

# '24 Hours in Yamhill County

Revisiting the News-Register's yearlong project to tell  
the stories of local people and places one hour at a time



**CALENDAR OF QUIRK: RANDOM AT HEART**  
**News-Register**  
 Riverside property identified for new rec center  
**Noon to 1 at Brookdale**  
 Commissioners will hear gate request, appeals request

**Something's afoot in the land of quirk**  
**News-Register**  
 Planning commission gets rules refresher  
**1 to 2 p.m. at the Mac pool**  
 Mac PD hires firm to attract job candidates

**Quirk, on the silly and serious sides**  
**News-Register**  
 Battle over seed growing rules could affect supply  
**2 to 3 p.m. in the classroom**  
 Mac PD seeking information on Monday shooting

**FRUIT OF THE LOAM**  
**News-Register**  
 City taking long look down Third  
**3 to 4 p.m. at the library**  
 CPRD survey finds strong support for more trails

**Rack your brain**  
**News-Register**  
 Logistics of buffer zones considered at joint session  
**4 to 5 p.m. on Wheatland Ferry**  
 Former prison guard sentenced for smuggling

**Rockin' and rollin'**  
**News-Register**  
 Mayor questions homeless survey numbers  
**5 to 6 p.m. at 'the local hang'**  
 Mac planning board picks top priorities

**Model citizens**  
**News-Register**  
 Long-term parks plan thinks big  
**Backstage from 6 to 7 p.m.**  
 Committed burglar arrested in Mac on gun charge

**WE LOVE MAC**  
**News-Register**  
 Unanimously, but skeptically, city lightens camping rules  
**7 to 8 p.m. at the grange**  
 Former deputy makes plea deal for lewd acts

**Close encounters of the Quirk kind**  
**News-Register**  
 Mac UFO Feet: Crowd control to Major Tom  
**8 to 9 p.m. at the drive-in**  
 Clerk: Turnout 'strong' so far

**THIS WAY FOR QUIRK**  
**News-Register**  
 Huge haul of drugs seized from alleged dealer in Mac  
**Bowling from 9 to 10 p.m.**  
 Commissioner sound election looking likely

**Fire destroys hay storage building**  
**News-Register**  
 Who should provide an after-school program?  
**Karaoke from 10 to 11 p.m.**  
 Suspects get eight years for crime spree

**Unlikely NE neighbors, mazes and quiet spaces**  
**News-Register**  
 Council OKs \$3.4M land purchase, delays trash rate increase  
**11 to midnight on DUII patrol**  
 Mac police report they increase in camping reports

**RANDOM LUCK**  
**News-Register**  
 Council denies request to add tax limit item to Nov ballot  
**In the ER from midnight to 1**  
 Commissioners delay awarding business grants

**Embattled fire district in Yamhill gets interim chief**  
**News-Register**  
 Gas station plan draws objections in Carlton  
**1 to 2 a.m. on Third Street**  
 Mac council OKs Recycling trash rule hike

**COME ON, GET HAPPY**  
**News-Register**  
 RV dealer named to Mac school board  
**2 to 3 a.m. at Muchas Gracias**  
 Land-use groups file objections to planning analysis

**Art Alley: 'The newest McMinnville experience'**  
**News-Register**  
 Christine Bader named to Mac school board  
**3 to 4 a.m. at Rock of Ages**  
 Timeline for board sees CSP inquiry into July break-in

**COZYING UP TO FALL COLORS**  
**News-Register**  
 McMinnville schools field book complaints  
**4 to 5 a.m. at The Abbey**  
 Roundabout planned for OR-18, Lafayette Hwy intersection

**Quirk on campus**  
**News-Register**  
 Council talks board details path forward  
**5 to 6 a.m. at the bakery**  
 County agrees on environmental plan to improve access for rural residents

**RUSTING AWAY IN McMINNVILLE**  
**News-Register**  
 Chenoweth criticizes mayor, city manager  
**6 to 7 a.m. at the gym**  
 Unemployed, disabled man sues for lost job

**CURIOUS SIGHTS IN EVERY DIRECTION**  
**News-Register**  
 McMinnville mayor, county commissioner races highlight local ballot  
**7 to 8 a.m. on the farm**  
 Dogman High water main in Mac drops, shatters and sends debris flooding in area

**Mac boys soccer on to state finals**  
**News-Register**  
 Mayor strips Chenoweth's committee assignments  
**8 to 9 a.m. at Greeters**  
 Facility figures remain in flux

**A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS**  
**News-Register**  
 Agencies point to growing need for transitional housing in Mac  
**9 to 10 a.m. at the feed store**  
 Several other area cats killed because of non-reusable devices in 2019

**SWEET TUNES**  
**News-Register**  
 Mac hires DSP captain Cord Wood as new chief  
**10 to 11 a.m. at the nursery**  
 Monagan found not guilty on all refiled charges

**TROUBLED WATERS**  
**News-Register**  
 Revenues up, but so are costs  
**11 a.m. to noon at the courthouse**  
 State's special ed hearing rule about

From lunch with elders to business at the courthouse ...

# STORIES ONE HOUR AT A TIME

## Page 4 JAN. 24: ASSISTED LIVING

Hour one took place at Brookdale McMinnville City Center, an assisted living facility, with lunchtime and activities leading up to it:

By the time the clock strikes 12, several residents of Brookdale McMinnville City Center were already seated in the activity room, ready for lunch.

— Starla Pointer

## Page 6 JAN. 31: POOL

The slide at the aquatic center is an acquired taste.

Some kids can't get enough of it, others swear, "I'm not going on the slide." That was the feeling of Rilea, 4, hanging out in the small pool with her grandmother, Julie Goldblatt of Yamhill, at 1 p.m.

— Kirby Neumann-Rea

## Page 8 FEB. 14: CLASSROOM

A second-grader's whispered information that can be revealed now that it's Valentine's Day:

It was 2:40 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13, and there was much to do to prepare for Valentine's Day in Cheyenne Meyers' classroom at Yamhill Carlton Elementary School.

— Kirby Neumann-Rea

## Page 10 FEB. 28: LIBRARY

Books go thunk into the "return" slot at the McMinnville Public Library's front desk as the clock strikes 3.

It's a frequent noise that will punctuate the quiet throughout the coming hour, and all the other hours the library is open. Books and other materials are constantly being returned and checked out as people of all ages come and go.

— Starla Pointer

## Page 12 MARCH 20: FERRY

At 4 p.m. there are only a few cars boarding the boat on its way to Marion County. By 4:15, each trip across the Willamette River for the next hour will be at capacity, or close to it. It's rush hour on the Wheatland Ferry.

— Scott Unger

## Page 14 MARCH 27: RESTAURANT

Happy Hour is well underway when the clock strikes 5 p.m. Friday, March 22, at Carlton Corners, a restaurant popular with mostly locals, many of whom come there on a daily basis or even more often.

— Starla Pointer

## Page 16 APRIL 3: THEATER

For the 6 to 7 p.m. hour of the "24 Hours" series, the News-Register observed what happens backstage on the night of a show. In this case, "Romeo and Juliet: Choose Your Own Ending." It's March 29, and director John Hamilton arrives right at 6 p.m. ...

— Kirby Neumann-Rea

## Page 18 APRIL 24: GRANGE

The McMinnville Grange Hall was nearly empty at 6:45 p.m. on Saturday, April 20. It seems to be just a big room with wooden floors, benches along each wall and a stage at the east end.

But by 6:59, the space is alive with square dance enthusiasts ...

— Starla Pointer

## Page 20 MAY 15: DRIVE-IN

First of all, the weather was perfect.

At 8 p.m. Saturday, May 11, temperatures were in the low-70s ... the show at 99W Drive-in in Newberg, started a little after 9 p.m., after a brief second rush of cars.

— Kirby Neumann-Rea

## Page 22 MAY 29: BOWLING ALLEY

At 9 p.m. on a Tuesday, Jim Shimota is just finishing up a 90-minute practice session at Walnut City Lanes in McMinnville. Before hauling two carts full of equipment, including half a dozen of his favorite balls (he owns 50) ...

— Starla Pointer

The series was introduced this way: "In 2024, we follow the county around the clock in '24 Hours.'"

'24 Hours, our 2024 series of two dozen stories started "one hour at a time" in the second week of January. The features concluded on Dec. 18, "two dozen parts of life in our local communities, moving in chronological order like the hands of a clock."

As a new year begins, we take a look back at these separate, yet connected, slices of local life. Throughout, the News-Register's writers and photographers — Rachel Thompson, Rusty Rae, Starla Pointer, Kirby Neumann-Rea, Scott Unger and Emily Bonsant — shared in gathering stories and images at all hours of the day and night.

## Page 24 JUNE 19: KARAOKE

At 10 p.m., karaoke night is already in full voice at Blind Pig, a restaurant and bar in Carlton.

Customers line the narrow space, eating burgers, fries and other dishes turned out by Renegade chefs Cody Drew and Nicolas Bell and their crew ...

— Starla Pointer

## Page 26 JULY 10: DUII PATROL

At 11 p.m. on Friday, Yamhill County Sheriff's Deputy Jody Ingham is laughing with occupants of a vehicle he pulled over next to Chan's Chinese Restaurant.

"They were delightful, wonderful ladies," he says as he returns to his undercover Dodge Durango.

— Scott Unger

## Page 28 JULY 24: EMERGENCY ROOM

Midnight, and most of McMinnville is sleeping, or at least tucked safely at home with late night TV, Netflix or YouTube.

One resident rides through the night in an ambulance, perhaps frightened, perhaps grateful for the medical attention. Probably both.

The phone trills in the emergency room at Willamette Valley Medical Center.

Get ready, fire department medics tell ER staff. We're bringing in someone who needs help. Here are the details. Get ready.

— Starla Pointer

## Page 30 AUG. 14: THIRD STREET

If a downtown street can be compared to a canyon, the night noise on Third Street approaching 1 a.m. can be like kettles rattling off basalt.

At about 12:50 a.m. on a Saturday, "Dan the Pool Connoisseur" is heading home, his stick case in hand ... well, maybe not home.

"I'm glad to meet you, but I will not tell you where I'm going now," says Dan, who has just departed Cabana Club ...

— Kirby Neumann-Rea

## Page 32 AUG. 28: 24-HOUR RESTAURANT

Bright lights and a vivid yellow-and-red color scheme are Muchas Gracias restaurant's beacons in the wee hours. The food is an attraction, too. No one kind of customer comes in at 2 a.m. — but a theme exists. "Hungry," said Zack Gray of Lafayette.

— Kirby Neumann-Rea

## Page 34 SEPT. 11: MEMORY CARE

At 3 a.m. Sept. 3, soft lights illuminate the flower baskets that bracket the front doors and mark the pathways winding through the Rock of Ages retirement village campus. Inside the homey Memory Care unit, lighting in common areas is brighter.

— Starla Pointer

## Page 36 SEPT. 25: ABBEY

A trinity of peace is found at 4 a.m. near Lafayette.

Utter quiet, gentle darkness, reverent intonations.

This is the start of Liturgy of the Hours, a pre-dawn time known as Vigils: 45 minutes of connection to the Almighty, where spirit and ritual truly blend, also known as Divine Office.

— Kirby Neumann-Rea

## Page 38 OCT. 9: BAKERY

Entering Carlton Bakery at 5 a.m. raises the first question of the day: wouldn't more people get up early if they could smell the heavenly scent of baking bread and pastries?

— Starla Pointer

## Page 40 OCT. 23: GYM

Rain pools in the dimly lit parking lot as the early morning creeps along. But at 6 a.m., the lights are on at Excell Fitness as gym-goers attack the day head on.

— Emily Bonsant

## Page 42 NOV. 6: FARM

At 7 a.m. on the third day of Standard Time, the chicks are burbling and the lambs and cattle are making occasional noises as they graze on the Gonzales' acreage near Dayton. Isabelle Gonzales, 18, tends her animals before classes at Dayton High School.

— Starla Pointer

## Page 44 NOV. 13: GREETERS

Enthusiastic chatter continues well past the official starting time for the Oct. 25 Greeters event, the McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce's weekly gathering of business people, representatives of nonprofit organizations and other community members.

— Starla Pointer

## Page 46 DEC. 4: FEED STORE

On a chilly, foggy November morning, Jay Legard unlocks the door of Buchanan Cellars and flicks on the lights in the century-old building on Fifth Street, near downtown McMinnville. The place smells pleasantly of well-worn wood, grains and nuts, leather and rope. If a dog or cat was present, it would smell chew toys and breakfast.

— Starla Pointer

## Page 48 DEC. 11: NURSERY

Just outside of Yamhill at 10 a.m. the day before Thanksgiving, Bailey Nurseries employees are working ahead, not just for the holiday, but for the next decade.

At 10:05 a.m. crew members are in Warehouse A processing 2-year-old hydrangea trees.

— Emily Bonsant

## Page 50 DEC. 18: COURTHOUSE

At 11 a.m. on a Tuesday, Judge Ladd Wiles is midway through a busy morning of sentencings and hearings, one of two judges hearing cases but among dozens of courthouse workers involved in preparing for court ...

— Scott Unger, Starla Pointer, Emily Bonsant

# Noon to 1 at Brookdale

*Residents of assisted living facility affirm friendships as they gather for lunch*



Rusty Rae/News-Register

Caregiver Adrian Heredia delivers lunch to Leigh Ann Webb in the activity room at Brookdale McMinnville Town Center. Her dining companion is Kathlene Neal. Webb's dog, Molly, is on the floor beside her chair, but will make the rounds later, checking on leftovers. Standing in the background is Brandie Briggs-Koch, who also visited every table during the noon hour.

By STARLA POINTER  
Of the News-Register

By the time the clock strikes 12, several residents of Brookdale McMinnville City Center were already seated in the activity room, ready for lunch.

Some were watching the big-screen TV, where shots show landscapes in different parts of the world. On Jan. 22, most of the scenes are snow-covered, but all are different — one aerial view of a forest appears pink as the sun sets in that part of the world.

“Now we’re in Scandinavia,” called out Brandie Briggs-Koch, Brookdale’s activity director, pointing out another wintry landscape.

“We talk about anything and everything.”

— Tad Pappas, Brookdale resident

Tom King and Ernie Moser occupied the table closest to the screen. “I like to hang out with Brandie and watch movies or work out,” King said, pointing to a tall bookcase stuffed with DVDs.

Moser, a former forest ranger and law enforcement officer, said he’d rather spend

time outside. But in January, he’s fine with looking at the photos of outdoor scenes instead.

When the weather’s better, King said, he will gladly join his friend in walking to a nearby park.

A few tables away, Leigh Ann Webb settled in, her corgi-pug mix, Molly, at her feet. Webb filled out her menu, circling corned beef and cabbage as the entree and cranberry-orange juice to drink.

Residents always have a choice of two daily specials, such as corned beef or fillet of sole today, along with grilled cheese, a turkey club and artichoke rotini salad with

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Betty Graves, center, enjoys talking with hospice nurse Ashley Miller as she checks her vital signs at the end of the lunch hour. Graves is sitting with Tad Pappas, left, a longtime friend. The women said they keep track of one another and often share meals together. Rusty Rae/News-Register

## '24 Hours

Continued from 4

chicken that are always available.

They also can choose side dishes — O'Brien potatoes were popular today — and desserts such as peach-upside down cake, fresh fruit and sugar-free ice cream. All the dishes are low-sodium and some are sugar- or gluten-free.

Molly was very interested when caregivers delivered the food to Webb and other residents. As the meal drew to a close, the little dog wandered the room, visiting human friends who might have a few bites left over.

"She knows me," Moser said as the dog gazed steadily at his turkey sandwich.

Sitting next to Moser, Rita Anderson chuckled. "Hope springs eternal," she said.

**Banter flew at** the next table, too. Dave and Lavonne Garver sat with Wilma Treick. They teased one another with glee.

"Wilma's name is spelled 'o-r-n-e-r-y,'" said Dave, whose cap proclaimed him a Korean War veteran.

A bit later, Treick reminded him that it was his wife, not himself, who was in charge. "Everybody should listen to Lavonne," she said.

All in good fun, of course. Dave knows how to listen to Lavonne; after all, they will celebrate their 73rd anniversary Feb. 25.

The Garvers often talk about horses at mealtimes and other times, too. They raised thoroughbreds for many years, and he rode them at county fairs. He was too heavy to be a jockey in other types of racing, he said.

Lavonne rode, too; she's the daughter of a bronc rider, who taught her early how not to fall off a horse. "I never did," she said.

**As the hour ticked by,** Kayla Longley, the care center's executive director, visited with diners at several tables.

Longley said she loves to see residents come out of their rooms and socialize over meals and activities.

So does Briggs-Koch. "Everyone needs social contact," she said.

Some were reluctant following COVID, when they mostly had to quarantine in their rooms. A few still order meal trays to be delivered to their doors.

But most are getting used to being together again, Longley said, and they benefit from it.

With meal times so important, it was a blow to Brookdale when burst pipes caused a flood in the dining room during the extremely cold weather this month. The care center was one of several buildings in McMinnville that were damaged by the cold.

While the dining room is drying out, though, many residents said they don't mind using the second-floor activity room, where they usually play bingo and gather for other events.

A few did mind, though, saying over lunch that it was taking too long to restore



As he awaits his lunch, Dave Garver chuckles over the teasing among diners at his table, including his wife, Lavonne, and their friend, Wilma Treick. The Garvers moved to Brookdale after a lifetime of raising horses. Rusty Rae/News-Register

the dining room and mentioning other complaints. They would like to see more people on staff and see employees stay longer, for instance.

They pay a lot to live here, they said. It bothers them when they have to wait for services, whether that's health care or laundry or the dining room.

**Briggs-Koch also bounced** from table to table as more residents arrived. She delivered trays, went back for beverages and made sure everyone had napkins, silverware and anything else they needed.

She greeted residents, including Tad Pappas and Betty Graves as they settled in.

At the end of the lunch hour, Graves would get a visit from a nurse and doctor, who checked her vital signs and determined how she was doing. But first, she enjoyed some conversation with Pappas.

The two women have been friends for years. They first met at the Brookdale retirement center next door, lost track of each other, then became reacquainted at Brookdale City Center.

"She's my buddy," said Graves of Pappas. "We don't want to lose touch again."

They often sit together for meals and activities. "We talk about anything and everything," Pappas said.

They enjoy their conversations, maybe more than they enjoy the food. "It's not bad," Pappas shrugged, then allowed, "It's better than having to cook it myself and having to clean up after."

## What's Happening in Yamhill County



local art | shopping | eateries  
community | craft beer | venues  
vintage wines | farmer's markets



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# 1 to 2 p.m. at the Mac pool

*Warm, but chill: the calming waters of an Aquatic Center afternoon*



In the small pool Jan. 27 at McMinnville Aquatic Center, Dominik Jacobs of McMinnville and daughter Gemma, 2 1/2, enjoy their regular swimming time. Gemma has been accustomed to the water since she was three weeks old. The Aquatic Center has open swims and programs for all ages and abilities. Rachel Thompson/News-Register

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA  
Of the News-Register

The slide at the aquatic center is an acquired taste. Some kids can't get enough of it, others swear "I'm not going on the slide." That was the feeling of Rilea, 4, hanging out in the small pool with her grandmother, Julie Goldblatt of Yamhill. Meanwhile, Rilea's older cousins, Abigail and Emma, repeatedly climbed the ladder and enjoyed splashdowns via the yellow tube.

At the McMinnville Aquatic Center — with two pools, a spa and a gym — there is plenty to do.

"It's really family friendly," said Rebecca Eastman of Dayton, there with her daughter, Adeline, 8, who said, "I love the things to float on and I also like when Mommy spins me around."

"Any day at the pool is great."

— Wyatt Smith, 10

The air is humid but the mood is chill. It's a good time for children and families, while in the large pool swimmers did laps and a couple of teenaged boys created splashes off the diving board. Eastman said, "It's warm here, and there's not a lot to do for kids around here in the wintertime, so this place is awesome."

Dominik Jacobs of McMinnville, who also serves as a lifeguard at the center, was bobbing around the recreation pool with his daughter, Gemma, 2 1/2, and taking

photos with his waterproof camera. He and Gemma swim together at least once a week and usually stay for a couple of hours. Jacobs introduced Gemma to the water when she was 22 days old. Now, she loves being tossed in the air and twirling to a splashdown, or quietly guiding her Little Mermaid figure around the shallow end.

It's an easy time of day in the two pools, with plenty of devices to float on, a basket to toss a ball into, and the slide to venture down.

"This hour is busy but it's a fairly calm hour of the day and it's like mid-day, a good time to be, after the morning rush and before the afternoon," said lifeguard Rider Ramirez, a Yamhill-Carlton High School senior.

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Rachel Thompson/News-Register

**Lifeguard Rider Ramirez, float at the ready, keeps an eye on swimmers in the small pool. Behind him is the large pool, where a second lifeguard is on duty. A third lifeguard always maintains watch from the office next to the pool deck.**

## '24 Hours

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"I've always enjoyed being in the pool and I like being able to make sure other people can do that, safely," Ramirez said. "A lot of people like to come and lap swim before noon."

He stood in the pool office, with its panoramic view of both pools. "When you're in the office you're supposed to be an extra pair of eyes, and if a lifeguard needs to fill in you can jump into the gap."

As backup he's ready to respond with a backboard in case of injury to a swimmer, or other need of assistance, "depending on what the situation needed," said Ramirez, who was swimming for enjoyment at the

pool one day when he saw the sign saying lifeguards needed. "I signed up and took the training and got hired," he said.

Asked if he's had much excitement since signing on, Ramirez said, "It's been uneventful mostly but the most interesting thing is patrons, people who show up, like the mermaids who come by, and they have mermaid tails and they swim." He described their swim garb as "one large fin and they fit into it like a second pair of leggings. They'll come by every now and then, they're interesting."

For Guadalupe Juarez Ceja of Dayton, "The people are the great part of the job." The Dayton resident and third-year Oregon State University student handled the desk in the early afternoon that Saturday, along with head lifeguard Savanna Quinlan.

Ceja said, "I'm a people person and I

love seeing the community, the little kids. It's fun."

Asked if she doubles as a lifeguard, Ceja laughed, "Not actually. I don't know to swim. Everybody's all, 'You gotta learn,' and I say, 'One day.'"

A typical question she gets is "when is the pool most free?"

Ceja said she tells people it's early morning or mid-afternoon.

"We're pretty popular around here. Right now it's a little quieter," she said

Quinlan said early afternoon on a Saturday is "a special time" because the public swim goes until 3 p.m. two hours longer than weekdays, when other programs including McMinnville Swim Club, use the facility.

Quinlan added, "last weekend (Jan. 20-21) after our snowstorm it was pretty busy in here, people wanting to get out of the house. We definitely had a lot of people."

Gayle Dillman of Wilsonville was visiting her two grandchildren and watched them from the fitness center, where she lifted weights and got in some steps before relaxing on the pool deck with a book.

"What a great thing for families. My grandkids love it and I'm able to read, and it's fabulous," Dillman said.

James Swift of McMinnville — who has an octopus tattoo covering his left shoulder and forearm — swam with his son, Wyatt, 10, who said the pool is "just super fun."

"The water feels great. Any day at the pool is great."



**Left: Receptionist Guadalupe Juarez Ceja, left, and head lifeguard Savanna Quinlan share a laugh in the Aquatic Center office. They are among the first people patrons see when they enter the lobby, and can answer any questions about pool programs and schedules.** Rachel Thompson/News-Register

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# 2 to 3 p.m. in the classroom

*Yamhill Carlton second-graders quietly conclude school day with reading and art*



Kirby Neumann-Rea/News-Register

**Yamhill Carlton Elementary teacher Cheyenne Meyers works with Deegan Lynn on his Chromebook reading material while art and reading are enjoyed at nearby tables by Lane Peloquin, left, and Yossef Torres, Harlan Trivelpiece, Norah Lopez and Pearl Nonamaker.**

**By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**  
*Of the News-Register*

A second-grader's whispered information can be revealed now that it's Valentine's Day:

It was 2:40 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13, and there was much to do to prepare for Valentine's Day in Cheyenne Meyers' classroom at Yamhill Carlton Elementary School.

"I'm going to bring Miss Meyers 20 chocolates tomorrow," Eddie Franco said privately to a visitor as he and classmates gathered to leave for the day.

The school day's final hour was a lightly-supervised time for either art or

reading (it was about half-and-half), and the room was remarkably quiet, though classmates shared pages of books they read (Chromebook and traditional) and piped up with comments on art they were making, or on recess.

"You caught us on a kind of catch-up time, instead of a thoughtful, way-planned lesson," Meyers said.

Yet it was a thoughtful time. The dual themes for the hour were to create as well as cooperate. That, and listen.

The 20 students would soon collect their coats and backpacks and settle on the "circle rug" (it's rectangular, but decorated with large rings) and after cleanup time

and other business, share some closing thoughts.

There is much in the room to inspire creativity: the flat screen with rotating photos of nature and geography, the alphabet, a birthday chart, a February calendar, large N-E-W-S letters on corresponding north, east, west and south walls, and a bulletin board with the students' drawings of Meyers' dog, Bogie, a Corgi.

Starting just before 2 p.m., students had the choice to wind down the day by reading or finishing a timely project:

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Right: Lucas Andrew, with a dog-eared copy of "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," and Lane Peloquin, on Chromebook, are mostly engrossed in their reading, but periodically pointed out contents to each other.

Below: Memphis Brunette, left, and Avenlea Marsh add final touches to their Valentine's Day bags, a holiday-themed art project in Cheyenne Meyers' Yamhill Carlton Elementary classroom.

Kirby Neumann-Rea/News-Register

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creating Valentine's bags they drew on or added cut-out eyes, ears and arms.

"I wonder how to make my robot cool," Eddie Franco said to Meyers.

"It's already cool," she told him.

As circle time approached, one boy asked, "can I draw a picture?"

