

# Take a hike into history at Silver Falls



COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF SILVER FALLS STATE PARK  
There will be many hands-on activities at the 8th Annual Historic Silver Falls Days.

**JUSTIN MUCH**  
STAYTON MAIL

A prime regional destination for sightseeing and hiking becomes a hotbed for history during the second weekend of July.

The 8th Annual Historic Silver Falls Days takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 8-9, at Silver Falls State Park, 20024 Silver Falls Highway, Sublimity.

The event celebrates the scenic environs of a park that spawned in part from a depression era Civilian Conservation Corps project.

Oregon State Parks history information cites the area's first homestead dating back to 1883 next to the South Falls, and Silver Falls City platted in 1888, where a peak population reached around 200 over the ensuing decades. The region was home turf to Kalapuya and Molalla natives for millennia prior to that.

The site has developed into one of Oregon's most popular state parks; Ore-

gon State Parks lists its annual day-use attendance at about 1,273,680. The historic celebration event accommodates that popularity and history as well.


Saturday will feature Model T and Model A antique cars; demonstrations of antique logging tools; flint knapping; spinning wheel demonstrations; families participating in old-fashioned games; storytelling of historic days in the area; and a farrier will demonstrate making horseshoes and other iron work.

"The changes to the event over the past eight years (include) draft horses and more participation by the antique car clubs," said Lou Nelson of the Friends of Silver Falls, a volunteer group that helps oversee the pristine area and promotes special events.

"This year we have another group of Model Ts joining us. Mill Creek Carriages will not be here this year but will be next year and plan to be regulars. But we do have Kirt Fisk, a farrier who dem-

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## CREEKSIDE CHAT 'Tooning' up for Homer Davenport Festival

 **JUSTIN MUCH**

To no one's surprise in Silverton, a reasonably mild and sunny Wednesday lured many outdoors on Wednesday, June 21.

Silver Creek Coffee House was no different as most midday patrons shifted out onto the bistro's balcony perched over Silver Creek's crystal-clear, west-flowing waters, as co-proprietor **Josh Nightingale** conversed at length with a visitor from Eureka, Calif., about area attractions and the region's natural features.

The visitor appeared entranced with the sites he had already visited, such as Abiqua Falls, and absorbed recommendations for others.

Meanwhile, to many locals, the sunniest of days to date triggered anticipation of more sun to come and annual events ushered in with that warmer weather, such as the Homer Davenport Community Festival, slated for Aug. 4-6.

One highlighted festival feature this year is the International Cartoon Contest, and **Gus Frederick** advised that the deadline for that contest, July 28, is but a month out.

Gus furnished a couple of light-hearted videos, one to help would-be artists get their juices flowing (<https://youtu.be/O8k6X8-aWx0>); another to capture the overall spirit of the annual event (<https://youtu.be/zSfpTTebr6c>).

Information and entry forms for that contest are available at <http://homerdavenport.com/tooncon>.

"Here's a chance to earn some real funny money!" Gus quipped, stressing that prize winnings have increased with a grand prize of \$750, with hopes that the augmented cash awards will entice more people who are "drawn to Silverton."

"True, pretty much every small town has some sort of festival," Gus said. "Corn, Blues, Iris, Jazz and UFO Festivals are everywhere. But only one small town hosts a festival honoring Oregon's first media superstar, a politi-

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# HIGH WATERS, HIGH CONCERN



LAUREN HERNANDEZ/STATESMAN JOURNAL  
Members of the Clackamas County Sheriff's dive team search the Three Pools water for a man presumed to have drowned.

## Swimmers warned after 2 drowning deaths on Little North Santiam River

**ZACH URNESS**  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Hot weather and high water levels have been a tragic combination on the Little North Santiam River this spring.

Two people, an adult and teenager, lost their lives while swimming in a river running higher than any time in almost a decade.

On June 18, 13-year-old Kendall

Alexander drowned after being swept into current near Elkhorn Valley Recreation Site. Less than a month earlier, 25-year-old Kung Shing Yau, of Hong Kong, jumped from a cliff at Three Pools Recreation Site and didn't resurface.

In both cases, the Little North was running higher than normal — and far higher than in recent years.

With a string of warm-weather days in the forecast, officials are

stressing the danger of the rivers and importance of wearing a life-preserver when swimming.

"That water is cold, fast-moving and high right now," Marion County Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Chris Baldridge said. "People that want to head out there are going to have to be prepared for those conditions. At this point, it's more dan-

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## Silverton Reservoir gets life-jacket kiosks

**JUSTIN MUCH**  
APPEAL TRIBUNE

As the warming season draws more people to the water to beat the heat, Silverton Fire District has been proactively working to beat the inherent dangers that often surface with increased water recreation.

The district announced Friday that with the help of partners it has erected life jacket kiosks at Silverton Reservoir, furnished with life preservers of all sizes.

"We went out and looked at the life jacket stations today, and they are all being used," Silverton Deputy Chief Ed

Grambusch said Friday afternoon. "We are looking at adding more life jackets."

The project took place under the guidance of Grambusch and Lt. Rick Heuchert, who decided more could be done to prevent water tragedies.

This year has already seen a number of drown-

ings statewide, including two on the North Santiam River.

"For the Silverton Fire District, helping to save lives is more than putting fires out and prying patients out of wrecked cars...prevention is always a ma-

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