

# Garden

Continued from Page 1A

## New this year

Visitors can expect new design and light displays this year, including scenes like Candy Land with sound-activated lights and Princess Castle Land.

Some displays will be familiar to return visitors, including giant flowers and Candy Cane Tunnel, which was the first light display created at Christmas in the Garden.

“People love the lights, and I would say those flowers are a big hit,” Hatteberg said.

Christmas in the Garden truly has something for everyone — singles, couples and families alike. To better accommodate families with smaller children, they have added feeding chairs, changing tables and outlets to the Family Privacy Lounge.

If your kid is getting antsy, let them run wild in the new Kid Corral, adjacent

to the Family Privacy Lounge. It’s covered and fenced in, allowing kids to get out of their strollers and explore.

The European-inspired event has had German-themed food in past years. But the menu has been expanded for 2018 to include tacos, tamales and pizza, along with bratwurst, fondue and pretzels.

Other new additions include a larger ice skating rink, a holiday concert by The Trail Band and a Christmas Market Season Pass, which allows unlimited access to the event for the season.

And to make it easy for visitors to have the best experience, organizers have created itineraries tailored to certain demographics.

“There (are) just so many things here, it is hard to communicate all of the options,” Hatteberg said. “We just figured that would be an easy way to get it out.”

The five options include:

### Date Night

**Tailored for:** First date, for couples, parents without kids for the night, or

even friends

**Activities:** Ice skating, snowless tubing, shopping at the market, live music in the Biergarten and sipping Gluhwein while walking through the lights

### Skate Extravaganza

**Tailored for:** People who want to come during the day, families

**Activities:** Ice skating, snowless tubing and warming up at Frosty’s Family Room; option to come back at night for lights, market and Santa

### Christmas Getaway

**Tailored for:** Staying overnight, couples without kids

**Activities:** Stay at The Oregon Garden Resort, eat at the Garden View Restaurant, shop at the market, listen to music at the Fireside Lounge and visit the spa

### Family Outing

**Tailored for:** Visitors with young

kids, grandparents

**Activities:** Enjoy hot chocolate, let kids go to the Kiddie Corral while adults watch from a Christmas Cabana, ice skating, take photos with Santa and eat at Frosty’s Family Room

### Winter Break Hangout

**Tailored for:** Family with teens

**Activities:** Sign a waiver and drop your teens off, purchase a fun pass which includes admission, ice skating and unlimited snowless tubing, bring money to buy food and drinks while walking through the lights

For more information, visit [www.christmasinthegarden.com](http://www.christmasinthegarden.com).

Abby Luschei is the entertainment reporter for the Statesman Journal; she can be reached at [aluschei@statesmanjournal.com](mailto:aluschei@statesmanjournal.com) or 503-399-6747. Follow her on Twitter @abbyluschei or facebook.com/luscheiabby.

Interested in telling a story at one of the upcoming Salem Storytellers Project events? Submit a story here: [storytellersproject.com/salem/speak](http://storytellersproject.com/salem/speak).

# Firefighters

Continued from Page 1A

white ash.”

The crew of four stuck together at all times, constantly checking on each other. The hardest part, mentally, was seeing the devastation, he said.

“You were always on the edge,” Rusher said. “It was a fear of the unknown. You’d search one property and you’d be relieved you didn’t find anything. But you were always asking, ‘What am I going to see?’”

## Fighting fire, searching for life

The wildfire ravaged Paradise in about three hours, knocking down telephone poles and wires and leaving piles of rubble where a hospital, grocery stores and homes used to be.

Fighting burning eyes and raspy throats, Koenig and his team spent their first 24 hours searching street by street for signs of life.

“It was like coming into any ordinary suburban neighborhood you could think of,” he said, “except nine of the 10 homes were completely burnt to the ground.”

Koenig was the engine boss. His team consisted of apparatus operator Scott Mateson and firefighters Joe Jacobucci and Brandon Madura.

The Marion County Taskforce was made up of crews from Mount Angel, Woodburn, Jefferson, Silverton and Marion County fire districts plus the Salem and Keizer fire departments.

Their days were scheduled in blocks — 24 hours on, 24 off. While off-duty, Koenig’s team retreated to a Chico fairground called the Silver Dollar where about 5,500 firefighters repaired equipment, sharpened tools, ate and slept.

