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Holiday happiness grows at Garden

ANNETTE UTZ SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL

The Oregon Garden is ready for the fourth annual "Christmas in the Garden" event, to be held Nov. 25 through Jan. 1 (excluding Dec. 24 and Dec. 25), with new features and more activities. Adding 100,000 more lights, this year's event will feature 500,000 holiday twinklers, a marketplace with artisan vendors offering a variety of goods, an ice-skating rink and a new indoor space for gathering.

New this year is Snowless Tubing, a 50-foot-long tubing track designed to mimic snow tubing without the snow. The track will be set up on the hill in front of the resort before entering the forest.

"Last year, more than 35,500 people visited Christmas in the Garden, enjoying a charming and magical event," said Sara Hammond, regional marketing manager for The Oregon Garden. "Families loved the opportunity to ice skate, stroll through twinkling lights, and do some holiday shopping. We're excited to continually build on this unique experience and hope that more and more families will embrace it as their new holiday tradition."

Upon arrival, visitors board the Holiday Express tram to be transported to the Rediscovery Forest festooned with lights, including a scene from the North Pole and a re-creation of the South Falls waterfall from nearby Silver Falls State Park. Visitors can shop from more than 20 vendors selling handmade goods, take

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Sweet notes add to the light fantasy at Christmas in the Garden.

THE OREGON GARDEN

Arts, history, senior services on the minds of local folks



CHRISTENA BROOKS SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Twice a month, Silver Creek Coffee House is the place for community members to connect with Appeal Tribune staff to share what's on their minds. At last Wednesday's Creekside Chat – the week before Election Day – the conversation turned to the arts, history and senior services.

Music booster club raising support

America's 45th president may be concerned with the state of the union, but Silverton Friends of Music is concerned with the state of music in the Silver Falls School District.

Formed to raise money and promote education in the district's 13 schools, the nonprofit organization is nearing its six-month anniversary.

"We're a mirror of the Silver Fox Foundation; the difference is we're solely for music," said Silverton Friends of Music president **Sarah Weitzman**.

She and the group's four other board members want all local public school children to get a minimum of

Lainie Pyper and Sarah Weitzman are hoping to have representatives from all 13 Silver Falls School District schools attend Silverton Friends of Music meetings.

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Don Harteloo, Niccole Geck and Clint Simmons are collecting used books for veterans and veterans' families at Silverton Postal Connections.

Architect Victor Madge poses with one of the new photo podiums at the intersection of Main and Water streets.

Matthew Price returns home for concert

CARLEE WRIGHT

STATESMAN JOURNAL

After two years in Nashville, Matthew Price is back and the musician is celebrating his return with a concert 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Brush Creek Playhouse, 11535 Silverton Road NE in Silverton.

"Tennessee was great. It was an awesome experience writing music everyday. Getting used to that attitude of writing a song every day. It's cool to be surrounded by hundreds of thousands of songwriters in your own city," Price said.

And while Price appreciates the experience he gained from his years away, his heart was drawn home.

"There is something about the northwest, where quirky and weird is cool," Price said. "Sometimes in Nashville, I'd write stuff and people would think it's a little out there." Price returned for a week last summer and played a couple private shows and house parties. That is when he realized he needed to make it permanent.

"When it was time to head back to Nashville, it was painful," Price said, "There is so much I missed about Oregon and the community."

Price was also thinking about his family. With four boys, now 11, 7, 5 and 2, he wanted a place in the

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Office Awards for NW Region

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Office Awards for Harcourts USA

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