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Silverton, Mt. Angel get seismic grants

Fire districts are among 47 emergency services facilities receiving the funding

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

Both Silverton and Mt. Angel fire districts were among the recipients of seismic grants issued in late April by the committee overseeing Oregon's Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program.

The committee announced that 47 emergency services facilities statewide would be receiving the funds in addition to 100 schools, grants aimed at construction projects deemed critical to enable the facilities to withstand serious damage in the event of a major earthquake.

In an announcement issued by Gov. Kate Brown's Office, Press Secretary Bryan Hockaday noted that the biparti-

san effort to invest in these facility upgrades stems in part from the realization that Oregon's risk for a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake is significant, and these construction projects are proactive measures against catastrophic consequences to community preparedness.

The local piece of the pie was just shy of \$800k: Mt. Angel Fire District-Fire Station \$60,000; Silverton Fire District-Main Station \$736,875.

Silverton Fire Chief Bill Miles called the announcement "very good news," while Mt. Angel Chief Jim Trierweiler echoed that thought, but added "Mt An-

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SILVERTON FIRE DISTRICT
Both Silverton and Mt. Angel fire districts were among the recipients of seismic grants issued in late April by the committee overseeing Oregon's Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program.



DETROIT LAKE LEVEL HIGHEST SINCE 2009

Officials optimistic for recreation season

ZACH URNESS
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Detroit Lake reached its highest water level since 2009 last week and hit what's considered its "full" water level for the first time in two years.

A system of heavy rain — following what's been one of the wettest seasons on record — pushed the reservoir to 1,565.29 feet on Wednesday.

That's the highest mark since May 4, 2009, when the reservoir's elevation hit 1,566.64 feet. It was also the first time the reservoir reached the level considered "full" for summer, 1,563.5 feet, since 2014.

The past two years, historic drought and limited spring rain kept the reservoir's level lower than normal, impacting tourism and recreation.



PHOTOS BY ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL
Above: Docks float at the Detroit Lake Marina in Detroit on Saturday. Main: Detroit Lake as seen from the N. Santiam Highway bridge in Detroit.

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Schools slated for seismic upgrades

They'll get millions in state grant funds

NATALIE PATE
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Schools across Oregon will receive millions of dollars to make seismic upgrades.

The committee overseeing Oregon's Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program announced last Friday that 100 schools and 47 emergency services facilities will receive \$153.6 million in state grant funds, according to a press release.

The program provides funding for construction work on schools and other critical public buildings to better prepare the structures to withstand a major earthquake.

"Ensuring every community in the state, particularly in rural regions, has safe community gathering places and emergency response infrastructure will be key to Oregon's recovery from a significant seismic event," Governor Brown said in a statement. "While this may seem to be a daunting task, we're making steady progress, through a concerted and coordinated effort by communities, individuals, businesses, and as a state, toward building more resilient Oregon."

This is the second round of funding released through the program this biennium, according to the release. Schools throughout Oregon received \$50 million for 41 retrofit projects last April, the first phase of \$205 million in program funding established in this biennium's budget.

Before Friday's awards, the program has made 118 awards totaling \$108 million.

"In the last year, we have more than tripled Oregon's investment in the seismic safety of our schools," Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, said in a statement. "It's taken 15 years to get here ... We can't lose our momentum."

State Senator Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, said many people have become complacent and "grown tone-deaf" after hearing about "The Big One" for so many years.

"But our emergency planners are telling us 'It's real, and it's coming!'" he said in a statement. "Communities need

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Silverton schools stave off rain damage

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

It's been a wet spring for sure, but when the skies opened up over Silverton on Monday, April 24, this season's persistent precipitation moved from mere inconvenience to a borderline crisis situation at a couple of local

schools.

Silver Falls School District was spurred into alert mode at both Silverton Middle School and Mark Twain Elementary School as the cloud burst consequences ultimately streamed into some school facilities and left lakeside playground features immediately around

the campuses.

District Superintendent Andy Bellando said both schools incurred high water.

"The very heavy rainfall lasted for about 20 minutes and was one of the heaviest and longest soakings I've ever seen in this area," Bellando said.

At Silverton Middle,

the flooding occurred in front of the school on Schlador St. where an overloaded city drain contributed to the overflow.

"That flooding did not result in water entry into the school at that location," Bellan-

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