ABBY LUSCHEI SALEM STATESMAN JOURNAL USA TODAY NETWORK

It's the most wonderful time of the year to ring in the

holidays with a tree lighting ceremony. Go to one, or three, or several of them.

Riverfront Tree Lighting Ceremony: Enjoy music from the Grant Community School Choir, cookies and hot cocoa, a visit with Santa brought in by the Salem Fire Department to help light the holiday tree, 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1, Salem's Riverfront Park, 200 Water St. NE. Salem. free.

Dallas Winterfest: Drink some cocoa or apple cider, cookies, food trucks, musical performances and caroling from the Dallas High Jazz Band and the LaCreole & Dallas High Concert Choirs, and shop at vendors, Santa will ride in with Dallas Fire and EMS, 5 to 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1, Polk County Courthouse Lawn, 850 Main St., Dal-

Silverton Tree Lighting Ceremony: Music, hot chocolate, cookies, galleries, shops and restaurants, join the Silverton Shop Hop and collect a stamp from 29 participating businesses and be entered to win \$725 in gift cards. A Silverton Fire truck will lift Santa above the tree top to sprinkle "magic dust" to light the tree; 6 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1, Town Square Park, 111 W. Main

50th Annual Monmouth Holiday Tree Lighting: Holiday parade, activities, local school choir concert inside the Werner University Center, pictures with Santa, holiday cookie bake-off, tree decorating contest, arts and crafts, Western Alumni Association will hand out hot cocoa and cider; 6 to 10 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1, Werner University Center on the Western Oregon University campus, Monmouth Ave N., Monmouth, free.

Downtown Twice Around Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting: Parade, carols and lighting of the community Christmas tree; 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, Albany, Broadalbin Street SW at Second Avenue, free.

Keizer Holiday Tree Lighting: Keizer Community Band will play Christmas carols, kids 12 years and



Woodburn Tree Lighting Ceremony festivities include caroling and Santa's parade. FILE PHOTO

younger can participate in a drawing where two names will be selected to help Santa turning on the lights, Santa will be escorted in by the Keizer Fire District; 6 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, Walery Plaza, corner of Cherry Avenue and River Road, free.

Reach out to Abby Luschei at aluschei@statesmanjournal.com or call at 503-399-6747. Follow her on Twitter @abbyluschei or Facebook at www.facebook.com/ luscheiabby.

Shooting

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back into downtown Salem.

Police then elected to call off the pursuit.

At 4 a.m. the same morning, the Marion County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 report of a carjacking at the Safeway store at Silverton Road NE and Lancaster

The victim reported that a man in a white Ford Explorer had forced him off the road, pulled him from his vehicle and threatened him with what appeared to be a weapon in his pocket.

The stolen vehicle was spotted heading back into

Three Polk County deputies, Sgt. Kevin Haynes, Deputy Kelly Lorence and Deputy Mike Stevenson, separately drove toward the vehicle in an effort to in-

They located the car near Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge, activated their lights and a high speed chase ensued.

During the pursuit, the stolen vehicle reached speeds of between 80 and 100 mph and repeatedly drove

Radio traffic indicated that the deputies asked twice whether the driver was armed. Dispatch told the deputies that the victim believed the carjacker had been armed when he stole the car.

The chase continued until Officer Ron Welborn of the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department laid spike strips across the highway near the intersection of High-

way 22 and Highway 18.

The spike strips shredded the front left wheel of the

stolen vehicle, causing it to slow down.

As it decelerated, Haynes maneuvered in front of the car and blocked it.

Because of the possibility that Escalona-Baez was armed and might flee the scene, deputies began conducting a "high-risk" traffic stop and tried to arrest him for second-degree robbery, vehicle theft and reckless

Each officer drew their sidearms and repeatedly ordered Escalona-Baez to the ground.

Witnesses said Eascalona-Baez quickly exited the car, but refused to obey the deputies' verbal commands. He walked directly toward Haynes and began physically struggling with Lorence as the deputy attempted to get control of him.

