

Timber

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sational piece playfully dubbed “Freres Stonehenge.” In Corvallis, OSU plans to use the Freres product along with cross-laminated timber and glulam beams from another Oregon company, D.R. Johnson Lumber in Riddle.

“The building is being constructed of all local wood,” said Thomas Maness, dean of the Cheryl Ramberg Ford and Allyn C. Ford College of Forestry. “OSU’s research went into developing the product and getting it certified at D.R. Johnson, so yes we are using the product of our own research.”

Taking on concrete and steel

Mass-plywood panel and cross-laminated timber are billed as products that could transplant heavier, less-adaptable construction materials such as concrete and steel. They also are said to produce a smaller carbon footprint.

“We believe veneer is the most appropriate raw material for mass timber panels in the Pacific Northwest,” said Tyler Freres, vice president of sales. “Our veneer plants can efficiently and responsibly use second and third-growth timber with a minimum of a 5-inch block diameter to produce engineered panels.”

Arijit Sinha, OSU associate professor of wood science & engineering, touts the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emission by substituting wood in construction.

“Wood, as it grows, uses carbon dioxide. And when the tree is turned into building products, it sequesters the carbon for the lifetime of the product,” Sinha said. “This unique aspect of wood makes it a good choice for any buildings claiming to be green.”

Researchers are also excited about the prospects. “This is not merely a new engineered composite product but an entirely new building technology revolutionizing the use of timber in construction,” another OSU wood science professor, Lech Muszynski, wrote in his research summary published earlier this year.

Oregon BEST recently collaborated with eight regional stakeholders, including OSU, Oregon Department of Forestry, Business Oregon and Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership, to issue a 110-page study that examined cross-laminated timber feasibility, including resource capacity, market demand and “real or perceived barriers to the use.”

A few completed projects that utilized cross-laminated timber include Albina Yard and Carbon 12 in Portland, Brelsford Washington State University Visitor Center in Pullman, Washington, and Hamlin Middle School in Springfield.

But even with several additional projects in the pipeline, including the Pearl District’s Framework in Portland and various K-12 school projects in Washington, mass timber uses are still in their infancy.

Sinha and Muszynski say mass timber’s best applicability is in mid-range projects, such as buildings from three to 12 stories.

“In the high-rise building category, these products might not be a good choice,” Sinha said. “Their niche will be in the low to mid-rise buildings (3-12 stories). I believe, all the materials can co-exist.

Familiarity and comfort with the new products will



A new Forest Science Complex will use products researched at Oregon State. PHOTOS COURTESY OF OSU/MICHAEL GREEN ARCHITECTURE

take time, they said. But each successful project could build momentum, acceptance and demand.

"We should see a positive trend in the next year or so," Sinha said. "If this happens, it will surely bolster the rural Oregon economy. Both (mass-plywood panels and cross-laminated timber) manufacturers in Oregon are situated in rural areas. Increased acceptance will lead to increased demands, which will result in jobs in this sector and overall development of that community."

In that vein, OSU’s forestry department may be a leader beyond research and toward demonstration with the Peavy Hall construction.

“To date, we have invested \$1.9 million in 13 research projects to advance mass timber,” Maness said. “We plan to initiate another round of research projects later this year.”

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ARIJIT SINHA,
OSU ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF WOOD SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Property

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for on the open market.

Sale supporters said the city and the Oregon Garden have been intertwined since the garden’s inception, and the large purchase from the Pettit family 15 years ago was originally undertaken to allow for expansion at the Garden.

As another connection, the Garden uses a wetland

system – a series of ponds – to receive treated wastewater from the city to irrigate the Garden. This reduces releases into Silver Creek, most important in the summer when the creek’s temperature can reach 75 degrees, less than ideal for trout, said Silverton Public Works Director Christian Saxe.

An average of nearly 600,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater – often warm too, at 68 degrees – is diverted to the Garden instead of flowing into Silver Creek, May through October.

“It essentially allows us to send our treated water to a location where it will not adversely impact the Silver Creek ecosystem,” Saxe said.

State agencies – the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of State Lands and the Water Resources Department – worked with private companies – HDR, West Yost and Associates and SRI/Shapiro – to create the wetland system back in 1998-99. Visitors from around the country have traveled to Silverton to see it in action, Saxe said.

Now, with the council’s decision to buy back the Pettit house and surrounding 2.28 acres, the nearby property’s future is undecided.

How this real estate holding can best serve its owners, the people of Silverton, is, once again, an unanswered question.

Updates

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ing that they wanted their daughter to stay true to her interests, which included counseling and social work.

She did, but teaching was also among those interests. Stepping into her current role knits those interest together in an area where she can help youths outside the classroom, and she hopes to especially reach out to outliers, especially helping kids who come in from the rural elementary schools to find enriching activity in their new environments.

Helping her in that aim will be Nicole, who is actively pursuing a studies aligned toward a medical-related career. She even worked at Mt. Angel Dental Clinic and attended Chemeketa Community College last year, and she has her eyes set on studying at Central Oregon Community College in a program geared to her interests.

Programs started Oct. 10 for 7th and 8th graders from 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 303 N. Church St., and 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Silverton Middle School, 714 Schlador St.

“I’m loving it, it’s amazing,” Hillary enthused. “The volunteers are great, and the programs are already established and in place I’m confident that it’s going to go smoothly.”

Learn more at asapsilvertonor.org, visit the Facebook page, or contact Hillary at 503-873-8656 or boosthillary@gmail.com.

Meet the Silver Falls Library director candidates

What would you like to see in a library director? That’s something the library board is fine-tuning. Kathy said it’s a relatively new charge as Marlys has been a stalwart in the position for 13 years.

The board is setting up a chance to meet the candidates from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22, at the library, 410 S. Water St. The gathering will include light snacks and take place in the Community Room.

“We want to give the public a chance to meet the final five candidates,” Kathy said, noting that the board received 25 applicants for the position.

“We want them to be involved in the community,” Kathy said, noting that one criterion will be that the director lives within the library service area.

Silverton Grange #748
Who doesn’t like pie?

Jan’s sister, who is involved with a grange in Montana, posed that question to her not too long ago, and the idea stuck.

The first Pie & Gift Auction germinated from that idea, and it will bloom from 3 to 6 p.m., Nov. 4 at the local grange, 201 Division (off S. Water St.), Silverton.

The event’s pie-baking contest will yield prize winnings of \$10, \$25 and \$50. So if you have a favorite recipe that’s been in the family for generations, this is a good opportunity to share the fruits of it.

The event will also have live ukulele music, while auction items (in addition to pies) include a beach get-

away, compliments of **Lee Mercer**, and Grange President **Aaron Embree** will be giving away a butcher workshop.

Proceeds from the event will support the grange’s “Raise the Roof Fund” campaign that strives to provide the building with a new roof.

Silverton Grange activities have included local candidate forums and “Seedy Saturday” where Master Gardeners and canning experts provide tips and ideas for aspiring and practicing green thumbs.

For information, or to donate to the cause, contact Jan at 503-551-4788, silvertongrange@gmail.com. You can also visit Silverton Grange on Facebook.

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