"No, but you can draw a Tootle," Meyers replied. The boy made a bee-line to get a Tootle form: space for name, to write a nice thing about that person, and for a picture. Tootles are part of the Yamhill Carlton program known as Pax that fosters and reinforces positive behaviors.

"They can draw something, or they get to have some writing practice and lift someone else up," Meyers explained. Each student's name is on one of the tubes forming a rack in one corner, filled with Tootles. There, students can place an encouraging message to a classmate.

Yossef Torres has made one for Pearl Nonamaker, "because she was quiet when



we were studying," he said.

It was nearing time to depart, which meant everyone had to finish putting art on their white paper bags for collecting classmates' messages for Valentine's Day.

Meyers announced around 2:35, "We're going to clean up now, please help clean up all the tables, and meet on the carpet. If you have a bag, I will take it."

After settling in on the carpet, one youngster opened a package of crackers and Meyers asked him to put it back in his bag.

"Tomorrow is special not only because it's Valentine's Day, it's also Bogie's birthday," she told the class

At that, one boy asked Meyers how old she is.

"How old am I? Twenty-six. How old are you?"

"Oh, eight."

Finally everyone settled on the circle rug and Meyers told them, "We're going to have a super exciting day tomorrow and I am excited for it. But before we go, I want to know, what went well for you today?"

She asked each student in turn.

Lunch went well for many, and recess. "At recess I got to play with Olivia."

"Finishing up the valentines."  
"Reading."

What went well for Eddie was the robot he drew on his bag.

"He's saved people lives. He's actually a destroyer. My robot can jump really high and does a spin jump and he has a shield so he can whack other robots' faces. He looks like a statue until he jumps from the ground. And he can breathe fire.

"Oh, OK, last one —" Meyers said.

"He has special communications in his forehead, a computer that tells him if you're a friend or a foe."

"OK —"

"Or a robot that destroys or a predator."

Other classmates get to take their turns.

They spoke of the chance to draw a picture, and lunch again, and recess.

"We got to play Titanic!" Or, "playing basketball."

On the way out the door toward pickup at the front of the school, students were happy to answer the question of "how do you play 'Titanic'?"

"It's the ship, and we get on the blue thing and you climb on it."

Another added, "and there's captains and stuff and you say 'iceberg ahead'."

And, "You jump on top or the side."

Two others offered, "The Titanic sank a long time ago — 1912" and "April 12, 1912, I don't know." Off by three days, but not bad.

Some students headed to the buses, while others gather inside the main lobby where Meyers and a team of other staff relayed who's pulled up for which student, calling their names and sending them out the door. Reading specialist Morgan Bishop stood next to the street and sent one name at a time to Meyers so that by the time the adult pulls up each student was ready to get into the car.

Soon, the hallway was quiet and just a few students remained.



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# 3 to 4 p.m. at the library

*People of all ages are getting the circulation going with books, music, and 'things'*



Starla Pointer/News-Register

**Della Harris, 8, looks for Fancy Nancy titles and other books to check out. She often visits the McMinnville Public Library after classes at St. James School in the company of her grandmother, Jeanette Bernards.**

**By STARLA POINTER**  
Of the News-Register

Books go thunk into the “return” slot at the McMinnville Public Library’s front desk as the clock strikes 3.

It’s a frequent noise that will punctuate the quiet throughout the coming hour, and all the other hours the library is open. Books and other materials are constantly being returned and checked out as people of all ages come and go.

Behind the desk, down a corridor and in a corner, Wendy Whitesitt examines a Cricut machine. It soon will join baking pans,

“It can be a lot of fun when school gets out and the kids and teens start showing up.” — Courtney Terry, Adult Services Librarian

board games, a bubble machine, jumper cables, tools, a virtual reality headset and assorted other items in the “Library of Things.”

This library-within-a-library is a collection of useful items that aren’t the books or

DVDs people might expect in this building. Yet the “Things” can be checked out just like books. Try the Cricut machine, and you’ll have three weeks to experiment with

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Starla Pointer/News-Register

Above: **Mat and Rae Parlier of Sheridan enjoy browsing the stacks of the McMinnville Library, which has materials to meet their wide variety of interests.** Left: **Longtime volunteer Candace Wright checks her list as she pulls books that patrons have placed on hold. She will take the books downstairs for pick-up and check-out.**

## '24 Hours

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cutting shapes in paper, vinyl or fabric before returning it to the front desk with a very gentle “thunk.”

Whitesitt is looking at the Cricut and a pile of other objects today because the library recently received a grant from the Yamhill Community Cares Organization to expand the Library of Things. The \$150,000 grant also will cover more shelves and supplies, such as a case for the knitting machine.

“We’re slowly building the collection and we want people to know about it,” said Whitesitt, who also is responsible for ordering books and other library materials.

The Library of Things occupies space on the second floor, just to the right of the elevator on the way to Head Librarian Jenny Berg’s office.

Left of the Things is the desk where Adult Services Librarian Courtney Terry helps visitors.

“Friday usually is slower in the early afternoon, but it can be a lot of fun when school gets out and the kids and teens start showing up,” she said on Friday, Feb. 23.

During today’s 3 p.m. hour, Terry visits with a couple from Sheridan, Rae and Mat Parlier.

The Parliers usually use the Sheridan Library, Rae said, but they come to McMinnville to peruse the DVD section and shelves of books on tape. Today, Mat found a collection of Carol Burnett TV shows along with the movie “Charlie Wilson’s War.”

Rae, who is teaching herself to draw, also

picked up a book about shading technique.

Both were intrigued by a series of Native American art pieces on the walls of the library. That’s why they’ve come to the desk to talk to Terry.

Tapping her computer, she quickly locates a document, “Art in the Library.” She tells the Parliers, “The artist is Sam Martin. He did seven Native woodcuts.”

**Downstairs about a quarter after 3,** Rebecca Noble checks out “Raven Black,” part of Ann Cleese’s Shetland series. Circulation manager Adam Carlson scans the mystery, inserts a due date slip between the pages, and hands it to Noble.

Like many of the people coming and going today, Noble is a regular at the library. Not as regular as she used to be, though.

“I used to come every day,” joked Noble, who worked at the library checking out, cataloging and mending books for 31 years. “Then I retired.”

Now she comes only once or twice a month. But it’s frequent enough to know, she said, “the staff is doing a good job.”

Upstairs in the northeast corner of the library’s original Carnegie Building, Joe Travis skims the shelves of novels. A junior at McMinnville High School, he said he was killing time while waiting for his speech and debate partner to arrive so they could practice.

“Usually I come here to study. It’s quiet here,” Travis said. “And I like being surrounded by books.”

He might check something out, too, he said. Right now, he’s reading Ann Rice’s vampire novels. He said he’s seen the

movie of “The Vampire Lestat,” as well, and is impressed by how well the film adaptation matches the book.

In the nonfiction stacks, just south of fiction, Candace Wright stops a book cart and consults a list. Then she walks down a row, looking at numbers and titles.

“I’m pulling holds,” she said, explaining that she’s collecting books from the shelves that people have ordered. They will be filed under last names at the front desk, ready to be picked up.

Wright enjoys the volunteer job, which she has done once a week since 2005. “It gets me out of the house,” she said.

Otherwise, she said, she might stay up reading late into the night. She especially enjoys science fiction and fiction, including cozy mysteries.

“Every so often I find things (while pulling holds) that I want to read,” she said.

She can’t take the hold books away from those who ordered them, though. “I write them down so I can get them later,” she said.

**Downstairs in the Children’s Room,** Della Harris, 8, and her grandmother, Jeanette Bernards, search the shelves.

The second-grader said she visits the library after classes at St. James School as often as she can.

“I like reading books and seeing books I haven’t seen,” said Della, who carries a blue-ish purple, star-covered bag that looks like the night sky. She made the book bag herself.

Now she wants to fill it up. “I like easy reader books,” she said, thumbing through a shelf of “Fancy Nancy” volumes. She likes the “Wings of Fire” series, too, she said. She selects one, then another, then a couple more, sliding them into her bag.

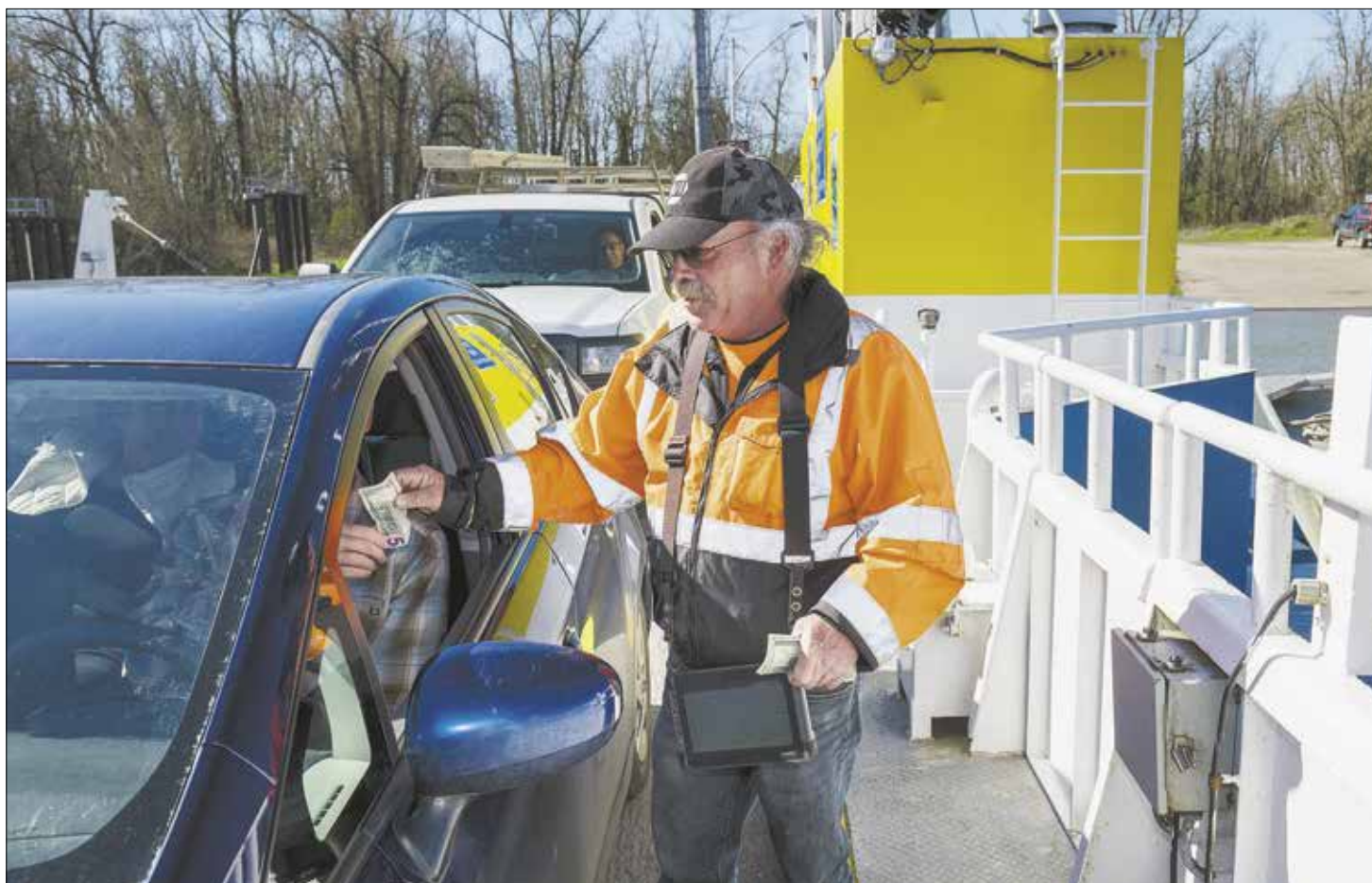
Her grandmother enjoys fiction and detective stories, Della said. “And you found that book about quilting,” the girl reminds Bernards.

Finished for today, they walk to the automatic checkout machine. Della lifts her stack of books onto the scanner, then uses her phone like a library card to check the books out.

In a week or two, she said, they will be back to thunk the books into the return slot and look for new ones.

# 4 to 5 p.m. on Wheatland Ferry

*Keys to crossing are balance, timing and enjoying the scenery*



Rusty Rae/News-Register

**Maintenance worker and toll collector Steve Everts collects fares for a trip. Pedestrians ride free, while cars pay \$3. Rates go as high as \$18 for single vehicles that use the whole ferry or weigh over 65,000 pounds. Single use requires cash (no credit cards) but operator Marion County Public Works offers toll cards for frequent users.**

By **SCOTT UNGER**  
Of the News-Register

At 4 p.m. there are only a few cars boarding the boat on its way to Marion County. By 4:15, each trip across the Willamette River for the next hour will be at capacity, or close to it. It's rush hour on the Wheatland Ferry.

"It's such a beautiful day to go for a ride," Alan Sovey says, straddling his bicycle as the ferry heads toward Willamette Mission State Park.

Alan and his wife Carol have been riding the ferry for decades. Bicycles cost \$1 now, but "it was all free" when the Soveys started using it, Alan says.

The Soveys built a house on the Yamhill County side of the river 40 years ago and frequently use the boat to get to the park for rides. Carol has a wooden bar across

"We're here for the public. We're not kicking you off; we're not trying to speed you along."

— Jack Brittan, ferry operator

her bike basket that her blue and gold macaw sometimes uses on the trips.

The Soveys are enthusiastic when talking about the ferry. Carol proudly recalls her victorious efforts in an anti-bridge cam-

paigned decades ago, when she stood on the riverbank holding signs in support of the ferry.

There's no such concern for the ferry on this sunny spring day. As long as the water stays below 15 feet, the ferry takes up to nine vehicles at a time across the river, seven days a week from 5:30 a.m. to 9:45 p.m.

**Ferry operator Jack Brittan** describes the river on this March day as "mid-high and going down," fine conditions for Oregon's oldest ferry crossing.

Brittan captains the Daniel Matheny V (each iteration is named for the man who established the ferry in the 1850s), but doesn't like to be called captain, as he sees

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his job as a team effort along with toll collector and maintenance worker Steve Everts.

"Me being a captain and a token gets me on the subway, I think," Brittan jokes.

Brittan uses the position of the boat ramp relative to a sign and ladder rung as signals for when to cut the 25 horsepower electric engine as it approaches the Yamhill County side. Every operator runs the ferry differently; Brittan says he's known for coming in a little quicker on the Marion County side.

While cables on either side of the boat help steer it, Brittan makes sure the "push-off wheels" are both on the ramp when landing. He is in charge of stopping and starting the engines on approach.

"It's more about timing with us," he says.

There's a slight delay between hitting the switch and the motor being "spooled up" (or revved). Wind and weight come into play when maneuvering the ferry and getting good at minor adjustments comes with experience, Brittan says.

"No matter what it looks like coming in, you know what it's going to do," he says of experienced operators. "You gotta have faith."

Positioning the cars is another part of the job. The ferry can hold up to nine vehicles, and three trucks could park end to end but that would only leave about a quarter inch, so it's not advised, Brittan says.

"A lot of times it's just quicker and easier to leave them and come back."

Heavier vehicles need to be centered and the crew carefully direct cars where to park to balance weight.

"It's kind of like boat Tetris," Brittan says.

From 4 to 5 p.m., all manner of cus-

Above: Wheatland Ferry neighbor Carol Sovey and her husband use the boat frequently while bike riding across the river at Willamette Mission State Park. Below: With the heaviest vehicle centered for weight distribution, the ferry approaches the Marion County side of the Willamette River. Rusty Rae/News-Register



tomers ride the ferry. Motorcycles, cars going home from work, dump trucks from nearby construction material company Knife River and people out for a cruise in a classic Trans Am. Most have a hand out the window clutching folded money before Everts comes collecting.

One couple who use the ferry to visit their son says their grandson is always heartbroken if it's closed.

**Each trip takes** about two minutes, but due to the current it's approximately 20

seconds quicker going from Yamhill to Marion County, according to Brittan.

He estimates between 60-70% of customers are regulars, fewer in the summertime, when exploring tourists find the crossing.

Brittan values the regulars because they know what to do, such as park in the center of the boat if it's a solo trip. He also enjoys tourists and the opportunity to slow the trip down during off hours so customers can take pictures.

"We're here for the public," he says. "We're not kicking you off; we're not trying to speed you along."

While it's a friendly and laid back atmosphere on the boat, it can get very busy if there's an accident on one of the nearby bridges.

"Accidents really affect us, that's why we're essential," Brittan says.

The ferry remains steadily busy as 5 p.m. approaches. Brittan's computer shows statistics in two-hour blocks; he reports the ferry moved 125 vehicles between 2:45 and 4:45.

During a trip, Brittan smiles and talks briefly with a woman in a pickup truck. He explains she rides daily but got a new job, so today is her last as a ferry regular.

"Out with the old, in with the new," he says as she drives off. Another nine cars are waiting.



Left: Coast Guard certified operator Jack Brittan watches cameras monitoring every corner of the ferry as he traverses the river.

Rusty Rae/News-Register

"Me being a captain and a token gets me on the subway, I think."

— Jack Brittan, ferry operator

# 5 to 6 p.m. at 'the local hang'

*Carlton Corners keeps busy with happy customers*



Ed Dewith, a regular at Carlton Corners, talks with friends he often sees there during Happy Hour. With him are Ron Telles, left, forced to use a glass instead of a beer mug because he's a "newcomer" who's been coming for about 18 months, and Sam Brandt, right. In the background are, from left, Billy and Erin Geringer, Brenda Burres and Janet Dewith. Rachel Thompson/News-Register

By STARLA POINTER  
Of the News-Register

Happy Hour is well underway when the clock strikes 5 p.m. Friday, March 22, at Carlton Corners, a restaurant popular with mostly locals, many of whom come there on a daily basis or even more often.

Often referred to as "the Corners," the eatery grew out of a gas station and small convenience store owned by Vince Larson. His son, Mike Larson, added pizza and burgers to the mix, then a growler station with a logo featuring both men as "The Growler Boys."

The logo festoons the brown, half-gallon bottles that were used to create the lights suspended over tables in the dining room.

"You're in Larson Country, Carlton,

"We get all the news right here at the Corners."

— Mike Larson

Oregon," says a sign on the wall that also features sports pictures, painted saw blades and a near-lifesize cardboard cutout of John Wayne.

The Duke stands in the bar area beside a bell painted green to resemble a pickle slice. The vintage ringer came from the original Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour in

Portland, said Mike Larson, who worked in the restaurant supply businesses for many years before opening the Corners.

Nearby, the "Billi Bobber Beer Board" lists the names of more than a dozen brews. Pottery beer mugs hang on the walls; each bears a name or nickname of a member of the not-very-exclusive "Mug Club."

Mike Larson's daughter, Heidi Davis, is the general manager of the Corners, which serves a full menu, from Early Bird breakfast to dinners and evening snacks.

Davis also runs the family's other restaurant, the Larson House in Yamhill, which she opened at the corner of

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Highway 47 and First Street in late 2020.

As she prepares to leave Carlton a little after 5 p.m. to check on what's happening in Yamhill, she said she loves both jobs. "We have lots of good employees," she says. "And lots of great customers."

Many people come to the Corners "daily or multiple times a day," she says. "Or they come to Carlton Corners for breakfast and they're at the Larson House for dinner."

Most are locals, she says, although some tourists or wine tasters stop by, too, when they "want to experience a local hang."

**Carlton Corners still pumps gas**, as well, and racks inside the store hold chips, candy and other snacks, along with a wide variety of beverages.

Katelyn Quesada works the counter this afternoon, ringing up payments for tanks of fuel or cans of Rockstar. A little after 5, Jason Dunn takes over as she finishes her shift.

Dunn answers the phone again and again, taking to-go orders. When the food is ready, he adds small containers of condiments to the clamshell containers before customers dash in to pick them up.

These days, much of the former convenience store space is devoted to an L-shaped cooking area, where comfort food is plated and prepared by kitchen manager Josh Lyon-Murphy and cooks Drew Canty and AJ Fox.

"Waitresses take orders into the system and it prints them for us," Canty says. "We get things going. Multiple people help."

The teamwork is fun, Canty says as he dresses a halibut sandwich with tartar sauce, coleslaw and lettuce. "I enjoy it, especially when it's very busy."

Lyon-Murphy agrees. "It's definitely fun and fast-paced. Good camaraderie," he says.

**Kitchen staff members** are trained to do every job, Lyon-Murphy says: grill, fry, prep, make pizza, etc. And all are trained to finish each dish with the Corners' signature garnish: a sprig of kale, a pickle and a pepperoncini. "To make things attractive," he says, stripping bright green, curly kale leaves from stems.

Waitress Maria Anaya carries thick white plates loaded with fries and sandwiches to an enclosed dining room built onto the station, to a tented dining area or, in warmer, drier weather, to several tables outdoors.

"Five to 6 is usually a rush," Anaya says. "A lot of regulars come in. It's nice; it makes the night go quicker."

She negotiates a narrow passage leading from the kitchen through the bar area and into the main seating area, where a March Madness game is playing on a big-screen TV.

At 5:30 p.m. Connor Dugan, watches the game as he dines with his sister, Paige, 11, and their mother, Jessica. Usually their dad, Dan, is with them, but he's missing out tonight.

"We come all the time for the food and the hometown feel," said Jessica Dugan, who ordered her favorite potato skins this time. Her son crunches bites of Heidi's Special loaded grilled cheese; her daughter bites into the KISS, "a really big burger."

"I'd recommend it," Paige says, when she can talk. "The food tastes amazing and it's usually fast. It's a great experience."

Her mother likes visiting with community members, too.

"We see a lot of the same people whenever we're here," she says.

**Throughout the hour**, Lyon-Murphy, the kitchen manager, bustles from one end of the kitchen to the other, keeping an eye on



Above: **Waitress Maria Anaya carries plates of food through the bar on her way to the dining room at Carlton Corners, which draws locals every day. Friday between 5 and 6 p.m., Happy Hour was continuing while the dinner crowd was starting to come in.**

Right: **AJ Fox seasons burgers on the grill Friday afternoon at Carlton Corners. Drew Canty, on right, and kitchen manager Josh Lyon-Murphy also stayed busy throughout the 5 to 6 p.m. hour filling orders for the dining rooms and takeout.**

Rachel Thompson/News-Register

things. He joined Carlton Corners recently after cooking at Multnomah Falls, golf courses, steak houses, fine dining and barbecue restaurants.

"It's really fun to walk into a place with a good reputation," he says. "I want to keep that alive."

He enjoys getting out into the dining room, although that doesn't happen as often as he'd like. "I like talking to people, making them happy," he says.

This afternoon, he is testing out a new version of onion rings. "R&D," he says as he slices an onion about 3/8th of an inch thick, separates the rings, then dips them into a batter made with dark beer.

Carlton Corners' rings have always been beer-battered, he says, but he's trying different varieties to add depth of flavor. An IPA, maybe, or something darker.

He submerges the battered circles in the deep fryer; they emerge golden brown and fragrant. He urges passersby to try a sample. Too tempting to resist.

**Lyon-Murphy plans to add nightly specials** to the menu — such as a burger with bleu cheese and caramelized onions during "Carlton Goes Blue" for Child Abuse Prevention Month — while keeping the most-loved dishes.

All the burgers are popular, he said, including those made with 100% beef and the "Crittter Burger," a patty with a mix of wild boar, Wagyu beef and elk.

Many customers order the Firehouse Burger, which includes spicy hot peppers, not only because it's tasty but also because a portion of the price goes to Carlton's volunteer fire department, he says.

Another best-seller is the "Comfort



Bowl," which features layers of mashed potatoes, fried chicken, corn, cheese and country gravy. "All the favorites," he says, and a perfect representation of the Corner's menu of "comfort food with a lot of variety, something for everyone."

He'll also work on menu changes with Davis, the general manager, who has a goal of adding more healthful, yet affordable options at her restaurants. Vegan cheese and a vegan egg patty are already on the menu, as are gluten-free bread and buns.

"I watched a documentary ('You Are What You Eat')," she explains. "Our future will be more plant-based. It's healthier and better for the environment."

She adds, "I don't disagree with meat, but it's nice to have options."

**As food sizzles** in the kitchen, in the bar regulars have a good time giving one another a bad time.

At 5:45, their laughter fills the small space as they gently haze Ron Telles and Mari Muehlhausen, who are relative newcomers to the regular Friday gatherings.

They have been coming consistently for "only" about a year and a half. As such, they don't yet have the prestigious mugs; in addition to enduring good-natured teasing, they must drink from regular

glasses.

"We initiate new members," says Ed Dewith, who's been coming to Carlton Corner for 10 or 11 years.

Telles bravely raises his unfashionable glass. "One day we'll be honored," he says.

"We'll have a party," Dewith promises.

Jeff Katz, on the other hand, has been a Mug Club member for many years. "It takes a lot of great beer to make great wine," says Katz, a winemaker at Ken Wright Cellars.

He met Mike Larson when he "rolled into town" in 2011, and became an early member of the Mug Club. Now, after moving up when a couple other members left the area, he has the No. 1 mug.

"Great people here," he says.

He stops by briefly Friday to banter with friends. He'll be back another day for dinner with his 5-year-old. "She loves the chicken tenders and the pickles," he says.

Mike Larson waves goodbye, saying he'll be expecting Katz and his family, along with all the other people he sees whenever he drops by his restaurant.

"Regulars come here just about every day," he said.

Larson likes listening to them talk about what they are doing and what's happening in Carlton. "We get all the news right here at the Corners," he said.

# Backstage from 6 to 7 p.m.

*Banter, bling prepare cast as 'Romeo and Juliet' showtime approaches at Gallery*



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

**"Romeo and Juliet" cast members prepare for a 7:30 p.m. curtain time backstage at Gallery Theater. Actors Kylee Longaker, left, Olivia Caudell and Adrian Martin share a laugh while Rebecca Suzanne helps Kaelyn Nichols with her costume, and Wade Moran applies makeup.**

By **KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**  
Of the News-Register

**T**wo households, both alike in dignity, in fair Verona, where we lay our scene ..."

So begins "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare, which is the play you can see — in a way — on stage at Gallery Theater.

