

Silverton fire safety rating gets a boost

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Something big is going down at the Silverton Fire District.

One of the district's performance scores from the Insurance Services Office has dropped a point, from a 4 to a 3. On 10-point rating schedule, where a lower is better, the improvement will cut insurance rates for many property owners who live and work within 5 miles of a fire station.

"Everybody should notify their insurance companies that our public protection class (PPC) has improved," said Chief Bill Miles. "The difference it can make can be dramatic."

The Insurance Services Office is a private company that evaluates fire services nationwide and sells the information to insurance companies. It upgraded Silverton's classification on Jan. 1. Some companies use their own metrics, but many depend on ISO data to decide insurance rates for home and business owners.

"The Silverton Fire District highly encourages individuals to get multiple quotes from ISO and non-ISO insurers," Miles said. "Doing so can result in very competitive rates and significant savings."

After 18 years at a PPC 4, Silverton's move to a PPC 3 puts the district in the top 8 percent of fire departments nationwide, he added.

But for property owners located farther than 5 miles away from one of the district's five fire stations, the rating re-

mains unchanged in this most recent round of evaluations. It remains a PPC 10, the ISO's most unfavorable score.

Taken together, the near-to-station and far-from-station scores landed Silverton a combined score of 3/10. Evaluators looked closely at the district's fire-fighting abilities based on dispatching, water supplies, equipment, training, deployment of resources, and fire prevention efforts.

Neighboring Mt. Angel Fire Department has a 3/4 rating, while Sublimity Fire District is a 5/8. Marion County Fire District No. 1 will announce updated ratings within days; its last scores were "4" inside the urban growth boundary and "8" outside it.

Automatic aid partnerships with other departments, water supply improvements in Silverton and Scotts Mills and contracted services from the regional 911 call center helped Silverton gain the edge necessary to snag the "3" rating it's been seeking for some time.

"We value our partnerships with the cities, dispatch center and neighboring fire agencies; we could not have achieved such a low ISO rating without them," Miles said.

Also, Silverton's community risk reduction efforts were part of the scoring equation for the first time. Past ISO evaluations didn't look at them; they include prevention programs, building plan review, inspections and fire investigation efforts.

Lt. Rick Parvin oversees fire prevention, and many volunteer fire fighters visit schools, conduct tours and host



SILVERTON FIRE DISTRICT

Silverton Fire District volunteers regularly educate the public about fire safety at schools and station tours. Now, those and other community risk reduction efforts count toward a district's overall protection rating.

open house events designed to educate the public about fire safety.

"It's really great that evaluators now recognize community risk reductions," Miles said.

In other news, Silverton Fire is finishing a round of major remodels at the Crooked Finger, Victor Point and Abiqua fire stations. Three grants from the State of Oregon, totaling \$320,000, are paying

for seismic upgrades, while money from a bond sale approved by voters in 2015 is funding other changes, including longer bays, bigger doors, additional space and new asphalt.

Baldwin General Contracting of Albany is the contractor on the job. Work will likely be completed next month.



COURTESY OF MARION-POLK FOOD SHARE

Marion-Polk Food Share, Salem-Keizer Education Foundation and Marion County Master Gardeners will be offering Seed to Supper classes this spring around the Mid-Willamette Valley.

Seeding solutions at the roots of hunger

Classes aim to get residents to grow their own produce

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

This class offering is an agrarian version of the old maxim, paraphrased something like: give someone a fish, feed him for a day; teach someone to fish, feed him for a lifetime.

Aumsville is one of a handful of Mid-Willamette Valley cities that will host "Seed to Supper" classes this spring, produced and promoted through the Marion-Polk Food Share.

The food share's aim in offering this course is to help people put food on the table. Food share sources describe Seed to Supper as a beginning gardening course that gives adult gardeners the tools they need to successfully grow a portion of their own food on a limited budget.

It is offered at 10 locations in Marion and Polk counties beginning in March, and classes are offered in English and Spanish.

Aumsville's takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, March 11 through April 15, at Aumsville Pentecostal Church, 10153 Mill Creek Road SE. Food share spokeswoman Heather McPherson noted that a meal and childcare will be provided as part of the Aumsville course.

Food share officials feel Seed to Supper sessions provide for camaraderie as well.

