

IN BRIEF

Grange presents candidate forum

SILVERTON – On Tuesday, May 1, voters who live in Marion County and Oregon House District 18 can meet the candidates who want to represent them at the county and state level. Three Democrats and two Republicans are vying for voters from their parties' nods to continue on to the November general election for County Commissioner, Position 2. They are Bill Burgess, Matt Plummer, Sadie Carney, Brad Nanke and

Colm Willis. For House District 18, incumbent Republican Rick Lewis is on the ballot for the general election in November, while Democrats Barry Shapiro and Doug Culver are now competing to go up against him then. Silverton Grange is hosting the event and serving light refreshments at 201 Division Street off Water Street. The evening opens at 6:30 p.m. Lee Mercer will moderate. Questions? Call Jan at 503-551-4788 or email silverton-grange@gmail.com.

Square dance festival coming to high school

Silverton High School is the location of this year's annual Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival. On Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5, both gyms at the high school will be full of visiting dancers, aged 19 and under. The event is scheduled for 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. both days. Dancers will be coming from Canada and the U.S. to complete. Last year's annual festival was in British Columbia.

Golf tourney on May 11

Silverton Chamber of Commerce is hosting its 21st annual classic tournament on Friday, May 11. The tourney is open to all players. It's a 18-hole scramble open to the first 18 teams to register and pay their fees. There are also sponsorship opportunities. The cost is \$80 per player, which includes dinner and two carts per team. Registration and sponsor forms are available from the chamber. Questions? Call 503-873-5615. — Christena Brooks

Parks

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oise waters of the Little North Santiam River in one of the area's most popular swimming holes.

On hot weekend afternoons, the park often is crowded with people swimming in the deep pool surrounded by cliffs. Fishing, hiking and exploring the river are other options at North Fork Park.

In 2017, Marion County instituted a \$5 daily parking fee for all vehicles that park at North Fork and along North Fork Road. A \$30 annual parking pass is also available, which will allow unlimited daily parking for one vehicle along North Fork Road and in Marion County North Fork corridor parks.

Directions: About a 30-minute drive from Salem. From Salem, follow Highway 22 east for 24 miles. Turn left onto Little North Fork Road for three miles and follow signs for the park.

Salmon Falls

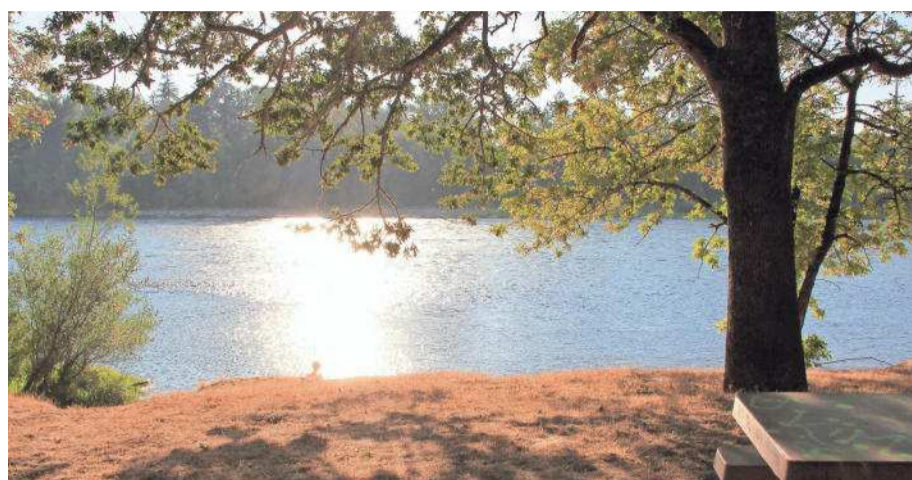
A 30-foot waterfall drops into a clear emerald pool at one of the most scenic parks in Marion County.

The park is 22 acres and home to picnic tables, fishing opportunity and hiking trails. Swimming and cliff diving are the most popular activities on hot summer days.

Directions: About a 30-minute drive from Salem. From Salem, follow Highway 22 east for 24 miles. Turn left onto Little North Fork Road for 14 miles to the park on the right.

Aumsville Ponds

The 77-acre park, composed of wetlands and upland buffer within the Mill



The Coho Picnic Area is at Spongs Landing County Park along the banks of the Willamette River. ZACH URNESS/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Creek Watershed, is highlighted by a 0.75-mile trail and fishing opportunities.

The trial was completed in 2007 after the Northwest Youth Core helped install bridges across the surrounding creeks. Red-legged frogs call the area home, along with numerous birds and wildlife. Dogs are not allowed.

Directions: About a 22-minute drive from Salem. From Salem, following Highway 22 east to exit 9 toward Aumsville. Follow First Street south, turn left onto Mill Creek Road and turn right onto Bishop Road SE. The park is on the right.

Minto Park

This often-overlooked park of 73 acres features a longer-than-expected collection of trails that lead to hidden spots along the North Santiam River.

A gravel access road leads to a nice picnic spot and view of the river, but stop at one of the multiple trailheads to wander through dense riparian forest in

search of river access where spawning salmon can be found in autumn.

The park is most popular with anglers.

Directions: About a 30-minute drive from Salem. From Salem, follow Highway 22 east for 35 miles. Turn right at a sign for Minto Park onto a gravel access road.

Niagara Park

Dense forest and the canyon scenery of the North Santiam River highlights this beautiful 29-acre park just off Highway 22.

Short trails, interpretative signs and views of the river make this a popular place for road-weary travelers to stop.

Picnic tables, trails, a restroom and drinking fountain are found at the park.

Directions: About a 30-minute drive from Salem. From Salem, follow Highway 22 east for 38 miles. Turn right at a sign for Niagara Park.

Spongs Landing

Highlighted by a picnic area on the Willamette River, a trail through riparian forest and a large open space for whatever the imagination concocts, Spongs Landing is an underrated park north of Keizer.

The most popular spot is the Coho Picnic Area, which sits along the banks of the river and features a beach popular with anglers. Playground equipment, two covered picnic shelters and horse-shoe pits round out the 61-acre destination.

Directions: About a 20-minute drive from Salem. From Salem, take Liberty Road to North River Road. Turn left on Chemawa Road for 0.7 miles and turn right on Windsor Island Road for 1.3 miles. Turn left on Naples Street, and follow the pointer onto 22nd Avenue to park.

Scotts Mills

This beloved park along Butte Creek in the small town will have a delayed open, due to repaving the parking lot.

Bonesteele Park


This park, formerly part of a commercial grass field, is being restored to an upland prairie ecosystem and is home to trails and other non-developed recreation.

"The restoration of Bonesteele Park is intended to bring back a landscape that will increase biodiversity, enhance wildlife habitat, and provide an educational and recreational resource for area residents," Marion County's website said.

Dogs are not allowed at Bonesteele Park.

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