For the 6 to 7 p.m. hour of the "24 Hours" series, the News-Register observed what happens backstage on the night of a show. In this case, "Romeo and Juliet: Choose Your Own Ending."

It's March 29 and director John Hamilton arrives right at 6 p.m., as had his stage manager Lily Jones and lights/sound guy Ben Weisz, and other volunteers. One of Hamilton's first tasks is to check props, those on stage and in the prop room.

**"It's both exciting and terrifying all at once."**

— **Soren Smithrud, Romeo**

Well ahead of the official "door opening," people are gathering in the lobby.

"I like opening it early. It's making that welcoming feeling," house volunteer Ginny Hinoveanu says.

Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 5 and 6, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7, at Gallery Theater, 210

N.E. Ford St., McMinnville. This is closing weekend. For tickets or more information, visit [gallerytheater.org](http://gallerytheater.org).

Bella Eberle (Juliet) arrives at the front door, let in by Hinoveanu. She sets out concessions including custom-made cookies from Modern Cookie, the treats made unique to each show: Romeo Red Velvet and Capulet Chocolate Chip, for example. Also for sale are "poison jelly beans" and small apothecary vials with a tiny rose inside, two romantic and tragic plot elements.

By 6:45, Tybalt and Lord Capulet are already jousting.

"He bruised my arm," says Stan Smith (Lord Capulet) of Ben Lapp (Tybalt). "It doesn't call for that in the script,

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necessarily — but he plays Tybalt.” (Tybalt is “hotheaded and violent” according to one Shakespeare character guide.)

Lapp adds, “Tybalt is the troublemaker. I am here to avenge the blows they strike against the Capulet name.” At that, he holds up the six-inch “T” amulet hanging around his neck.

“And this is all my bling.”

Backstage banter and other unofficial, and official, tasks and routines unfold with Gallery’s “R and J” production just as they do with any theater production, though the play is unlike just about any other production: in Ann Fraistat and Shawn Fraistat’s take on the Shakespeare classic, the cast must prepare for eight separate plot changes and endings. No spoilers here, except to say that Tybalt won’t necessarily die of a stab wound. The character Death figures in most of the variations, in varying ways.

At about 6:15, Death, played by Kaelyn Nichols, is backstage, reviewing the script with assistant stage manager Rebecca Suzanne to make sure she had all the cues in place.

“I don’t know the show all that well. I also don’t have any lines, which is good,” Nichols says. Daughter of Tonya Nichols (props manager with Kristen Winters), Kaelyn is standing in for the night for Bec Hasel, who was unable to perform.

Meanwhile, there is makeup to apply and costumes to put on.

At around 6:30, Smith does as many actors like to do: spends a few minutes on an empty stage before the audience comes in, getting a feel for the space and getting into Lord Capulet mode. Juliet’s father in this case is wearing Converse All-Stars. He notes that Juliet will wear a denim jacket and Romeo distressed jeans in at least one scene. “To depart from traditional Shakespeare is the nature of this particular show, but also have all the lovely Renaissance costumes,” Smith says.

Smith says the play “makes fun of itself,” and describes his role as “the irascible grumpy guy.”

Smith explains of this irreverent version, “and the audience gets to choose, at points in the play, one of two ways to go. What they choose puts you on a different path. It keeps you guessing.”

By 6:40, Weisz and Jones are seated in the auditorium, talking. Asked if it was just chat, or going over last-minute details, Weisz says, “We’re ready. We have to get our jobs done really early before everyone gets here.”

Jones adds, “It’s better to be sitting around for like 30 minutes now rather than rushing at the last minute.”

**Romeo is played** by Gallery veteran Soren Smithrud (who shaved his beard to play the 16-year-old lover boy).

Smithrud says, “Being Romeo is a very hard part in this role. It’s both exciting and terrifying all at once. You’re leading not only the audience but the cast through the whole story. It’s definitely a struggle.”

Says Eberle, as Juliet, “It’s one of those iconic plays, a tragedy, and now we have a comedic twist on that tragedy. So getting those vulnerable parts of the character but also the comedic parts and adding some comedy into the naiveté of all these teenage roles.”

One clue to the uniqueness and unpredictability can be found in the “Who’s Who? A Helpful Guide” in the program. It tells us what we already know about the original story, that the title characters both die, as do Tybalt and Mercutio. The guide also reminds us that Rosaline “never appears on stage in the original script,” but she gets her chance at love in the Fraistat vision of things; Olivia Caudell, in her Gallery debut, gets to play her this time around. Sarah Wright, as Mercutio, and Danielle Ross, as Count Paris, are also new to Gallery.

Kylee Longaker plays Benvolio, Wade

“To depart from traditional Shakespeare is the nature of this particular show, but also have all the lovely Renaissance costumes.”

— Stan Smith, Lord Capulet



“We’re ready. We have to get our jobs done really early before everyone gets here.”

— Ben Weisz, sound and lights operator. At left, Weisz checks the cues before showtime. Behind him is director John Hamilton.



As curtain approaches, cast and crew gather backstage for bonding and banter. From left are Danielle Ross, Rebecca Suzanne, Bella Eberle, Olivia Caudell, Sara Martin and Kylee Longaker, framed by the fine hats worn by Soren Smithrud, right, and Stan Smith.

Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Moran is Friar/Nurse, and Adrian Martin (in the most elaborate costume, with ukulele) plays The Bard.

The costumes in this show are truly part of the fun, be it the gowns, vests, hats or jewelry.

Asked if there are cast debates over best hats — The Bard, Romeo or Lord Capulet — Moran insists “definitely Lord Capulet!”

By 6:55, the cast is gathered in a circle, fully involved in vocal warm-ups, movement and general joking around. They’re in a circle on what is normally Gallery’s main stage, now standing in as backstage, prop area and “green room,” where actors congregate and wait for their entrances. When the main stage is used for performing, the smaller arena theater becomes green room. Moran and Lapp said they like the twist of being able to relax and prepare in the larger space.

At 7 p.m., Hamilton circles the cast prior to “places.” This is the actors’ chance to make eye contact and banter with one another before curtain, and they recite a ribald tongue-twister that the saucy Shakespeare himself would have approved. Hands to center, the cast is all present and ready, loudly chanting the tongue twister three times.

Will Rosaline find true love? With whom? Will Tybalt shake hands with Mercutio? They, and the audience, are about to find out.



Above: Kaelyn Nichols, right, goes over the script to prepare for her fill-in role as Death, with assistant stage manager Rebecca Suzanne.

Left: Present and accounted for: Ben Lapp signs in on the cast board.

Rachel Thompson News-Register



# 7 to 8 p.m. at the grange

*Dancing the hour away is a monthly tradition at McMinnville hall*



Rusty Rae/News-Register

**Round dance couples — including Deena and Don Myatt, center, Jennie and Nate Ramer, front left, and Kevin Steward and Carol Roos, front right — circle the floor at the McMinnville Grange Hall, where the Braids and Braves Square Dance Club hosts events on the third Saturday of each month. Round dances alternate with square dances, which involve four couples moving in a square formation.**

**By STARLA POINTER**  
*Of the News-Register*

The McMinnville Grange Hall was nearly empty at 6:45 p.m. on Saturday, April 20. It seems to be just a big room with wooden floors, benches along each wall and a stage at the east end.

But by 6:59, the space is alive with square dance enthusiasts in colorful clothes, flaring skirts and fancy blouses, bolo ties and cowboy hats. They stand by twos or threes, catching up.

On the dot of 7, the music begins, and dancers swirl and swagger onto the floor to work up a sweat.

“Let’s get started with rounds,” says Jennie Ramer, president of the Braids and Braves Square Dance Club, which hosts dances on the third Saturday of each month

“Pitch double  
to a butterfly;  
change sides and  
do it again.”

— Sandra Pinion, cuer

in the grange hall.

“Let’s have fun,” she says. “Let’s dance.”

Round dance cuer Sandra Pinion picks up the mic for the first dance, in which seven couples waltz and spin as they walk in a big circle, one after another, around the floor.

“Together, closed,” she says, her cues

telling each pair to walk close together to the beat. “Open box, strut four, stop...” and on it goes as they move round and round.

“Twirl two, walk two, left turn and box,” the cuer continues, bouncing as she sings out the directions. “Back to back, circle away, two twos, change sides and do it again...”

“Rock the boat, pitch double, scissors through, scoot ... pitch double to a butterfly; change sides and do it again.”

**Pinion grew up** in McMinnville, graduating from Mac High in 2011. She was 16 when her mother “dragged me to a square dance,” she said, although her mother, avid dancer Barbara Pinion, disputes the

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## '24 Hours

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“dragged” part, preferring “invited.”

No matter how willing Sandra was to attend, once she arrived, she thought it was “pretty cool.” She soon found herself taking both square and round dance lessons.

About a year later, she started learning to cue. “It takes practice,” said Pinion, who now cues and teaches for several clubs in the Willamette Valley. “You have to know the rhythm and the beat.”

Back when she was taking Braids and Braves lessons, Pinion often danced with another teen, Paul Myatt, and is thrilled to see her old partner this Saturday. They square dance energetically when she’s not cuing rounds. The flounced skirt of her green dress twirls with each do-si-do.

“I enjoy seeing all the friends I’ve made over the years,” she says.

While she’s on stage or on the dance floor, Barbara Pinion watches proudly. She no longer dances, as she did for more than 50 years, but still enjoys listening to the music and watching the constant motion.

She also has an important job tonight: Holding on to the next generation of Pinion square dancers, 15-month-old Henry. A square dance fan since infancy, he’s rarin’ to go once the music starts, and would happily scoot onto the dance floor if given half a chance.

**Henry is the** youngest person in the hall tonight, but the youngest trained square dancer isn’t much older: Emma Ellenwood is 10 — oh, make that 10 ½ — and she wears a puffy skirt in a butterfly print, butterfly necklace and lilac cowboy hat over long hair tied into braids.

Here with her grandparents, Jennie and Nate Ramer, Emma is on the floor for almost every dance. “It’s hilarious,” she said. “A lot of time people like to squat so they’re my height when they dance with me.”

Not true of her grandfather, though. When they partner up, he stands tall, Emma’s hat coming up to his chest. They promenade in perfect rhythm.

Emma often joins her grandparents for the monthly dances, which happen September through May.

Outside the hall, located on Old Sheridan Road at the south edge of McMinnville, the night is quiet. But inside, there’s a riot of color and sound — music and laughter and the rhythmic tapping of feet.

Sometimes attendance is sparse, “just enough for one square,” Ramer said. Other times the hall is crowded — 126 people turned out in March for a dance that doubled as a memorial to longtime dancer and musician Leonard Snodgrass.

In general, she said, square dance “clubs are dwindling” and the average age of dancers is increasing. McMinnville is lucky to have Braids and Braves, which was celebrating its 83rd birthday April 20, she said. Clubs also are going strong in Lebanon, Silverton, Salem and the Portland area.

The McMinnville club welcomes dancers from other places and new members, or people who think they might like to join, as well.

Braids and Braves offers lessons each fall; dancers are eager to teach the movements and patterns to new members and help them put moves together as the caller sings the moves out to the beat of the music. It takes a lot of practice to keep up the quick pace.

**Tonight, more than 30** people have come to the hall. Some, like Grandma Pinion and Henry, sit on the sidelines and observe. Others take breaks to rest.

Most join the dancing, and by 7:30 there are three squares in progress on the floor, filling the room with a kaleidoscope of color.

It takes four couples to make one square — or eight people, anyway. Many women, such as Trena Worthington, know the men’s part and move over to the left, dancing with another woman if not enough



Rusty Rae/News-Register  
**Sandra Pinion’s square dancing dress flares as she twirls quickly during a move with Paul Myatt, with whom she partnered while taking lessons years ago. She was thrilled to see Paul arrive Saturday night, so she’d have someone to dance with during breaks from cuing round dances. Other couples visible in the square are Judy Russell and Bruce Lowther, left, and Don and Deena Myatt, right, who are Paul’s parents.**

males are available.

Worthington first tried square dancing in sixth grade, going to lessons with her sister. After she married, she asked her husband to take lessons, too. “It’s been 40 years now” that they’ve danced together, she said.

**KC Curtis of Gresham** is calling the squares tonight. He claims to be the only caller in the world who plays his harmonica while calling.

A guitarist and singer, he also offers a wider range of music than some callers, programming “70s rock-n-roll as well as more traditional folk and country music.

“Bob Seger, Jackson Browne, even the Rolling Stones,” he said, referring to himself as “a singer who learned to call.”

He said he disliked country before he and his wife, Linda, learned to square dance at their church 30 years ago. But as he grew to love the people he met at the dances, he said, and he started to like their tunes, as well.

He wants the dancer to enjoy themselves.

“You won’t find a nicer group of people,” he said. “They’re just awesome. They help you forget your troubles.”

**On stage, Curtis** encourages dancers to form a square. “Look at the corner, say ‘be there for me,’ he tells the dancers. “Now look at your partner and do the same.”

He started a recorded song with a heavy 4/4 beat.

“You know this one,” he said, and sings a line from a parody version of a Queen hit, “And another one’s on, and another one’s on, another one rides the bus.”

Then he switches to actual lyrics, interspersing the words of “Another One Bites the Dust” with directions to the dancers. “Square two, three, four, hands around the ring,” he calls. “Slide through, pass through, pass to the middle and back again.”

The four couples translate his words into movement, dancing with their partners, separating, dancing with other partners then returning home.

“Boy run around the girl,” Curtis calls, sending the men in a tight circle around their women. “Pass through, trade by, bend your lines up to the middle and back again.



Rusty Rae/News-Register  
**KC Curtis sings out calls that direct square dancers how to move — telling them how to dance with their partners and the three other couples who make up their formation. Curtis was a musician before he learned to square dance 30 years ago, and now he mixes 1970s rock with square dance calls.**

“Centers run around the square, boys face, grand square ... When you find your partner, take her hand and bring her home again...”

As each song ends, dancers gulp breaths of air, then get into formation again — one square, two, three. Curtis chooses another song, and begins all over.

“Anybody like Eddie Money?” Curtis asks, then begins singing and calling to “Two Tickets to Paradise.” He makes it sound as if the hit was written with square dancing in mind.

“Promenade halfway round, sides square through,” he sings. “We’ve waited so long, waited so long.”

“Slide through, square through, swing and promenade ... I’ve got two tickets to paradise, pack your bags and we’ll leave tonight...”

After a round dance, a couple more squares and a brief rest break, at 7:57, caller KC calls the squares together again.

This time, before he starts the patter, he sings out “Happy Birthday, Braids and Braves.” Then the dancing resumes.

### FOUR MONTHS — OR EIGHT HOURS — INTO OUR SERIES

The series began at lunch and we’re now well past dinner.

What happens during the evening and night are next with '24 Hours, News-Register’s yearlong series of 24 topics.

This local chronicle of life, one-hour-at-a-time, is one-third complete. The stories began at noon at Brookdale McMinnville City Center assisted living, and continued at 1 p.m. at the McMinnville Aquatic Center, 2 p.m. at Carlton Elementary School, 3 p.m. at the McMinnville Library, 4 p.m. at Wheatland Ferry, 5 p.m. at Carlton Corners, 6 p.m. backstage at Gallery Theater, and this week, 7 p.m., visits McMinnville Grange. The next installment is planned for May 15.

Archived '24 Hours articles are available at [newsregister.com](http://newsregister.com).

# 8 to 9 p.m. at the drive-in

*'Bottomless popcorn' helps fuel family-friendly movie tradition in Newberg*



Rusty Rae/News-Register

Dusk falls on the 99W Drive-In, which marked its 70th anniversary in 2023. Posts from the old speaker system still delineate parking, but audio comes through a radio FM channel that plays on car radios.

By **KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**  
Of the News-Register

First of all, the weather was perfect. At 8 p.m. Saturday, May 11, temperatures were in the low-70s and cars were lined up to see some primate action.

The show at 99W Drive-in in Newberg, started a little after 9 p.m., after a brief second rush of cars. Owner Brian Francis sold tickets before heading upstairs to start the 2024 “Kingdom of the Planet Apes,” the first of two features.

“We come whenever we can, especially when the weather’s nice like this,” said Amelia Wright of Yamhill, as she waited with her husband, Payton, in the lengthy snack bar line to buy ice cream and other treats.

“We love coming. We’re locals, so we

“Bring the grandkids. It’s what it’s all about. All-American, man.”

— **Andy Michel, Troutdale**

come whenever we have the time,” Payton said.

Amelia was poised with her light saber, ready for the late show, “Star Wars: The Phantom Menace.” (Sneak preview for Friday’s “Memory Lane” in the Friday, May 17 print edition: local folks flocked to “Phantom Menace” at its 1999 debut.)

Some folks taking in the double feature, while also not new to the experience, were at 99W for the first time.

“We grew up on drive-in movies, but it’s been 10-15 years, and we hope they stay around a long time,” said Keli Ulery as she walked her dog, Joxer, while her husband, James, hit the snack bar. Ulery grew up in Salem but this was their first time at the 99W.

“We just moved back and moved to Lafayette and we were so excited to see that there is still a drive-in,” Ulery said.

The Jacobsen family of West Linn prepped for the night by watching three “Planet of the Apes” movies on the Disney Channel.

“I wanted to take the kids,” said

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Right: **Ozzie and Megan Osborne of Tigard prepare to enjoy the movies, with the help of portable speakers on the hood.**

Below right: **Owner Brian Francis greets drive-in customers from the one-person booth at the entrance off Highway 99W. Signs at entry advise “No free in and out” and “No BBQ’s or Fireworks.” Behind them is the 1953-built snack bar and projection building for 99W Drive-In.**

Bottom: **Andy Michel prepares his popcorn in the snack bar, which also serves as a mini-museum, featuring vintage lobby posters (in background) and other memorabilia.**

Rusty Rae/News-Register

## '24 Hours

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Matthew Jacobsen of West Linn, with his son, Lam, and daughter, Alyssa. “It’s their first time and they’ve never been to a drive-in. There’s no drive-ins in Vietnam,” where the family had previously lived.

Ozzie and Megan Osborne of Tigard had their second date at a drive-in. “I grew up with a kid, and going to the drive-in was the biggest thing ever,” Ozzie said. “It always struck with me and when we moved out here I was surprised to see this place running.” They were set up with blankets and lawn chairs in front of their vehicle, wireless speakers on the hood of their vehicle.

Audio these days (really, for the past generation) is an FM radio signal, replacing the old speakers connected by a cord that you mounted in your window, meaning the person in the driver seat had the sound blaring in their left ear. Ozzie noted that “a lot of people adapt them and turn them into Bluetooth speakers.”

Ashton Livingston, in his second-year as manager, said, “I really like the communities we kind of build here,” he said. Some folks make a point of attending the “Thursday night terror” double-features, scheduled to return June 6. “You get a lot of really cool regulars here who recognize you,” Livingston said.

The drive-in as a family activity was a common theme among those attending Saturday.

“Bring the grandkids, it’s what it’s all about. All-American, man,” said Andy Michel of Troutdale as he dressed his tub of popcorn at the condiment table

Laramie Lumley of Sherwood said, “we love the drive-in,” as he and his daughter, Lexy, came out of the snack bar balancing drinks, nachos and popcorn.

Lexy said, “It’s old-school, it’s fun.”

Her brother, Lennox and mom, Natalie, were also along. “We try to come at least a couple of times a year. We couldn’t wait, it’s our first time this season,” Laramie said. “It’s family-oriented, everything is awesome, the whole feeling.”



Popcorn is always the main feature at the movies, and in the serpentine snack bar line at 99W, it’s the first thing you come across — after the large poster for “Drive-In,” 1976 — “Nothing but action at the drive-in”.

“Can I get a bottomless popcorn?” more than one customer asks Livingston in the 8:30-to-9 p.m. zone. Livingston picks up a tub with distinct blue stripes.

“This is \$12. Is that OK?”

Livingston said five refills is the record for the bottomless. “That’s, like, a huge group of people kept ordering it.”

**The lobby is** a mini-museum of local theater history, including the July 1953 newspaper clipping of the opening of the 99W. There are horror film placards, drink cups, monster masks, 3-D glasses, and signage dating to the 1950s and 1960s. Special attention goes to the full-size, glass-encased posters for classics “Creature From the Black Lagoon” and “Attack of the 50-Foot Woman,” next to a lurid “Battle for the Planet of the Apes” poster from 1973: “The final chapter in the incredible Apes saga. The most suspenseful showdown ever filmed as two civilizations battle for the right to inherit what’s left of the earth.” It is no spoiler to state that the 51-year-old tagline summarizes a question posed by the 2024 “Kingdom” movie.

Smaller posters, the size of modern rack cards, listed every movie showing for a week: Sixty years ago in early June the films ranged from “Twilight of the Gods” and “Blood of the Vampire” to “The Iron Petticoat” and “Gypsy Colt”. The cards are for 99W, Cameo in Newberg, and the Francis (later Mack) and the old Corral Drive-In in McMinnville.

June 20, 1964, at 99W was “Surprise Night” and June 21, “Dusk to Dawn Teenage Jamboree,” promising “5 First-

## Australian horror flicks screened June 1 at 99W

The News-Register staff

Fans of Oz-ploitation — horror and apocalyptic fare set in Australia — might want to attend the June 1 screening of “Dead End Drive-In” and “Turkey Shoot,” 1990s flicks by Australian director Brian Trenchand-Smith, who will be present.

The event at 99W Drive-In in Newberg is hosted by Wyrd War, a Portland gallery and event producer. Doors open at 6 p.m., show at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$55 per carload, tickets available at [treetix.com/49ky-/wyrdwar](https://www.treetix.com/49ky-/wyrdwar). Get there via the drive-in’s website, [99w.com/events.php](https://www.99w.com/events.php).

The event also celebrates Trenchand-Smith’s birthday, and he will meet guests while birthday cake is served. The event is all-ages but “parental guidance is strongly encouraged,” according to TreeTix. Theater manager Ashton Livingston said, “we are encouraging people to literally shove your car as full as you legally can and come in for this.” Also, TreeTix suggests “post-apocalyptic punk attire encouraged.”

Run Feature Pictures: Shake, Rattle ‘n’ Rock All Night”

At 9 p.m. the snack bar and advisory slides are the first thing to appear on the screen (keep headlights off when leaving, don’t sit on the ground in front of your car, no cellphone or other recording of the film on screen.) And then, a few retro ads and snack bar promos out of the 1950s showing snack bar personnel in nurses’ outfits and a chipper talking hot dog who smiles as he slathers himself with mustard and relish before climbing into a bun and sacrificing himself to a smiling boy

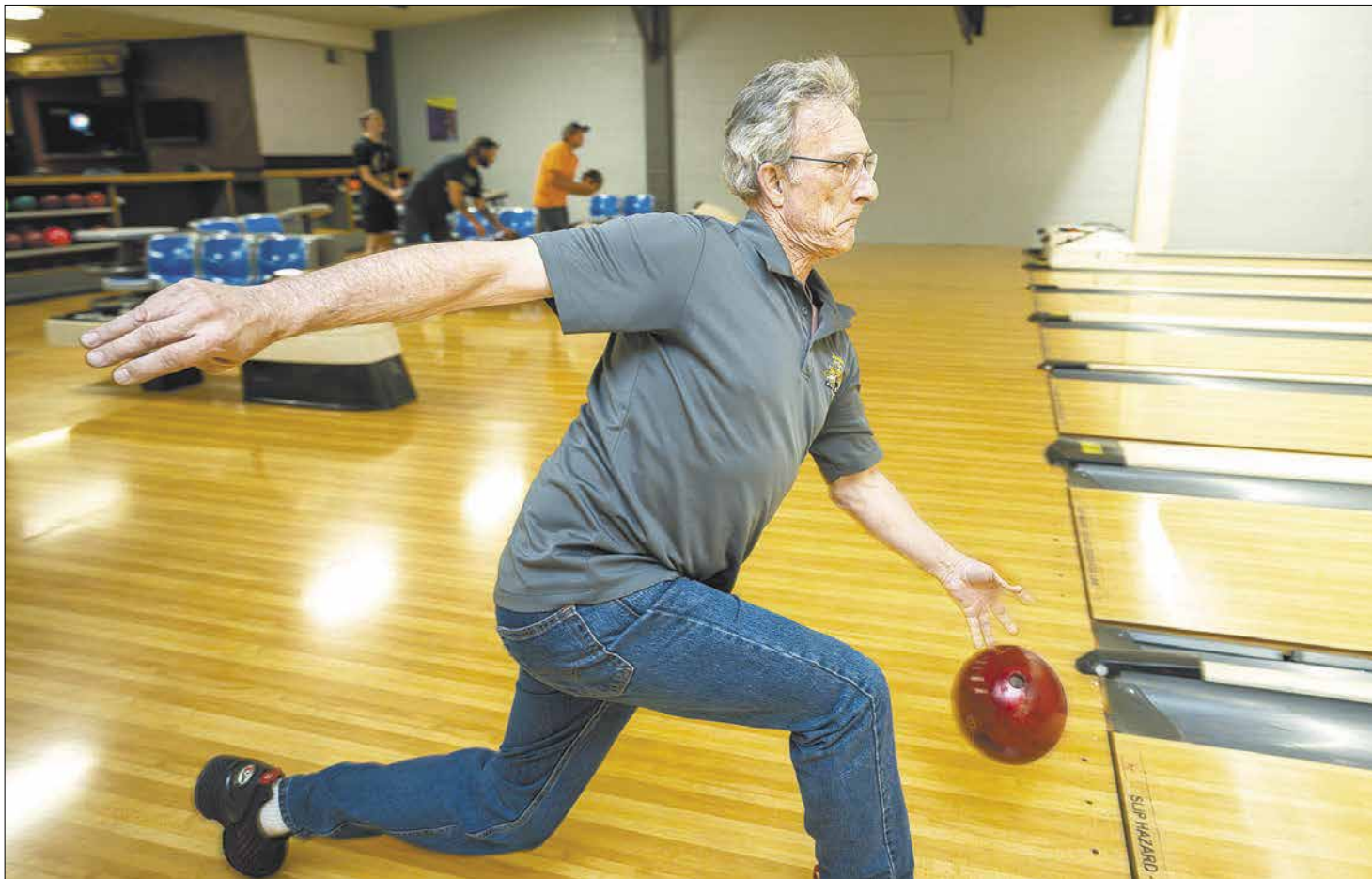
Prior to the one “Coming Attractions” trailer, the National Anthem plays, climaxing in a cartoon of a Mercury-era space capsule blasting toward the moon to the lines “O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

At 9:05, the movie begins and on this warm night you almost don’t need the radio on in your vehicle to hear the show, as soundtrack resounds from all 150 cars.



