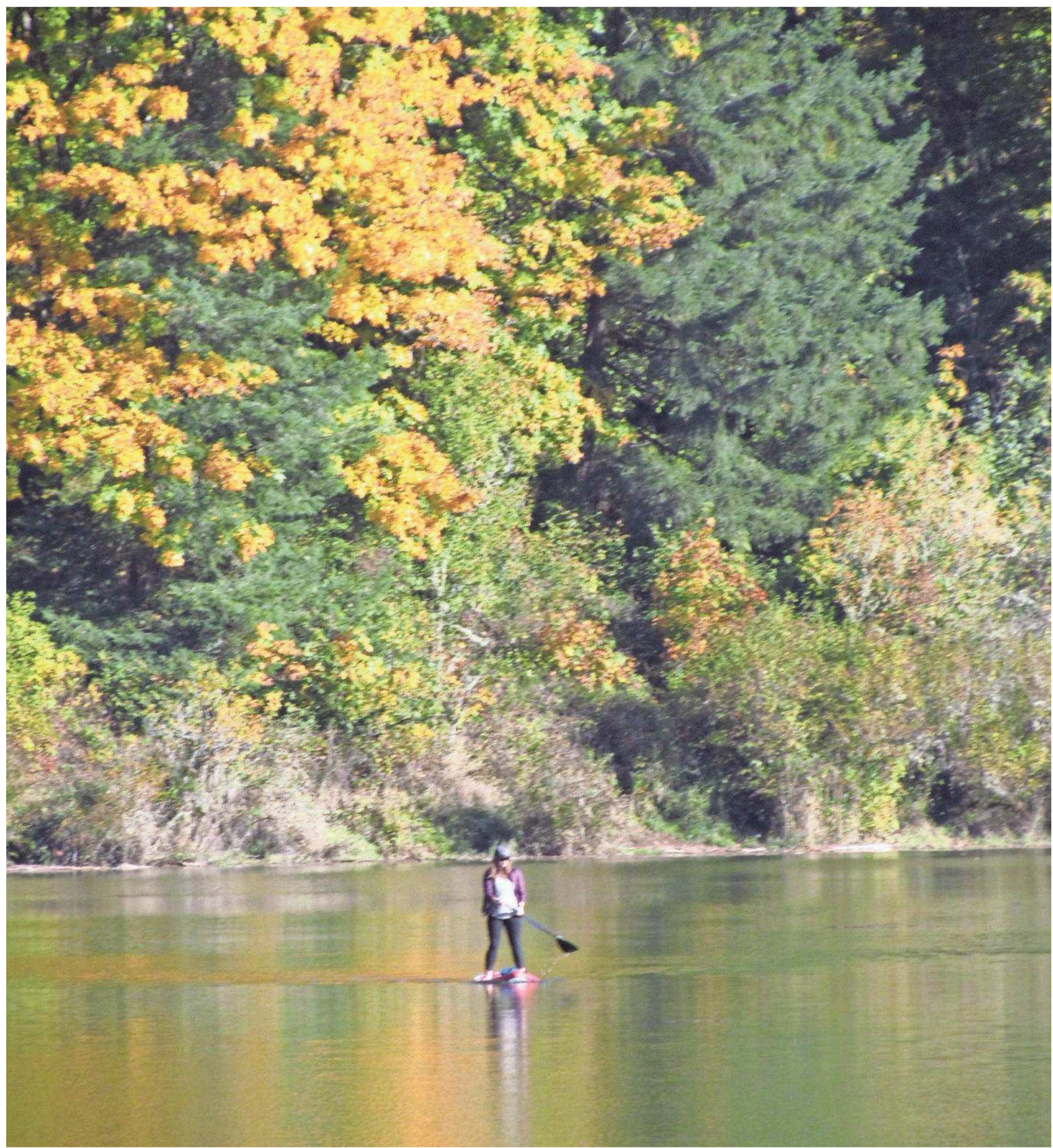


Life *in the* Valley

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Silver Falls flourishes in fall



The final full week of October produced a picture-perfect scenery of fall colors and full streams in Silver Creek Canyon. PHOTOS BY JUSTIN MUCH | STAYTON MAIL

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Days following the deluge described by some regional meteorologists as “a river in the sky,” a warm spell descended on the area, providing opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

Neither the rains nor the winds had yet washed much of the autumn color from the landscape. Yet the sky’s “river” did manage to fill out many tributaries, including those cascading over Silver Falls State Park and funneling down through Silver Creek Canyon.

That seasonal warm spell brought visitors to the park.

“Yes, very popular,” affirmed Lou Nelson of the Friends of Silver Falls, a volunteer group that helps oversee the pristine area and promotes special events. “We are setting visitation records, and our store is going to break another record.”

Silver Falls is a year-round draw for its trails and sights, but the colors combined with full streams boosted the photography element, especially in areas like the South Falls.

“I took a walk around the park looking at fall colors. Some of the best are walking from the main parking lot down to the top of South Falls. One of my favorite places to take a photo is the bridge going over the creek by the main restroom,” Nelson said.

“You can get fall color with the bridge in the photo and it looks very nice. The walk by the creek to South Falls is another place for some good photo opportunities.”

“The falls all have more water this week and are looking better.”

The vibrant look opened a window for those given to enjoy the park, possibly a final view before rain and wind move in for the winter season.



Silver Creek Canyon proves popular year-round, but the changing colors of the leaves draw in a large number of guests this time of year.



Silver Falls is where you will often find photographers of all experience levels attempting to grab a photo of the falls.



Visitation to the park has seen an increase recently thanks to the warm weather.



Colors from the fall foliage mix with the peaceful cascade of the waterfall at Silver Falls.



Many guests are attempting to take in as much of Silver Creek Canyon as they can before the cold weather rolls in.