

Appeal Tribune

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Detroit Lake water levels drop for repairs

Zach Urness Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Water levels at Detroit Lake will drop way below normal for dam repairs beginning Thursday, making access to the lake difficult to impossible for anglers through mid-January.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers typically drops the reservoir east of Salem in autumn to make room for winter flood control, but this season they'll drop it even lower for "construction on two of the dam's spillway gates," the agency said in a news release.

The change won't impact Detroit's water level next summer, but it will result in closing the low-water Mongold boat ramp that allows boats to get on the reservoir for winter trout and kokanee fishing.

"We closed the ramp this morning," said Bob Rea, manager of Detroit Lake State Park, which manages

the boat ramp. "Once you get the reservoir this low, the concrete ends and it turns to soft deep mud."

Anglers can still fish from the banks or carry a boat to reach the water, but any large motorized boat will be nearly impossible, Rea said.

The reservoir will remain too low for the boat ramp through the middle of January, the Corps said. Water levels could drop as low as 1,425 feet and won't rise above 1,450 feet.

The "full pool" summertime level at Detroit is 1,563 feet.

Previously, the Corps said they wouldn't need to drop the reservoir so low for the repairs, but that changed recently, officials said.

"Our understanding of the rehab work has expanded since starting it a few weeks ago," Corps spokes-

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The winter boat ramp at Mongold seen from the air, as the banks of Detroit Lake are visible more than usual. Detroit Lake's water level is almost 40 feet below for this time of year, raising concerns that the reservoir won't reach its normal 'full pool' summertime level. DAVID DAVIS AND KELLY JORDAN / STATESMAN JOURNAL



Silverton Sheltering Service's executive director Hilary Dumitrescu and shelter manager Julia Marshall rest between last-minute preparations as they and other volunteers ready the new upstairs space at Oak Street Church for its 2019-20 season. The 30-bed shelter is open November through March, 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

CHRISTENA BROOKS/SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

CHURCH EXPANDS WARMING SHELTER

Shelter no longer a temporary operation this season

Christena Brooks Special to Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Opening night, 2019.

Tim Sutton and Cort Martin, of Wy'east Electric, talk quietly as they install a lighted exit sign over the back door and a ceiling fan on the 20-foot ceiling. Manager Julia Marshall and executive director Hilary Dumitrescu count teacups, napkins and dishtowels. Volunteer Joseph Schmaus – in a raincoat, jeans and a friendly smile – stops by to offer last-minute help.

Such were the final preparations for the 2019-20 season at Silverton's warming shelter. Every night, from now through March, Oak Street Church will open its doors to those without a place to sleep.

"Our shelter's mission is very simple," said Dumitrescu, who leads Silverton Sheltering Services, which operates the shelter as well as a day center in the basement of the city's Community Center a few blocks

away. "We are keeping people from dying of exposure in the cold weather."

Entering its third year, the warming shelter is no longer a temporary operation requiring set up and take down every night and morning. Rather, the whole endeavor has moved from the church's sanctuary to a large second-story space above it. Thirty cots, each with a plastic tote at its foot, a clutch of donated couches, and a TV and fridge will stay in place all winter, ready for guests every night.

Last year, homeless men and women came to the shelter by the dozens. By spring, 79 different people had stayed overnight. That was an increase from 2017-18, when 35 people came, and 2016-17, the shelter's first year, when 26 slept there.

Every night, the shelter is open from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Staff and volunteers do what they can to make things

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State owes \$1B in timber revenue

Oregon mismanaged state forests, Linn Co. jury rules

Tracy Loew Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Oregon has mismanaged its state forests over the past two decades by failing to let timber companies cut enough trees, a Linn County jury decided Wednesday.

The jury awarded \$1 billion in past and future lost profits to 13 counties involved in a class-action lawsuit against the state, including Marion and Polk counties.

The counties said the state was contractually obligated to maximize timber profits – a portion of which they receive – over other management goals such as

recreation, clean air and drinking water, and native species protection.

"Our position all along has been that the state did not fulfill its duty to counties when it unilaterally changed the term of the contract," Marion County Commissioner Sam Brentano said Wednesday afternoon. "It was inappropriate for the state to change the definition of 'greatest permanent value' without compensating local jurisdictions that rely on these funds to support essential services such as schools, public safety and roads."

State officials disagreed.

"The Oregon Department of Forestry believes that balanced and science-based public forest management produces the best long-term outcomes for all Oregonians, including the counties and taxing dis-

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Salem Harvest helps hungry

Woman, volunteers rescue locally grown food to feed families

Emily Teel Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

By 2 p.m. on a September day, Elise Bauman has visited an onion farmer's field, she's lifted a few hundred watermelons into bins and at least a thousand ears of corn. She's driven from Salem to Molalla and back, and made two stops already at Marion Polk Food Share. She'll soon drive north to run the final harvest of the day, pears from pollinator trees in a commercial orchard.

What she hasn't done is stopped to eat.

A tall figure in floral-printed rain boots, Bauman seems to generate energy autonomously as though, like the plants and trees on the farms where she spends much of her day, she could photosynthesize.

The director and the sole paid staff member of the nonprofit organization Salem Harvest, Bauman acts as a hub connecting area farmers, volunteers and agencies fighting hunger throughout the Willamette Valley. Salem Harvest rescues fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste; mobilizing volunteers to pick, collect or dig; and distributing it to those in need through a network of community organizations.

Bauman started volunteering at Salem Harvest in 2011 when she was still working as a structural engineer.

"I had 5 kids living with me and one income. Making the best of a tight budget, she fell in love with the organization.

"I could go work for the food and give back, too, so that was a huge thing for me." Soon, she was serving on the organization's board and manipulating her work schedule to spend more and more time building relationships with growers on Salem Harvest's behalf.

Through her work, including frequent lunch breakless days, the nonprofit prevents on-farm food waste and collects close to 400,000 pounds of food annually, the equivalent of more than 300,000 meals a year for Oregonians struggling with hunger.

How big an issue is food waste?

As a nation, the United States wastes more than 400 pounds of food per person annually, according to a 2017 report from the National Resources Defense Council.

Meanwhile, one in five children in Oregon struggles with hunger. Feeding America estimates 12% of Oregon's population, half a million people, are food insecure. Nationwide, it's 40 million people.

NRDC researchers concluded that less than one-third of the food going to waste annually could alleviate that food insecurity entirely.

"There's so, so much being wasted," said Bauman, "and it's heartbreaking, not only for hungry people ten miles away, but because of all the resources that go into growing food, and then we're just going to sit there and let it rot."

"All the time, all the fertilizer, all the water, all the soil nutrients; we're sucking all that stuff out for nothing. How much went on that field of broccoli to make it broccoli?"

While consumers allowing groceries and leftovers to languish for too long is the major source of food waste, plenty is wasted before it even leaves the farm due to mechanical, logistical, financial and cultural factors. Salem Harvest volunteers collect Willamette Valley-grown produce for all of these reasons and more.

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Springstead catches a head of broccoli tossed by Elise Bauman, executive director of Salem Harvest. KELLY JORDAN/STATSMAN JOURNAL

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