# Bowling from 9 to 10 p.m.

*Traditional form of fun is right up some folks' alley*



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Left-hander Jim Shimota uses his right arm for balance as he rolls a ball down the lane about 9:30 p.m. on a Tuesday. Shimota bowls at Walnut City Lanes several times a week, including during league play.

By STARLA POINTER  
Of the News-Register

At 9 p.m. on a Tuesday, Jim Shimota is just finishing up a 90-minute practice session at Walnut City Lanes in McMinnville. Before hauling two carts full of equipment, including half a dozen of his favorite balls (he owns 50), out to the car, he stops to talk about his favorite pastime.

"Bowling is in my blood," he said.

Shimota bowled as a youth, but didn't really catch the fever until he was an adult recovering from a dire bout with cancer.

To recover his strength, he started bowling. Now he bowls about four times a week at Walnut City and other alleys in the

"Bowling is in  
my blood."

— Jim Shimota

Willamette Valley,

His hometown alley is his favorite, he said, because Jerry Rettke and his family, who own Walnut City, maintain it well and encourage a great atmosphere.

Shimota recently returned from a national event in Las Vegas. "Going to nationals doesn't require you to be good," he joked.

He is good, though, with a 200 average;

he said he bows to Jerry Rettke, whose bowling score he admires and whose friendship he treasures.

"I love what the Rettkes do for us" by keeping Walnut City Lanes going, he said.

**Tonight, Rettke runs** the front desk during the last hour of the day at the bowling alley, answering questions, checking in shoes customers had rented and doing other end-of-day tasks.

His wife, Sharri, vacuums; his youngest son, Aaron, talks to customers and runs the alley's restaurant and bar; double-cousin Larry Rettke, the mechanic who maintains

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# '24 Hours

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the machinery, makes a final check. The pro shop is still open, offering a dazzling display of new balls in intriguing colors and swirls. If someone buys a ball tonight, Rettke will drill the holes to fit the new owner's fingers and thumb. He's probably drilled 10,000, he says. Rettke grew up with bowling. His mother bought her first alley in Salem in 1961, and Jerry not only worked there, but also perfected his game. Now he bowls in one league a week, often scoring a perfect 300 game and a strong 800 for a trio of games. When he was 24, in 1977, he and his wife bought the McMinnville alley. They lived in an adjacent house for 25 years before moving to their current place in Hebo.

They couple had met at a bowling center in Eugene. After they married, Sharri joined a league, as well as helping in the business.

"I've made a lot of really good friends here," she says. Back in the 1970s, Walnut City Lanes was one of five bowling centers in the extended Rettke family. Now it's the only one left.

Rettke is not pleased, but not surprised, either, that many similar businesses have closed in recent years. Bowling alleys are expensive real estate, he said, with their sprawling buildings and large parking lots. Even if you own the property, annual property taxes are costly, he said; so is insurance and upkeep.

Cost factors have led to numerous places going out of business, including 15 of 17 that once operated in Portland. "A lot of other things can make you more money," Rettke said.

But he and his family love running the bowling alley. It's a lifestyle for them.

Still, in recent years, they have been more willing to shut down for a week or two at a time to take vacation.

They will be taking a break through June 10, in fact. Walnut City Lanes will reopen at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 11, and leagues will be in full swing for the summer.

"Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays we're usually really full," Rettke says. "Fridays are more open, with a lot of families, and people love 'Cosmic Bowling' on Saturdays."

**This Tuesday, May 21,** is a lull between the spring and summer leagues. So only a handful of people are still bowling by 9:15 p.m.

A trio of bowlers uses two of the 24 lanes in the building, located at 1800 S.W. East St. in McMinnville, near the intersection where South Baker splits into 99W and Highway 18.

Cyrus VanArsdale and Jon Turner usually bowl in a league, but tonight they're just practicing. They're also there to nurture enthusiasm for the sport in Jeremy Turner, who started bowling just three weeks earlier.

Jeremy Turner already is excited about bowling. "Hitting a strike is really satisfying," he said, relishing the times he's made all 10 pins fall at once.

His brother and friend nod appreciatively. They're both fairly new to bowling as well, having started a year ago, and they both love it.

"Bowling gives us something to do," said VanArsdale, who has a 165 point average.

"Cyrus told me how fun it was. He got me hooked," Jon Turner said.

Now they're teaming up to work on Jeremy. "They're trying to get me to get a ball," he says as they stopped in the pro shop on the way out.

They pause to admire a novelty item on the counter, as well: a cribbage board made by Walnut City regular Tad Dickey as a gift for a member of the Rettke family.

Dickey cut the pin in half vertically, exposing the nine layers of lamination and the hard maple used inside. He created an acrylic stand, so the pin could lay down with the wood surface exposed, and drilled a series of holes for counting the cribbage score.

The core is a view bowlers usually don't see, no matter how hard their ball smashes into the pins.

**By 9:30 p.m.,** Shimota has retied his bowling shoes — "special soles so I can slide," he points out — and selected a favor-



Left: **At 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21,** Walnut City Lanes enters the final hour of business. Usually Tuesday nights are busy with league bowling, but the next leagues won't start until June, following owners Jerry and Sharri Rettke's vacation. Normal hours are noon to 10 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 to 10 p.m. Wednesdays, 2 to 10:30 p.m. Fridays, and 1 to 10:30 p.m. Saturdays.

Below: **From left, David Stephens, Dominic Thompson and TJ Lake, a McMinnville native,** talk to Walnut City Lanes owner Jerry Rettke about a raffle being held for a multicolored bowling ball, sure to be a collector's item, Rettke told the Linfield University students. They were among the final bowlers of the night on May 21.

Rachel Thompson/News-Register



"I like the environment; everyone's nice; I like the aesthetic and the food, too." — TJ Lake

ite ball to demonstrate his technique for the News-Register photographer.

He stands at the end of the alley, sighting in on the pins, then swings his arm, releases the ball and follows through with his arm motion. The ball curves toward the pins as if directed by a magnet, colliding with a whack and sending eight of the 10 flying.

Shimota shakes his head as the pin setting machine clears away the fallen pins. He picks up his 15-pound ball, sights, swings and rolls — and the other two pins fly as he picks up a spare.

Satisfied, he steps sideways to the next lane and bowls again. This time, all 10 pins fall with a satisfying crash. A strike.

He credits his good scores partly to his bowling gear.

"With your own equipment, you become a better bowler," Shimota said. His collection includes balls in red, blue, green and other colors; a least one is scented, its flowery smell a product of special resin used by the Storm company.

Like most serious bowlers, he's careful about the ball he chooses. "The core makes a difference," as does the placement of the holes, he says.

"It's science," he explains, noting that using a different ball or one with differently placed holes changes the way it rolls toward the pins. So does the way the bowler releases it.

A traditional bowler places two fingers of his or her dominant hand — the left, in Shimota's case — into two side-by-side holes drilled into the ball. He puts his thumb into the other hole, which is slightly larger and behind the other two, and uses one hand and arm to send the ball down the lane.

A recent trend, though, is for bowlers to use just two fingers, but both hands and arms, to support the ball before



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

**Sharri Rettke, who owns the bowling alley with her husband, Jerry Rettke, cleans tables at the end of another day. The extended Rettke family has been in the bowling alley business for decades.**

releasing it, Shimota said. Even some professionals use the two-handed method, he said.

In addition to the way the bowler holds and releases the ball, Shimota says, the game is affected by the lane itself. The lanes, or alleys, change slightly and constantly due to humidity and temperatures, he says, especially in a state with weather like Oregon.

Shimota theorizes that's why the Pacific Northwest produces many outstanding bowlers. "It makes us more adaptable," he says. "We're prepared."

Even so, bowling is always challenging, fun and rewarding — especially when the pins fall.

A nationally certified bowling coach, Shimota does his part to encourage young people to bowl. "It instills values and gets kids off the computer, doing things with others," he says.

**As Shimota puts** away his gear for the second time, only three people are still bowling.

Linfield University freshmen TJ Lake, David Stephens and Dominic Thompson finish up and bring their rental shoes to the counter as the clock ticks toward 10.

For Stephens, this was a second visit to Walnut City Lanes; Thompson also was new to the alley. "We'll be back, though," Thompson says.

Lake, a McMinnville High School graduate, has been coming to the local bowling alley for ages.

"I haven't found any place better," he says. "I like the environment; everyone's nice; I like the aesthetic and the food, too."

He and his friends react with amazement when they're told that Linfield once offered bowling at Walnut City as one of its options for a P.E. credit. They would definitely sign up for that, they say.

Lake jokes that he could use some instruction — and more time at the lanes. "Heavens no, I'm not good yet," he says. "But I'm getting better."

# Karaoke from 10 to 11 p.m.

*You sing, I sing, we all sing at Blind Pig in Carlton*



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

**Stuart Murphy entertains the crowd, including a table full of his buddies behind him, with his rendition of “I’m Gonna Be (500 Miles)” during Friday’s karaoke night at Blind Pig in Carlton. Murphy said he enjoys karaoke because it allows him to be himself and have fun.**

**By STARLA POINTER**  
*Of the News-Register*

**A**t 10 p.m., karaoke night is already in full voice at Blind Pig, a restaurant and bar in Carlton.

Customers line the narrow space, eating burgers, fries and other dishes turned out by Renegade chefs Cody Drew and Nicolas Bell and their crew. Glasses of brew and other drinks crowd the tables, reflecting the colorful disco lights that flash in time with the music.

And right up front, Lauren Fanger is performing the Loretta Lynn classic, “Coal Miner’s Daughter.” “We were poor but we had love, that’s the one thing that Daddy made sure of ...,” she sings.

“Fantastic! Well done!” calls Kai Pickett, the DJ — well, KJ, or karaoke jockey.

“Just go into it knowing you’ll have fun.”

— Lauren Fanger

Fellow karaoke singers and other audience members agree — everyone is supportive. Being brave enough to get up in front of strangers is rewarded with applause; it’s enjoyment they’re after, not perfection.

Fanger says she enjoys taking the mic, especially at Blind Pig. She and her

boyfriend, Tony Paolo, met at the Carlton spot when it was called Carlton To Coast Tavern; they had their first date there and now make Blind Pig a regular stop.

Earlier on this Friday, they took part in the With Courage cornhole fundraiser — helping cancer patients is a good cause supported by both Fanger’s employer, the Jack Maxwell American Family Insurance agency, and Paolo’s Premiere Property Group.

After Paolo won the tournament, they headed to Carlton to finish the day with music.

Fanger chose “Coal Miner’s Daughter,” as she often does. Her dad worked at the paper mill in Newberg, she said, so she

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Rachel Thompson/News-Register

**Pam Hadsell watches the lyrics to “These Boots are Made for Walking” scroll down the screen, waiting for her cue to start singing. A first-time karaoke performer, Hadsell initially didn’t plan to sing, but decided “I’m going to be bold” — and loved the experience.**

## '24 Hours

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gets the references. And it suits her voice. “I nail when my voice is not raspy,” she said.

But whether or not she nails it isn’t the point, Fanger said. “The secret to karaoke is just having fun,” she said. “Whether you’re scared or confident, just go into it knowing you’ll have fun.”

**One of the** bits of advice karaoke pros give to newcomers is to do it with a partner. That doesn’t happen often tonight.

But one duo — obviously experienced — wows the crowd by harmonizing sweetly on the Extreme song “More Than Words.”

“Hold me close, don’t ever let me go ... More than words is all I ever needed you to show,” the lyrics go as Nathan Long and Coleman Long, who Nathan says is his nephew, blend their voices. Pickett, the karaoke jockey, adds to the harmonies.

Another crowd pleaser, Stuart Murphy, struts like Jagger or Mercury as he proclaims he would walk a thousand miles just to be near his girl.

“Da-da-da-da,” the crowd joins him on the chorus of The Proclaimers’ “I’m Gonna Be (500 Miles).” “Da-da-da-da!”

He continues on his own, “And I would walk 500 miles, And I would walk 500 more Just to be the man who walked a thousand

Miles to fall down at your door.”

Murphy, who is visiting from Washington, D.C., exchanges high-fives with his friends as he returns to the table.

“Karaoke is a place you can be your authentic self, without judgment,” Murphy says.

He says he picked “500 Miles” because he likes the song and so do others. “It’s a song that allows people to engage,” he said. “They know it and can participate.”

The audience joins in whenever possible.

Near the end of the hour, when Alexa Aki takes the microphone for the Neil Diamond favorite, “Sweet Caroline,” people chant along, loudly, to the familiar refrain, “So good! So good! So good!”

**Singers sign up** for a place on the karaoke schedule as they enter the restaurant — or, in some cases, after listening to others for awhile.

Michael Hadsell and Pam Hadsell, both a little older than the average audience member tonight, say they enjoy the music. But Mike, a retired anesthesiologist who plays in a church band, also is looking for adventure.

“I’m going to do ‘Born to Be Wild,’” Michael says, not at all nervous. “I used to do karaoke a lot. It’s a lot of fun,” he says.

Pam, a newcomer to this form of



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

**Mia Cole and Kristen Regalado dance and sing along to “Sweet Caroline,” being performed off camera by Alexa Aki. Audience participation is a big part of karaoke night, and the Neil Diamond song had the whole crowd shouting “so good, so good, so good” during the chorus.**

entertainment, is content to stay seated and cheer for those who are braver.

But about 10:30, after hearing Mike blaze through the Steppenwolf song, she’s feeling a little wild herself. “I’m going to be bold,” she tells the KJ. “I’m going to do ‘These Boots Are Made for Walkin’.”

When her turn comes, Pam channels Nancy Sinatra, dancing in imaginary go-go boots as she vocalizes. “One of these days these boots are gonna walk all over you...” she promises the song’s cheater.

“Are you ready boots? Start walking,” she finishes, then dances back to her seat.

As she passes Murphy, the “500 Miles” performer, they exchange a high-five.

**The music continues**, one person after another coming forward to add their voices to the recorded instrumentals. Lyrics roll down the screen: “Free Fallin’;” “Danger Zone,” “The House of the Rising Sun,” “Girl Crush,” “Before He Cheats,” “Fooled Around and Fell in Love.”

Kai Pickett, the karaoke jockey, finds whatever customers request on his computer, which shows a long, long list of tunes, alphabetized by artist or source — 10,000 Maniacs, 101 Dalmatians, 10cc ... . Just about any song someone wants is available, in almost any genre — showtunes, country, pop, gospel, good ol’ rock ‘n’ roll.

“I have a good list,” said Pickett, who often gets the party started by singing himself.

Pickett, of Raising Kain Party Company, rkpartyco@gmail.com, says he’s available to host karaoke shows in a variety of places

in the McMinnville area.

He has a regular gig on Friday nights at Blind Pig.

The restaurant offers karaoke from about 8:30 to midnight every Friday. From about 6 to 8 Fridays, it hosts live music by local artists such as Freddie Lamb. In July, it will host comedy shows, as well.

The staff enjoys all the entertainment, especially when they can take part.

Tonight, Giavanna Ison, a waitress, performs “You and I.” “I love Lady Gaga, and the song is upbeat and fun,” she said.

She has been doing karaoke at the restaurant since before she joined the staff. “Singing is my outlet,” she said. “And I love that everybody here is so encouraging. People cheer.”

Her coworker, Jenny Shaffer, also takes time for a song. “It gets you out of your comfort zone,” she says after completing a tune by Amy Winehouse, “my go-to.”

**As the clock** edges toward 11 p.m., a man is crooning “You Should Probably Leave,” Chris Stapleton’s song about ending the night as friends, before something happens to complicate the relationship.

“You should probably leave...” the man repeats. “You should probably leave.”

And the News-Register reporter and photographer pack up their gear and follow the song’s advice. Who knows? One of us might be grabbing that mic if we stay any longer.

But as we walk away, the lush chords of Bonnie Tyler’s hit, “Total Eclipse of the Heart” begin. A woman sings, her voice spilling out into the night.

“Turn around,” the lyrics implore, calling us back to the karaoke.

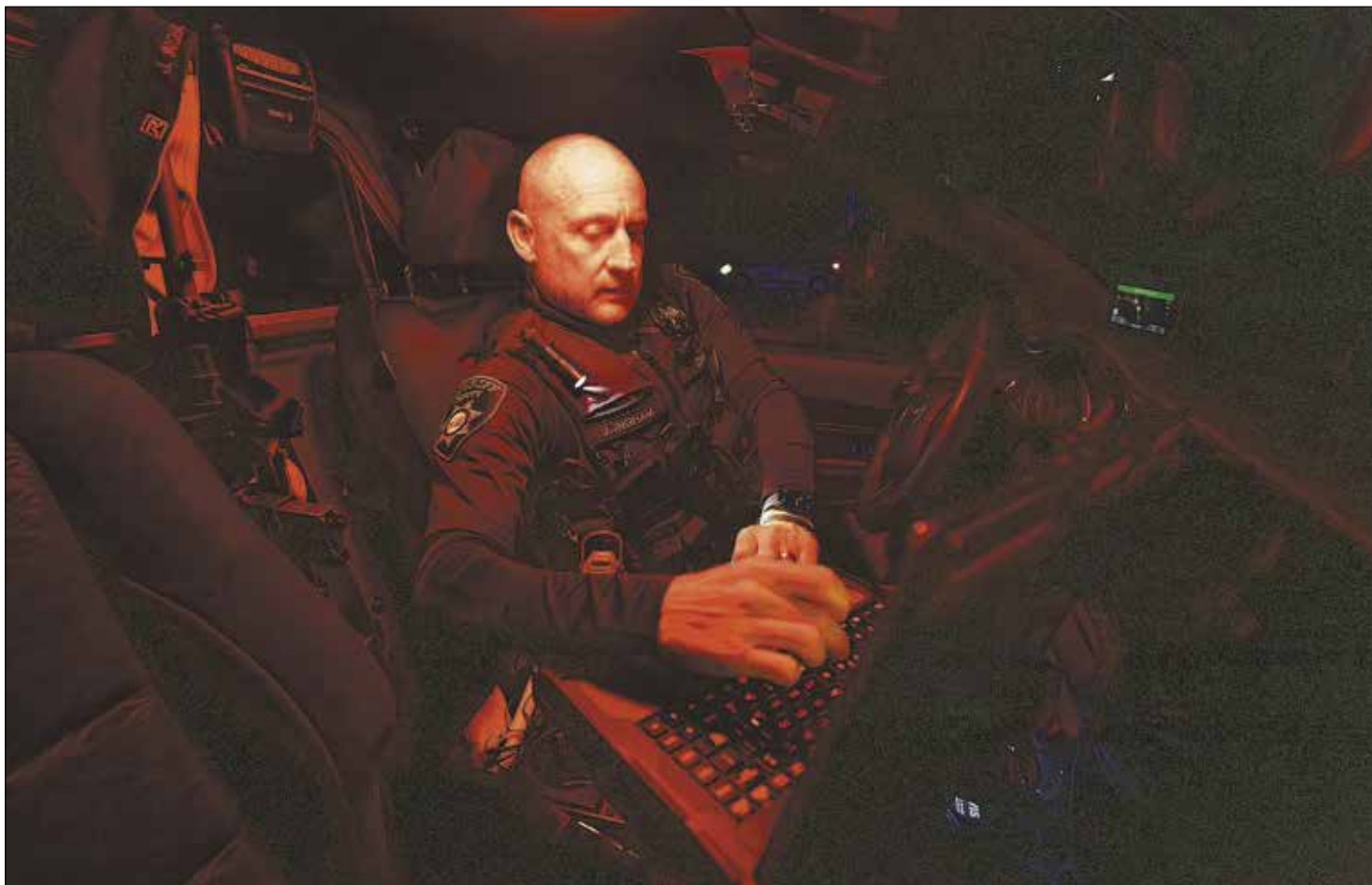
“Turn around ... turn around ... I really need you tonight.”

“It gets you out of your comfort zone.”

— Jenny Shaffer

# 11 to midnight on DUI patrol

*Policing goal for Yamhill County deputy: Reduce the menace*



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

**Yamhill County Sheriff's Deputy Jody Ingham runs background information in his patrol cruiser on a driver he had just pulled over.**

By **SCOTT UNGER**  
*Of the News Register*

**A**t 11 p.m. on Friday, Yamhill County Sheriff's Deputy Jody Ingham is laughing with occupants of a vehicle he pulled over next to Chan's Chinese Restaurant.

"They were delightful, wonderful ladies," he says as he returns to his undercover Dodge Durango.

Moments earlier, Ingham was stopped at a traffic light when the minivan turned sharply left as the light changed.

"You can't drive through a yellow light and you definitely can't go in the middle of the road," he says, firing up the lights that turn his SUV from an innocuous vehicle to a flashing cruiser.

The driver blamed a finger injury for her turn, saying the pain of hitting the turn signal made her jerk the wheel slightly. The

"I'm always  
looking for DUIs.  
That's my thing."

— Deputy Jody Ingham

pair was coming from a cleaning job and Ingham let them off with a warning and gave them junior deputy stickers for their trouble.

Ingham isn't interested in minor traffic violations; he's searching for impaired drivers.

"Impaired drivers are menaces and they need to be taken off the road," he said.

While a deputy with the Sheriff's Office,

Ingham marches to his own beat with no specific hours or patrolling locations. His position — and new vehicle — are mostly funded through an Oregon Department of Transportation grant with the sole purpose of catching drivers under the influence of intoxicants.

"I'm always looking for DUIs; that's my thing," he said. "My goal is to get a DUI every single day."

While he spent the previous hours driving around the county and patrolling the high traffic downtown area of McMinnville, the majority of his 11 o'clock hour is spent on the north end of town, clocking speeders as they enter and exit the city on Highway 99W.

His SUV is equipped with speed guns facing both forward and reverse and a

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laptop that informs him of every active call on their network in the county, which department is responding and the duration of the call.

The computer can also be used to search for driving records and previous arrests, which Ingham prefers to do instead of asking dispatch for the information to save their time. He also logs every identification request in a statewide database and keeps a personal record of his stops and arrests.

In June, Ingham produced 13 DUII arrests in 15 days, including two the previous night.

The number of arrests in a night can sometimes depend on the day of the week. Ingham estimates it takes between two-and-a-half and three hours to complete a DUII arrest from the beginning of the traffic stop to the completion of paperwork. On weekdays, paperwork has to be completed right away before court the next morning, but on weekends he can return to the streets quickly after an arrest and finish the paperwork the following day.

He describes his job as fishing, often using traffic infractions to open the door to a potential DUII investigation. On a busy Friday night, downtown and 99W are the busiest areas.

"You go where the fish are," he said.

While alcohol and cannabis are the primary intoxicants involved in DUII's, Ingham is also looking for drivers under the influence of other drugs. Harder drugs such as heroin, fentanyl and methamphetamine can be harder to spot because frequent users develop a tolerance and often combine drugs to offset effects, Ingham said.

In some DUII cases, drug recognition experts are brought in to perform an assessment that can later be used in court. The hour-long process monitors the subjects pulse and blood pressure as various tests are conducted.

"We're looking for other signs of impairment, not just if they stink of alcohol," he said.

At 11:09 a truck is pulled over for speeding leaving McMinnville. Another driver let off with a warning.

"He's a buddy of mine's kid," Ingham says returning to his patrol vehicle. "It's a pretty small community really, when you think about it."

Ingham knew the driver's father from his time owning a landscaping company with his wife. He's been in his current capacity for a little over three months and in law enforcement for nine years, having made a career switch at 45.

A career in law enforcement had been on his mind for a decade and Ingham said he used the opportunity to apply as a lesson to his children to pursue your goals.

At 11:21 the Durango roars to life again and another car is pulled over for speeding in nearly the same spot as the last stop. "No More Tears" by Ozzy Osbourne plays on Ingham's Sirius XM radio as he approaches the car.

He reports that the passenger immediately began arguing that they were going with the flow of traffic, but changed her tune quickly after finding out they would be let off with a warning.

Oftentimes, the scare of getting pulled over provides the desired result of slowing down and a monetary fine isn't necessary, Ingham says.

He estimates only a quarter to a third of stops result in citation or arrest.

"It's a lot of warnings," he said.

Sometimes a judgment call needs to be made in DUII investigations. Ingham has a firm criteria for letting a driver go.

"Would I let my kids get in the back seat and drive away with this person?"



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Above: Yamhill County Sheriff's Deputy Jody Ingham talks to a driver pulled over for speeding on Highway 99W. The man was let off with a warning. Below left: Ingham and other officers oversee a field sobriety test in McMinnville. Below right: DUII suspects are brought to the Yamhill County Jail for processing but are generally released the same night, Ingham said.



At 11:27, an SUV tops 55 miles per hour as it drives past Ingham's Durango parked quietly on the side of 99W.

He guns the Hemi V8 engine and is quickly behind the driver, waiting to hit the lights until they reach a safer place to pull over. Unexpectedly, the driver speeds up with the Durango right behind him, and Ingham hits the lights.

He says drivers sometimes take longer to recognize the undercover vehicle than regular patrol cars, despite the multitude of lights flashing from the windshield, mirrors and running boards.

The driver pulls into the parking lot of Tommy's Restaurant and Ingham approaches the vehicle, leaving the Hair Nation channel playing in his car.