Every morning, they drove 10 minutes to Paradise wearing fire resistant uniforms, eye protection, helmets, gloves and lace-up boots.

After 26 years of fighting fires, Koenig said butterflies still attack his stomach when he heads to a call.

“I wouldn’t be telling you the truth if I said it didn’t give me a little anxiety,” he said. “When we’re starting fires or standing on dozer lines and 80-foot trees are on fire, that’s a little bit exciting.”

The crew started fires to thwart the wildfire’s advance — one of many containment tactics.

The crew used torches and ignition pistols to shoot out flames, applying force in the opposite direction to make the Camp Fire lose momentum.

The fire “sounds like a freight train, or large jet is right next to you — and it’s hot,” Koenig said.

Koenig and his wife talked every other day and texted regularly. Lynne — who coaches teachers at Woodburn High School — also received updates from another firefighter’s wife.

Lynne said she doesn’t worry about her husband’s ability to battle fires. “He knows how to do his job,” she said. She’s more concerned about the emotional toll.

When he’s on the front lines, “I always ask him for details,” she said. “I need to know what he’s coming home with.”

For Lynne, there’s no room for doubt. “I just expect that he’ll come home.”

But she said their 17-year-old daughter — one of two children — seemed more affected by her father’s deployment this time because of all the media attention.

Koenig’s family greeted him Sunday as the crew returned to the Woodburn Fire Station.

“The first words out of his mouth were ‘Happy anniversary,’” Lynne said laughing. “It can be celebrated at any time — it’s just a date.”

## Firefighters recover veteran’s medals

Rob Martell’s in-laws fled their Paradise home of 25 years on Nov. 10, abandoning most of their possessions.

A few days later, Martell, his brother-in-law, Scott Rowe, and father-in-law, Stephen Rowe, returned to where the home once stood. A single wall remained, the rest reduced to smoke and ash.

The Woodburn crew was there, searching for latent fires, and pitched in to help the family look for surviving heirlooms.

Sifting through the ruins, the firefighters recovered 15 of 18 war medals that once hung on a game room wall.

“They were in disbelief when we found them,” Koenig said. “We found one or two at the same time, and suddenly, there was a little spark as (Stephen Rowe) began to remember where he’d received those honors.”

Although they’d been damaged, Koenig said the inscriptions were still legible.

When they parted ways, Martell praised Koenig and his team on Facebook — a post that has garnered more than 4,000 likes and 3,000 shares.

“The kindness they showed was just invaluable,” Martell said. “I just want recognition for those firefighters. The impact they left was immeasurable.”

## ‘It looked like a bomb went off’

After 30 years as a career firefighter, Polk County’s Capt. Rusher said the

devastation in Paradise was unlike anything he’d ever seen.

“It looked like a bomb went off,” Rusher said. “I hope my newest firefighter never sees anything like this again.”

Rusher led three volunteers — engine boss Lt. Jim Burke and firefighters Lt. Stephen Hoem and Ryan Cox — from the Polk County Fire District. They joined 22 other crew members on the Lincoln County Taskforce.

The firefighters worked in silence.

“That was the eeriest part,” Cox said. “It was so quiet, because there was nothing. If you started your engine, that was probably all you could hear for blocks.”

On one of their first nights they protected a cemetery from fires burning nearby, including a wooden tombstone dating to the 1800s.

The cemetery “meant a lot to those folks,” Burke said. “There are families in there from forever.”

For six days they protected a few hundred homes threatened near Paradise and Oroville.

It was the same routine for each home: Blowing needles and parched leaves from the roofs, cleaning gutters and filling them with water and clearing the ground surrounding the structures.

“We were basically this professional landscape crew,” Rusher said. “We knew that if a fire came through, I think it would’ve saved the majority of them.”

The tactics can increase the odds of a home’s survival by 55 percent, he said.

Other days were spent digging containment lines. Using a road as a fire break, the crew would strip away nearby wood, grass and leaves.

“By taking away all of that fuel ... it will burn up to that point and stop,” Rusher said, although embers could occasionally fly to the other side causing spot fires.

Some things survived against all odds.

Despite the devastation, Burke said many American flags were still intact.

“Every flag we came to that was on a house — the house was gone, but the flag was somehow still there.”

It inspired the team.

Cox bought an American flag and draped it over the fire engine — a daily reminder to stay strong.

“When something was hard, we’d say ‘America is strong,’” Rusher said. “I could imagine (Cox) flying that flag on his fire engine for the next 30 years.”

