

# Locals aid displaced Oroville residents

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STATESMAN JOURNAL

As residents near the Oroville dam were fleeing from their homes in Northern California, two Mid-Willamette Valley men hopped in an emergency response vehicle and drove 10 hours to help.

Mike Williams, of Silverton, and Don Wiese, of Dallas, are volunteers with the American Red Cross Cascades Region and deployed as part of a 16-person group to provide services to evacuees staying in shelters.

"It's bad enough that we have people's lives that are disrupted and are in need, but if the dam breaks, we're going to see catastrophic events," Williams said.

Williams, who initially became a Red Cross Cascades volunteer to aid with Hurricane Matthew in October, said he received an email asking if he was available to deploy again; he was on the road as soon as he could get behind the wheel with Wiese.

Monique Dugaw, regional director of communications & marketing of American Red Cross Cascades Region, said the volunteers are providing shelter, food and mental health services to roughly 4,800 evacuees in four different shelters outside of the danger area.

Responders from Portland, Dallas, Medford, Silverton, Bend, Wood Village, Salem and Newberg, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington, will staff these shelters.

"There are about 2,100 square miles potentially within this flood zone, so we have to keep those shelters about 150 miles from that area to be out of the danger area," Dugaw said.

Dugaw said the response to this



COURTESY OF AMERICAN RED CROSS CASCADES REGION

Mike Williams, right, and Don Wiese of Dallas respond to the Oroville Dam incident as emergency response vehicle operators.

event is unique because Red Cross is responding to a disaster that has not yet occurred — but the potential dangers born from Oroville dam's eroding emergency spillway require preparation.

Dugaw said she couldn't recall the last time Red Cross assisted with a disaster relief that displaced nearly 200,000 people, but said one of her volunteers compared the community uprooting similar to Hurricane Katrina.

"This incident not only evacuates people from their homes, but also from the place they call their home," Dugaw

said, referring to the distance needed to travel away from the danger zone.

Red Cross volunteers are tentatively scheduled for 10 days, but that timeline may extend in the event of major flooding.

"If the rains don't happen, we could be out of here early, but if things get worse, they can be asking for people to stay longer," Williams said.

Tuesday afternoon, the Butte County Sheriff's Office announced the evacuation order was lifted, telling people they had the choice to return to their homes.

## Much

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for them."

Locally, the popularity almost pales compared to reports planners have heard elsewhere.

"There are other places in the nation that have four different dances that they spread out," Brent said of one accommodation option.

The dance, which invites grade-8 and younger girls along with their fathers, adds a few peripheral features, such as face painting and a chocolate fountain, to polish its appeal. Games, desserts — Willamette Valley Pie, Company is among the local sponsors — hors d'oeuvres, formal photos and a photo booth to boot are all part of the deal.

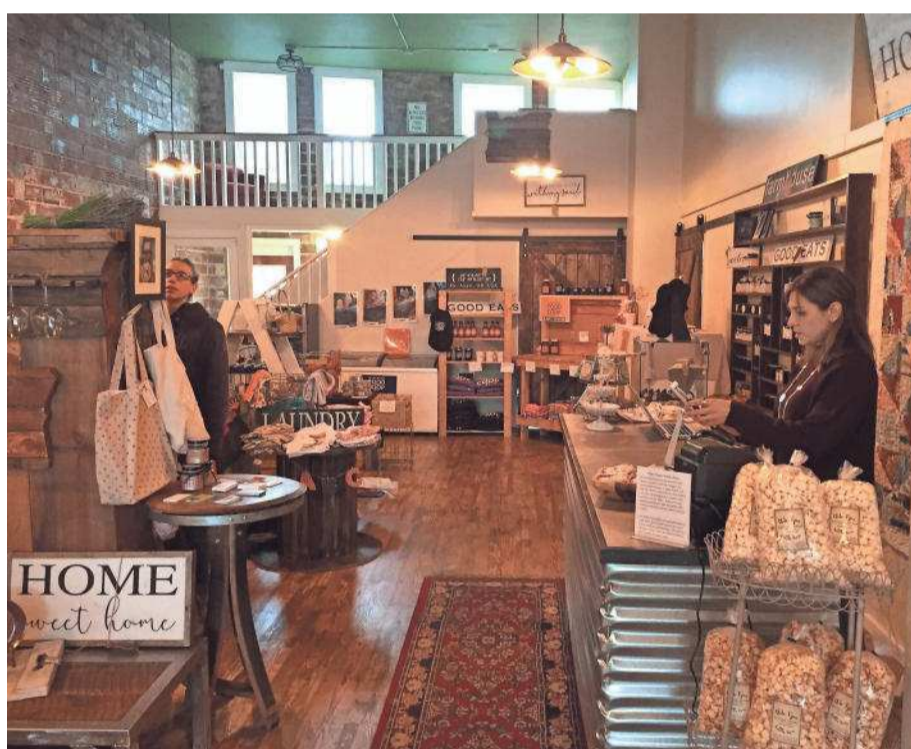
Brent said the Silverton High School Interact Club is among the active hosts.