Two backup cars arrive, and the man is brought out of his vehicle for sobriety field tests at 11:39.

Ingham always calls for a "cover unit" during investigations because officers can become so focused on the case at hand that they can lose sight of surrounding action.

"Just to make sure that everything around me is safe," he says of the backup.

Ingham carefully explains and demonstrates each test the man is put through, starting with an eye test, following a bright green light without turning his head.

The subject moves from the slanted parking lot to the flat sidewalk for the walking portion of the test, taking off his flip flops midway through to complete them barefoot.

At 11:47, the subject is placed under arrest and handcuffed. While driving him to the Yamhill County Jail, Ingham says he didn't smell a strong odor of alcohol, but the man had "very slurred speech" and displayed dexterity impairment when retrieving documents from an envelope.

"Dexterity is one of the things that you lose when you're impaired," he said.

Ingham supplemented his investigation by reading the subject his Miranda rights and engaging in a brief interview, which helps reveal clues.



The man was arrested for failing the field tests. Under Oregon law, authorities are required to use a state calibrated Intoxilyzer machine at the station for breath tests and don't use field breathalyzers.

"The physical tests were not good at all," Ingham said.

DUII arrests are typically booked and then released to a sober person the same night as the arrest. In rare cases, subjects are dropped off at the hospital if no one is available to pick them up.

While oftentimes cars are towed, Ingham left the subject's SUV in the restaurant lot in hopes a sober acquaintance would be able to pick it up and avoid tow charges.

At 11:57, Ingham's cruiser pulls up to the sally port doors of the jail, which slowly open into a concrete corridor with the same type of retractable door at the other end and a single door leading into the jail.

At 11:59, the man is led into a holding room and the steel door bangs closed behind him.

Ingham would later report that the man blew a .16 blood alcohol content, twice the legal limit.

# In the ER from midnight to 1

*Medical staff keeps calm and continually ready to help*



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Charge nurse Jenny Root, left, who was overseeing the ER the night of July 17, talks with Connor Smith, RN, right, one of the nurses on the overnight shift. In the background is Willamette Valley Medical Center's ER director, Brandon Harris, also a nurse.

By STARLA POINTER  
Of the News-Register

Midnight, and most of McMinnville is sleeping, or at least tucked safely at home with late night TV, Netflix or YouTube.

One resident rides through the night in an ambulance, perhaps frightened, perhaps grateful for the medical attention. Probably both.

The phone trills in the emergency room at Willamette Valley Medical Center.

Get ready, fire department medics tell ER staff. We're bringing in someone who needs help. Here are the details. Get ready.

Nurse Sean Elliott, an Army veteran who jokes that he turned to nursing because "I can't dance and sing," takes the call. His voice is both matter of fact and concerned.

"I get to help and comfort people."

— Emma Hall, CNA

"OK. OK. Got it," the RN says as he notes the information on the incoming patient's chart. "Sounds good," he tells the ambulance crew, and hangs up.

"What is it?" asks Connor Smith, another of the four RNs on duty in the first hour of Thursday morning, July 18.

Smith listens to Elliott's description as the two men efficiently prepare a trauma bay for the arrival. The glass-fronted space is roomy enough for transferring a person

from a stretcher to a bed, and accommodating testing equipment and half a dozen or more staff who will assist.

Outside, the moon floats above American and Oregon flags snapping in a light breeze. Traffic slides by on Highway 18, a muted parade.

Inside, the ER department is brightly lit. Patients sleep in some semi-dark rooms; family members sit beside a few beds.

Staffers talk softly, exchanging information and sometimes a joke. The stillness is broken by beeping and buzzing of monitors, the background music of the hospital.

At 12:05 a.m., pulsing red lights cut the darkness outside as the ambulance backs up

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to the hospital's doors. Medics wheel in the gurney and hand over care to Elliott, Smith and Dr. Megan Dell, the physician staffing the ER tonight.

Chad Jones, an EMT and firefighter, and Amy Quinn, a paramedic, return to their ambulance to disinfect the equipment before storing it away, ready for the next call. About 12:25 p.m., they pull away from the hospital, heading back to their station.

The medics for the McMinnville Fire Department, work 24-hour shifts, one day on, then two off, followed by two on and three off. Jones said they respond to both medical and fire calls, sometimes seven to 10 in a shift, sometimes twice that many.

Inside the trauma room, CNA Emma Hall helps the patient settle in.

Hall recalls arriving at the emergency room by ambulance herself following a car wreck when she was 16. The experience inspired her to be a nursing assistant, with hopes of becoming an RN.

"I get to help and comfort people," she says.

**Unlike some arrivals**, this morning's newest patient is awake and able to answer standard questions. "Have you been coughing or had a fever? Do you have any thoughts of suicide? Are you on any medications?" nurses ask.

The answers help determine the staff's course of action, says ER director Brandon Harris. Nurses and the doctor also rely on their own observations, notes from the ambulance crew, and tests, starting with blood pressure and temperature.

Combined, the information will help guide treatment — what comes next, how long the ER stay will be, where the person will go next.

Questioning is the initial, and routine, start of a visit to the emergency room, for both the 25% who come in by ambulance and for the majority who walk in 24 hours a day.

At the ER's front desk, admitting rep Serena Petersen greets newcomers and asks their name, age, birthday, symptoms, etc.

She says she and her counterparts don't ask what's wrong, exactly. Rather, Petersen says, intake workers ask what the patients are experiencing — chest pains? Shortness of breath? Bleeding?

She also is attentive to those in the waiting room, who may be in line to be examined or, like a couple at 12:45 this morning, passing time while a loved one is being treated.

"This is never a fun place to come. It's frightening," Petersen says. So she asks her questions gently and patiently, putting everyone at ease with skills honed over the three-and-a-half years she's been on the night shift.

"I like to work with the public," says Petersen, who is on duty 7 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. for three days in a row, has one day off, three more on, then seven days off. "It's interesting, and it's nice to help people."

On one of her first nights at the ER front desk, a very critical case arrived. She had to call a Code Blue, summoning an emergency response from multiple staff.

"I sounded rather frantic," she recalls.

A more experienced coworker told her later that she needed to be more professional in order not to frighten laypeople unduly. "Never sound like I'm going down with the



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Above: **Nurse Sean Elliott leaves a patient's room — one of the trauma rooms where new arrivals are stabilized and assessed — with a portable EKG machine. Elliott, who became an RN after a military career, has been talking with the newcomer to make the patient feel more comfortable about being in the ER.** Below: **Emergency medics Amy Quinn, left, and Chad Jones prepare their ambulance for the next run after bringing a patient to Willamette Valley Medical Center's emergency room at midnight. They called the ER before arriving so the nurses would be ready to help the new arrival right away.**

ship," she was told.

So, she says, "I learned to be calm." Quick, efficient and ready to bring about an appropriate response — and calm.

That word sums up the atmosphere in the ER: Calm, even when busy. Ready to respond to any circumstance. But calm.

**From Petersen's desk**, newcomers walk or ride a wheelchair to an exam room for more questions and basic tests. Nurses listen and perform triage — assessing each person's needs and how quickly those needs must be addressed.

The ER at WVMC is busy around the clock. But while Harris and others can tell you the average numbers per day or time of day, there's no predicting when an ambulance actually will arrive or how severe problems will be.

Some nights pass quickly as staff members help numerous people. Some nights drag, but that gives nurses and others plenty of time to restock supplies or finish continuing education requirements — all while keeping an eye and an ear on the monitors.

Monitors sound frequently, their various tones and patterns indicating normal or elevated blood pressure or heart rates or other vital signs. Nurses don't need to talk loudly as they share information and occasionally rib each other, like coworkers everywhere.

A lot of ER workers and EMTs hesitate to predict how busy a night may be, or even assess it while it's happening.

"I'm superstitious," one says.

"We don't use the Q word," says Petersen, the admitting rep. Saying "quiet" might jinx things, leading to a night that's anything but.

Instead, they talk about things going smoothly: dealing efficiently with every-



thing that happens, caring for patients promptly and effectively, making sure they bring out the best outcomes.

Training, teamwork and focus are important tools.

And, Nurse Elliott quips, "I have a four-leaf clover in my pocket."

Time allowing, he and his colleagues do more than physical care. They show that they care about feelings, too.

Tonight is not as busy as some — the Q word could apply — so Elliott has time to talk with the new arrival a bit. He murmurs words of comfort and he listens.

"I know. You just wish you weren't here," he says.

Elliott says he thought of becoming a physician. A school near his Army base offered a nursing program, so he took that instead, then continued in the military as an officer for another six years.

Eventually, he says. "I thought I'd try civilian life." He wouldn't have minded a career in the Army, he says, but he loves nursing.

After a few minutes, Elliott leaves the room, wheeling a portable EKG heart monitor machine. "Nice person," he tells coworkers.

He and Smith will return to the bedside from time to time as long as the patient remains in ER.

**At 12:35 a.m.**, Jenny Root, tonight's nurse in charge, stops to talk to her staff about the status of everyone in the department.

Root has worked at the hospital for 29 years, mostly in the ER. She chose to work nights because it was better for her family, she says. She likes the fast pace and autonomy the night shift offers.

"Over the years, it's changed. It's harder to find nurses who'll work at night," she says. "You need patience, tolerance; it can be a little more stressful. We see every-

thing here."

One of her goals, every night, is to provide timely care to anyone who comes into the ER. "I don't like people waiting," she says.

To accomplish that takes teamwork, she says. "I have a good team."

That includes Dell, who grew up in McMinnville and returned to work at WVMC a couple years ago. The doctor also chooses to work nights and frequently is on duty in the ER.

She likes the job. It can be challenging, she says, and the workload is constantly changing.

"Nights can go by very fast," she says.

Tonight, many arrivals are older adults; another night might bring in youngsters with traumatic injuries, or adults of all ages who need detox or who are "socially challenged."

Of the latter, she says, "I like taking care of them without judgment."

During the busier daytime hours, more health care professionals are on duty in the ER, Harris says. The number tapers off after 11 o'clock as demand slows down.

If things get busy, though, nurses and doctors from other areas of the hospital can be called in to help during the night.

"An influx can come at any time," Harris says.

That's something the doctor and nurses like about working overnight. It's as unpredictable as it is challenging.

Last night was "crazy until 5 a.m.," for instance. Tonight is starting out with fewer cases, but who knows what 2 a.m. or 4 a.m. will bring.

"Is it a full moon? That's the best way to predict," Smith says.

That may prove true in a few nights. But tonight, the moon is at three-quarters and, at 1 a.m., it's not busy.

For now.



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

**Certified Nursing Assistant Emma Hall restocks linens in the emergency room between rounds of helping with patients. Hall first visited the ER as a patient, and that inspired her to work in health care herself.**

# 1 to 2 a.m. on Third Street

*On the sidewalks and in the pubs, downtown has its own brand of quiet*



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

**Michael Hatch of McMinnville, who spends most nights on the bench across from Cabana Club, waits for the sidewalk din to die down before attempting sleep.**

**By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**  
*Of the News-Register*

If a downtown street can be compared to a canyon, the night noise on Third Street can be like kettles rattling off basalt.

At about 12:50 a.m. on a Saturday, “Dan the Pool Connoisseur” is heading home, his stick case in hand ... well, maybe not home.

“I’m glad to meet you but I will not tell you where I’m going now,” says Dan, who has just departed Cabana Club between Davis and Evans streets. He shoots pool where he can in McMinnville and Lafayette, but won’t say all the places he likes to go.

Walking away, Dan is the embodiment

“Not everybody’s story is the same out here.”

— Johanna Sanchez

of the Woody Guthrie line, sung by the band Wilco:

“*Last night or the night before that/I won’t-say-which-night ...*”

This being a MacFresco week and Third Street closed to traffic, no cars are on the street, parked or moving, a few couples or singletons out walking, plenty more people out in front of Cabana Club. Most

are watching, then cheering, as a pair of 100-decibel motorcycles rev up and drive off — though one rider stages a slow lay-down, to more cheers. There are 30-40 people convened in front of Cabana Club, half of them smoking (some of them smoking we-won’t-say-what). The din is bouncing off the buildings.

Down the street at the Blue Moon, the other downtown bar open until 2 a.m., things are somewhat quieter. Three Linfield students have been showing two buddies who attend Boise State around town and settled with their beers into a back booth.

“I like to put myself down at the booth with my boys and just talk ... it’s

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like private space, then you go out and socialize and come back and have a beer," says Angel Hernandez, a Linfield senior from Vancouver, Wash.

**Cabana Club's bouncer**, Dom McQuade, a 2002 Yamhill Carlton High School grad, is checking IDs and keeping an eye out but says he hasn't had to do much other than a friendly "move it down the street" in the year he's worked the Cabana Club door.

Inside the club, the music's volume makes conversation nearly impossible but at 1:30 there are still 30 people on the dance floor enjoying what DJ Mina spins — it's her first night working the Cabana — and there's plenty of activity at the bar and around the pool table.

Across Third Street, Michael Hatch is hunkered down for the night. Hatch claims the bench nightly and, as with many nights, he is waiting for the club to close, while listening to his own music via earbuds.

"It's really quiet," says Hatch of most downtown nights between 1 and 2 a.m. "You get a lot of yellors and screamers. They kind of go on their own merry way. Everyone out here is pretty harmless. Just verbal." He chooses life on the streets, saying this is "my fourth rodeo — fourth time I've been out." He watched a roommate die of alcoholism, and got out of the apartment last October, since then staying where he can.

"It got kinda bad when it was cold. But I do eat well, though, I can tell you that," says Hatch, who's disabled and needs a cane to help carry around his heavy bags.

Johanna Sanchez is another local resident who is homeless, and she's on the move at 1 a.m. Sanchez, 33, has lived in McMinnville all her life. She hasn't seen her five children in a while — three are in foster care and two live with their father — but knowing she might see them again is what keeps her going, Sanchez says. She sleeps in different places, though she recently had an apartment but was forced out when her partner hooked up with the apartment house manager and "sabotaged me," Sanchez says.

"Right now the shelter is open but they don't let people in after 11, but I didn't go there so I can to make money," she says, referring to searching recycle bins for deposit containers.

"I'm not in the shelter right now, unless once a week if it's hot out or something," she says, adding that insomnia "and some other medical conditions" keep her awake anyway.

"I'm on medications, but I had a daughter not long ago and when I'm pregnant I don't want to take a lot of medications, and I haven't been able to get a new doctor. I haven't been to doctors for awhile," Sanchez says.

She described life on the street in the early morning hours saying, "It's different. Sometimes it's cold outside, sometimes you deal with other people that are a little



Left: Third and Davis streets at 2 a.m. On weekends during the summer, the busy avenue is closed to traffic, night and day, for the annual MacFresco program.

Below: Fermons Simi, aka DJ Mina, right, relaxes with Nicholas Jibas, also of McMinnville, in a booth at Cabana Club after her shift spinning tunes.

Bottom right: Photographed at 1 a.m., on quiet Davis Street near Third Street, Johanna Sanchez of McMinnville sleeps when and where she can, and makes money collecting containers.

Bottom left: Linfield students, from left, Paddy Moes, Angel Hernandez and Max Testa, talk with their Boise State buddies Braden Stoger and Hayden Gray, at 1:15 a.m. in the historic Third Street Blue Moon Tavern.

Rachel Thompson/News-Register



mean toward the homeless, they'll scream things out of the car, or cops are bothering us — 'you can't be in this area.'

"Not everybody's story is the same out here," she says, "and some of us are trying to do better or fixing issues that are going on, things that went on in the past that weren't our fault technically and I think the ratio of that needs to be looked at more. There's a lot more (people) out here sabotaged, and there's those out here who did those things they deserve ..."

At the Cabana, by 1:45 DJ Mina is

spinning "Closing Time" — "time for you to go back to the places you have been" — and co-owner Shane Kelly is surveying a scene that is noisy still, yet calm.

"We were only busy an hour and a half. Now it's slowing down. We've got seven minutes left ... we close early now so we don't have problems, 1:40, 1:45," Kelly says.

It's a different feel from the establishment's rowdier closing-time tone Kelly recalls 15 or so years ago, a reputation he acknowledges remains in some peoples' minds.

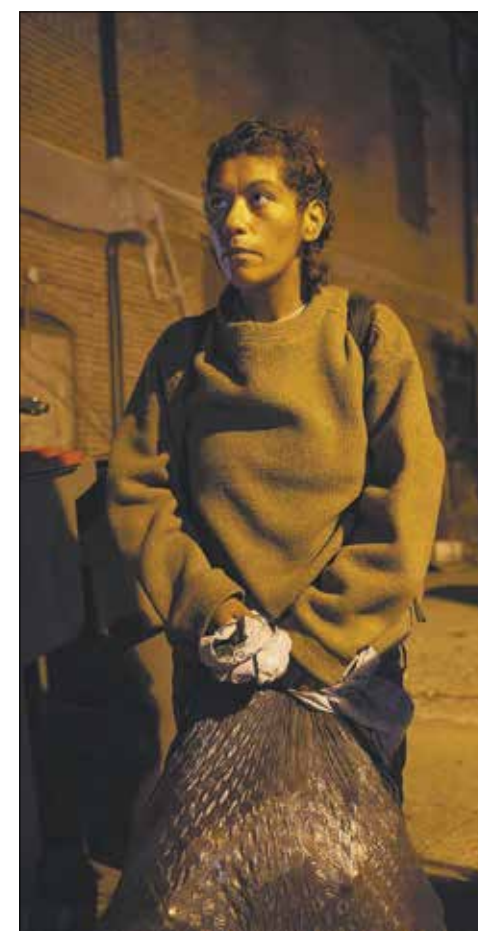
"We don't push somebody out, we let the music down, let them finish up. Before it was 2:30 and all the problems started," Kelly says. "Now, we don't push people out, we let them dwindle out."

The smoke and chatter are still heavy on Third Street in front of the Cabana, but couples and groups of four or so are heading down the sidewalks.

"I recall a door, a big long room/I'll not tell you which room  
Walked up to a big old building/I won't say which building ..."

Michael Hatch remains on his bench, tuning out the 2 a.m. chatter.

"I'm gonna go back and listen to Led Zeppelin, live 1971 in London. You gotta check it out, it's rockin'. John Bonham goes wild on the drums. I'm a hippie!"



# 2 to 3 a.m. at Muchas Gracias

*At a 'chill' 24-hour appetite oasis, DoorDashers, partyers and night owls*



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Tim Linn checks his schedule as he awaits his order, along with fellow DoorDash driver Kelly Keller, left, inside Muchas Gracias at 2 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 24.

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA  
Of the News Register

Ernest Hemingway, no stranger to the middle-of-the-night experience, titled one of his short stories “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place.”

Papa would have fit right in between 2 and 3 a.m. at Muchas Gracias, 220 N.E. 12th St., in McMinnville.

Bright lights and a vivid yellow-and-red color scheme are the restaurant’s beacons in the wee hours. The food is an attraction, too. No one kind of customer comes in at this hour on Saturday, Aug. 24 — but a theme exists:

“Hungry,” said Zach Gray of Lafayette, ordering a burrito at the drive-through at 2:10 a.m. “I was at my friend’s house and

“People who (are drinking) will tip you really good.”

— Kelly Keller

just heading home.”

“I just got off work and I’m hungry,” said Luis Arceo of McMinnville, following his shift at Cascade Steel as he waits to order at about 2:30 a.m.

Baker Street at 2:30 a.m. is nearly empty of cars; it’s the cool, dark time of night when you can be outside in conversation

with someone five feet away and hear each other better than inside.

Cody Secaria of McMinnville said, “It’s been awhile since I thought about McMinnville at night. This is it, for places open, besides a bar or something like that.” Secaria was on his way home from work in supply chain at Oregon Health & Science University.

“Tonight seems pretty chill,” said cashier Katherine Cervantes, in her second year on the midnight-to-8 a.m. shift at the popular all-night restaurant. “The phone calls (for orders) usually start at 6 a.m.”

Cervantes said, “Usually Friday for me is pretty chill. There’s some people who

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# '24 Hours

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come in, one-by-one customers. It's just fun."

Saturday night (well, Sunday morning) can get dicey with the occasional intoxicated person who causes problems. Mainly, Cervantes said, "there's parties going on and people come to eat here. The tables get full and the drive-through gets full."

Ryan, a Los Angeles resident, said, "I'm in town for a friend's wedding and I found this place open," while nervously eyeing the car he rented in Portland: a Maserati. "It was only another hundred bucks for the weekend and I have no reason to worry, but — it's a Maserati."

Ryan was among several patrons who asked not to use their last names.

"We're drunk," said Maria, when asked what brought her in for a plate of tacos. "We want to eat," said her friend, Juana.

They're the only people to dine-in during the 2-3 a.m. hour.

**Those coming in** the dining room can augment their orders with sauces from the self-service condiment bar, and sit near the window or in the cozy nook under the "Good Times; Home of the Oregon Burrito" sign.

"People love the carrots. We run out of the sauces," said Cervantes, who also works day shifts.

"It took a while but it's pretty adjustable now," the 2023 Mac High grad said of her work schedule.

Early morning is mostly drive-up, sometimes only DoorDash drivers, Cervantes said.

Tim Linn of McMinnville arrived at 2 a.m., followed closely by Kelly Keller of McMinnville, both doing the food-and-drink delivery gig.

Keller said she likes DoorDashing in the early morning.

"People who (are drinking) will tip you really good. And I don't have air conditioning in my car so it beats the heat." She's been in food delivery for three years, and has seen her share of strange orders, such as the time she was paid \$20 to go to a convenience store in Newberg and pick up one can of beer — a Modelo — and deliver it to a client in Dundee.

Linn said he'll take an order of burritos to a regular customer. "Usually, you're just dropping it on the doorstep. They always wait until you're gone before they open the door. They don't wanna see you," he said, and laughs, pointing to his full, wild beard.

"Especially me. A lot of people don't expect to see a guy like me walking up to their door this late at night."

Linn will be back for his own meal, too: "burrito bacon and eggs."

Working at Muchas Gracias is "pretty great," Cervantes said. "I eat every day. Mainly for me the carne asada and fries or chile rellenos."

In the bright light of the drive-through, the choice is clear for Zach Gray and Luis Arceo.

"I'll get something on the way to work, or buy two and then heat it up later," Gray said. "It still tastes really good."

Arceo said, "I get the same thing every time: Four tacos, a big horchata and a dessert churro. I'll sleep good after that."



"There's parties going on and people come to eat here."

— Katherine Cervantes, cashier

Left: Cashier Katherine Cervantes takes an order at the counter. Cervantes is a two-year veteran of the midnight to 8 a.m. shift.

Rachel Thompson/News-Register



"I just got off work and I'm hungry."

— Luis Arceo, customer

Above: Muchas Gracias regular Luis Arceo of McMinnville places his order in the drive-through lane. Arceo stopped for a post-shift meal at the all-night restaurant located at Southeast 12th and Baker streets.

Right: Open sign, and the restaurant's other bright lights and decor are a wee-hours beacon for drive-through or dine-in service at Muchas Gracias.

Rachel Thompson/News-Register



# 3 to 4 a.m. at Rock of Ages

*Quiet time, with prayers and TLC for elders*



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Rock of Ages caregivers Tammy Cruz, left, and Perla Botello collect trash and laundry between 3 and 4 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3. Botello, a CNA, also is a “med giver” in charge of handing out doses; she usually works the 2 to 10 p.m. shift, but this morning stayed longer to cover for a coworker.

By STARLA POINTER  
Of the News-Register

At 3 a.m. Sept. 3, soft lights illuminate the flower baskets that bracket the front doors and mark the pathways winding through the Rock of Ages retirement village campus, southwest of McMinnville.

Inside the homey Memory Care unit, lighting in common areas is brighter. Patient rooms are dark and quiet; all 19 residents are sound asleep.

Caregivers, including bilingual staff members Tammy Cruz and Perla Botello, are wide awake, though, catching up on cleaning and laundry, as well as monitoring the bedrooms.

Cruz is sweeping the kitchen floor when the elevator doors slide open to admit

“The residents — they are my support.”

— Caregiver Beatrice Ramirez

visitors. A caregiver at Rock of Ages since 2005, she puts in 12-hour overnight shifts three days a week.

Botello usually works from 2 to 10 p.m. This morning, she stayed longer to cover for someone who couldn’t make it, so she’s already been on duty since 2 p.m. Labor Day afternoon. “I’m tired,” she said.

Cruz laughed. “She’s young. She’ll be OK,” she said, adding that she herself is used to the overnight shifts.

A CNA, Botello also is a “med giver,” charged with making sure each resident gets the doses the doctor has prescribed. For most, she said, 8 p.m. is med time, but some need doses more frequently or on a different schedule.

Botello, 20, first worked at Rock of Ages two years ago. Coworkers suggested she pursue training to become a certified nursing assistant, so she completed a program at Chemeketa Community College. She returned to Memory Care three months ago.

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# '24 Hours

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It's a good place to work, she said during a 3:15 a.m. dinner break. She sat with her Panda Express takeout in the staff lunch room, where one wall is covered with the saying, "Encourage each other and build each other up."

She and her coworkers do just that, she said. "It's like a family here. We help each other a lot. Everybody gets along really well — that's important."

There's evidence of that teamwork in the hallway next to the dining room. A message board proclaims "THANKS!"

The word is surrounded by dozens of individual Post-its with handwritten compliments — "Morgan, the way you treat people is beautiful"; "Abril, you are so kind to residents. Your teamwork is excellent"; "Katya, thank you for being a wonderful leader. You're kind to everyone."

Another reads "Tammy, you're an excellent teacher. We can count on you."

Cruz is pleased by the message. She likes being there for people, whether they're her family, her coworkers or the people who sleep during much of her shift.

"I like to spend time with the residents," she said. "If they wake up and go looking for someone, we help."

Every resident is different, she said. And each one deserves special care.

Up to 21 people can stay in Memory Care at any one time. Some are here for a few weeks, some for months or years.

How does she deal with the inevitable heartbreak that comes with her job? "God is my help," she said.

