

Appeal Tribune

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Silverton honors locals at banquet

47th Annual First Citizen Banquet to spotlight 4 individuals, 1 business

Christena Brooks Special to Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

During the dark days of winter comes Silverton's annual celebration of its bright stars, the volunteers who bring light and warmth to their community through service.

Four individuals and one business will be recognized on Saturday, Feb. 3 at the Silverton Area Chamber of Commerce's 47th Annual First Citizen Banquet at the Oregon Garden.

The evening's honorees are First Citizen Andy Bellando, Future First Citizen Joseph Schmitz, Distinguished Service recipient Sue Roessler, Judy Schmidt Lifetime Achievement winner Bob Holowati and Business of the Year Les Schwab.

Andy Bellando, First Citizen

"Andy has been an incredible volunteer over a long span of time," said Silverton Mayor Kyle Palmer.

Finding time to volunteer is notable because Bellando also works the more-than-full-time job of superintendent of the Silver Falls School District.

Amusingly, when notified that a dozen people were waiting outside his Schlador Street office earlier this month, he briefly wondered if they were protesters — before being surprised by balloon-toting members of the First Citizen Committee.

"I'm honored. I'm thrilled," he said. "I would not consider myself a First Citizen."

Bellando, 56, has been an educator for 33 years, 30 of them in the Silver Falls School District. He's been a teacher, principal and district administrator, working the last eight as superintendent.

On the side, he's been a chamber board member, First Citizen Committee chair, chair of Silverton's

150th-year celebration, Homer Davenport Festival volunteer and Rotary Club member.

He's a 12-year board member for Silverton Area Community Aid, committee member for the City of Silverton, and chaperone and judge for youth events including middle school ski trips, Oregon Battle of the Books, Pentagames, Mr. SHS, Future Farmers of America and Marion County Fair.

For Bellando, volunteering has "always been a way of being," that started when he was a teenager. In addition to typical club activities, as an Oregon State University student, he organized sheep-shearing contests throughout Oregon.

His inspiration to volunteer goes back to his high school days and a beloved, service-minded FFA advisor. Along the way, others have motivated him too, including an event speaker whose words he took to heart: "It's not about me, but it's up to me."

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Oktoberfest grants largest since 2010



The 2018 Mt. Angel Oktoberfest is slated to take place this year Sept. 13-18. ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Fest's philanthropic contributions up to \$3.3 million

Justin Much Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Mount Angel Oktoberfest Board of Directors announced that a strong 2017 event afforded organizers \$103,000 to be distributed to various community groups and nonprofits, its largest distribution since 2010.

Festival spokeswoman Monica Bochsler said the 2017 grants bring the festival's cumulative philanthropic contributions to \$3.3 million. She added that the festival's strong economic showing enabled it to retain funding for events and entertainment planning for the 53rd Oktoberfest in 2018.

The 2018 festival is scheduled for Sept. 13-18.

Recent festival grants were allotted to 52 organizations from 10 communities in December, roughly five months ahead of when the checks were sent in previous years. Oktoberfest Board of Directors determined that administering the awards earlier would provide

nonprofits more flexibility in preparing upcoming yearly budgets.

Bochsler noted Oktoberfest infrastructure — advertising, porta-potties, electrical setups, coordination, and entertainment — also accommodates crowds that provide opportunities for more than 50 nonprofit food booths.

In addition to the Oktoberfest grants, the food booths generated an additional \$750,000 in gross revenue for these groups.

"Many of these organizations make the majority of their annual revenue during the Oktoberfest," she said.

Nonprofit organizations interested in operating an Oktoberfest food booth in 2018 should visit www.oktoberfest.org.

During the Oktoberfest Board of Directors Jan. 25 meeting, board members were provided with a list of

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Detroit Lake project could foul Salem water supply

Zach Urness Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A major construction project at Detroit Lake could foul the source of Salem's drinking water and lead to citywide water shortages, city officials said in comments submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps is planning to build a 300-foot tower and floating screen at Detroit Dam to improve water temperature and fish passage for salmon and steelhead in the North Santiam River.

