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Silver Falls busy on Black Friday



From left, Rose Allen, Daniel Allenbee, Heather Moriarty and Nathaniel Allenbee take a photo in front of South Falls in Silver Falls State Park on "Green Friday," on Nov. 24. Oregon's state parks, including Silver Falls, were free on Black Friday as a way to encourage people to get outdoors instead of spending the day shopping. PHOTOS BY MOLLY J. SMITH / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Shoppers head outdoors instead of into stores

MOLLY J. SMITH SALEM STATESMAN JOURNAL
USA TODAY NETWORK

Silver Falls State Park was busy on Friday as visitors took part in the Oregon Parks and Recreation department's Green Friday campaign. • In an effort to turn Black Friday shoppers into outdoor enthusiasts, parks across the state waived their \$5 parking fee. • Five of the state's larger parks — Silver Falls included — set up volunteer stands with coffee, tea and snacks. • By noon, the sun was shining, the parking lot by South Falls was nearly full, and the last of the coffee had been served. • Though no daily visitor totals are kept, Oregon Parks Department spokesman Chris Havel said earlier this week that staff have noticed increasing numbers every Green Friday for the last three years.



Above: Ned Booher holds Sammy Booher in Silver Falls State Park. Bottom left: South Falls never rests at Silver Falls State Park on "Green Friday."

Silverton council slated to revisit smoking bans at Dec. 4 meeting

JUSTIN MUCH SALEM STATESMAN JOURNAL
USA TODAY NETWORK

A smoking ban in Silverton's city parks and in its downtown core will be on the agenda when Silverton City Council meets Monday, Dec. 4. The council has reviewed nuances of the prohibition in recent meetings. During a Nov. 20 session the council also spent considerable time discussing various city fees, including event alcohol permits, banners, barricades for street closures and park usage. City Manager Christy Wurster said the smoking ban emerged from an Environmental Management Committee formed in 2015 "to consider environmental issues that may directly impact the City and its residents." Last summer the council heard a recommendation from that committee to ban smoking and vaping in city parks, and another to ban it in the downtown core. The council agreed to review the proposals. They were subsequently discussed at meetings on Sept. 18 and Oct. 16.

What's next

- What:** Next scheduled Silverton City Council meeting
- When:** 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4
- Where:** Silverton City Council Chambers, 421 S. Water St.
- Phone:** 503-874-2216
- Web:** www.silverton.or.us
- Anticipated agenda items include:** prohibition of smoking in city parks and downtown

Among the nuances discussed is whether to include vaping in the ordinance and what boundaries define the downtown core. Police Chief Jeff Fossholm advised the council that the inclusion of vaping would be important from the standpoint of enforcing the law. Both activities ap-

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Jury: Officers justified in shooting

Teen was killed following a high-speed chase in Nov.

WHITNEY WOODWORTH SALEM STATESMAN JOURNAL
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Polk County grand jury unanimously found that two Polk County deputies were justified in using deadly force when they shot and killed a Silverton teen following a carjacking and high speed chase.

The decision came Nov. 21, almost a month after Baltazar Escalona-Baez, 17, died on Highway 18 near Grand Ronde.

According to the Polk County District Attorney's Office, the shooting came after Escalona-Baez carjacked a man outside a Salem Safeway, sped about 100 mph down Highway 22 and brandished a knife at deputies.

The following events were recounted before the grand jury:

Early in the morning on Oct. 28, Salem police officers spotted a white Ford Explorer speeding and driving erratically on Silverton Road NE. Police traced the SUV's license plate number to Escalona-Baez's mother in Silverton and contacted her.

She told officers she thought her son had taken her keys without her permission.

When officers attempted to pull over Escalona-Baez, he led multiple police cars on a high speed pursuit through Salem and over the Marion Street Bridge into Polk County.

He later reversed course on Highway 22 and drove

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Silverton man arrested on rape, child porn charges

WHITNEY WOODWORTH SALEM STATESMAN JOURNAL
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Silverton man is being held without bail after he was arrested on rape and child pornography charges Nov. 17.

Benjamin Franklin Silverman, 59, is facing three counts of first-degree rape and three counts of using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct.

Silverman is accused of raping a girl under the age of 16 from 2008 to 2010. According to court records, the girl was known to him.

He is also accused of forcing the same girl to engage in sexually explicit conduct for a visual recording.

Following his arrest by Silverton police, Silverman was taken to Marion County jail. He was ordered to have no contact with his victim.

At his arraignment on Monday, Marion County Judge Rafael Caso ordered that Silverman be held without bail.

First-degree rape and using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct are both Measure 11 offenses requiring mandatory minimum prison sentences.

A first-degree rape conviction carries a minimum sentence of eight years and four months, and a display of sexually explicit conduct requires a sentence of at least five years and 10 months in prison.

Silverman's next court hearing is scheduled for Nov. 30 at 8:30 a.m.

For questions, comments and news tips, email reporter Whitney Woodworth at wmwoodwort@statesmanjournal.com, call 503-399-6884 or follow on Twitter @wmwoodworth

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