

Silverton Senior Center hosts series of events in the upcoming weeks

JUSTIN MUCH
APPEAL TRIBUNE

Silverton Senior Center is hosting several highlighted events on the near horizon: Travel Fair, Dynamic Aging classes and Rock the Casino.

All activities take place at the center, 115 Westfield St., Silverton.

Travel Fair is scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, and is for anyone who is planning a vacation

and has a penchant for day trips. Travel agents will be on hand. There will also be door prizes and other treats.

Dynamic Aging is a series of classes from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on October Wednesdays, 4, 11, 18 and 25.

Led by registered nurse and restorative exercise specialist Mary Purdy, the class is based on a book by Katy Bowman and focuses on learn-

ing how to care for your body – feet, ankles, knees, hips, back, shoulders, pelvic floor, brain – in a “whole body, whole life way,” according to the billing.

Cost is \$7 for Senior Center members and \$8 for non-members.

Rock the Casino takes place Saturday, Oct. 7. Gaming and a silent auction are from 6 to 9 p.m. with the live auction beginning at 9 p.m. There is

a wide variety of items for bidding.

The \$20 ticket includes a tri-tip dinner catered by Wooden Nickel along with entry into a raffle that includes a fishing trip for four on Detroit Lake valued at \$400. There is a no-host bar, and gaming includes poker, blackjack, craps roulette and Texas hold ‘em.

For information, call the center at 503-873-3093 or visit its Facebook page.



Participants land at Spong's Landing as they finish the paddling portion of the River 2 Ridge event on Sept. 17. MOLLY J. SMITH / STATESMAN JOURNAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Over the past several months, selected streets in Silverton have undergone resurfacing per a contract signed with, what I've been told by a city employee, is an out-of-state outfit. The same employee also remarked that the street treatment

is supposed to last many years. The figure of ten was specifically cited.

If true, then I have bad news for the city officials who arranged for this work.

I ride my bike nearly daily. My route includes Mill Street, spanning the

distance between B Street and Oak Street. That area was treated earlier this year, but I have already observed numerous visible and lengthy cracks on the surface that have appeared despite the previous two-phased work. It first comprised of filling a

plethora of extant cracks, followed by the “slurry” material placed over the entire exterior of the street.

**Greg Marlowe,
Silverton**

Relay

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have a new bridge opening, and it could be a signature event,” she said.

So she traveled to Japan again in 2015, participating in the boating portion of the relay. She went with Angie Onyewuchi, president and CEO of Travel Salem, who competed in the whole race.

Now, about two years later, Salem has its own version.

“It's really a way to celebrate the marriage of recreation and natural resources,” Peterson said. “And I thought that was significant because we have a wealth of both.”

Reach Jonathan Bach by email at jbach@statesmanjournal.com or by phone at 503-399-6714. Follow him on Twitter @JonathanMBach and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/jonathanbachjournalist/>.

Chat

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event, coming Saturday, Oct. 7, and bringing a wide spectrum of music to the city.

Andy shared that he senses a positive vibe at the start of this school year, something he attributes to a lot of new energy “on the heels of a transformative year.” Part of that was palpable at the district's first in-service day, which drew 475 people.

“I feel good about the standard we've been able to establish,” Andy said.

The underscore that, he furnished one of the “good news” posters. The gist of it is that in 2010 Oregon's high-school graduation rate hovered at a paltry 66 percent, while Silverton's stood at a rosier 75 percent. Last year, Oregon's had perked up to 75 percent, while Silverton's soared up to 89 percent, in the top 5 percent of the state's 360 high schools, 18th overall.

The poster lists graduation numbers for each year between 2010 and 2016; notable is that Silverton's 2015 mark eclipsed last year's with 90 percent.

Andy believes that a proactive approach with district educators focused on student engagement is key to the rise in graduation rates. He also stressed that the work is far from done – 100 percent is the aim.

“We still have 10 percent to go...we still have a lot of work to do,” he said, using an analogy of the 4-minute mile and the millennia it took (since records were kept) to achieve that. “This is where the really hard part begins.”

Tom surmised that the district's complexion may also be a factor in the graduation numbers. He said SFSD resisted the inclination other districts trending toward consolidation, illustrated by the number of rural elementary schools, such as Victor Point, Scotts Mills, Evergreen, Butte Creek, within which involvement and parental leadership can take hold and flourish more agreeably than it may in larger, less-personable environs.

Tom also spoke of engagement, though a bit differently than Andy; the superintendent accented curricula while the board chair noted extracurricular.

“We try to make sure every student at the high school is engaged in some type of extracurricular (activity or interest),” Tom said, stressing “that engagement makes them want to come to school.”