The lowdown for anyone interested in attending: Cost is \$30 per couple and \$10 for each additional daughter. Proceeds benefit the local Rotary scholarship program. Tickets are available at [www.SilvertonDDD.com](http://www.SilvertonDDD.com), and you can contact Brent at 503-580-9546 to learn more.

» Another celebration emerging toward the tail end of spring is currently under planning stages for Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 500 N. 2nd St. This year is the 125th for the church.

Norm English stopped into Silver Creek Wednesday where he and Jim Squires often kick over ideas, including ongoing steps in preserving and improving Silverton's fine murals. Between mural thoughts, Norm added a few thoughts about Trinity Lutheran where he is a parishioner.

Norm said the church has seen several incarnations during its 125 years: the original built in 1893; a



JUSTIN MUCH/APPEAL TRIBUNE

Elisha Nightingale oversees Live Local Marketplace adjacent to Silver Creek Coffee House. The market opened the first weekend of February with 20 vendors. The downtown Silverton venue is geared toward vending local wares.

larger version in 1919 as membership grew and a major remodeling in 1971.

"The congregation itself was born out of an influx of Norwegians to the area," Norm said.

Highlights included in the milestone celebration are a historic room dedicated to the church's saga, featuring some items used over the years. The colorful stained-glass windows are a part of that history and an ongoing feature of the church.

Additionally, Trinity Lutheran is putting together a mailing list of people who may be interested or would like to know more about the coming landmark celebration. Contact the church at 503-873-2635 or visit [www.trinitysilverton.org](http://www.trinitysilverton.org).

» A review of what's new in Silverton wouldn't be complete without an update on Live Local Marketplace, which opened the first week in February on Water Street adjacent to Silver Creek Coffee House.

It currently has 20 vendors and is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, but proprietors Josh and Elisha Nightingale anticipate opening 7-days a week sometime this spring.

Conditions surrounding the celebrated opening provided every opportunity for an inauspicious beginning as stormy rains ruled the skies, but not the day.

"I thought we'd get maybe 25 the way that the weather was that day," Elisha said, noting that she is the more conservative of the Nightingale estimators.

"I thought we'd get, maybe, 100," Josh said. "But it (the turnout) was insane...it was a cool atmosphere, a really cool vibe."

The turnout actually exceeded Josh's expectations several fold. A little bit of local wine and other refreshments may have helped entice some through the stormy envi-

rons to Water St.

The market, which features wares of local folks within the Silverton vicinity, germinated in some open space fertilized by an idea.

"We had this space available sitting against a red wall and we wondered 'what can we do with it?'" Josh said.

Now it's doing. Elisha said the 20 local vendors are set up in what feels like one, a "fluid and cohesive" market rather than separate booths. Look for more in the coming months, including fresh produce.

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## Marijuana

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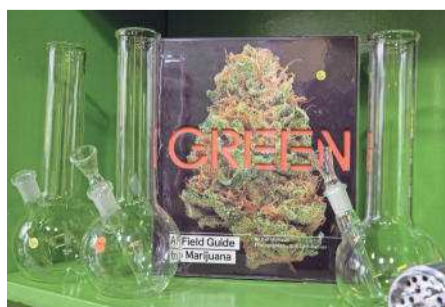
sales, making them a Class A violation.

Beau Whitney, an economist who studies the marijuana industry, called the bill "overly broad," "too vague" and "dead on arrival."

"It is so ridiculous that it is tough to take this seriously," he said.

He picked apart language in the bill that speaks to the definition of "marijuana paraphernalia," which included an item "marketed to be used for, or that is designed" to plant, cultivate or grow weed.

"I understand this is not the intent of the bill, but if you think about it, it would impact almost every business in Oregon," he said. "Greenhouses: This would fall under this rule for the purpose of planting. So this impacts all agricultural businesses."



JACK GUEZ, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Bongs that are used to smoke cannabis.

The move would threaten head shops that deal in these kinds of items but don't sell marijuana itself. Pot sales are regulated strictly by the state.

"That's not fair at all," said Whitney Hartwell, an employee at the Bong Smoke Shop in Salem. The store sells bongs and other items. "That'd be like all of our revenue, pretty much."

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