

BRIEFS

Pay library fine with food this month

Mt. Angel Public Library is hosting Food for Fines Nov. 19-27. Library patrons with fines from overdue items can reduce their debts by donating food. Each item will reduce fines by \$1. Donated food will be distributed to the Mt. Angel Senior Center and St. Joseph's Shelter.

The library is located at 290 E. Charles St., in Mt. Angel.

Town hall to touch on connection, values, equity

SILVERTON – City councilors and school district board members have invited the public to attend a town hall meeting at Silverton High School on Monday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m.

Spanish interpretation will be provided.

vided.

This year's town hall is a public discussion with facilitator Chisao Hata, who returns to Silverton after hosting a community dialogue in August at Silver Falls Library entitled, "Can We Get Along?"

Hata's August visit was part of the statewide Conversation Project organized by Oregon Humanities, an independent, non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The organization's vision is "an Oregon that invites diverse perspectives, explores challenging questions and strives for just communities," according to its description in the Oregon Blue Book.

Attendees at the Nov. 18 event are being encouraged to "listen to community members, participate in small group exchanges, and ask questions of the City Council and School Board."



Gov. Kate Brown gives a toast at a release party for the Oregon Solidarity Rose of Pinot Noir in the Governor's ceremonial office at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem on Tuesday, March 5. MICHAELA ROMÁN/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Wine

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the 2019 Innovator of the Year."

Oregon Solidarity's logo is a knot, a symbol of mutual investment and collaboration between the Rogue Valley and the Willamette Valley meant to invoke Oregon's wine community standing together.

Jim Berneau, founder of Willamette Valley Vineyards, and Ed King, Co-Founder/CEO of King Estate Winery,

will accept the award on behalf of the coalition at the 20th Anniversary Wine Star Awards in San Francisco on Monday, January 27th, 2020.

Emily Teel is the Food & Drink Editor at the Statesman Journal. Contact her at eteel@statesmanjournal.com, Facebook, or Twitter. See what she's cooking and where she's eating this week on Instagram: @emily_teel

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 Monday-Friday: \$17.50, \$16 with EZ Pay
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Published every Wednesday by the Statesman Journal, P.O. Box 13009, Salem, OR 97309.
 USPS 469-860, Postmaster: Send address changes to Appeal Tribune, P.O. Box 13009, Salem, OR 97309.
 PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID: Salem, OR and additional offices.
 Send letters to the editor and news releases to sanews@salem.gannett.com.

Lighting

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efficiency and renewable energy company based out of New York, for management of the project.

Replacement of the bulbs and fixtures started in July, and Stanley estimates the project to be 90 to 95 percent completed – most left to replace is at the high school – with completion expected by the end of the year.

The district took on a 15-year loan to pay for the project and will pay it off with the \$87,000 it expects to save in energy each year, a rebate from Energy Trust of Oregon and reimbursement through the Oregon Department of Energy.

Stanley said it was helpful to have Ameresco coordinate the LED work – including bringing in contractors and electricians – as he had his hands full elsewhere.

Over the past few years, Silverton's school district has undertaken seismic projects at five schools, including work at Mark Twain Elementary School and Silverton Middle School last summer.

"You have the old, original 1938 brick building that's two and in some cases three story," Stanley said of Silverton Middle School.

Big gymnasiums a big challenge

Gyms are often the most difficult spaces in schools for lighting.

Malezos said since gyms are frequently used year-round and late into evenings, coordinating installers can be challenging.

Another challenge is there are often items like the rope batting cage in Silverton High School's auxiliary gym. Stanley said a challenge was to figure out how to drop the batting cages to the floor to change the fixtures to LED.

"We were set up and we had a schedule to do it, and then we ran into a glitch that we have a very complicated digital lighting system in the gym," Stanley said.

Stanley said the first fixtures delivered were not compatible with the digital system. Anthony Marinello, a foreman for contractor Northwest Edison, said they are waiting for a test LED for the main gym to arrive to try it and make sure it will work with the digital fixture.

With thousands of bulbs in fixtures



LED lights are installed in the counseling center at Silverton High School on Nov. 4, 2019. Bulbs and fixtures are being upgraded to LED lighting in the Silver Falls School District as part of a \$1.8 million project. ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL

from different time periods in use, there inevitably were some surprisingly hard-to-find bulbs, such as in the aisle lighting in the auditorium.

"There's three different types of bulbs in those throughout the whole place," Marinello said. "You get in there and you start changing them and you're like well, we ordered 150 of this one style, but now there's other styles and we have to open every single one up. We had to go through and open every single one and get a count. They're coming."

Maltezos said Ameresco has done similar projects at 400 school districts across the country.

"We have experience helping several Oregon school districts with their upgrades, including Portland Public Schools and Junction City School District, to name a few," he said.

Stanley said with construction booming, it has made it hard to find maintenance employees for the district with the certification to do much of the lighting work on a regular basis.

Though the new fluorescent and incandescent bulbs that were in Silverton's schools are rated the same as the more efficient LED bulbs that are replacing them, the new lighting often appears brighter.

Stanley said the difference with the new LED lighting has been noticed in the schools in Silverton: he has seen joke emails of people having to wear sunglasses or a welding hood as everything seems brighter.

"There's a definite improvement in almost everywhere we've been," Stanley said. "The light levels are equal to or much better than they have been. Everything is sharper."

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