Cruz explained. "I'm Christian. I pray for this home, for my residents and for myself."

Rock of Ages was founded by Mennonites. Its senior care facilities and cottages are open to anyone.

The retirement village's mission is "a caring community, nurturing friendships, thriving by serving each other, representing Jesus and His servant example to all people." Its vision statement is, "Providing a home where our elders and the most vulnerable find respect, honor and friends. Trustworthy and committed staff serving in a setting where individuals are blessed by God's love and creation."

Cruz said her deep faith helps her when a patient dies, which has happened often in her two decades as a caregiver.

"God has been with me. He gives me hope continuously," she added.

Cruz likes working in Memory Care. She said she's glad to be back at her job after taking time off to care for one of her sons, who was seriously injured in a car wreck.

While she was pleased to be able to help him, she said she's happier that he's doing well enough to not need her there all the time.

Cruz, who switches from English to Spanish when she talks to her coworkers this morning, made sure her three sons learned both languages when they were growing up. She's encouraging the same for her two grandchildren.

She knows the value of being bilingual — and the challenges of learning English as an adult.

A native of Mexico, she found her first job in the U.S. at a sewing factory where everyone spoke Spanish. In Oregon, she went to work in 1996 at the Flying M Ranch, a resort and restaurant west of Yamhill.

A single mother whose husband had left the area, she had to work to support herself and her three young boys.

"But I understood nothing. My supervisor only spoke English," she said.

A co-worker helped translate, and Cruz said she "opened my ears." She enrolled in language classes at Chemeketa, as well. And she prayed.

"God is the owner of everything, including languages," she said.

She was bilingual by the time she started at Rock of Ages in 2005. Her language skills come in handy with patients and visitors.

"There is one resident now ... I think speaking Spanish is comforting for him," she said.

As the clock ticks toward 3:30 a.m., Cruz pulls another load of laundry from the dryer. She hangs up shirts, pants and undergarments, then delivers the hangers to residents' doors so they will have some-



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Above: In the Transitional Life Center, caregiver Beatrice Ramirez leaves a resident's suite at 4 a.m. after checking to make sure the woman is safe and comfortable. Safety checks are scheduled several times a day. Below: A bulletin board holds messages of support and encouragement from one staff member to another, including those who work the night shift — along with thank yous from the managers and members of the Rock of Ages Board of Directors.



"I like to spend time with the residents. If they wake up and go looking for someone, we help." — Tammy Cruz

her two children off to school, sleep while they're studying, and be there when they return from classes.

"The 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift works for me," the one-year employee said.

She shows off the building proudly, leading an impromptu tour of the downstairs gym, clinic, massage room and other spaces. "This is an awesome place," she said.

It can be tough dealing with the deaths that are a part of life at TLC, Ramirez said. She knows that's inevitable.

"They tell us not to get too attached," said Ramirez, who describes herself as "a hugger."

"The people we see are really sweet. It's hard not to fall in love with them," she added. "And they genuinely care for us, too. They pray for us a lot; a lot."

"The residents — they are my support."

The clock ticks: 3:59 a.m. Ramirez moves off toward a woman's suite for a 4 o'clock safety check.

thing clean and familiar to wear.

During her shift, she also makes sure bathrooms are stocked with towels and soap, in addition to doing general cleaning. She's ready to interrupt her work anytime a resident needs her, though.

Not many family members or other visitors step off the elevator during her shift. "This time is so quiet," she said. "But sometimes people wake up and they're calling and calling."

At 4:30 a.m., Botello said, she and Cruz will wake every resident and check to see if they need anything or if their beds must be changed. But for now, a little past 3:30, there's time for catching up on other tasks.

"I like the quiet," Botello said.

Outside, the night is still clear, with bright Venus the centerpiece of a field of stars. A faint glow rises over the hill to the northeast — the lights of McMinnville.

The air is still — outside and in the next building, the Transitional Life Center.

The name, TLC, also stands for the "tender, loving care" Rock of Ages employees' provide to residents, who are hospice patients, expected to die within a few months, at most. Some live in TLC for a few days or a few weeks.

TLC has five suites with names such as Meadow Room, High Desert and Rainforest. This morning, only three are occupied.

Suites feature living areas with small kitchens and separate bedrooms — more like a house than an institution. Residents can bring photos or other mementos, and decorate as they like.

Each space has a large window

overlooking the meadow below the Rock of Ages campus.

"Sunrise view," said caregiver Beatrice Ramirez, thinking ahead about three hours.

At 3:45 a.m., Ramirez is cleaning while keeping an ear tuned to possible calls from her patients. "I do this when I have extra time, between safety checks," she said.

Safety checks are regularly scheduled times when she awakens each person to make sure they are doing well. "Sometimes they need medications or other care," she explained.

Ramirez said she likes bringing comfort to the patients. And she likes the hours, which allow her to get home in time to see

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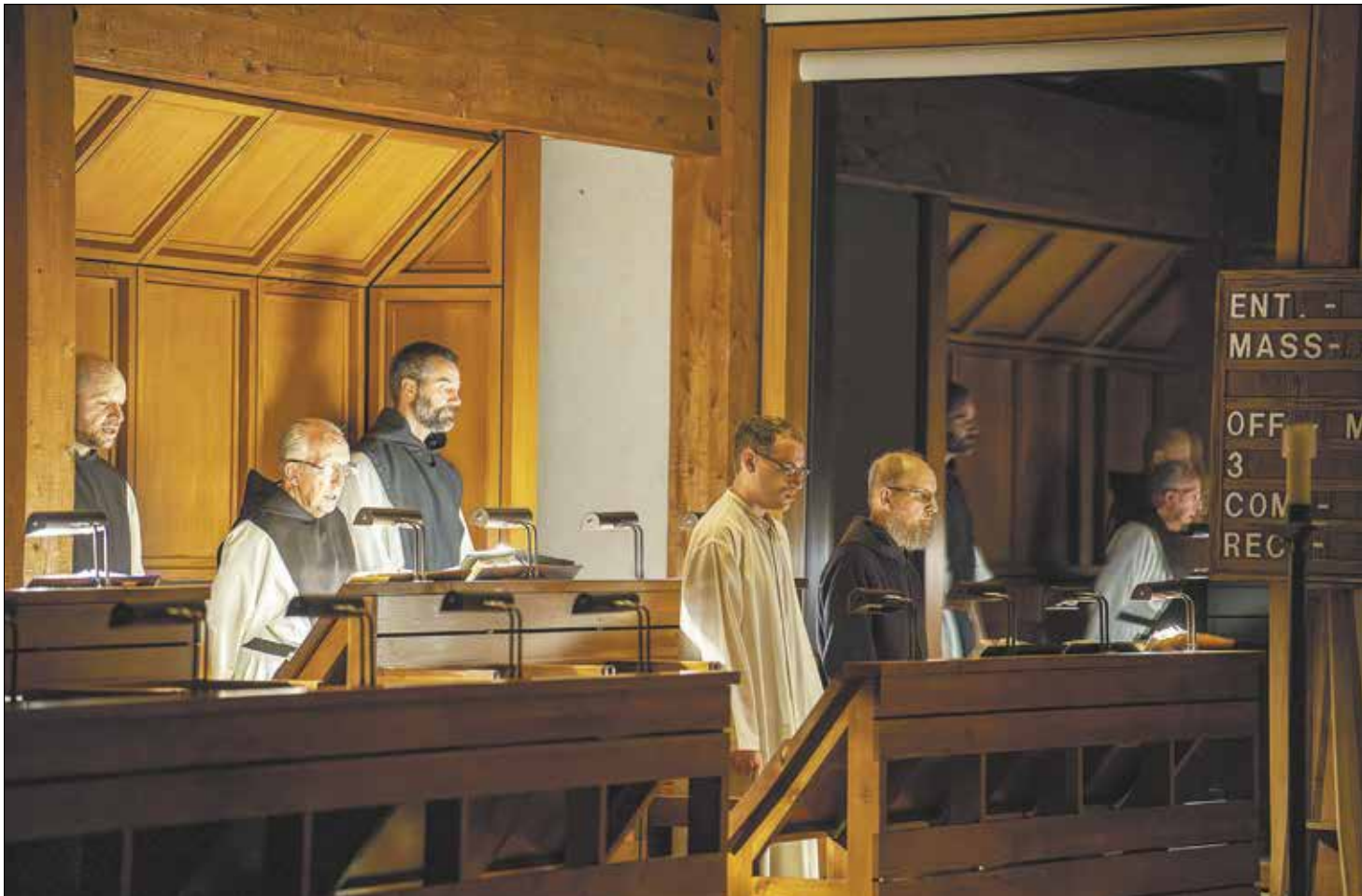
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# 4 to 5 a.m. at The Abbey

*Trappist monks hold Vigils, a time of Psalms and quiet to begin the Hours*



Monks at Lafayette Trappist Abbey arrive individually for Vigils, but worship in the pre-dawn as a team. Rachel Thompson/News-Register

By **KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**  
*Of the News-Register*

A trinity of peace is found at 4 a.m. near Lafayette.

Utter quiet, gentle darkness, reverent intonations.

This is the start of Liturgy of the Hours, a pre-dawn time known as Vigils: 45 minutes of connection to the Almighty, where spirit and ritual truly blend, also known as Divine Office.

Ten monks quietly enter the chapel at Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey and retreat center west of Lafayette, and begin a timeless practice: worshipping God before the sun rises on a new day.

The monks silently gather each morning at 4:15 a.m., one at a time. Minimal artificial light is provided, but a single candle

“The 150 Psalms express all the human emotions that we experience.”

— Jim Foglio, Abbey retreatant

in the window behind the altar guides their way, and the space is illuminated from light of the full moon. The brothers kneel and make the sign of the cross in the direction of the large portrait of the Virgin Mary, and at the altar. In prayer and song, together they are the choir.

Father Richard Layton, a 55-year resident, is leader for the morning, a task that

rotates among all 13 monks in residence, leading the choir in reading from the Book of Psalms, a recitation known as the Invitatory.

Such as from Psalm 25:

“He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the

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# '24 Hours

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paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies."

On this morning, the reading of the Psalms, covers chapters 17-35.

"We try to cover the 150 Psalms in two weeks," Father Richard says in a conversation at 5 a.m. "The rule used to be in one week, if not one day — when they were a little stricter.

"I can close my eyes and ... it's the kind of memory, once I hear the Our Father I don't need the book, but if someone stopped me and said, 'recite Psalm 33,' well, we don't have it perfectly memorized," said Father Richard. "It depends on the person next to you, we carry each other. Then you think you know it. And someone will say, 'go ahead and do it.' We do it in unison and get used to it."

The Psalms and other readings and prayers are said quietly from the front of the 60-by-60-foot chapel, the monks standing or seated in sectioned chairs, those on the left alternating in readings with brothers on the right.

"We take turns," in the formal assignment of readings," Father Richard said. "The Hebdomadary opens the office, and then Cantor intones the hymn at the beginning and the Invitator does the reading, and Invitator from last week does the second reading. It's all kind of mechanical, a list of jobs for each day of the week.

"The intonations are manufactured, if you will, some of it is adaptation in English so certain song tones we do," Father Layton said. "We'll sing the songs at Lauds, but somewhere along the line we decided it's so early it's hard to sing the psalms.

"They're all kind of manufactured from years of use and adapted to English, and you just get used to those things."

Brothers turn on lamps at their seats, and congregants can turn on low-light lamps on the backs of each pew to aid in reading.

"I think it's special," Darcey McAllister said of Vigils. She manages the nine retreat rooms and retreatant services with her husband, Joel. "The early hour makes it so; you get up, you're really tired, and there is something magical about getting done with it, you're like 'this is great,' and you start your day."

"We try and sing these songs before dawn," Father Richard said. "We are greeting the sun, and the Christ's resurrection, so we do it before the sun rises. During the summer it gets lighter earlier, we might need to modify."

Milwaukie resident Jim Foglio is the sole retreatant present, on the last morning of a week-long retreat: "My annual time to get away from the hubbub of the world where there are no demands on anyone."

McAllister notes that the Vigils starting time "is awfully early," and some retreatants attend and some don't. "Some who come are not Christian and may not attend the services, but most of them attend something." Noon Mass and afternoon prayers are followed by Vespers service in the evening and Compline, the nighttime closing prayer. Notes the website trappist.org: "we gather seven times a day to chant prayers and



Left: Lights are used in the altar but the rest of the sanctuary remains dark; retreatant Jim Foglio follows the liturgy with help of a pew light.

Below: Vaulted ceiling and skylights and large window in the Abbey chapel create a calming prayer setting.

Bottom right: One of the brothers kneels during Vigils, one of seven separate prayer times held daily at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Bottom left: In the breakfast room, retreatant Jim Foglio journals and studies personal and spiritual insights, a key part of his annual week stay at the Abbey. His first retreat was at age 29 at a time of personal crisis.

Rachel Thompson/News-Register



listen prayerfully to the word of God ... "Liturgy of the Hours generally begins in the dark early morning hours and concludes in the evening before we retire to our cells."



Father Layton

**The life of** quiet, work and prayer practiced at the Abbey is guided by the Rule of Saint Benedict, named for the Trappist order's founder. In Vigils this morning, the portion of the Rule the brothers recite pertains to those with servants or underlings:

"Let him study to be loved rather than feared, let him not be excitable and worried, nor exacting and headstrong, or jealous and over-suspicious, for then he is never at rest ... remember the words of Jacob: 'discretion is the mother of virtues': let us temper all things, that the strong

might have something to strive after and the weak may not fall back in dismay."

Between readings are five-minute periods of silence, effectively designed to foster the Trappists' belief in "stepping outside of time when praying the Divine Office," according to trappist.org.

At 5 a.m. the monks turn off their lights in unison. In his concluding prayer, Father Richard says, "May the peace of God stay in our hearts and minds." Chimes sound, and the service is ended. The monks quickly exit.

Foglio said of the speaking and chanting of the choir that "the 150 psalms express all the human emotions that we experience. ... So you just kind of go through life by listening or studying the Psalms. You get to reflect on feelings rather than, in our society, it's what have you accomplished, how much have you prepared for the future, do you have a 401K, on 'do, do, do, do, do'. The Psalms are not focused on how much power or prestige you have. It's that you are a human being, we are all equal, we are all in this together, and once we've received, it's maybe I can give back. How do I give back?"



## FROM THE ARCHIVE



### THIS GOOSE NOT EASY TO MOVE

Date Published Sep 5, 2000

"Evergreen Aviation officials figure between 10,000 to 15,000 people will pile onto Three Mile Lane on Sept. 16 to see a little bit of aviation history."

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# 5 to 6 a.m. at the bakery

*Flour, butter, sugar and precision — all before dawn*



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

David Boone gently loosens sticky cinnamon rolls that have just come out of the oven and are ready for the cooling rack. He and other bakers prepare numerous types of pastries and breads for the bakery in the wee hours of the morning.

By STARLA POINTER  
Of the News-Register

Entering Carlton Bakery at 5 a.m. raises the first question of the day: wouldn't more people get up early if they could smell the heavenly scent of baking bread and pastries?

It's a foggy late September morning that will turn out to be a damp, cool Thursday. Such a day is just right for having coffee and a pastry in front of the fireplace in the bakery's dining room, general manager Iain Danicic said.

For now, though, the slight chill is welcome: the three bakers crack open an exterior door to make it more comfortable in the kitchen filled with ovens, proofers, bright lights and hard work.

“It’s great to know someone’s day is a little better because of what we’ve made.”

— Iain Danicic

General manager Iain Danicic, a Newberg resident who worked his way up from customer service to baking, has been on the job for about an hour already.

“I like early hours,” he said. “I don’t like waiting to go to work.”

Production manager David Boone of McMinnville started making dough before 3 a.m. He’s worked at the bakery for six years, and he said he’s happy with the overnight shifts. “It keeps me busy,” he said.

The third baker, Gavin Nelson of Carlton, arrives at 5 and immediately begins portioning croissant dough that’s been slowly rising overnight.

Nelson and his coworkers periodically consult a chart that shows what needs to be made this morning, and what time different processes need to be started.

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# '24 Hours

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Precise timing is important, he said, so breads and pastries will be ready when the bakery opens its front door to customers at 8:30 a.m.

As the 5 o'clock hour ticks by, the bakers shape baguettes and short-loaf batards, chaussons aux pommes (tiny apple pies) and Marionberry tarts, let them proof (another rise), then slide them into the triple-deck ovens. The temperature of each deck can be adjusted separately, as can the temperature of the floor and ceiling of each deck for maximum control.

The aroma increases. Crust, cardamom, almonds, apples, butter, brown sugar ... fragrant enough to drive a dieter delirious, but to delight them, too.

**The baking area**, which most customers don't see, is a large room with by paths defined by stacks of sacks — pastry flour, high-protein bread flour, powdered sugar.

Rectangles of two kinds of butter are stacked up, as well, along with tubs of ingredients such as homemade raspberry jam, almond paste, apple compote or a gorgonzola mixture that will be stuffed by spoonfuls into small circles of croissant dough to make gougere, rich bites of flavor.

Everything is neat and easily accessible to the bakers, who would know the territory with their eyes closed. They keep their eyes open, though, ever attentive to the precise amounts of each ingredient needed for consistent results.

They don't use measuring cups, Nelson said. Those are inexact, since the way flour is packed into the cup might vary.

Rather, aiming for exact amounts, they weigh every ingredient in grams, and divide dough by kilograms. That's one of Nelson's jobs — weighing out about 1.65 kg of croissant dough for each batch of seven rolls.

The croissant dough — which earlier went through the process of laminating, adding butter between layers of dough to make it flaky when baked — gets a rest. Then Danicic picks up a batch, flattens it into a rectangle about 9-by-13 inches, and feeds it into the baker's prized rolling machine.

The machine, which bakers call "our lovely laminator," works like a human equipped with a pair of rolling pins and very strong muscles. It can flatten dough to any thickness that Danicic selects, as well as do the repeated laminating, pressing together layers of dough and butter, adding more butter each time.

This time, the laminator produces the final dough stage for the croissants. Danicic twirls it onto a cylinder, walks to a table, and unrolls it. Then he measures and cuts strips, then triangles.

Starting at the wide end of each triangle, he rolls the dough into croissant shapes, which then are brushed with melted butter and left to rise before going into the oven.

"Our biggest seller, by far," he said. "A plain croissant is hard to beat. I could eat 10 a day, if I let myself."

Danicic handrolls and bakes about three dozen each weekday and four dozen on each day of the weekend. At peak times of the year, he may make five dozen a day.

He says the same laminated dough goes into a variety of other pastries, including breakfast croissants stuffed with ham or bacon that he starts making at 5:10 a.m.



Above: **David Boone, right**, waits as eggs and butter are beaten in a huge Hobart mixer. He will add flour to make a brioche dough. In the background, **Iain Danicic, left**, works on croissants, and **Gavin Nelson, center**, portions dough. Below left: **Danicic, general manager of the Carlton Bakery**, sets a roll of buttery croissant dough on his stainless steel work table about 5:15 a.m. He will spread out the thin dough and cut it into triangles, which he'll then roll into croissant shapes. Below right: **Danicic pierces an apple turnover**, called a chausson aux pommes, in preparation for putting it into a hot oven about 5:40 a.m. Rachel Thompson/News-Register



"We use this dough so many ways," he said. "It's a point of pride to use each of our doughs in several ways ... savory, sweet, all delicious."

**Nelson consults the schedule** for the morning. It's 5:30. "Time to do the French dough," he says.

He hefts a large blob of rising dough that Boone mixed up in the huge Hobart at 2:45 a.m.; the commercial mixer is still running at 5:15 a.m., this time "whacking around" eggs and butter for brioche, Boone says.

Breaking off sections, Nelson weighs each piece of the French dough, removing a little or adding some to make them uniform weight — one size for skinny baguettes, a larger size for wider batard

loaves. He rolls each piece into a ball, then places it into a container for an additional rise.

After final shaping, proofing and baking, he said, "they'll be ready at 8:30 or 9."

Everything has to be fresh for today's customers, Nelson and Danicic say. They would rather sell out — and breads and pastries often do, so they advise customers to arrive early — than have leftovers.

"We're vastly about quality over quantity," says Danicic, who will mark his sixth anniversary with Carlton Bakery on Oct. 18.

An alarm sounds, interrupting the conversation, but not the work. Bakers respond by moving to the oven, turning a pan of pastries on one deck, and pulling long loaves of buttery, eggy brioche from another.

Nelson sets the brioche to cool. The soft, rich dough makes its a tricky bread to make, he says. This morning, the dough cooperated and the loaves look perfect.

The bakery uses the brioche dough in some pastries as well as baking it in loaf pans to sell outright or to slice for French toast breakfasts. Nelson said he's tried making French toast with the brioche at home; now he will never use anything else.

As a teenager, he applied for work at Carlton Bakery. Owner Tim Corrigan, a McMinnville native who opened the bakery in 2012 after learning the art of French baking while living in Japan, told him he didn't have a position for him then.

Nelson did a stint in the Marines before applying again. This time, he was hired for what he calls "the best job I ever had" because he likes the atmosphere, his coworkers and the physical nature of pushing dough around.

Nelson checks the brioche again; satisfied, he returns to his stainless steel



table. He measures out pastry flour, which has almost no gluten, compared to bread flour. Then he cuts in butter and adds ingredients to make two batches of lemon blueberry scones.

As an oven timer rings at 5:52 a.m., signaling the end of another baking time, Nelson says he's proud that his scones are another popular seller. "It's hard to keep up with sales of those," he said.

All three bakers are proud of what they do. They all know their jobs well, Danicic said, and they are pleased to make things that people enjoy.

"It's a big sense of pride to have, at 8 a.m., a beautiful rack of fresh pastry," Danicic said. "It's great to know someone's day is a little better because of what we've made."

**Reporter and photographer** leave the bakery at 6 a.m. Three hours later, the reporter returns, entering the retail shop this time to see the display cases laden with shimmering pastries, flaky croissants and humble-looking, but aromatic, fresh loaves.

Hard choices must be made. An almond croissant, pain au chocolat, Marionberry tart and a sea biscuit are nestled in a box, left open because some of the pastries are still a little warm. A debit card slides.

Now comes the second question of the morning: What is the longest-lasting, most difficult drive in Yamhill County?

The answer: the route between Carlton Bakery and the News-Register newsroom. Six excruciating miles of not reaching into that box.



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

At 6 a.m., the front of the Carlton Bakery is still closed, waiting for bakers to fill the display cases with fresh pastries in time for customers to start arriving at 8:30.

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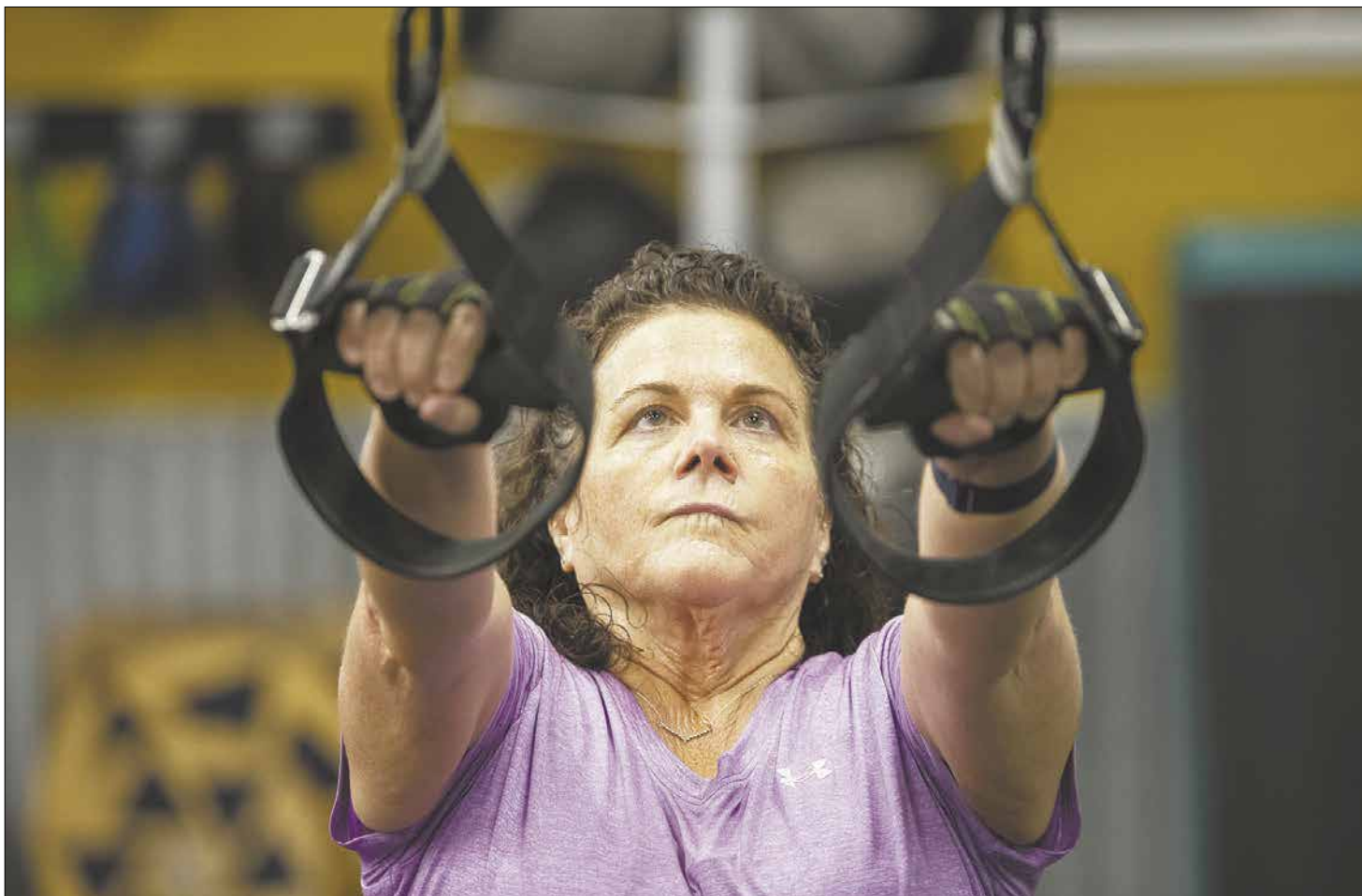
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# 6 to 7 a.m. at the gym

*There's strength in numbers, or solo, for folks doing pre-dawn workouts*



Rusty Rae/News-Register

**Kerry Brownridge pulls herself up in an incline chest press during X-Camp class. She is among a crew of pre-dawn workout regulars at Excell Fitness in McMinnville between 6 and 7 a.m.**

By **EMILY BONSAANT**  
Of the News-Register

**R**ain pools in the dimly lit parking lot as the early morning creeps along. But at 6 a.m., the lights are on at Excell Fitness as gym-goers attack the day head on.