When Haynes was about two-arms' length away from Escalona-Baez, he saw that he was holding a 5- to 6-inch fixed blade knife.

Haynes called out: "He's got a knife!" and told Escalona-Baez to drop the knife.

Escalona-Baez, still within arm's reach of Haynes, spun around and lunged toward Haynes with the knife.

Haynes and Lorence both shot Escalona-Baez twice. Deputies and first responders provided medical attention, but Escalona-Baez died at the scene.

Polk County District Attorney Aaron Felton said the jury found the shooting was justified because the use of physical force was necessary to defend the police officers from the imminent, deadly harm. The jury also concluded the officers' lives or personal safety were endangered during the traffic stop.

In making their decision, the grand jury heard testimony from the three involved deputies, Oregon State Police detectives and two civilian witnesses.

The grand jury also reviewed scene photos, a report of the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office, the 911 recording and other audio evidence.

Felton said Haynes joined the department 18 years ago and has 27 years law enforcement experience. Lorence became a sheriff's deputy about 18 months ago and Stevenson joined two years ago.

The three men were placed on paid administrative leave, per state and sheriff's office protocol.

Escalona-Baez attended Silverton High School as a junior during the 2016-2017 school year, according to Andy Bellando, Silver Falls School District superintendent. He did not register as a student for the current school year.

The fatal shooting was the third officer-involved shooting involving the Polk County Sheriff's Office in the past 18 months. In October, a Marion County grand jury ruled a Polk County deputy was justified in firing his weapon during a traffic stop in Salem. No one was injured during the shooting.

Joshua Bolster, 29, was shot and killed by Polk County Deputy Casey Gibson during a traffic stop along Highway 22 in July 2016. A five-inch folding knife was found at the scene. A Polk County grand jury unanimously found the fatal shooting was justified.

Lorence was also one of the deputies on the scene when Bolster was shot. He and Gibson pulled over Bolster and drew their side arms. According to court records, Bolster refused to leave his car. He told the deputies he would not go to jail and began rummaging through his vehicle. Gibson fired two shots, striking Bolster in the head.

Polk County, Salem and Monmouth police agencies later agreed to pay Bolster's \$700,000 and change their use-of-force and mental-crisis policies as part of a settlement with Bolster's family.

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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Council

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pear similar from a distance, and it would be more difficult to enforce if an officer or someone reporting the action had to distinguish between the two.

The council has yet to determine which boundaries would define the downtown core if the new ordinance is

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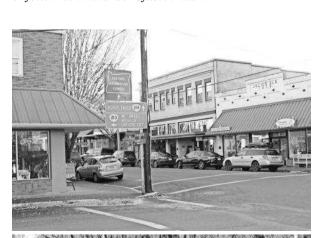
adopted. Three proposals have been set before the panel: Walk Your Wheels perimeters, which include Water and 1st streets between Park and Lewis streets along with Town Square Park; Figure 8, which includes Water and 1st streets from High to Main streets along with a block of main south of Silver Creek; Park to Jersey, which includes Water and 1st between those streets along with Town Square Park.

One element that could determine which option the council chooses is the price tag, which revolves around posting the necessary signs alerting the public to the

The report noted that material and labor costs for the installation of a sign are \$382. Given that, the smallest defined core, Figure 8, would cost \$13,752 to post the necessary signs; Walk Your Wheels option would cost \$22,156; Park to Jersey \$30,560.

During the work session, Councilor Matt Plummer emphasized a couple of factors within the considered prohibition for clarification purposes. One was that the bans only apply to public properties. He also stressed that the \$2,500 fine issued for violations is a cost that is likely to be reduced in court.

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Top: Defining the downtown core will be part of the process as Silverton City Council mulls smoking bans on its Dec. 4 agenda. Bottom: Silverton city parks and its downtown core are targets of a proposed smoking ban to be addressed by its city council on Dec. 4. PHOTOS BY JUSTIN MUCH/STAYTON MAIL