

Health insurance workshop offered

JUSTIN MUCH
APPEAL TRIBUNE

The Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace is holding "Health Insurance 101" in Silverton, a free 90-minute workshop on understanding health insurance.

The workshop is open to the public and will be held 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, in the Silver Falls Public Library Program Room, 410 S. Water St.

A spokeswoman said Health Insurance 101 is

designed to help attendees prepare for the health insurance open enrollment period that begins next fall. An experienced health-insurance educator from the marketplace will explain how health insurance works, describe coverage options and answer questions about health insurance in Oregon.

To register, call 855-268-3767 or email in fo.marketplace@oregon.gov.

Scotts Mills volunteer retires after 36 years

The Silverton Fire District bid goodbye to Battalion Chief Fred Bridgehouse at a July 26 party following his retirement earlier this summer.

A volunteer for more than 36 years, Bridgehouse supervised the Scotts Mills, Crooked Finger and Abiqua stations and shared the task of running the district on weekends.

"He's a pretty special guy. He's going to be hard to replace," said Silverton Chief Bill Miles. "He has a sleeve-full of certifications."

Bridgehouse's "day jobs" included working for Northwest Natural Gas and as a master mechanic for General Motors. Because of his abilities, he was able to help



Bridgehouse

keep district vehicles running; these included his own hand-me-down command vehicle, Miles said.

Bridgehouse's fire service began in Scotts Mills, when the town had its own fire district; at one point he served as its chief. He came to Silverton Fire with the merger in the 1990s.

As his duties expanded, the Scotts Mills station, No. 8, remained his home. Currently, it houses an engine, a 3,000-gallon tender and a rescue/brush rig and is staffed by six volunteers, Miles said.

School officials to spend day on carrier

A decade ago, PBS' hit show "Carrier" gave TV viewers an inside look at life on an aircraft carrier. Now a pair of local school administrators will get an even more personal experience.

Silver Falls Superintendent Andy Bellando and Mt. Angel Superintendent Troy Stoops will spend 24 hours as distinguished visitors on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt on

Aug. 2-3. Courtesy of the U.S. Navy, they will fly from San Diego, Calif., to the carrier in the Pacific Ocean.

The Navy's distinguished visitor program invites community leaders to embark on the adventure and share their experiences with others, said Vice Admiral Mike Shoemaker. Bellando and Stoops are two of a dozen Oregon superintendents participating in the trip.



PHOTOS BY MADDY TRAVER / SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Brea McKee and Ben Dumitrescu at Camp Invention.

STEM

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Over the course of the week, students designed alarm boxes, created their own fictional planets, built and marketed Duct tape creations and engineered slingshots (for flinging rubber chickens).

Almost as popular as the inventions was the chance to tear down everything from DVD players to telephones. Each camper arrived with an item to disassemble, with staff adding their own contributions from home and Goodwill.

"Taking stuff apart," was 7-year-old Wyatt Hurl's favorite pastime. He also enjoyed building a birdfeeder, a practical invention that included lights so that his feathered friends could see their food at night.

Mailey Peterson, 6, said she "liked camp a lot" and won't forget how much fun it was to take apart a light bulb. When she grows up, she wants to be a teacher.

Cordelia Bay, 10, wants to follow her mom into a science career, maybe even working for NASA. At camp, she and her friends created and marketed Duct tape high-heeled flip-flops in Cross' Duct Tape Billionaire challenge.

In Mission Space Makers, a challenge led by Stadel, students were assigned an "exo-planet," a fictional planet from outside our solar system, that they needed to make more hospitable to human life.

For example, on a dangerously hot planet, one group added air conditioners and wrapped the mountains in aluminum, said Sarah Zilzberger, a high schooler who assisted third and fourth graders.

"That is the best part of being a teacher when you watch your high school kids teaching younger kids," said Bay, who was



From left, Joey Lockett, Shane Seeger, and Mailey Peterson at Camp Invention.



From left, Molly Lockett, Lincoln Hoffer, Maggie Kelley, Lincoln Schurter at Camp Invention.

Zilzberger's biology teacher last year.

Going into the 2017-18 school year, Bay is inviting students to join a brand-new STEM Club, the main goal of which is to lead STEM Nights at schools throughout the district. Parents at in-town and outlying schools can look forward to student-led science events at their schools, if all goes according to plan.

Camp Invention is a sure thing for 2018, with signups happening next January, Bay said. Because attendance will be capped at 120, she's also considering after-school programs. The National Inventors Hall of Fame created a five-week STEM curriculum that she hopes to offer soon.

"I love seeing our students engaged in any kind of activities and camps

like this during the summer, but the STEM focus is timely in our district, especially with the eclipse right around the corner," said Superintendent Andy Bellando, who dropped in at Camp Invention. "STEM education is a growing and important focus at all schools in the district."

Bay agreed, noting that high school graduates nationwide desperately need more STEM skills to succeed in their careers: "Kids aren't coming out of high school ready. They don't have the skills in building, teamwork or communication."

At camp, she delighted in watching kids go from "arguing over what color Duct tape to use," to "working together."

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Silverton High School Scholarship Fundraiser

Join us for a Fundraising Party!

19th Annual
Friday, August 4th, 2017

Place: Feshhalle,
500 S. Wilco Hwy. Mt. Angel, OR 97362

The no host bar and social starts at 5:00 pm along with the Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle. The Wooden Nickel will start serving buffet dinner at 6:30 pm.
Must be 21 or older to attend

Tickets cost \$30 when purchased in advance at Silverton Realty or \$35 if purchased on the day of the event.

Dress casual and comfortable and enjoy the friendships - new and old - while supporting SHS scholarships.

More info: mason@silvertonrealty.com or 503-873-3545