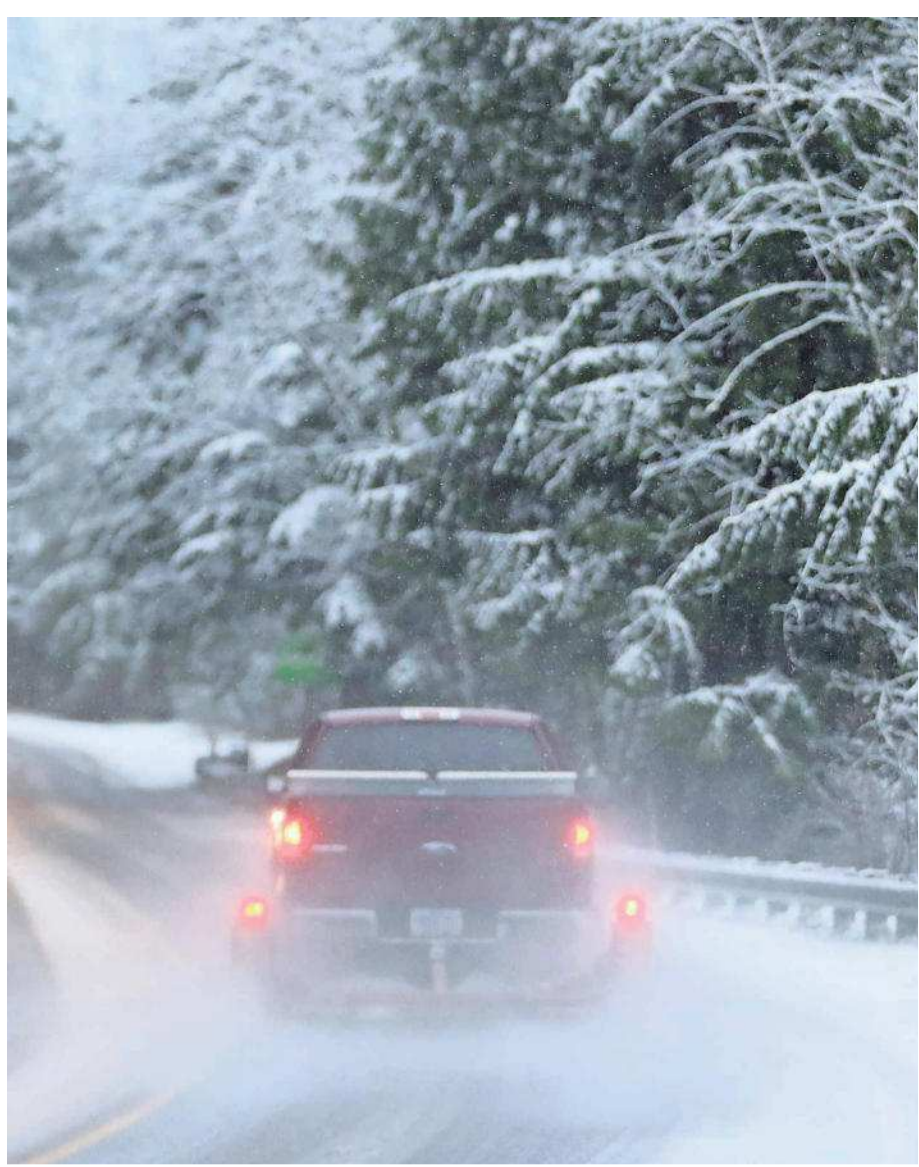


COURTESY OF MOUNT BACHELOR SKI AREA

Mount Bachelor Ski Area opened its Northwest Express lift after heavy snowfall this month.



ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Snow falls near Detroit Lake on Monday. Be prepared if you're driving into mountain areas.

Snow

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pack in recorded history. In those years, ski areas struggled to open, winter recreation suffered and summer brought drought and wildfire.

This year, by contrast, every ski area in Oregon

is open and there's a guarded optimism about a surplus of water for irrigation, streamflow and forest health.

"Snowpack is the lifeblood of the West," NRCS hydrologist Julie Koeberle said in an interview last year.

On Santiam Pass, east of Salem, Hoodoo Ski Area's 65 inches of snow is the most in mid-December since 2001. At Mount Bachelor Ski Area, the 75 inches at base level is the most since 2003.

"We're in great position heading into the holiday season," Mount Bach-

elor spokesman Drew Jackson said.

The last time Oregon had a snowpack well above average on this date was 2010. Prior to that, the best years were in 2006 and 2005, Koeberle said.

Cullen said a "persistent pattern of cold air and moisture" was bringing snowfall to Oregon's mountains. That was a contrast to recent years, he said, when tropical moisture brought much of Oregon's precipitation in rain instead of snow.

"The last couple of years, when we haven't

seen nearly as much snowfall, it's because we've been getting warmer systems of tropical moisture coming across the Pacific," Cullen said.

Cullen said this year's high snow totals probably wasn't due to a weak La Nina weather pattern.

"I wouldn't link these snowstorms with La Nina," he said.

Oviatt said that while today's snowpack numbers look good, that doesn't mean it will remain perfect into spring and summer. A year ago — in December of 2015 and January of 2016 —

Largest snowpack levels in Oregon on Dec. 16

Measured by snow-water equivalent

2016: 141 percent of normal

2010: 131 percent

2006: 112 percent

2005: 134 percent

2001: 217 percent

Oregon had a huge snowpack. However, due to warmer-than-average temperatures, much of that snow melted by the end of spring.