At 6:01 a.m., guests are welcomed by a grinning Alex Frazier, who is also a defensive tackle for Linfield football. He staffs the front desk and addresses visitors by name. Frazier has been at work for over an hour already and his chipper demeanor is infectious and sets the friendly tone at Excell.

"From the 6 to 7 a.m. hour we have consistent gym-goers," he said. "It's more of a smaller older crowd compared to the mid-morning. It's a fun atmosphere."

"I've made a lot of new friends and learned new exercise."

— Kerry Brownridge

His main task at this hour is greeting members, which he describes as a "low-key" task. With the majority of gym-goers listening to their own devices, Frazier said sometimes staff will play their own tastes, such as a Taylor Swift playlist or the

"Barbie Girl" by Aqua on repeat.

Frazier said outside of football season he too can be found working out in the early morning.

Gym members punch in a personal code on a keypad at the front desk before working out. To the left is the locker rooms and several head that way.

"Up Around the Bend" by Creedence Clearwater Revival plays over the intercom system at a medium level. Once through reception, the room opens to a spacious size. Free weights are on the right with stationary machines on the left. In the back and on a slight incline, cardio machines such as stationary bikes, treadmills and a

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# '24 Hours

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stair master overlooks the room.

About 30 people mill around the space that could easily house 150.

On the right side of the room by the wall length mirror Katie Sol and her X-Camp class have been going strong for nearly an hour. Participants of all ages practice strength training in a bootcamp-style by way of interval training. College students to seniors go through the body weight circuit for an early morning sweat session. They move from core-focused exercise to resistant band-assisted arm raises and then to modified squats.

College student Mariah Deboff gets in the zone during a standing chest press by focusing on the words "Dare to Excell" written above the wall length mirror. She furrows her brow as she extends her arms out in front of her. She focuses on form, softening her knees as she stands with one foot in front of the other. She leans slightly forward and tries to focus on using her chest and not her back to complete the movement.

Phil Frischmuth's glasses fog up as he eases down to touch the floor twice before fluidly squatting. He focuses on his breathing as he pushes through the repetitive movement.

After the circuit, Sol coaxes the participants to finish up with more core exercise. Some of them moan as a joke, rather than as a complaint, as they are almost done.

At 6:07 a.m., the hour-long class wraps up early and a sweat-soaked John Paul smiles in relief.

At the station machines, early morning exercisers acknowledge each other with a nod or wave as they sport their own headphones and get in the zone. The gym-goers rotate around each other silently in the spacious room and spread out into their own areas. Other than focused breathing, light clanking from the stationary machines and the patter of feet on the treadmill, the workouts create little noise.

"Thunderstruck" by AC/DC plays over the sound system, but only for the staff's ears, as gym-goers blast their own tunes or listen to podcasts in their headphones and earbuds.

A trio of Encore Home Furnishings co-workers, Casey Ranger, Dillon Brayton and Rylee Dennison meet before their 8 a.m. shift to hit the free weights. Almost like a flock of birds, they go their own directions for a moment or a set, then come back together.

Ranger, quiet and focused, pulls nearly the whole stack of weight on the lateral pull. He smiles behind his red beard from a joking word by Brayton, who then goes back to do start on triceps extensions.

Ranger regularly works 11-hour shifts and said if he doesn't hit the gym before work, he won't get to it at night. He's been at the gym since before 5:30 a.m.

"I come to the gym to get focused for work and get up and going for the day," he said. Today he's doing a full body workout and will hit legs once he completes his chest and arm circuit. Despite "All She Wants To Do Is Dance" by Don Henley playing over the speaker, Casey, like most early morning gym-goers at Excell, is listening to his own



Katie Sol leads the 5:15 to 6:15 a.m. X-Camp class in stretches at Excell Fitness.

Rusty Rae/News-Register

device. He listens to a local radio station app as he lifts, as the selection is good.

He moves over to the dumbbells and benches. He lifts up a set of 30 pounders and does deltoid lateral raises. He watches himself in the mirror, focusing on form. With each breath his red mustache brushes aside to reveal a hidden smile.

Brayton and Dennison work through an upper body circuit together at the exercise tower. Between sets they crack jokes or walk over to Ranger for exercise tips.

Brayton, although in blue moon and star pajama bottoms, isn't stuck in bed; rather, he's moving some big weight on the chest press. After a short rest and stretch he goes back to the bicep curls on the exercise tower.

Dennison finishes at the triceps extensions and admires his pump in the mirror.

"I'm always trying to hit the gym early, since I work manual labor at Encore at 8:30 a.m.," Dennison said. He also comes to the gym early to scratch it off his to-do list of the day. He's been a member at Excell since seventh grade, but has only started taking the gym seriously for the past year.

At 6:28 a.m., some of the early crowd has already trickled out, as they had come in around the 5 a.m. opening. Other members come in and hop on the treadmill or free weights with no wait, but about only 15 people remain in the gym.

Kerry Brownridge hits the treadmill after X-Camp. She tries to get another hour of cardio in. At 6 a.m. every morning she focuses on her fitness and can be found either in a class at Excell or pushing herself on the treadmill.

"The gym helped me lose 110 pounds after my weight loss surgery," she said, while keeping to her jogging pace. "I've kept all but 15 pounds off."

She added that many of her friends lost weight which later returned, but she aims



to be the outlier. To do so, she aims to be consistent at the gym and fend off the weight. "Don't just live, live to Excell" is written on the wall behind her and the cardio machines.

Working out before starting his workday is a critical routine for Casey Ranger, who exercises along with co-workers.

Rusty Rae/News-Register

She first joined Excell at the Newberg location, which closed during Covid. In 2022 she visited the Mac location with a friend; between health issues and a monthly goal of being more consistent at the gym, she's an early morning regular.

"Excell is like a family," she said. "I've made a lot of new friends and learned new exercise. I look forward to coming into the gym," she said between breaths as she picked up the pace.

David Faxon, owner of Excell Fitness, is in his office early today, running transactions and reports on gym memberships.

"I always tell people it's amazing how much paperwork it takes to keep a business between the lines," he said.

Everyone comes in with a personal key code. Excell uses this to track visits for insurance and memberships.

At 6:45 a.m. the next X-Camp class has been going strong for 15 minutes. Divenson Willis, Linfield running back and wrestler, teaches the class Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

He said he changes up each X-Camp class to tailor to the needs of the participants, by modifying exercises to accommodate their physical capabilities, but his drill sergeant mentality remains throughout.

He said his demeanor may make participants hate him, but gets results, which earned laughs from the participants who can see through his tough coach façade.

"It's October, or squat-tober," he says at 6:55 a.m., as class participants hit the squat rack.


At 6:59 a.m., the gym remains quiet; however several headlights can be seen outside, as drivers park and get out of their cars with gym bags in tow. Frazier greets one, then two, then five members as sunrise has yet to be seen.




Rusty Rae/News-Register

At 6:28 a.m., Alex Frazier, a Linfield student and football player, staffs the front desk, welcoming early morning visitors to the gym.

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# 7 to 8 a.m. on the farm

*Dayton High senior tends to her sheep, chickens and cattle before heading to class*



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

**Dayton FFA member Izzy Gonzales brushes Penelope the cow as she stands patiently next to the feed trough, which the cow, her calf, a steer, several lambs and some chickens had cleaned out moments earlier. Izzy said spending time with her animals makes them calmer and easier to show.**

**By STARLA POINTER**  
*Of the News-Register*

**A**t 7 a.m. on the third day of Standard Time, the chickens are burbling and the lambs and cattle are making occasional noises as they graze on the Gonzales' acreage near Dayton. A rooster crows.

To the animals, who don't care about watches and cell phones and time changes, it feels an hour too late for breakfast. It's daylight, after all; it's time for Izzy to arrive bearing buckets of feed.

Isabelle Gonzales, 18, rises at 6:30 a.m. so she can tend to her animals before classes at Dayton High School.

The DHS senior strides across the farm-

**“I’ve put a lot of money and time into my animals; I’ve learned a lot.”**

— Izzy Gonzales

yard in rubber boots to her grandfather's barn. She and her parents, Shawnee and Frankie Gonzales, live in one house on the property. Her grandparents, Charles and Joyce, live in the other, where Joyce is

known for turning fresh eggs and zucchini into tasty bread.

“Family is very important to me,” says Izzy, the youngest of four siblings.

So is where she lives. “I like it here,” says Izzy, who moved to the spot when she was a toddler. “I’m glad I go to a smaller school, in a smaller community.”

Her grandfather lets her keep her animal equipment in his barn, she says as she walks past a tub filled with items for the county fair, a pig whip and show stick leaning against the wall, and a cabinet filled with medications and first-aid supplies for four-legged creatures.

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## '24 Hours

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"I've put a lot of money and time into my animals; I've learned a lot," Izzy says. "I'm very happy with the outcome."

The barn also holds three big bins of food and a bale of hay.

Izzy says she buys corn, grass pellets and a mixture called "all-stock." She combines them to order for her sheep and Highland cattle, which will be used for showing and for meat, as well.

She has a steer and a cow, which recently added a bull calf to the farm. She also owns a new, 9-month-old steer she's preparing for next summer's fair; she keeps the animal at the home of her FFA advisor, Mitch Coleman.

She is one of 287 students in FFA at Dayton High. She joined the organization as a freshman and started showing at the fair; she shows market animals, which are judged on their quality, and competes in showmanship rounds, where her skills are judged, as well.

"I love showing," she said. "Any opportunity I get to show, I take."

Three years ago, her favorite lamb, Holly, won the top prize in its class.

"She has a lot of personality. She loves people," Izzy says, telling the story of a time when Holly slipped out of her harness and ran — right over to a person with whom she wanted to make friends.

At the 2024 fair, she showed a steer for the first time. The day was hot — 98 degrees.

"My steer was so hot and tired, he just lay down in the middle of the ring," Izzy recalls.

Another FFA member helped her coax the steer to his feet and she finished the show, winning a reserve champion — runner-up — ribbon.

**Izzy's current sheep** include three ewes and two ewe lambs, all black-faced, a type Izzy breeds; and two white-faced lambs she recently acquired. All the girls are named for trees: In addition to Holly are Hazel, Aspen, Maple, Juniper and Acacia.

The white-faced pair are seven months old now, and Izzy now keeps the little ram, Barkley, in a separate pen because he's like a teenager looking for a girlfriend.

And, like a teen boy, Barkley is hungry this morning. As he bawls, Izzy blends one-and-a-half pounds of each type of food for him. In contrast, the six females share a mix of three pounds of each type.

The cow, Penelope, steer Snickers and as-yet-unnamed calf together get three pounds of each food. The little one is just starting to eat grain.

A rooster crows.

Izzy dumps the feed into two troughs as the cattle come running, followed by the sheep; the baby bull hangs back, a little unsure, while the other animals gather around one tub, munching heartily.

One by one, they drift over to the other tub to try what's on offer there.

"The grass is always greener on the other side," Izzy says, watching them chew the very same mixture from the second tub.

Nearly a dozen chickens dance around the feet of the larger animals, snapping up whatever grain is dropped.

At 7:19, Izzy turns to fill their water troughs. She tosses a double handful of hay to Barkley, pausing to rub the ram's ears and muzzle, too.

"He is more rambunctious than the ewes," she said, noting that males have a "magnetic code" that makes them want to headbutt whomever comes their way.

She stops to comb Penelope, too, promising the cow and Snickers that she may be back later with treats.

Regular interaction helps calm the other animals, Izzy says. Sometimes, she adds, she sings along to the music of Zach Bryan or another country artist while she combs them.

At 7:23, Izzy kicks mud from the bottom of her boots as she leaves the barnyard. "It can be really muddy in winter," she says, stepping up to the slightly raised floor of the barn.

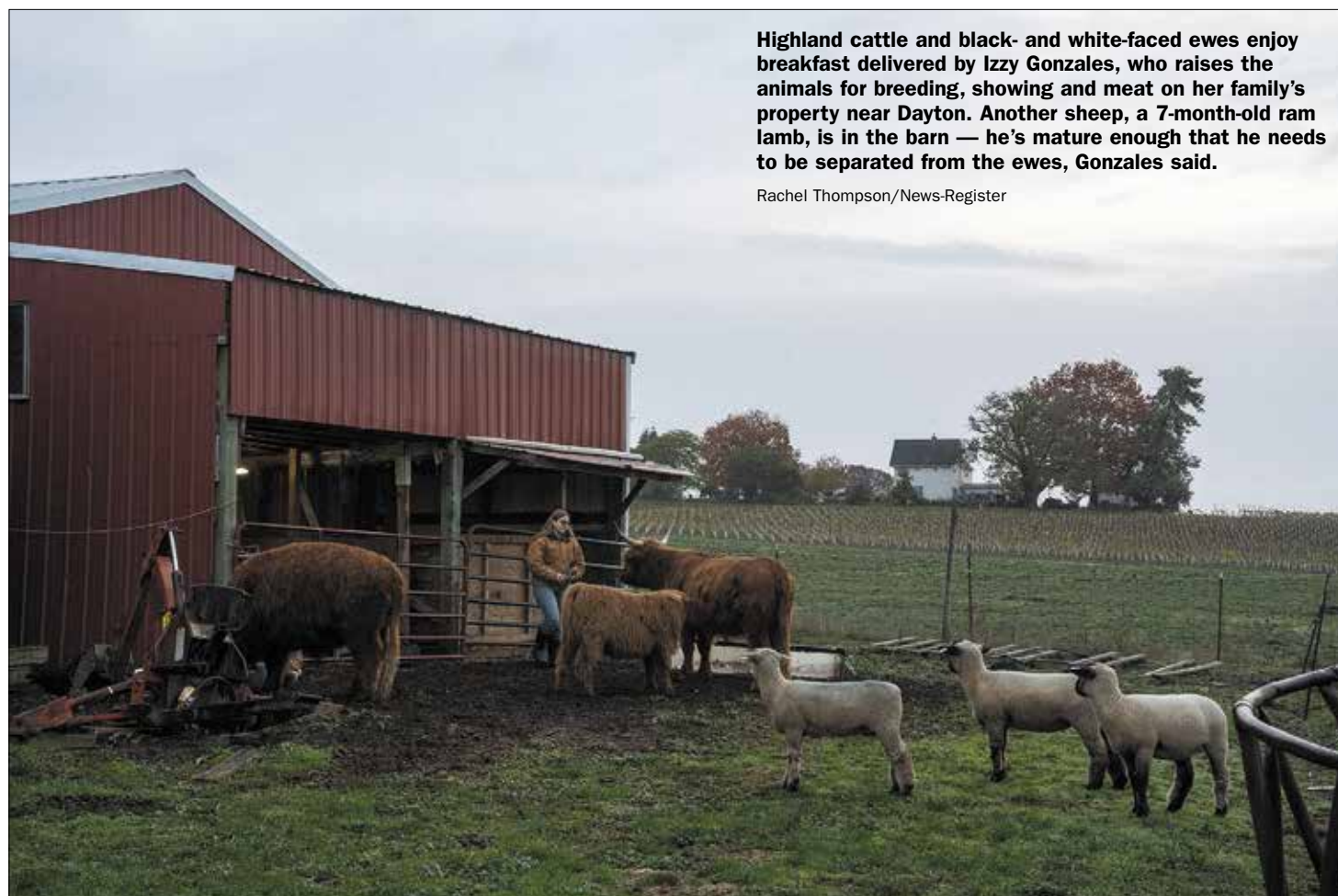
At 7:25, a rooster crows.

**Izzy grew up** around animals. Her mother raised meat rabbits and the family kept chickens for eggs. Once a year, they bought a young steer, fattened it up and butchered it for their table.

When the mobile slaughtering service arrived, young Izzy was fascinated. She didn't mind seeing blood, and even tried to help the butcher drag a heavy hide across the yard to his truck — she realizes now



Above left: **Early Tuesday morning, Dayton High School senior Izzy Gonzales heads into the barn to prepare a breakfast of grains for her sheep and Highland cattle. She stores their food and her equipment — for working with animals and showing at the fair — in her grandfather's barn on the family property.** Above right: **A Highland bull calf, as yet unnamed, tries to figure out why people are taking his picture. He was born this summer to Izzy's cow, Penelope.** Rachel Thompson/News-Register



**Highland cattle and black- and white-faced ewes enjoy breakfast delivered by Izzy Gonzales, who raises the animals for breeding, showing and meat on her family's property near Dayton. Another sheep, a 7-month-old ram lamb, is in the barn — he's mature enough that he needs to be separated from the ewes, Gonzales said.**

Rachel Thompson/News-Register



**Finished with feeding her animals Tuesday morning, Izzy starts her next endeavor — attending classes at Dayton High School where she concentrates on her school work as well as actively participating in Dayton FFA.** Rachel Thompson/News-Register

that he was actually supporting most of the weight.

Back then, her ambition was to become a butcher. Now, despite her continuing interest in animals, she plans to study biology at Oregon State and become a tissue culture technician who will clone plants.

First though, Izzy says, she hopes to spend a year as a state FFA officer. If elected next spring, she will travel Oregon and even go to other states and countries representing the ag-based youth leadership program.

When she joined FFA, she chose a lamb for her first project. Coleman recommends that step, she said, because lambs are relatively small and easy for a teen to handle.

"They're strong, though, and they can get grumpy," she said, recalling her early days of training and showing lambs.

To keep new lambs from becoming too skittish, she said, she spends a lot of time with them. She may sit in the pen with them, stroke their wool and hold their heads gently, to get them used to her. Next she will introduce them to a halter and teach them to walk with her — not always easy, she says.

Even the best-trained animal can act up when it's time to go to the fair, Izzy says. The trip from the farm to the fairgrounds is stressful in itself; they miss the animals they know and may be wary of the new ones surrounding them.

"If they freak out, you have to stay calm," she says of showing.

**Animals fed and satisfied, at 7:34 a.m. Izzy leaves the barn and heads into her**

"I love showing. Any opportunity I get to show, I take."

— Izzy Gonzales

house to change from muddy boots to school shoes. She also removes the heavy jacket that keeps her warm while she's out in the barnyard.

A rooster crows again.

At 7:41, she climbs up into her black Dodge pickup — yet another Ram — and heads for school, a nine-minute drive. After parking in the lot across Ferry Street from the entrance, she walks past the office and turns down the main hall on the way to class.

She's a little late this morning, because she's being followed by a photographer and reporter, so she doesn't stop to visit with friends. She just enters the senior seminar room and sits down, joining several students who are waiting for teacher Jennifer Shadden to arrive.

Senior seminar, in which students discuss college, resumes and future plans, is one of seven classes Izzy will have today.

She also will spend time studying Spanish 3, English, law and debate, government/civics, an independent study period in agricultural leadership, and hydroponics and tissue culture. The latter is a particular favorite, an introduction to her future career.

Izzy's phone rings, and she takes a quick call from her dad. He's wondering about the strange vehicle parked behind his house. Just the reporter's truck, left there when the journalists followed her to school, Izzy reassures her father.

Then, as the clock ticks from 7:59 a.m. to 8, Izzy turns her attention to the teacher as the school day begins.

# 8 to 9 a.m. at Greeters

*Chamber's weekly gathering is more than a business meeting*



Rusty Rae/News-Register

**Beto Reyes, one of the Chamber ambassadors, emcees the Oct. 25 Greeters event in the showroom at Lum's GMC. About 80 people form a circle to share information about their companies and organizations from 8 to 9 a.m.**

By **STARLA POINTER**  
Of the News-Register

Enthusiastic chatter continues well past the official starting time for the Oct. 25 Greeters event, the McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce's weekly gathering of business people, representatives of nonprofit organizations and other community members.

Every attendee is constantly busy: working, organizing community activities and supporting others. On Friday mornings, they take a moment to relax and talk with fellow community members whom they may not have time to see during the rest of the week.

As 8 a.m. comes and goes, they socialize and network. How have you been? Did

“It refreshes my soul, and it kicks off the weekend.”

— Beto Reyes

you figure out a solution? Can I be of some help?

Jose Lopez, owner of JB Landscape and a regular at Greeters, snaps selfies with other attendees. He also snaps shots of people talking in twos and threes and small groups in the showroom at Lum's GMC, the business hosting this week's Greeters event.

Lum's GMC is the host site this time, while MV Advancements will provide the program, an overview of its services to people with disabilities.

Over the year, hosts and presenters take turns, showing the diversity of McMinnville's economy. Another week the host business' owners might talk about what they sell. Or another nonprofit might host Greeters at its place, if it has the room inside or out. Often a business will host a nonprofit that lacks space for a gathering of this size.

Since today is chilly, the 80 or so attendees are grateful for the spacious indoor showroom at the car dealership. They grab coffee or bottles of water, and

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# '24 Hours

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browse several types of muffins, sweet or savory, to have along with mimosas.

And they chat, in pairs and trios and other small groups.

"Good morning! Good morning!" Beto Reyes, this morning's emcee, sings at 8:09 a.m. The opening lines from "Singin' in the Rain" get people's attention, and they form a circle that's more amoeba-shaped than round.

Reyes, who works with Praise Church and the Community Development Program, is a chamber ambassador. He's one of more than a dozen people who volunteer to promote the organization and help new chamber members learn to participate in the community — by attending Greeters, for instance.

Whether or not it's his turn to emcee, Reyes arrives at each a little after 7:30 a.m. each Friday to help Holly Gleason, the Chamber's membership director, who is in charge of Greeters. They carry in the sound system, nametags and other equipment.

"For me, Greeters is like pulling into the gas station," Reyes said — energizing, in other words. "It refreshes my soul, and it kicks off the weekend."

He's been attending for about seven years. He calls the people he sees nearly every week "my Chamber family." They appreciate his songs and jokes.

"Who knows the mission of the Chamber?" Reyes asks, and most of the attendees answer aloud, "Supporting a strong local economy to create a thriving, sustainable community."

Then he calls up his fellow ambassadors, including Lopez, who has put his camera away. They introduce themselves.

Next, Reyes hands the microphone to the nearest person in the circle. "Damon LeQuin of the Delphian School. I'm a first-timer," LeQuin says, and everyone claps.

He hands the mic to the next person and one by one, they take turns saying their name and affiliation — business or nonprofit or both.

"Bianca Morales-Starr, Farmers Insurance."

"Dick Mason, KCYX."

"Sue Huwaldt, board member of MV Advancements."

"Leslie Anderson, Cascade Movement Center."

"Angeles Ceja, J&S Restoration and Reconstruction," who also introduces her little sister, 7-year-old Mariel, to the delight of the other attendees.

"Adam Garvin, McMinnville Fire Department board, MV Advancements, city council, Garvin's Auto Spa."

"Heather Acker, Seeds of Hope, Lemonade Day, MV Advancements."

Vern Popowski names his handyman business, then adds, "I can help you with your Honey-Do list."

Like Popowski, many of the speakers add a tagline, which others repeat, as well.

"Homeward Bound Pets ... meow, woof!" "McMinnville Soroptimists ... Investing in Dreams." "Praise Assembly: We can't spell 'church' without 'you'." "Serendipity Ice Cream ... Your Sweet Spot on Third Street." "My Hauler with Claw - Before Your Body has a Flaw, Call the Claw."

And when Lopez gets his turn, he asks, with good humor, "Do you want to mow your own lawn?" The crowd responds, "No way, Jose!"

Some have a jingle or a song, as well. Today, though, no one warbles "American Family Insurance." Maybe next week...

At 8:25 a.m., the introductions are finally over.

Pam Lum and her employees take a moment to describe their business, which Lum's has been running for six years. The dealership sells new and used cars and does repairs "on all makes and models," Lum says, adding, "We love McMinnville."

Just before 8:30, she seamlessly transitions from talking about her business to talking about MV Advancements. She introduces one of her employees, Matt Huwaldt, who is in MV's supported employment program.

He describes the job he clearly loves: watering plants, washing dishes, drying cars, recycling cardboard and other duties. His parents, Chris and Sue Huwaldt, also take a minute to thank both MV Advancements and Lum's for helping their son live his best life.

Then the MV staff take over to talk about the variety of services they offer, in addition to supported employment. They



Left: At 8:05 a.m., just before the McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce's Greeters event officially gets underway, handyman Vern Popowski and realtor Mary Baker have a chance to catch up on what's happening with their respective businesses.

Below: Angeles Ceja of J&S Restoration and Reconstruction and her sister, Mariel, 7, select muffins in the moments before Greeters begins. Attendees love it when someone brings a youngster to the weekly event to learn more about businesses and activities in McMinnville.

Bottom: Damon LeQuin of the Delphian School drops his business card into a basket at 8 a.m. as he registers for the Greeters program. Oct. 25 was his first time at Greeters, a Friday morning gathering for representatives of businesses, nonprofits and other organizations. Delphian School hosted Greeters the following week.

Rusty Rae/News-Register



work with more than 300 adults in Yamhill, Marion and Polk counties, said Marie Williams and other staff members

Next year, she promises, MV Advancements will host a Greeters program of its own — in the new headquarters building that's going up on Baker Street near Linfield University.

By 8:40 a.m., Reyes has the microphone again. He adds a personal memory of MV Advancements, where he once worked. He learned so much there, he said. "It blew away my idea of someone with a disability," he said.

