

BRIEFS

'Roaring Twenties' movies star at history meeting

A screening of two Silverton-produced movies from the 1920s and Silverton Country Historical Society's annual business meeting will be combined into one public event at Silverton Senior Center on Saturday, Jan. 18.

From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., members will detail the historical society's goals, values and efforts, elect new officers and board members, and share reports.

Then it's movie time. Two films from the Roaring Twenties and several newer ones will let audience members relive Silverton's past by seeing it in motion, set to period music.

Following the program will be refreshments and visiting time. Incoming history society officers awaiting voters' approval are Gus Frederick, president; Fred Parkinson, vice president; Chris Schwab, secretary; and Tracy Duerst, treasurer. Proposed incoming board members are Nicholas Coffey and Russ Gould. For more information, email silverton.museum@live.com or call 503-873-7070.

Attorney to talk 'freedom and responsibility'

Ever heard the expression, "America: land of the brave and free," or "It's a free country! I can do what I want"? Maybe you think or say these things yourself. But what does it mean to "be free"?

A staff attorney with Oregon Court of Appeals will lead an evening of conversation about freedom, responsibility, diversity and democracy at Silver Falls Library on Thursday, Jan. 23.

A public attorney for 20 years, speaker Ann Su teaches on the topics of law, public speaking, women's studies and race/racism, according to her profile on LinkedIn.

During her presentation, titled "It's a Free County: Exploring the Limitations and Responsibilities of Freedom," Su will address the impact of culture on how Americans define, value, and experience freedom personally and in community. Participants will be asked different questions on the topic, during the evening, which is scheduled to run from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The library is located at 410 S. Water St. For more information, visit silverfallslibrary.org or call 503-873-5173.

Appeal Tribune

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Downtown

Continued from Page 1A

The latest effort ended when the city council on Jan. 6 voted to retain its current city code rather than adopting a proposed design overlay district on the east side of North First Street parallel to downtown.

The district would have mirrored standards similar to the ones previously adopted for buildings in the downtown core, including the palette of paint colors.

The theory was the district would have made a more pedestrian-friendly zone

First Avenue is a truck route," property owner Randy Cranston said. "It's not pedestrian-friendly. There's no parking. There's no bicycle path.

"It is not part of the downtown area of Stayton, and I guess my argument for that would be if you count the numbers of vehicles that go on First Avenue and how many of those turn to go to downtown, a good guess would be 10% or less. I don't really think that these will direct people east or west."

Another issue raised by opponents of

the plan was fairness: Would new standards benefit certain businesses by placing regulations on other businesses.

"You're putting restrictions on these businesses, who are probably paying more for their property and their leases and whatnot, you're putting extra stipulation on them to not benefit them, but to benefit other people," Stayton city councilor Jordan Ohrt said.

One of the lingering problems with First Street is it is a road owned by Marion County so any changes, or even signage, has to be approved by the county.

Revitalization efforts

Over a year ago, Revitalize Downtown Stayton put forth an initiative to install signage at six locations around Stayton to indicate where downtown is.

Poisson said the logos on the design were designed in the same style as a sign on private property on Third Street and Washington Street.

He said there were six signs made and approved by the city and Marion County.

"The idea is to put three going each direction," Poisson said.

But it's been almost a year and the city has yet to install the signs.

Other ideas bandied about include creating an arch over First Street with signage about downtown and more difficult propositions like rerouting First Street traffic onto Second and Third Streets.

The overlay district was one effort in solving the ongoing problem.

"Could we have done something different? I don't know," Poisson said. "I don't think so without support of the city. It took me over a year to get to that point where we could get it to the planning commission."

Remodeling

But money is still being invested in the downtown core.

The Star Cinema, the city's only movie theater, has completed its planned remodel.

Five owners of seven buildings in downtown Stayton have received part of a \$200,000 grant awarded in 2019 from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and are currently remodeling their properties.

And several other buildings in downtown, including the former Rumours Restaurant and Lounge, are being remodeled.

Stayton Mayor Hank Porter pointed out Dayton, Washington as a city where similar improvements have made a large difference.

"If you went through that little town 20 or 30 years ago, it was just another little farm town, a county seat, but just a little farm town," Porter said. "And then they redid that main area through there, and what a change that made, just in driving through it or a rest stop.

"But what a neat little town that became. Somebody had a vision of that strip going through there making a difference, and it did, I think."

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Rural Development**

Brush Creek Solar, LLC: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Business Service (RBS), USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

SUMMARY: The RBS has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to Brush Creek Solar, LLC for the construction of a 2.2 megawatt (MW)solar Facility in Marion County, Oregon.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Michael Beyer, State Environmental Coordinator, (503) 414-3368 michael.beyer@or.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Applicant's proposed project would use ground-mounted, fixed tilt solar arrays, consisting of photovoltaic (PV) modules, inverters, and associated racking and electrical equipment. The Project would have a generating capacity of 4,064 megawatt-hours (MWh) of energy per year and would sell this energy to Portland General Electric (PGE) under a long-term fixed power purchase agreement. When constructed, the solar arrays and associated components would be no more than 10 feet in height and would be surrounded by 7-foot tall chain link security fence. The facility will be located on privately-owned property in Marion County, Oregon.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following newspaper(s): Publication occurred on December 18, 2019 and December 25, 2019 in the Statesman Journal. A copy of the EA was available for public review upon request. The 14-day comment period ended on January 1, 2020. The EA was also available for public review at the USDA Rural Development office. RBS received no comments from the general public.

Based on its EA, RBS has concluded the project would have no significant impact (or no impacts) to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety.

The proposed project will have no adverse effect on resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, RBS has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

RBS is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. RBS's federal action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

Dated: January 7, 2020