

BRIEFS

Small business relief fund goes live

Silverton's Small Business Relief Fund is open for applications from local business owners.

The fund was started by Silverton Rotary Club with a \$10,000 matching challenge from its foundation and includes a \$15,000 contribution from the City of Silverton using Marion County Prosperity Initiative funds as well as contributions from many individuals, organizations, and businesses less impacted by COVID-19.

The fund is for businesses occupying storefronts located in the city or within a half-mile of city limits.

Requests for grants will be taken for Wave 1 through May 15, and for Wave 2, from May 16-29. Businesses may apply

only once.

The awards committee will review grants request from Wave 1 while Wave 2 requests are being received. The first awards are anticipated to be released around May 20.

The program's intent is provide assistance to struggling local businesses for rents, utilities, payroll, and, in general, in an effort to survive until state or federal support can be achieved and/or until businesses are able to resume normal operations, committee members said.

They expect to receive more requests than funds raised, so they suggested business owners complete the online request form as soon as possible.

Applications are now live and accessible through the following link: <https://share.hsforms.com/>

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City honored for budget presentation

The City of Silverton has been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019.

To receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide, and as a communications device.

As a first-time recipient, the City will receive a plaque. The award is valid for one year. Silverton's finance director is Kathleen Zaragoza.

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Parks

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The quiet isn't expected to last long.

The warmest weather of the year should bring a quick increase to the number of people heading onto the water as word of the reopening spreads. That will mean fishing, powerboats and recreational boats all cramming onto what is, for now, just one boat ramp accessing the lake.

That's challenging even in a normal year, said Detroit Lake State Park manager Bob Rea, but at a time when social distancing is critical to keep the ramp open, they'll be extra vigilant.

Park rangers will direct traffic to ensure cars and boats are giving each other enough space, and once the 100 to 120 parking spaces are filled, nobody else will be allowed in.

That could happen by 10 a.m. or even earlier, especially on the weekend.

"We're not going to let people in unless there's a parking stall available," Rea said. "Even on a normal weekend with nice weather, we usually fill up by 10 a.m. And they're not going to let people start lining up down the road."

In addition, if people aren't practicing social distancing — or are getting too crammed together — Rea said they might close down two of the four boat ramps at Mongold, which would slow things down even more.

"Be nice," Rea said. "It's going to be busy and everybody is going to want to get on the lake. If social distancing becomes an issue, we might have to close some of the ramps. I hope people take it upon themselves, but if it becomes an issue, we'll have to do something."

Indeed, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department director Chris Havel said Wednesday that if things get crammed and people are too close together, they won't hesitate to shut the parks or boat ramp back down again.



Walkers maintain their social distance from a passing biker at Willamette Mission State Park on Wednesday.
 MADELEINE COOK/STATESMAN JOURNAL

City of Detroit prepares for another challenging, interesting season

The town of Detroit is no stranger to adversity.

Wildfires, toxic algae and low water in the reservoir have all conspired to make running a business in the tourist-dependent town a major challenge.

Now comes COVID-19, which has limited travel and is likely to keep campgrounds closed into at least part of the summer.

"The stay at home order has been devastating to businesses in Detroit," said Dean O'Donnell, owner of Mountain High Grocery and president of the Detroit Lake Area Recreational Business Association.

O'Donnell said hotels have been able to reopen and plenty of RVs are setting up for the summer. But the if the campgrounds stay closed, business will suffer.

"We're excited that Mongold is opening and we're looking forward to the state parks opening as soon as possible," he said.

Elaine DeGeorge, owner of The Lodge at Detroit Lake, said she's been able to stay open with a skeleton crew and thinks Detroit will make the perfect escape after COVID-19 limitations.

"It's a great hideaway where you can get into the mountains and get far away from the people and the chaos in the city," DeGeorge said. In fact, her biggest concern might have been about the lake's water level, which is about 20 feet below full pool and could make life tough for marinas and additional boat access. The U.S. Army Corps



Jaine Blount walks her dog at the Willamette Mission State Park on Wednesday.
 MADELEINE COOK/STATESMAN JOURNAL

of Engineers said lack of rain has made it unlikely the reservoir will reach full pool this summer, but there is rain in the forecast and a chance the lake at least reaches a level that will support recreation.

"We've made it through a lot up here," DeGeorge said. "And I'm always in for whatever the challenge."

Willamette Mission State Park reopens north of Keizer

Another state park that reopened Wednesday near Salem was Willamette Mission State Park

The park was fairly quiet.

"The news just came out yesterday, so I don't think it's hit a lot of folks," said Sarah Steele the District Manager for the Willamette Valley Region of Oregon's state parks.

All trails are open at the park, but only a few bathrooms are open due to staffing shortages, Steele said. Camping at the park remains closed.

On Wednesday, Laurie Ashworth and Roger Lowe walked their dogs, Acorn and Ivy.

"We're in heaven. We've been patiently waiting for this," said Ashworth. "Today we're bird-watching, exercising the dogs, walking. We're enjoying everything we can."

Steele said reopening

is a process.

"Overarching, our goal is to open up as much as possible and as soon as possible. But it depends, on the community -- are they ready? The stakeholders -- are they ready? Are we in fact ready? We have limited staffing... Next week, we should see more things open. We're still determining the rest. Camping will come much later."

Zach Urness has been an outdoors reporter, photographer and videographer in Oregon for 12 years. Urness can be reached at zurness@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Twitter at @ZachsORoutdoors.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
 NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Mt. Angel Fire District, Marion, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, will be held at Mt. Angel Fire District, 300 Monroe St, Mt. Angel, OR 97362. The meeting will take place on **May 26th, 2020 at 8:00 pm.**

The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget.

This is a public meeting in deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 15th, 2020 at **300 Monroe St, Mt. Angel, OR 97362**, between the hours of **9:00 am and 5:00 pm.**

All meetings of the governing body of a public body shall be open to the public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise provided by ORS 192.610 to 192.690. During the Covid-19 pandemic to comply with Governor Browns executive order 20-12, Mt Angel Fire District has made available to the public remote phone and web access to public meetings. Please call 503-845-2438, or email MAFD@Mtangelfire.org for meeting access options.

Budget Committee meeting information will be posted on the Mt. Angel Fire District website: www.mtangelfire.org

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