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Statesman Journal

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026 | STATESMANJOURNAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Several cities, neighborhoods and law enforcement agencies canceled National Night Out events due to wildfire smoke Aug. 4. PHOTOS BY KENNY MCMILLEN/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Gathering persists

One Salem neighborhood celebrated National Night Out as others canceled

Katie Livermore
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Wildfire smoke wasn't the only thing in the air as Salem's East Lancaster neighborhood celebrated National Night Out Aug. 4. The event brimmed with community as residents gathered even as many law enforcement agencies and neighborhoods canceled their events throughout the Mid-Valley.

The Salem and Keizer police departments, as well as the Marion County Sheriff's Office and several cities and neighborhoods throughout the region canceled their outdoor celebrations amid smoky skies from nearby wildfires. The air quality index reached a particulate rating of 177 in Salem — anything above 150 calls for caution during outdoor activities.

National Night Out is an effort to bring neighbors and police together to create community and make neighborhoods safer. The event happens each year on the first Tuesday of August.

Already set with an indoor place to host the event, the East Lancaster Neighborhood Association soldiered on. Complete with a bounce house, generous scoops of ice cream, heaps of popcorn and a faux fishing game

Jeanna Coleman serves ice cream at the East Salem Neighborhood Association National Night Out..

with prizes, about 60 community members gathered to socialize at First Free Will Baptist Church at 1390 45th Ave NE.

"We decided, since we had access to the air conditioning and the church and the space, we would go ahead and see what happened," said Susann Kaltwasser, co-chair of the East Lancaster Neighborhood Association.

The neighborhood association regularly meets here because it's a central location in the neighborhood.

"They needed a place and I saw an opportunity to

See NIGHT OUT, Page 2A

Drazan, other Republicans push for hunting protections after IP 28 fails

Anastasia Mason
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

GRESHAM — Less than two weeks after a petition to ban hunting and fishing failed to make the ballot, gubernatorial candidate Sen. Christine Drazan, R-Canby, proposed enshrining Oregonians' rights to hunt, fish, farm and more in the state constitution.

The proposal, announced Aug. 4, would refer a constitutional amendment to voters in the 2028 general election if passed by the Legislature.

It comes on the heels of the failure of Initiative Petition 28. If passed by voters, IP 28 would have criminalized hunting, fishing and some breeding practices, significantly changing Oregon's economy and recreation in the state. It did not meet the signature requirement.

"As leaders, it isn't enough to simply oppose the

See DRAZAN, Page 2A

Englewood Forest Festival celebrates park's 100th year

Kenny McMillen
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Salem's Englewood Park is turning 100 this year, a number that eclipses the eight-year anniversary of the Aug. 8 festival that's centered around celebrating the community space.

The Englewood Forest Festival has taken place at Englewood Park every year since 2017, except for a two-year hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, chief festival organizer Lynn Takata said. It features booths from dozens of local environmental organizations and non-profits, along with local officials.

"We want to bring the community in and help them understand the ecological history of the park," Takata said.

For the first time in festival history, Dark Sky Oregon, an organization that seeks to reduce light pollution, will allow attendees to demo its new solar telescope. Chemeketa Community College astronomy instructor Chris Claysmith will also be there to talk about the skies.

The festival will also feature a new repair fair, Takata said. Participants can bring broken appliances to repair or recycle. The fair is sponsored by Marion County Environmental Services, which asks for registration beforehand to ensure the necessary materials are available.

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