

Appeal Tribune

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Learning lessons from Silver Creek Fire

Wildfire plans being updated now that major blaze is nearly out

Bill Poehler Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The ash falls like snowflakes as still-burning trees are felled at Silver Falls State Park.

The Silver Creek Fire was spotted and contained quickly at the largest state park in Oregon, which attracted 1.3 million visitors last year. Crews are in the final stages of mopping it up, but there is much park officials can learn from the experience and can apply in the future.

There was a wildfire plan in place for Silver Falls

State Park – which hasn't had a major wildfire in a century – but it was outdated. It wasn't until the firefighters arrived that they discovered how out of date it was.

"The park, they said they're going to do the same thing and they'll have that on the books and try to come up with ways to mitigate the hazards they already have," said Mark DesJardin, Incident Commander trainee for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

"And a lot of times they shoot out 10, 15, 100 years on what they're going to do to try and reduce that potential of fire, without ruining the benefits we all enjoy here at the park."

Most operations at the park were unaffected by the fire as it was quickly contained at 27 acres.

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A fire fighter stands on a burned log at the Silver Creek Fire. BILL POEHLER/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Living a day in the life of a Queen



Alison White, of Wilsonville, as Queen Elizabeth I, speaks with sisters Ariel, 5, and Hollie Mee, 3, of Salem, during the Canterbury Renaissance Faire near Silverton on July 21. ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Alison White has been donning her crown at the Canterbury Renaissance Faire for the past 10 years

Abby Luschei Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

When you ask a child what they want to be when they grow up, the answers don't usually come as a surprise. One typical response: a princess.

Because, who doesn't want to be royalty?

Now, most children grow up to realize that isn't always a realistic goal (unless you are Meghan Markle, I guess). But for Alison White, her dream of being a princess did come true, and then some.

White has played the role of Queen Elizabeth I at the Canterbury Renaissance Faire since it began 10 years ago. The fair is set in the era of "Good Queen Bess," which takes place from 1558-1603.

So, what does it take to play her royal heiness? More than you might think:

Tell me how you ended up getting to play the queen.

"Through nepotism, my mother runs the fair and when we first started I was heavily into acting and my mother turned to me, and she's like, 'you, you're going to be our queen.'"

Did an interest in history have anything to do with why you wanted to play the part?

If you go

What: Experience life as an Elizabethan Village Folk at this interactive event set in the era of "Good Queen Bess" (Elizabeth I, 1558-1603) through period demonstrations, entertainment, food and performances.

When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, July 21-22 and 28-29

Location: 6569 Valley View Road, Silverton

Cost: \$14 adult, \$11 for ages 6 to 12 and ages 60 and older for a day pass, \$24 adults, \$20 for ages 6 to 12 and ages 60 and older for the weekend and free for children younger than 5

Information: canterburyfaire.com

"Very much so. My family has always been into history. My aunt was a high school substitute history teacher for the entirety of my youth, and my other

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80 percent of Oregon in drought

Zach Urness Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's shaping up to be a hot, dry and smoky summer in Oregon.

Eighty-percent of Oregon is now in moderate drought, the most since the historically dry 2015 season, according to a new report from the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Even the Oregon Coast, one of the wettest places in the United States, has been moved into drought.

"We haven't seen any substantial rain in the valley since early June, and river flows in some Oregon Coast drainages are at or below 2015 levels," said Kathie Dello, Associate Director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute at Oregon State University.

That Oregon has dropped into such widespread drought isn't surprising, according to meteorologists.

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Squatchy's BBQ food truck engulfed by fire

Emily Teel Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Not even a year since they launched their business, Jason and Julie Lorraine, owners of Squatchy's BBQ, are faced with figuring out how to start from scratch, all over again.

On Sunday, July 15th, just before noon, Jason Lorraine was driving the barbecue trailer, hitched to his truck, from his home in Molalla to a food truck rally in Stayton.

See **SQUATCHY'S**, Page 3A

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