"As good as things look now, we have to take it with a grain of salt," Oviatt said. "We won't know the true story for what it all means for water supply until late spring."

Zach Urness has been an outdoors writer, photographer and videographer in Oregon for eight years. He is the author of the book "Hiking Southern Oregon" and can be reached at zurness@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Twitter at @ZachsOROutdoors.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Absolute Storage LLC - Salem located at 2605 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem OR 97301 intends to hold an auction of the goods stored in the following units in default for non-payment of rent. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.bid13.com on 12/28/16 at 10:00AM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Jenny M. Dolan unit #321; Samuel Pierce unit #340; John D. McCain unit #401. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

Silverton Appeal December 14 & 21, 2016

Tradition

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Donations add up fast when you're a big family. The seven living children of the late Joe and Helen Schmidgall are brothers John, Ivan and Larry Schmidgall and sisters Bev and Marilyn Schmidgall, Sally Newkirk and Darlene Carter. When they and their adult children compile the \$40 per person they once spent on a gift exchange, the funds are substantial.

For the Schmidgalls, it wouldn't be enough to merely donate. Competition sparks everybody's interest. The match-up starts with the nomination of charities at Thanksgiving and a family-wide vote

for the top two. At Christmas, each "Minute to Win It" competitor vies for the chance to vote for one charity or the other. This year, it's looking like they'll assemble kits instead of playing games, but the "Minute to Win It" concept is likely to return next year.

"I just love the competition piece; it really gives people a chance to get behind their charity and put in the effort," said Ivan's daughter, Annie Schächler. "We're kind of a competitive family anyway, so to see people celebrating, 'Yes, my charity is going to get something more,' is awesome. It's fun to watch that passion go toward giving instead of getting."

Children compete too, although the grown-ups did retain a gift exchange for the little ones. They're watching and learning from their parents. This tickles Schächler, an elementary school teacher who, with her husband,

Dan, has four kids and runs the local business, Gear Up Espresso.

"The kids are learning that family isn't about stuff. It's about being together and building strong relationships," she said.

"It is so easy to get wrapped in the desire to gift well, and our kids can also feel that same pull into how this holiday benefits me... this moves the focus onto someone, or a group of others," said John's son Brandon, a nurse.

"The fun part is that almost everyone is willing to play," Marilyn added. "These people who would normally not do something like this are willing to go up there for a minute and make a fool of themselves to give back."

She said her parents, Joe and Helen, who died in 1995 and 2001 respectively, would've heartily approved of this new tradition their descendants

have devised. Parting with gift-giving might've saddened them a little, as they loved watching everyone open their presents, but with the family grown so large, it also would've made sense to them and "made them proud," Brandon said.

They certainly weren't wealthy, Marilyn said, recalling her father working as a truck driver and dairy farmer and her mother cooking, cleaning and raising nine kids. At one point, the children picked berries to pay for a remodel of the family home.

"We didn't have a lot of money growing up, but if anyone needed something, they were right there," she said. "They would love this."

Some Schmidgall family Christmas traditions probably won't ever change - German cookies and Swiss "brunli" brownies among them - but giving donations instead of presents looks like it's here to stay.

"Our family is wonderful. We really love coming together, and we cherish that. It's been great to add in that additional focus of giving," Schächler said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SILVERTON SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The City is looking for volunteers to serve on City Committees

The City of Silverton is seeking volunteers interested in serving on City appointed Committees. Currently, there are positions available on the Budget Committee, Urban Renewal Advisory Committee, Environmental Management Committee and the Historic Landmarks Committee. Terms for each Committee will vary from two to three years.

Please visit the City website at www.silverton.or.us/committees for applicant minimum requirements, such as residing within the Silverton City limits, etc. and additional information about each Committee.

Applications must be submitted online by Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at www.silverton.or.us/volunteerapp. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Figueroa, City Clerk, at 503-874-2216 or via e-mail at lfigueroa@silverton.or.us.

Silverton Appeal December 21, 2016

Fire

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zas. The steakhouse will still serve a variety of Coleman Cattle Ranch cuts and Diggin' Roots local vegetables.

"It's ironic, we'll have a wood-fired pizza oven, wood-fired grill, all steaks will be done over an open flame, we'll have candles on the tables," Burnett said. "There will be fire

around this interesting place."

The MarKum Inn is located at 36903 S. Highway 213 in Marquam (near Molalla). Gift certificates can be purchased now between noon and 3 p.m. daily. For more information, call (503) 829-6006.

Email Brooke Jackson-Glidden brookejg@statesmanjournal.com or call 503-428-3528. Follow her on Twitter @jacksonglidden, or like her Facebook page www.facebook.com/BrookeJackson-Glidden.

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Election

Continued from Page 1A

ties issued the same results, moving the process to the city charter, which Cook noted: "In the event of a tie vote for candidates for an elective office, the successful candidate shall be determined by a public drawing of lots..."

Curiously, while such a tie breaker is rare, it is not unprecedented in Mill City. Cook recalled at least one other occasion in the 1980s when an election tie drew the die.

Baughman, who has served on the council for four years, said as the low-vote winner, this election gives him a two-year term.

Baker's friend, Lynda Harrington, advised her to save her campaign signs, while McGehee also recommend she stay tuned since the town frequently has openings for "good councilors." "Maybe," Baker said. "I will run for something again."

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