

Dollar Tree opens in Silverton

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Dollar Tree quietly opened its doors in Silverton on Sept. 14, following with a public ribbon-cutting ceremony the next day.

The Virginia-based Dollar Tree Inc., chose for its new store the vacated space at Silverton Plaza most recently occupied by Rite Aid Pharmacy. Of the 10,000 square feet of space, about 8,000 square feet is dedicated to retail sales, said manager Heather Thompson.

Dollar Tree's address is 333 Westfield Street, Suite A. It's open daily, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and can be reached by phone at 503-873-0212.

Correction

A story on page 1A of the Sept. 13 edition of the Appeal Tribune needs to be corrected. Hattie Bratzel Kremen was Marion County's first female district attorney.

Silverton murals gets financial boost from city

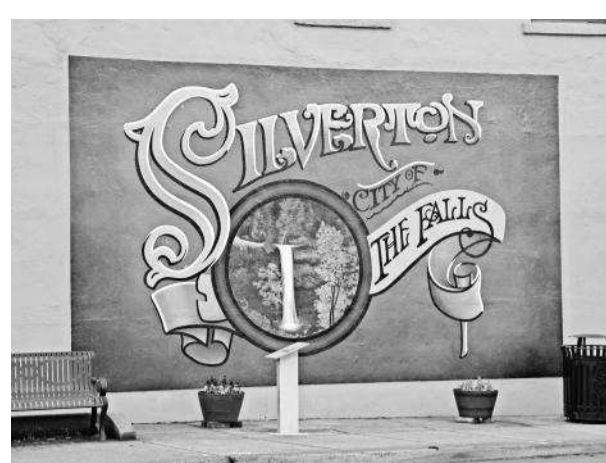
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The Silverton Mural Society received \$6,000 from the city this month to continue touching up and weathering the city's famous colorful murals.

The City Council voted unanimously on Sept. 11 to award the grant, taken from its portion of "room taxes," to the touchup project. Transient occupancy taxes are collected the county and then dispersed to cities, based on visitor occupancy rates.

In Silverton, the Tourism Promotion Committee takes a portion of the collected money and recommends grant approvals and/or denials to the Council, based on whether proposed projects contribute to tourism in town.

The Silverton Mural Society requested the \$6,000 to combine with a \$6,000 sponsor match and pay for touchups, ultraviolet-light protection, and in the case of the "Old Oak Tree" mural on Main and First Streets, crack-patching.



One of Silverton's many murals, which visitors can admire as a part of a walking tour. BROOKE JACKSON-GLIDDEN / STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Trail

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Fire.

Ignited by a lightning strike in early August, the fire near Devil's Peak has spread within 1 3/4 miles of the hot springs and cabins.

To protect the area, fire teams looked for the best place to build a fire break, or buffer, between the fires and Breitenbush.

Grady McMahan, district ranger for the Forest Service in Detroit, said the team looked at multiple options along Devil's Ridge, but found the terrain too steep and dangerous.

Eventually, they settled on a line that included two miles of the Emerald Forest Trail, part of the Spotted Owl Trail system, a popular hiking trail that traversed old-growth forest.

"The fire was coming closer every day, and with the right wind event, the fire could have been right there in a day or two," McMahan said. "We didn't feel like that was a risk worth taking."

McMahan got approval for the plan from officials at Breitenbush Hot Springs.

Fire teams went through two miles of the trail and cut old-growth snags, smaller trees and old-growth yew trees. They created a 50- to 70-foot gap designed to halt or slow a fire if it spread toward Breitenbush.

Fire officials are considering back-burning along the trail, likely using a "drip torch" to burn off flammable vegetation and fuels. It's unclear whether that will be necessary given rainy incoming weather, fire officials



Pictures of the Emerald Forest Loop that was cut to protect the Breitenbush area. PHOTO BY MICHAEL DONNELLY

said.

"It's not fun to have to do these things, but we're living with the distinct possibility that the fire could be on us in no time," said Peter Moore, business director at Breitenbush Hot Springs. "They were playing the odds the best they could ... and we supported it."

But a number of residents with cabins at Breitenbush are not happy with the decision. They said the move was unnecessary and damaged an area of rich biological diversity in a premature effort to stop a fire that likely won't arrive.

Along with the stumps, the critics point to a loss of spotted owl nesting habitat in the old-growth snags. And, they said, even if the fire swept toward Breitenbush, the fire break might not have stopped the blaze.

"My big concern is that there is no evidence that such a fire break in old-growth ever works as intended," Donnelly said. "If a fire can jump the Columbia River, that seriously questions the efficacy of carving fire breaks through ancient forests sans any ecological consulting."

McMahan said fire breaks won't stop every fire, but they often do

work. He cited a fire break north of Pamela Lake that's stopped the Whitewater Fire from entering the popular recreation area in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness.

"You have to have the right weather, and put it in the right place, but they do work," McMahan said.

Woody Jackson, another cabin owner at Breitenbush, said a better fire break would have been an old access road behind the cabins. It would have put his cabin at greater risk, but he would have accepted that risk rather than impacting the old-growth ecosystem around the Emerald Forest Trail system.

"When I bought a summer home it was with the expectation that it may eventually burn," Jackson said. "Protection of property is a low consideration, while protecting viable habitats have more importance to me."

"The tragedy is that now that a fire line has been cut within a spotted owl habitat, it will always be an open canopy putting the owls at risk, and the next time there's a threat from fire they'll want to use the Emerald Forest Trail again."

The Emerald Forest Loop holds a special place in the history of the Brei-

tenbush area.

The forest around Breitenbush was scheduled to be logged during the height of Oregon's Forest Wars in 1986 and '89.

The timber sale spurred mass protests that gained national attention and was eventually stopped by a lawsuit filed by members of the Breitenbush community, including Donnelly.

"Volunteers built the trail network and have maintained it for 33 years," Donnelly said. "We estimate around 20,000 hikers per year."

McMahan said he went along the trail with fire teams and sought ways to limit damage to the yew trees and the forest overall. But that wasn't always possible, he said.

"It's true that before, it was a forest that didn't show any presence of man except the trail, and now there are stumps," McMahan said. "That's disappointing to everyone, including me."

"But, I felt like we had to do it."

Donnelly said he believes water pumps around the cabins and clearing brush were enough.

"I don't question at all whether it was done in good faith," he said. "However, we do want an investigation into what alternatives were considered."

Both McMahan and Donnelly said they'll look at ways to bring some restoration to the trail once the fires are out.

Moore said time would heal the scars.

"Yes, it's ugly now," he said. "But give it three years. This is Oregon. It will grow back."

Note: This is the Forest Service's hierarchy of importance in terms of what to protect during wildfires:

- 1) Safety of firefighters and public
 - 2) Private property and structures (such as cabins)
 - 3) Western timber values, including private timber lands
 - 4) Forest resources, such as old-growth forest
- Zach Urness has been an outdoors writer, photographer and videographer in Oregon for nine 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.*

Church Directory

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Silverton, OR 97381
(503) 873-2635
Sunday, Worship 11am
www.trinitysilverton.org
trinitysilverton@gmail.com

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Pastor: Fr. Philip Waibel
575 E. College St. 503-845-2296
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Appeal Tribune

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Lewis

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billion-dollar transportation package, which provides a substantial allocation of funding for several transportation projects in House District 18.

The representative served on the Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Economic Development and Trade Committee, and Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

House District 18 includes Silverton, Molalla, Mt. Angel, Hubbard, Aurora, Scotts Mill, Donald, and Colton.