

# Appeal Tribune

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## FRETWELL MURDERS CHAPTER III

# Karissa, Billy disappear

**Capi Lynn, Virginia Barreda and Whitney Woodworth**

Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

*This is the third chapter in a four-part series about the life and murder of Karissa Fretwell and her 3-year-old son, Billy.*

After two years of struggling to juggle work, college and a child on her own, Karissa Fretwell filed for child support in Polk County Circuit Court against Michael Wolfe, the father of her then 2-

year-old son Billy, in May 2018.

She wanted a better life for her son, and to give him a chance to know his father. Neither would ever happen.

Just under a year later, they disappeared. Weeks after that, their bodies were found. Wolfe is awaiting trial in their murders.

But their tragic end is only part of their story.

Friends said Karissa was hesitant at first to file for child support, but it got to the point where she felt she was running out of options. She was working part-

time, going to school and spending more than 30% of her income on child care alone.

She didn't care if she ended up getting just \$200 a month. Anything would help.

DNA testing to establish paternity was the first step in the nearly year-long court process. A North Carolina lab's analysis confirmed Wolfe was Billy's biological father.

The court filed a motion to set child

See **FRETWELL, Page 4A**



**Law enforcement search for Karissa Fretwell and her son, Billy, in May 2019. Information gathered during the investigation by Salem Police Department led investigators to a property in rural Yamhill County.**  
STATESMAN JOURNAL ARCHIVE

## ALL-MID-VALLEY FOOTBALL



**Silvertown's head coach Josh Craig talks to players between quarters of the 5A state quarterfinal playoff game against North Salem in Silvertown.** BRIAN HAYES / STATESMAN JOURNAL

**Pete Martini**

Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

From the start of the season, the Silvertown community knew this year's Foxes football team could be special.

They had a strong senior class of playmakers, and they were looking at one final run.

Two of those seniors were quarterback Jordan McCarty and linebacker Keegan Walter.

They took their game to the next level, and the Foxes won their first football state championship in 30 years.

For their effort, McCarty is the Statesman Journal All-Mid-Valley Offensive Player of the Year, and Walter is the Defensive Player of the Year.

McCarty threw for 3,033 yards and 25 touchdowns, and rushed for 730 yards and another 11 touchdowns.

"Jordan is everything. He embodies what it means to be tough, coachable, kind. He's a good person, and a good football player," Silvertown coach Josh Craig said. "He doesn't have a cocky bone in his body. He's humble, and he leads by example."

Walter had 45 tackles, seven sacks and recovered two fumbles, as Silvertown finished with a 12-1 overall record, including going unbeaten against Class 5A competition.

"He played super disciplined on the edge for us and had to routinely take on pulling lineman that outweighed him by 75 pounds," Craig said about Walter. "He was our sack leader and had amazing speed coming off the edge. He was one of our tackle leaders and came up with big play after big play for us."

### More inside

Additional all-midvalley athletes, **Page 1B**



**Cascade's Jacob Hage (16) carries the ball during the first quarter of the game at Cascade High School in Turner.**

Here is the full 2021 Statesman Journal All-Mid-Valley Football Team.

**OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**  
**JORDAN MCCARTY**

School: Silvertown  
Year: Senior

See **FOOTBALL, Page 2A**

# Ways to get outside and enjoy Oregon's outdoors

**Zach Urness**

Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

It may sound crazy, but you could make the argument that the best time to explore Oregon's outdoors is during the winter.

Yes, it's rainy, snowy and pretty much always cool. But it's those elements, plus the lack of crowds, that make it such a glorious time to travel.

Waterfalls are booming or covered in ice. Old-growth forests are at their mossy best. And hot springs feel just a little bit better amid chilled temperatures.

Here are **some** of my favorite winter outdoor adventures in Oregon.

Weather will vary considerably, so always check roads and conditions before you go and be prepared. Some of these trips need a lower-elevation snowpack, which appears to be in good shape this year but can change at any time.

If you can't find the right people to ask about conditions, email me at [zurness@statesmanjournal.com](mailto:zurness@statesmanjournal.com) and I'll do my best to help.

### Free entry and guided hikes at Oregon state parks return New Year's Day

The tradition of making Oregon's state parks free to enter and offering guided hikes returns in 2022.

All parks that normally charge an entry fee are free on Jan. 1. The "First Day Hikes," which are guided by rangers, will also take place at nine state parking including two at Silver Falls (9:30 a.m. and noon).

A list of guided hikes, including times and meeting locations, is online at the Oregon State Parks event calendar. Visitors should check the calendar in the days leading up to Jan. 1 for additional guided hikes. Some parks not hosting guided hikes may display posters that include recommended hikes and ranger favorites.

### Abiqua Falls

The trek to Abiqua Falls is an adventure, but those willing to make the trip are rewarded with one of Oregon's most scenic (and popular) waterfall views.

The waterfall is on private property but is available to the public via the Abbey Foundation of Oregon. Stay on marked routes and make sure to have correct directions.

The hike is only 0.8 miles but feels longer due to a steep trek down to the creek and a rocky, slippery trudge upstream to the waterfall.

From where you parked, walk 100 feet back along the road where there is a metal sign on a tree stating that the land is owned by the Abbey Foundation of Oregon. This is the trail.

The path leads steeply downhill to Abiqua Creek in 0.2 miles. At the steepest points in the trail, there are lengths of rope tied to tree trunks for handholds. Turn upstream along the creek, following a rough trail for another 0.2 mile. You will have to climb over and around rocks and logs (tough in high water). Eventually, you'll reach the falls.

Those traveling in low-clearance vehicles may consider stopping short of the trailhead due to the very rough and muddy conditions that could cause a low-driving vehicle to get stuck.

### Beverly Beach to Newport on the Oregon Coast Trail

If you're looking for a change of scenery, head to the Oregon Coast. A 12-mile hike from Beverly Beach to Newport offers sweeping beach views, lighthouses, rock formations, fossils, bridges and more.

Most of the hike is along the beach, offering a mix of secluded — north of Yaquina Head — and bustling — around Newport.

Hikers will climb through a hole in the rocky Schooner Point. You can see Yaquina Head Lighthouse, Oregon's tallest. And visit Yaquina Bay Lighthouse. You'll also walk across the iconic Newport Bay Bridge.

Just be sure to follow markers for the Oregon Coast Trail when leaving the beach to go around Yaquina Head. The guidebook, "Hiking the Oregon Coast Trail" by Bonnie Henderson, is also helpful.

My biggest advice for this hike is to check the tide

See **OUTDOORS, Page 3A**

# 'Deck the halls' thanks to Oregon holly farmers

**Capi Lynn**

Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The roots of a Stayton holly farm can be traced to a single tree and a television news report.

Don Harteloo's father worked for the local telephone company in the mid-1970s when a colleague offered him a holly tree. He planted it alongside his driveway. The tree grew over the next decade, always visible from the house.

The family raised livestock and corn on the 13-acre farm.

But that would all change after a Portland TV station aired a segment about another farm's success selling the prickly green foliage with clusters of red berries that holly trees produce.

"The next best thing to picking money off trees," is the claim Harteloo said grabbed his father's attention,



**Rain collects on holly berries at Mill Creek Holly Farm in Stayton.** BRIAN HAYES / STATESMAN JOURNAL

leading to the planting of the first 200 trees at Mill Creek Holly Farms.

Today, 1,500 trees cover eight acres of the farm, situated just a couple blocks east of Stayton Middle

See **HISTORY, Page 3A**

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