time. The narrow "path of totality" – where a full eclipse can be viewed – travels right over Silverton on its way to the East

Coast.

"It was 1918 the last time a total solar eclipse traveled coast to coast in the U.S.," said Silverton High astronomy teacher Creighton Helms. "There are astronomers who spent their whole careers studying this kind of event and never got to see it."

Now, without leaving home, Silverton students can do more than watch. Working from an altitude three times higher than jets fly, cameras and other equipment attached to the balloon will document the journey of the moon's shadow across the state as it temporarily blots out the sun.

"NASA wasn't even around when this last occurred," Helms said. "The data that's going to be collected is new data

for them."

Live-streamed footage from teams placed along the eclipse's path of totality from Oregon to South Carolina will be stitched together by NASA to create a one-of-a-kind film of the event. The teams, most of them made up of university students, will also collect atmosphere data, Helms said.

That's where the fun begins for a K-12 school district such as Silver Falls, said high school science teachers Clarissa Bay and Emily Perttu. They've been tasked with involving the district's younger students, and the best way they know how is to create a science contest.

"We're asking our outlying schools to

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This March 9 photo shows a total solar eclipse in Belitung, Indonesia. Hotel rooms already are going fast in Wyoming and other states along the path of next years solar eclipse.

CREEKSIDE CHAT

A passion for hospitality



Adrienne Blomgren will take over as Silver Falls Lodge & Conference Center's new general manager.

New Silver Falls Lodge GM seems to be a perfect fit



JUSTIN MUCH

Word from Silver Falls Lodge & Conference Center is that the new general manager of the premises is a perfect fit.

Adrienne Blomgren transitioned into that role on Nov. 1, and it appears to suit her like a professionally tailored outfit. It's no surprise, given that the aesthetically inclined Silverton resident spent a fair piece of the last decade enriching her appreciation for the park and it's environs.

Nicolle Owings, outside sales manager for Silver Falls Lodge & Conference Center, gave us a glimpse in advance of this transition several weeks ago during the Creekside Chat's east Willamette Valley counterpart, Canyon Views in Stayton. She followed up with an update for the Wednesday, Nov. 16, Creekside Chat held at Silver Creek Coffee House.

Last month in Stayton Nicolle shared a number of insights about the lodge's offerings and a bit about Adrienne's pending appointment. This week she shared a little more insight into the new GM.

She noted that Adrienne has always been passionate about creating wonderful guest experiences. Even as a child she was constantly reinventing spaces, experimenting with art and visual elements, and planning events for her friends and family.

Adrienne attended Central Washington University, initially as a marketing student before fine tuning her studies toward graphic design to coincide with her bailiwick. She graduated from the Art Institute of Seattle and took a management position for a large international retailer that mapped out an ensuing 17 years imbued with marketing, visual design, merchandising, sales and administration.

She concomitantly operated a boutique design business, with which she exercised her creative skills while also planning social and professional events.

Nicolle said about seven years ago

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FBYC grateful for \$5,000 grant

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

Area agricultural wholesale supplier Wilbur-Ellis recently provided Mt. Angel's Fr. Bernard Youth Center with a \$5,000 grant, the center announced last week.

Center officials said the grant will pay for necessary property repairs and upgrades.

"We are so fortunate to have great community partners to help us achieve our goals," said Don Ro-

bison, the center's executive director. "This gift will allow us to establish a fund for the maintenance, repairs and upgrading of our outdoor spaces."

Robinson applauded Wilbur-Ellis as a consistent supporter of local youth oriented programs, including FBYC.

"I started working here 9 years ago this November, and Wilbur-Ellis has been assisting us for most of that time," Robinson said. "They have provided us with lawn fertil-

izers for our sports fields and front lawns as well as products to help us manage a wooded bluff and a 'Living Waters Feature.'"

The center serves as a retreat for youth and young adults that has hosted more than 20,000 visitors since its January 2006 opening.

"We are on pace to more than double that number in the current decade," Robison said, "and we can do more."

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Harcourts NW Oregon Realty Group

Top 3 Selling Agents for October

1

\$445,000

2

\$212,900

3

\$550,000

Expansive Custom Home!
Great Room, Sun Room, awesome yard!
4bd/2.5ba ~ 3129 SqFt ~ .46 ac
MLS#708163 Mt Angel
Valerie Boen
503-871-1667

Open Floor Plan!
Great Updates, great yard, RV Pad!
3bd/2.5ba ~ 1410 SqFt ~ .22 ac
MLS#709048 Stayton
Jackie Zurbrugg
503-932-5833

Vintage Country Cottage!
Country road, peaceful pond, territorial views!
1bd/1ba ~ 1496 SqFt ~ 19.55 Acres
MLS#709595 Molalla
Donna Rash
503-871-0490

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