

Appeal Tribune

50 CENTS • VOL. 136, No. 32

SILVERTONAPPEAL.COM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2017

Event strives to 'take back the night'

National Night Out promotes fighting crime, boosts neighborhoods

ANNETTE UTZ
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

It's been a while since folks were not wary of an unexpected knock at the door or walking alone after dark.

In an effort to "take back the night," area residents will join to greet neighbors, make new friends and participate in National Night Out, an annual event held across North America on the first Tuesday of August.

The concept was born out of the National Association of Town Watch, a non-profit crime prevention organization formed in 1981. Through its network of local law enforcement, crime prevention agencies, civic groups and neighborhood watch groups, NATW launched the annual National Night Out campaign in

1984. National Night Out is a community-building program that promotes anti-crime efforts, strengthens neighborhood cohesiveness and enhances relations between residents and local public safety officials.

The event has grown from front porch vigils to community-wide events that include barbecues, safety demonstrations, visits from emergency personnel and more.

Today, the NATW estimates that eight million neighbors in sixteen thousand communities across the nation take part in National Night Out.

"The most important part of National Night Out is the opportunity to talk with members of the community we don't normally have an opportunity to talk with,"

Stayton Fire Chief Jack Carriger said. "The events ... bring out entire families and a large part of the neighborhoods in a very low key situation which is the opposite of how both fire and police normally get to experience contacts with the public. It's a really good thing. In our normal course of duty, we interact with less than 5 percent of our community and as you can imagine that interaction is often during high-stress incidents and we really don't have a chance to converse with them. Events like this give us that opportunity."

Stayton Police Sgt. Danielle Wetzel pointed out that "The importance of this event is that it allows people to gather together, get to know their neighbors and

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MT. ANGEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Mt. Angel residents enjoy a barbecue by the Glockenspiel during National Night Out.

River Fusion 22 links towns during eclipse



SAM DREVO-ENRG KAYAKING/SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL

enRG Kayaking will hold a downriver race and family "fun float" down the North Santiam River on Sunday, August 20. The event is part of River Fusion 22.

Thousands expected to descend on N. Santiam River

ANNETTE UTZ
SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL

Get your glasses ready, it's coming.

For months, perhaps a year, people have been making travel plans for the Total Solar Eclipse 2017.

With the North Santiam River region lying directly in the path of totality that will shadow mid-Oregon, thousands of visitors are expected to arrive to witness the phenomenon.

As a result, those involved on the hosting end are working diligently in the few remaining weeks to prepare for the first-ever regional multi-day, multi-location festival in North Santiam River Country, from Aumsville

to Detroit, being held Friday through Monday, August 18-21.

River Fusion 22 is a celebration of the small towns along and near Highway 22 and will serve as a link to some of the myriad events associated with the eclipse.

"Our tourism teams opted to launch this festival while so many visitors are here to see the eclipse," said Allison Ford McKenzie, executive director of GROW-EDC, the non-profit organization coordinating this effort with help from Travel Salem and dozens of regional volunteers.

Events range in scope from a traditional grilled steak dinner to the rather unconventional howling contest in Stayton or an attempt at a

s'mores world record. Camping opportunities throughout the area run the same gamut, from the very basic to the action-filled experience at Bailly's Beads Pirate Eclipse Camp.

The benefits of coordinating diverse events in a festival form are not solely the visitors.

"The River Fusion 22 committee has done a great job of communicating to the businesses along the Santiam River/Hwy. 22," Maricela Guerrero of Travel Salem said. "The response from businesses has been very positive and they are looking forward to increased visitation ... River Fusion 22 will provide the ave-

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Creekside chat Silverton murals and aesthetic windfalls



JUSTIN MUCH

Vince Till recalls a time about a quarter century back when the sprawl of Salem's Lancaster Drive siphoned significant business away from downtown

Silverton.

Many of the traditional department stores, such as a small-town Main Street JC Penny, found it difficult to compete with the malls and box stores stretching out on the fringes of the larger, capital city. Vince said those box stores were especially appealing to commuters who could pick up their goods a few bucks cheaper before heading home.

About the same time Silverton felt that big-box economic drain, the city parlayed an economic-development grant into an aesthetic shot in the arm. A Silverton Murals Beautification Team was assembled and the Silverton Mural Society was born, patterned appreciably after mural successes of Chemainus, British Columbia.

Silverton raised money to bring Karl Schutz, an ambassador of that Canadian project, to town for consultations.

Twenty-five years hence results from those aesthetic efforts currently adorn walls all over town, admired by locals and visitors alike. Those adorn-

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JUSTIN MUCH | APPEAL TRIBUNE

Tonya Smithmuth left, and Kali Dirks work on the Mammoth Camera mural on Water Street in Silverton on July 19 as Norm English of the Silverton Mural Society visits.

Salem man, nursing assistant reflect on saving drowning 4-year-old boy

LAUREN E HERNANDEZ
STATESMAN JOURNAL

The pale, limp body of a four-year-old boy sped by, submerged in the fast current of the Little North Santiam River.

There was no time to think. Jason McDade plunged into the frigid, swirling water and pushed the boy's body toward the surface.



Kelda Klukis

"I got him! I got him!" McDade screamed, trying to keep his own head above water.

Balancing on a slippery rock with water reaching his collar bone, McDade lifted the boy onto a higher rock in the middle of the river.

The boy's body was white, lips blue and eyes rolled back when McDade yelled to others at North Fork Park on July 16.

"I wasn't paying attention to the current, I was more focused on getting the baby out," McDade said. "My adrenaline was going so fast."

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F.S.B.O. Fact vs. Fiction
Part 1 of a 5 part series

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