Bethany Charter School

Engagement isn't a problem at Bethany where Angela says one of the reasons she loves the K-8 experience there is familiarity with school staff and other families, along with having all four



Silver Falls School District Superintendent Andy Bellando, right, and district Board Chair Tom Buchholz stop by the Creekside Chat to share good news about the district's graduation rates. JUSTIN MUCH | APPEAL TRIBUNE

Next chat

What: Creekside Chat

Where: Silver Creek Coffee House, 111 Water St., Silverton

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7 (First and third Wednesdays)

Questions and information: Contact Justin Much, jmuch@statesmanjournal.com; cell 503-508-8157; or follow at twitter.com/justinmuch

of her kids in the same school.

The latest engagement is the school carnival, 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, at the school, 824 Hazel-green Road.

The carnival's history dates back decades prior to Bethany's charter status – 45 years. Bingo has been an event staple since its inception, while other elements include the dunk tank, a bouncy house and plenty of pizza.

The money raised goes directly to the school's parent club, which in turn helps out features such as outdoor education and field trips.

For carnival or Bethany Charter School information, call 503-873-4300.

Ah, the music!

Oct. 7 is shaping up to be an extra-festive day in town as the Silverton Sidewalk Shindig will strum over the streets from noon through the evening hours.

Heading into its 6th year, the Shindig has added a local scholarship fund. It will also feature some new acts within its incredibly populated and varied slate; a random sampling of the scores on hand draws Kyle Ten Eyck's top 40 hits, Skamuna's West African Caribbean Reggae, Tom O'Connor's old-time bluegrass and fiddle, Humble George's jug band.

There will be steel drums, harp, Hawaiian, acoustic easy listening, soft rock, soul...If you love music and can find a day and place with more variety than Silverton has on Oct. 7, go there. Otherwise, visit the streets Silverton and prepare to be pleased.

Sarah noted that the open mic, crafts, face painting and a caricature artist will be among the “kids” offerings at Town Square Park that day – and they're not just for kids.

Gregg delighted in the groundwork this event has developed over the past decade via community-wide attentiveness, paraphrasing a quote – it takes a village to raise a child – by asserting “It takes all of Silverton to raise a festival.”

Get a glimpse of the Shindig and see its 2017 lineup on Facebook, [Facebook.com/sidewalkshindig](https://www.facebook.com/sidewalkshindig).

50-50 Invitation & Challenge

Turning or turned 50 and maybe feeling a tad glum about it?

Nah, there's a better way to handle the milestone in this town, and it pivots on activities at the Silverton Senior Center. The center has broadened its membership recently to include the 50 some-things, and Dodie dropped by Creekside to tell us about a coinciding membership drive in which they aim to get 50 additional members who are of age 50-something.

Silverton City Manager **Christy Wurster** will be among that number, as will Silverton Coffee Station proprietor **Christy Husky**.

The city manager said turning 50 this year has been something she's reflected on frequently of late. Along with first names, she and Husky share that milestone.

“We've been talking over the past few months about turning 50,” Christy Wurster said. “The other day I asked her ‘how are you doing?’ She said: ‘I think I'm embracing it...I think I'm going to join the senior center. How about you?’ I told her, you know, I think I will too.”

The membership drive's keystone event takes place at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 2, at the center, 115 Westfield St. Dodie added that as part of the drive the annual membership fee has been reduced

to \$15 (from \$25) until January.

You don't have to be at the event to join, of course. In fact, Christy joked that they may concoct popsicle-stick people with pictures pasted on them to honor those who can't.

Another unique tidbit about the day: Silverton Chamber of Commerce Director **Stacy Palmer** turns 50 that day. Yes, you guessed it – word has it she plans to be there as well.

Beyond the drive, SSC is chock full of upcoming events, activities and festivities: Travel Fair, 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28; Rock the Casino, Saturday, Oct. 7; Dynamic Aging class, 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays in October; Holiday Market, Nov. 3-4; Christmas Craft Fair, Dec. 1-2.

For details, call 503-873-3093 or visit the center's Facebook page: [Facebook.com/SilvertonSeniorCenter-122198094529144/](https://www.facebook.com/SilvertonSeniorCenter-122198094529144/).

Coats for Kids Drive

Fresh off the school supplies drive, Silverton Together is back at it with an equally venerable Coats for Kids Drive.

Jan said this project, directed at keeping the youngsters warm in cold weather, has been an annual quest for 17 years. A solid backing of church and community groups along with local schools, fortify the participation.

Donations are currently being accepted at various businesses, where they have opened their doors as drop-off sites. Look for the posters around town.

Jan stressed that they need adult sizes as well as kid sizes, and it's not just coats: jackets, sweat-shirts, mittens, scarves, hats, garments of warmth in cold conditions are all accepted.

For information, call Silverton Together at 503-873-0405 or visit [Facebook.com/silvertontogether](https://www.facebook.com/silvertontogether).

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