But the \$100-million to \$250-million project could require draining the reservoir for one or two years, leading to a dramatic impact on Salem's water supply, which comes from the North Santiam.

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has proposed building a 300-foot tower at the Detroit Dam to improve water temperature and fish passage for salmon and steelhead. Opponents of the plan are concerned about its impact on Salem's water supply, irrigation and the impact on tourism and economy to Detroit. MOLLY J. SMITH / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Silverton man dies in crash on Highway 22

Lauren Hernandez Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two men who died in a two-vehicle crash on Highway 22 at milepost 76 near Santiam Pass just before the merge with Highway 20 on Jan. 21 have been identified.

Joshua Lyons, 34, of Portland was traveling eastbound in a black Nissan Armada and lost traction while trying to drive on snow-covered roads. He hit the front of a silver Chevrolet Silverado pulling an enclosed trailer traveling westbound around 4:35 p.m., according to Oregon State Police.

Lyons and his passenger, Timothy Hays, 47, of Silverton, died at the scene.

The driver of the Silverado, Alan Freeman, 54, of Salem, was treated for minor injuries and released from Salem Hospital.

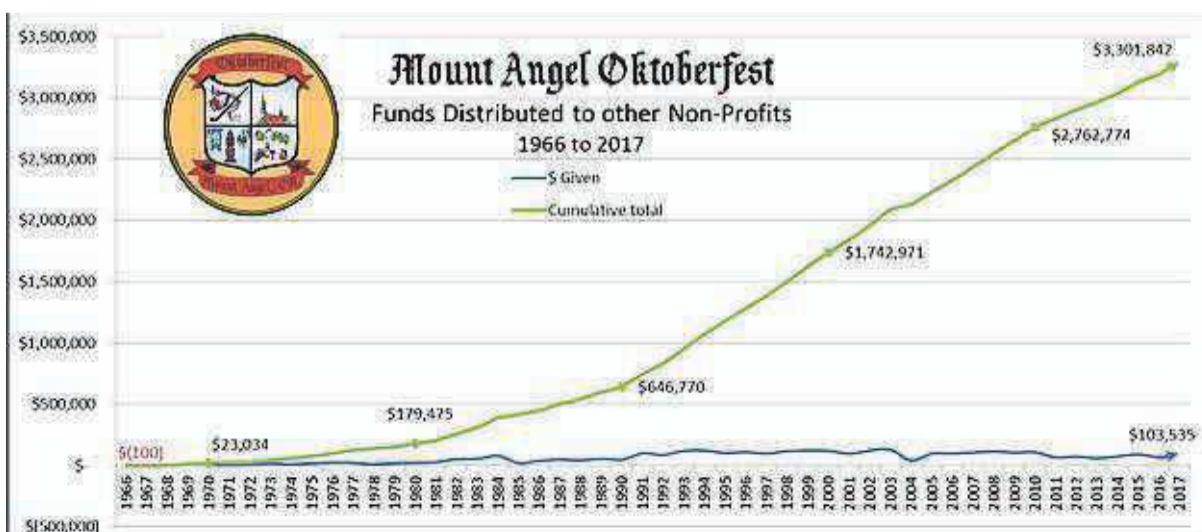
Two of Freeman's passengers, Shaun Dorschel, 33, of Salem and an unnamed juvenile passenger also were treated for minor injuries and released.

Donald Suklis, 56, of Jefferson, Freeman's third passenger, was sent to St. Charles Hospital in Bend with serious injuries. His condition is unknown at this time.

The westbound lane was closed for roughly five hours.

The Oregon Department of Transportation and Gates Fire Department assisted Oregon State Police at the scene.

Email Lauren Hernandez at lehernande@statesmanjournal.com, call 503-399-6743 or follow on Twitter @LaurenPorFavor



Funds distributed annually by Mt. Angel Oktoberfest. GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MOUNT ANGEL OKTOBERFEST

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