"We believe in giving people the resources they need to feed themselves and their families," said Rick Gaupo, president of Marion-Polk Food Share. "Seed to Supper is designed to teach and empower people to grow their own food. Past graduates of Seed to Supper say that class not only helped them start their own garden, but that they made friends and had a lot of fun."

Renee Mata, a 2016 Seed to Supper alumnus, agreed.

"We are so excited for our garden this year," Mata said. "The Marion-Polk Food Share gave us a ton of resources for

This spring's Seed to Supper sites

Aumsville

March 11 - April 15, Saturdays from 11a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Aumsville Pentecostal Church - 10153 Mill Creek Rd. SE (A meal and childcare will be provided)

Independence

March 18 - April 8, Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Independence Inspiration Garden - 756 G St. (A meal and children's activities will be provided).

April 1 - May 6, Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Colonia Amistad - 30 S Gun Club Rd., Independence (This class will be taught in Spanish and will provide a meal).

Keizer

April 1 - 8, Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Keizer Dayspring Fellowship Church - 1755 Lockhaven Drive (A meal and children's activities will be provided).

February 23 - March 30, Thursdays from 6 - 8 p.m. at John Knox Presbyterian Church - 452 Cummings Lane

Salem

April 11 - May 16, Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Marion-Polk Food Share Youth Farm, located on Chemeketa Community College campus. (A meal will be provided.)

March 7 - April 18, Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m. at Houck Middle School - 1155 Connecticut St. SE

March 15 - April 26, Wednesdays from 6 - 8 p.m. at Leslie Middle School, 3850 Pringle Road SE

April 3 - 24, Mondays from 5:30 - 8 p.m. at McKay High School, 2440 Lancaster Dr. NE (This class will be taught in Spanish.)

Woodburn

April 4 - May 9, Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m. at Lincoln Elementary School, 1041 N. Boones Ferry Road (This class will be taught in Spanish. A meal and children's activities will be provided).

"We believe in giving people the resources they need to feed themselves and their families. Seed to Supper is designed to teach and empower people to grow their own food."

RICK GAUPO

PRESIDENT OF MARION-POLK FOOD SHARE

healthy, home-grown food."

Salem-Keizer Education Foundation and Marion County Master Gardeners work in conjunction with the food share to offer Seed to Supper, and the groups aim to make it feasible for people stretching a limited household budget. Registration priority will be given to families living on \$1,945 a month or less.

Everyone who completes the course will receive a voucher for a free gardening plot at a community garden as well as free seed packets and starter plants.

For information about Seed to Supper, contact Surabhi Mahajan at 503-581-3855

or smahajan@marionpolkfoodshare.org or visit www.MarionPolkFoodShare.org.

More than 40,000 people, including 14,000 children, receive emergency food each month through the Marion-Polk Food Share's 100-plus partner network. The food share strives to support programs that address the root causes of hunger.

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Gov. Brown: No Muslim registry in Oregon

Efforts contrary to state, national values, she says

TRACY LOEW
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has issued an executive order prohibiting the state from participating in the creation of a Muslim registry.

Brown also called upon Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum to take legal action opposing the federal government's anti-immigration measures.

"These measures are contrary to Oregon values and the founding principles of this nation," Brown said before signing the order. "We will not retreat."

Brown's order also broadens a 30-year-old state statute that prohibits law enforcement agencies from treating undocumented Oregonians as criminals to include all state agencies.

And it re-emphasizes that state agencies must not discriminate on the basis of immigration status.

On Jan. 27 President Trump issued an executive order barring most travelers from seven majority-Muslim countries from entering the United States and suspending all refugee resettlement into the country.

Trump also has threatened to withhold federal funding from sanctuary cities, or those that don't report undocumented immigrants to federal authorities.

In a letter to Rosenblum, Brown said that since then, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have entered the Multnomah County Courthouse and arrested people inside or nearby.

"Many people in Oregon, including our state employees, are concerned for themselves, their neighbors, and their loved ones," Brown said. "Today, I am taking the first steps in doing what I can as Governor to stand up for what we as Oregonians believe in."

Brown also asked Rosenblum to consider supporting other states' legal actions.

"I pledge my full support for a legal challenge to preserve our state as a welcoming and inclusive place for immigrants and refugees," she wrote.

Oregon Deputy Attorney General Fred Boss said the state is reviewing those cases and hopes to announce its legal strategy next week.

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TRACY LOEW/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Gov. Kate Brown signs an order keeping the state from participating in a Muslim registry.