Contact the reporter at [vbarreda@statesmanjournal.com](mailto:vbarreda@statesmanjournal.com) or 503-399-6657.

# Appeal Tribune

**Address:** P.O. Box 13009, Salem, OR 97309  
**Phone:** 503-399-6773  
**Fax:** 503-399-6706  
**Email:** [sanews@salem.gannett.com](mailto:sanews@salem.gannett.com)  
**Web site:** [www.SilvertonAppeal.com](http://www.SilvertonAppeal.com)

## Staff

**News Director**  
 Don Currie  
 503-399-6655  
[dcurrie@statesmanjournal.com](mailto:dcurrie@statesmanjournal.com)  
**Advertising**  
 Terri McArthur  
 503-399-6630  
[tmcarthur@salem.gannett.com](mailto:tmcarthur@salem.gannett.com)

## Deadlines

News: 4 p.m. Thursday  
 Letters: 4 p.m. Thursday  
 Obituaries: 11 a.m. Friday  
 Display Advertising: 4 p.m. Wednesday  
 Legals: 3 p.m. Wednesday  
 Classifieds: 4 p.m. Friday

## News Tips

The Appeal Tribune encourages suggestions for local stories. Email the newsroom, submit letters to the editor and send announcements to [sanews@salem.gannett.com](mailto:sanews@salem.gannett.com) or call 503-399-6773.

## To Place an Ad

Classifieds: call 503-399-6789  
 Retail: call 503-399-6602  
 Legal: call 503-399-6789

## Missed Delivery?

Call: 800-452-2511  
 Hours: until 7 p.m. Wednesdays;  
 until 3 p.m. other weekdays

## To Subscribe

Call: 800-452-2511  
 \$21 per year for home delivery  
 \$22 per year for motor delivery  
 \$30.10 per year mail delivery in Oregon  
 \$38.13 per year mail delivery outside Oregon

## Main Statesman Journal publication

Suggested monthly rates:  
 Monday-Sunday: \$22, \$20 with EZ Pay  
 Monday-Saturday: \$17.50, \$16 with EZ Pay  
 Wednesday-Sunday: \$18, \$16 with EZ Pay  
 Monday-Friday: \$17.50, \$16 with EZ Pay  
 Sunday and Wednesday: \$14, \$12 with EZ Pay  
 Sunday only: \$14, \$12 with EZ Pay

To report delivery problems or subscribe, call 800-452-2511

Published every Wednesday by the Statesman Journal, P.O. Box 13009, Salem, OR 97309.

USPS 469-860, Postmaster: Send address changes to Appeal Tribune, P.O. Box 13009, Salem, OR 97309. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID: Salem, OR and additional offices.

Send letters to the editor and news releases to [sanews@salem.gannett.com](mailto:sanews@salem.gannett.com).

### Compare Our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

6-month	<b>2.35 % APY*</b>	Minimum deposit \$1,000
1-year	<b>2.70 % APY*</b>	Minimum deposit \$1,000
2-year	<b>3.10 % APY*</b>	Minimum deposit \$1,000



[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)  
Member SIPC

## Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## LOCAL ADVISORS

### Salem Area

<b>Vin Searles</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR Mission   503-363-0445	<b>Garry Falor CFP®</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR West   503-588-5426
<b>Michael Wooters</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR South   503-362-5439	<b>Chip Hutchings</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR Lancaster   503-585-4689
<b>Caitlin Davis CFP®</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR West   503-585-1464	<b>Tim Sparks</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR Commercial   503-370-6159
<b>Jeff Davis</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR Liberty   503-581-8580	

### Keizer Area

<b>Sheryl Resner</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR Keizer   503-304-8641	<b>Mario Montiel</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR Keizer   503-393-8166
--	--

### Surrounding Area

<b>Bridgette Justis</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR Sublimity   503-769-3180	<b>Kelly Denney</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR Dallas   503-623-2146
<b>Tim Yount</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR Silverton   503-873-2454	<b>David Eder</b> FINANCIAL ADVISOR Stayton   503-769-4902



## STOP

# Wishful Recycling

Throwing items in curbside mixed recycling that can't be recycled can ruin the whole load. Be thankful for what you can recycle and recycle right.

Visit [mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net) for answers!

\* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 11/19/2018. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov) or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change, CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).  
 OR-SAL008134-35