Then it's time for announcements, and several people line up in the center of the circle. Each has 30 seconds to tell the group about changes to their business, upcoming events and other news.

"Beto will time you!" someone calls, warning speakers not to be too wordy.

Diane Longaker makes it quick, saying thank you to everyone for their support of a recent Kiwanis fundraiser. "We raised \$8,500 for scholarships and children's literature," she said.

Longaker has been attending Greeters for 13 years. She worked with YCAP, where she started the Melt Down fundraiser for the food bank, and later represented Juliette's House at the weekly gatherings. She now represents the Kiwanis as well as other businesses.

She said she likes connecting with all the businesses and organizations. "We see what support they need, and how they can support you," she said.

She's made numerous friends at Greeters, as well, including Reyes. Since getting to know him on Fridays, she's come to know his family, as well. When her position at Juliette's was cut recently, he and his children brought her balloons to cheer her up.

Announcements done, names are drawn for several prizes provided by the host and



presenter, including Lum's caps and cutting boards made by MV Advancements clients.

At 8:50 Chamber President John Olson steps up to offer closing remarks.

As he does every week, he compliments the organization that led the program — this time talking about MV Advancement's important role in the community.

And as he's done lately, he reminds people of the excitement to come during the holiday season, when the Chamber and businesses will offer a Christmas market and a temporary ice skating rink in the Oregon Mutual Insurance parking lot. The attraction will open Nov. 29, following the McMinnville Downtown Association's Christmas parade and city tree lighting.

Greeters, which has been taking place every Friday morning for more than 30 years, is a perfect setting in which to make such announcements, Olson said.

"It's a great way for members to network, promote their businesses, and stay engaged with the local business community," said Olson, who is in his first year as leader of the 450-member Chamber.

After a few more words, Olson ends the meeting at 8:55 a.m., telling members to have a good weekend and profitable day.

And business owners, nonprofit workers, volunteers and others return to talking among themselves for a few minutes before heading out the doors.

# 9 to 10 a.m. at the feed store

*Buchanan Cellers is for the birds — and the dogs, cats, horses ...*



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Tessa Riedman helps Buchanan Cellers customer Ken Dollinger with a purchase at about 9:45 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27. Behind the counter, sleepy Ava plays with a notebook.

By STARLA POINTER  
Of the News-Register

On a chilly, foggy November morning, Jay Legard unlocks the door of Buchanan Cellers and flicks on the lights in the century-old building on Fifth Street, near downtown McMinnville. The place smells pleasantly of well-worn wood, grains and nuts, leather and rope. If a dog or cat was present, it would smell chew toys and breakfast.

As the clock strikes 9 a.m., the feed store opens for business. It's one of several local retailers that open before 10 a.m.

This particular Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving, promises to be typical: Pet owners coming in for treats and toys, farmers or FFA members arriving for

“I can't think of anything we don't have food for.”

— Traci Clevenger

huge bags of horse feed or chicken bedding, woodstove owners stopping by for pellets because of a below-freezing forecast.

Store manager Tessa Riedman and customer service employee Traci Clevenger flick on their computers and get the cash registers ready at the counter in the center of the store. They turn on a heater, too,

sending welcome warmth through the old wood structure.

Clevenger expects to stock shelves this morning, as well.

But first “Auntie Traci” greets Ava, Riedman's 11-month-old daughter, the store's unofficial assistant manager and official center of attention.

“I'm training her for Disneyland,” Clevenger says, bouncing the little girl. “We're going! Whether her mom comes along or not.”

Ava, who has already tried out the credit card machine, is growing up behind the counter.

Between naps, the toddler greets

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## '24 Hours

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customers, especially if they have their canine friends along. “She loves dogs,” her mother says, and Ava grins and wriggles upon hearing the word.

Reidman worked for Buchanan Cellers long before Ava was born. In fact, she’s worked there twice, for five years the first time and nearly a decade so far this time.

She loves the place, she said — especially since it’s a family-run business that serves many longtime customers.

Whether they are buying a bird feeder as a gift or medicine for their horse, customers usually linger a moment to exchange news or to inquire about Ava.

“She walking yet?” asks John Altree of Lazy A Farms when he comes in at 9:11 a.m. for dog food and a sack of layer pellets for his hens. Clevenger rings up the purchase.

Before pressing the total button, she consults Altree to make sure which brand of chicken feed he wants. “Beaver Brand layer pellets?” she asks, and he nods.

Clevenger adds, “Any hen scratch or anything else for you?” Altree, who’s been shopping at Buchanan Cellers for 40 years, shakes his head.

Then he spots Ava and takes a minute to talk.

**CB Mason arrives** at 9 a.m., as well. She does marketing and promotions, including the store’s Facebook page and website.

One of her first tasks of the day is much more hands-on, though. She crosses the street to the store’s tall sign at Fifth and Irvine streets and climbs a ladder to change the reader board.

Despite the cold, she doesn’t wear gloves — she needs all the dexterity she can muster, she said, to set up the big plastic numbers and letters.

Back inside, rubbing her hands, Mason turns her attention to her computer. She manages the website, where she developed a system so customers can order online and come to the store or warehouse to pick up what they need.

“No orders today,” Clevenger said, who checks each morning and gets the merchandise ready for pick up. “But we’ve had a lot of calls about whether we’ll be open.”

The store’s hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. But customers have been calling this week to find out whether the store would be closed on the day before, or after, Thanksgiving.

It was open as usual, six days a week, even if snow falls.

Legard, who lives within walking distance, is the backup for any of the staff members if they are snowed in. On snow days, he said, people may hurry in for extra animal food or bedding. And pet owners, out walking their dogs, come in for treats.

**At 9:01 a.m.**, Nicholas Muniz begins moving pallets of stock into the parking lot of Buchanan Cellers’ warehouse across the street, near the reader board sign.

Muniz, who has been on the job for eight years, will spend much of his day on the forklift, loading 40-pound bags of livestock feed and other items into customers’ pickups.

“It’s hard work, but I try to do more and better every day,” says Muniz as he lines up pallets neatly in front of the metal-clad utility building that would look perfect next to a barn.

Buchanan Cellers also has a more extensive warehouse near Whiteson. Not only does the company store large quantities at



Above: With help from employee Nicholas Muniz, right, Allen Sitton loads feed for his wife’s goats into his truck about 9:10 a.m. The Sittons have been shopping at Buchanan Cellers for decades.



Left: At 9:47 a.m., regular customer Mark Williams enters the east door of Buchanan Cellers, near the extensive display of Kongs and other dog toys. Williams dropped by for pellets for his stove.

Rachel Thompson/News-Register

cozy he won’t dismantle,” she said.

At the front counter, she describes her rabbit as “a pretty tiny guy” and asks what’s available.

Clevenger quickly leads her to the small-animal section. She shows Arreola just the thing — an easy-to-clean metal nesting box with a wooden bottom.

Perfect, Arreola says, then spends a few moments talking with Clevenger about their respective Thanksgiving plans.

Then she grabs a few treats from other sections of the store as she returns to the counter to pay. “I’ve got a big menagerie,” she says.

No problem, Clevenger says. “We have feed for anything,” she says. “Dogs, cats, birds, pigs, goats, emus, llamas ... I can’t think of anything we don’t have food for.”

And toys, medicine, feeders, bedding and beds.

And treats. Clevenger shows off the array that includes, for dogs, long stiff ropes of collagen, dried pigs’ ears and water buffalo horns. There are even sticks of yak cheese, a hard substance that dogs love to chew. “I get these,” she said of the latter.

**By 9:39 a.m.**, assistant manager Ava is getting tired. She plays quietly in her crib while her mom and “auntie” continue their work. She’s figuring out how to open a black binder, the kind she may use for her school assignments in a few years.

Sleep will come soon — despite the talking and other noise that continues around her.

Today may be a bit quieter than most. Only one delivery truck is due, says Clevenger, who puts the stock onto shelves. Most trucks come on Tuesdays.

But customers are steady — farmers and animal lovers in the morning; more pet owners in late afternoon, stopping by for a treat or bag of food on their way home from work.

Often, people stop by just to look at the building, staff members say. They admire the old wood, which includes huge beams harvested from trees that were in the Tillamook Burn in the 1930s.

At 9:47 a.m., Mark Williams walks in to order pellets for his woodstove. “This is our favorite place. A great place,” he says of Buchanan Cellers.

He, too, takes a few minutes to talk before heading to the warehouse to pick up his order.

On the way out, he passes a wooden handtruck, one of about eight such antiques still in use at Buchanan Cellers.

The handtrucks, made before 1950 from wood and steel straps, are part of daily life at the store — not because of their charming appearance, but because they still are useful. Just like the building itself, and the products it holds.

the site, but it also mixes its own feed blends there in 1,500-pound batches. For instance, it combines black oil sunflower seeds, millet and other seeds to be sold as wild bird food under the Beaver Brand.

Beaver has been a Buchanan Cellers brand for decades — since the 1940s, at least, Legard says. A vintage sign hanging near the cash register advertises Beaver products.

At 9:06, Allen Sitton parks his truck a few yards from Muniz’s forklift and crosses the street to the store. He’s the second customer of the day.

“I’ve known the Legards for years,” Sitton says as he places an order for feed for his wife’s goats. He’s also getting pellets he’ll use on Thanksgiving to barbecue a turkey.

“We’ve been doing business here as long as they’ve been in business,” he says.

**Jerry and the late Margaret Legard** bought the longstanding business in 1977. Margaret Legard was instrumental in getting the building listed on the National Historic Register.

Now her son is overseeing renovation plans that will keep the vintage appearance, but add seismic reinforcing and fire safety sprinklers. He says they also plan to open up the retail area on the second floor mezzanine and offer rental space upstairs, as well.

Legard, who spends more time at the warehouse than in the store, takes a few minutes to talk to Sitton. At 9:16 a.m., they’re still discussing organic items that Legard has added to the inventory since he took over the business after his parents retired.

Legard says he’s proud of his staff of local people and of the ability to offer good pay and benefits. “We have a really good team of super-long-term employees,” he says.

As a way of thanking them, he said, he works the counter from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Christmas Eve while other employees take the day off. His daughters, Rachel and Ally, spend Dec. 24 helping alongside him.

**Legard also is** proud of the selection his store is able to offer. Because it buys in large quantities, he says, it’s able to offer competitive prices.

And it carries items that are hard to find elsewhere, such as dozens of novelty bird feeders and houses — tiny Adirondack chairs that hold seed; buildings that look like miniatures of the real thing; cats with their mouths agape, ready for birds to hop in.

Buchanan Cellers also is the only place to find chicken treats made from dried soldier fly larvae from Chapul Farms, the McMinnville company that keeps food waste out of the landfill by converting it — through the larvae — into natural fertilizer.

“Pretty cool people,” says Legard, who is hoping to get a tour of Chapul’s operation soon.

The store’s inventory has evolved over the years, he says. In the 1970s and ‘80s, his parents sold to numerous small dairies; fewer exist these days.

“Now it’s more pet parents,” he says. “People with dogs and cats, chickens, rabbits, horses...”

Buchanan Cellers does still deliver to big dairies, he notes.

**At 9:30 a.m.**, Kathy Arreola enters the store through its westernmost door and quickly hefts a bag of birdseed.

“I didn’t come for this,” she says as she crosses under dozens of bird feeders and birdhouses suspended from the ceiling. But when she saw it, she realized she needed it.

What she originally was seeking was a box for her bunny, a house pet. “Something

**CB Mason changes the store’s sign to remind chicken owners to pick up some treats for their birds.**

Rachel Thompson  
News-Register



# 10 to 11 a.m. at the nursery

*At Bailey's in Yamhill, pruners, propagators and growers are working for the future*



Rusty Rae/News-Register

**Inside Bailey Nurseries' Warehouse A, Jose Juarez Chavez, Juan Escobar, Carlos Maldonado, Salvador Martinez Martinez, David Espinoza and other crew members inspect and prune hydrangea trees before winter storage. They will be replanted in the spring.**

**By EMILY BONSANT**  
*Of the News-Register*

**J**ust outside of Yamhill at 10 a.m. the day before Thanksgiving, Bailey Nurseries employees are working ahead, not just for the holiday, but for the next decade.

At 10:05 a.m. crew members are in Warehouse A processing 2-year-old hydrangea trees. The usually vibrant shrubs are unrecognizable, as they are naked of color and could be mistaken for saplings.

Crew members are dressed for cold weather in overalls, work jeans and hoodies, and briskly grab one hydrangea

from the cart, lightly shaken to remove dirt and asset the roots. They hold the plant aloft to set the roots on the ground like a staff and prune the branches down to a manageable size. The workers are fast, never focusing on one plant for too long. They quickly scrutinize the plant, prune it down to perfection and move on to the next one.

By 10:10 a.m., the forklift returns with another cart stacked with hydrangeas to be processed; it takes away the completed cart. At the end of the warehouse, the hydrangeas receive a quick hose drenching and then are hauled to freezers in another warehouse. They will be stored at 38

degrees and high humidity, which will allow them to see the next season and end up in garden departments around the country in 2025.

The clipping and waste are raked into a pile and will be reused as compost and fill for Bailey's.

Outside the warehouse doors is one of the best views in the county, an unhindered look of rolling hills, row upon row of plant rolls and greenhouse.

The future of Bailey's is nurtured and cultivated every day.

See '24 HOURS, 49



# “I’m happy I found horticulture. There is just something about caring for a living thing.”

— Abby Coyle



Rusty Rae/News-Register

Abby Coyle, grower at Bailey Nurseries, walks the long row of greenhouses in Row B to tend and inspect the inventory. She said she finds inspiration in the resilience of plants.

## '24 Hours

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“What we see today is the future of Bailey’s, if we mess up or kill some plants, it may have a ripple effect in our area for products and for Bailey’s across the nation,” said Jeff Stoven, propagation manager.

The 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. hour tasks change depending on the season. In spring, 30 to 35 workers can be found planting an assortment of plants in Warehouse B assembly line. Additionally, a robotic planter has been added, which plants eight times faster than the human hand. However, in the winter, the warehouse is empty, except for an employee sweeping the floor.

Growing happens all year, with help from the 90 greenhouses on the Yamhill property.

Abby Coyle, a grower, is responsible for 25 of the 90 greenhouses. At 10:25 a.m., she is walking in greenhouse Row A, checking in on the houses she didn’t see the day before.

**The greenhouses are** placed in long rows and marked with numbers, such as 1B, indicating which row they are in. The houses may hold one variety of plant, or a host of different plants.

She inspects and cares for the plants.

She also scouts, or looks for any irregularities, diseases or infestations. Coyle covers some ground to do all her chores.

“I average 15,000 steps at work,” she said. “But we also have golf carts we can use.”

Some of the houses are from the 1970s, and have different features, such as manual doors. The doors on the short ends open in all the greenhouses to allow air flow and temperature control.

The greenhouses also have a partially automated sprinkler system. Coyle will turn a dial, setting a timer for the system. She then ducks out of the greenhouse and the sprinkler, mounted on a track near the ceiling, sends out arms parallel to the rows of plants.

In the middle of each greenhouse is a walking path, and above it the main console of the sprinkler system and hose glides on the mounted track and to the opposite end of the greenhouse.

Once at the end, the sprinkler shoots out water on the plants below and slowly tracks back to its starting point and will shut itself off.

“At my old job at a different nursery I had to hand water plants for eight hours,” Coyle said. “I like this system better.”

For Coyle, working with plants is a dream job.

“I’m happy I found horticulture,” she said. “There is just something about



Rusty Rae/News-Register

Jeff Stoven, propagation manager, inspects the new operator-controlled robotic hand in Warehouse B. It can plant eight times faster than a human, with more accuracy.

caring for a living thing.”

She is inspired by plants and their resilience.

“My favorite thing is plants want to live, they fight every day to survive,” she said. “Most of the time they recover from illness or infestation, they fight on.”

**At 10: 43 a.m.** Paola Solis, inventory manager, walks the long rows of plants in the greenhouses confirming inventory. She is systemic in her counting, using multiplication and counting the plants by flats.

“It’s fun to check the numbers,” Solis said as she bends down counting plants and double checking the inventory.

In one greenhouse, leafy Nandina shrubs are only a few inches tall. The different varieties change colors in the winter, and hues of yellow, red, orange and green shrubs light up the white-walled greenhouse.

Plants are labeled with an estimated maturity date, indicating when they will be ready for sale. Solis, with her experience

and knowledge, inspects the plants’ roots and body to determine if they can be sold early.

“We need the space and so, we’ll sell this one,” she said holding up a Nandina from a flat.

Solis will mark a group of the green-topped Nandina to be sold this winter. They will not go to a garden center, due to the body quality, but another grower.

She has to move inventory in order to allow more greenhouse space for more plants.

Later she will input the information into a data system, allowing the company to keep record of inventory, looking ahead one to five to even 10 years of inventory, as many of the maple trees will not be ready until 2030.

In the greenhouse Row B, maple tree saplings stand at only three inches tall and are unrecognizable. One day, after care and cultivation, they will reach for the sky and be sold in stores across the region and country.

Inventory Manager Paola Solis calculates assesses young Nandina bushes to determine whether they can be sold earlier than the printed sell date.

Rusty Rae/News-Register



# 11 a.m. to noon at the courthouse

*In the hallways, offices and courtrooms, judges, deputies  
and staff members deal with details and personalities*



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

**Office Administrator and Director of Crime Victim Services Cecilia Martinez enters courtroom 241, where she will sit with the victim and family members during a jury trial. Martinez and other advocates with CVS will attend court proceeding with or on behalf of victims. If a victim cannot attend court, advocates keep victims informed of court proceedings with a phone call.**

By **STARLA POINTER, SCOTT UNGER**  
and **EMILY BONSANT**  
Of the News-Register

**A**t 11 a.m. on a Tuesday, Judge Ladd Wiles is midway through a busy morning of sentencing and hearings in Courtroom 218, upstairs in the Yamhill County Courthouse.

He's one of two judges hearing cases this morning, but among dozens of courthouse workers involved in preparing for court and making sure the court process is conducted fairly and swiftly.

Security guards at the entrance on Fifth Street make sure people entering the courthouse aren't carrying weapons or contraband; court security officers accompany

**"You're in jail; you need legal help."**

— Judge Ladd Wiles

prisoners to and from the courtroom.

District Attorney Kate Lynch and her staff work diligently to prepare for hearings scheduled later in the day. Mandi Montgomery, court administrator, manages the staff and schedules everything to keep cases flowing.

Victims' assistants console people involved with cases. Jury coordinators and jurors play their roles, as do attorneys

representing defendants. Family members, community members and media representatives come and go.

In Courtroom 218, a wood-paneled room with windows across its north wall, Judge Wiles sits up front wearing a long, black robe. "Black stands for neutrality," says Wiles, the presiding judge in Yamhill County Circuit Court. "And it's tradition. It's the judges' uniform."

He laughs, joking, "and black is very slimming."

In the moments after 11, Wiles listens to the first of more than a dozen cases he'll handle during this hour. A defendant

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# '24 Hours

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accused of assault tells the judge that drug use contributed to his criminal behavior. "I've been doing alcohol and drugs since I was 12," the man says — probably two-thirds of his life or more.

Wiles orders drug treatment and anger treatment as well as a jail sentence, which is shorter than what the district attorney's office was seeking.

"This will get you away from drugs," the judge says. "The short story, Mr. G, is that you need treatment on both scores.

"And no drugs or alcohol," he adds. "And no contact with the victim, even if it's with good intentions to apologize."

As the man leaves the courtroom at 11:06, another case is called.

**At 11:11,** two women go through security.

"Let's see how we do," security guard Calvin Johnson says as the women pass through the metal detector.

Johnson works for contracted DPI Security, operating out of a small alcove — currently decorated with a small Christmas tree — behind the X-ray scanner machine. He is known as CJ to everyone in the courthouse.

"If someone called up here and said 'hey I need to talk to Calvin Johnson,' they'd say 'there's no Calvin Johnson that works here,'" he said. "It's actually happened."

Johnson instructs people to empty their pockets of wallets, cell phones and keys before going through the metal detector, but sometimes it requires several tries before a guest is cleared.

"We've had times where we've run people through four or five times, taking different things off and then they say, 'oh, I've got a replaced knee,'" he said laughing.

Security is also equipped with a wand for screening and occasionally conducts a pat down to keep weapons out of the courthouse.

"We've had our share of guns and magazines," he said. "It's usually knives, mace, pepper spray, stuff like that, that we catch."

Usually patrons put the items in their cars and return without incident, Johnson said.

Johnson also acts as the de-facto greeter, often helping with directions.

"The directions part is something we take pride in," he said. "From the time they touch that front door to (when they) get past this machine, we want it to be the best experience they can (have) in a courthouse.

"After they get past our machine, all bets are off."

Shortly afterward another woman comes through security. 10 minutes later she walks back outside and lights a cigarette. Erica Early is here for a plea and sentencing hearing after being charged with four counts of drug possession.

"I thought I was late," she says, thinking her hearing started at 11.

Early is living at a friend's house and essentially homeless. She's made peace with any potential outcomes of her hearing.

"I think I'm okay with it," she says. "I just take it ... every time."

At 11:15 a.m., Judge Wiles hears a hunting violation case. A man is accused of shooting from a car window and hitting his



Above: **Judge Ladd Wiles thanks court clerk Sarah Brower, right, and judicial assistant Rebecca Davis, for their work at the end of a long morning packed with hearings and sentencings. During the 11 a.m. to noon hour he heard more than a dozen cases — and one continued after noon, when an interpreter became available.** Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Right: **CJ Johnson leans over the door of his security area while talking to a patron. Security staff keeps weapons and other dangerous items out of the court house while also helping residents find their way around.** Rusty Rae/News-Register



target — which was not a real buck, but a state police dummy. It wasn't yet deer season.

The deputy district attorney, seated to the defendant's left, explains the details of the case, which carries a maximum fine of \$2,000 and a minimum of \$440. The state is also seeking restitution, he says, because the decoy deer was damaged.

The original charge has been reduced to a violation, which carries no jail sentence.

"Your attorney says you want to enter a no contest plea," the judge tells the defendant through a language interpreter.

The defendant indicates that's correct, then adds, through the interpreter, "I saw a deer. I didn't realize...."

Wiles passes sentence: A \$500 fine, plus \$200 restitution, the loss of his rifle and a three-year suspension of hunting privileges.

As the man leaves the courtroom, another case is called.

**At 11:25 a.m.,** Chief Deputy District Attorney Sarah Vogel converses with Deputy District Attorney Greg Jones about a sentencing recommendation in a case, which in lawyer jargon is called "staffing a case."

"The directions part is something we take pride in ... we want it to be the best experience they can (have) in a courthouse." — CJ Johnson, security and greeter

Senior and more experienced DDAs such as Vogel will advise colleagues regularly. When it comes to making a sentence recommendation, a prosecutor will look at the defendant's criminal history and consult a color-coded checkered diagram known as a grid block felony sentencing guideline set by administrative rules.

"Being a lawyer has a lot more typing and reading than people realize," Vogel says.

"It's not like what you see on TV," Jones agrees. "What you see lawyers do in one episode or movie can take us weeks or months of investigation. Typically, we're at our desks for hours typing, not saying a word and occasionally turning to a co-worker asking if this is the correct word to use."

Deputy district attorneys frantically review incoming cases, aiming to be done by 11:30 a.m. in order to allow the court to schedule proceedings that afternoon.

Jones works with other staff members to review incoming cases and decide if charges should be made.

"Depending on time I have and the complexity can order how you do things," Jones says. "The case I was working on was straight forward and made the filing deadline."

"From there, you do what needs to be done before lunch, as people become unavailable."

At 11:25 a.m., Judge Wiles explains to a defendant, who plans to enter a guilty plea,

about the consequences of that action.

He'll be giving up the right to a trial by a jury of his peers, the judge says.

Then Wiles asks the suspect whether anyone coerced him to plead guilty, and whether he is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

"No," the man says, and reiterates the guilty plea.

Wiles pronounces his sentence, then asks for the next case.

**On the second floor,** Director of Crime Victim Services Cecilia Martinez enters courtroom 241 during a jury trial and sits with the parents of the victim during closing statements. Throughout the trial Martinez has updated the parents and victim on the cases status.

Crime Victim Services staff contacts victims 24/7; sometimes they respond even as an arrest is taking place.

Each morning as the DA's Office is reviewing intake, Crime Victim Services is contacting victims from the previous day's police reports.

"We let them know about their constitutional rights as victims," Martinez says. "We take them to the courtroom and keep them aware of proceedings; we will sit with them in court or go for them and report back."

Martinez says a trial is hard for victims, as the court asks them to tell strangers



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

**In her corner office at the Yamhill County Courthouse District Attorney Kate Lynch answers a call between meetings with staff and writing motions for an upcoming case. Lynch's office decoration is sparse except a calming seafoam green accent wall.**



Rusty Rae/News-Register

**YCSO Detective Sergeant Will Lavish discusses the day's operations in a courthouse hallway. Most of the 10-15 staff on duty are in the field, patrolling rural areas, working cases and meeting with community partners.**

## '24 Hours

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what happened to them.

"The primary goal is to remove barriers or perceived barriers for the victim, in order to participate in prosecution," DA Lynch says. "It is important for us that victims have a voice and are treated with respect and dignity when sent to our office."

VCS is also there to assist with anyone subpoenaed.

"People get worried when they receive a subpoena and don't understand the process. We guide them," she says.

By 11:32 a.m., Judge Wiles has moved to hearing cases for suspects who are in jail and appearing via video hookup. One by one, they are seated at a table and the judge talks to them through the remote hookup.

Their lawyers stand in the courtroom as they speak to their clients and the judge.

One man, charged with 15 crimes, requests that his trial be scheduled more than 60 days out, so his lawyer will have more time to prepare his defense.

"It's up to you," Wiles tells him. "If you waive the right to a speedy trial, you can take more time."

The man agrees, and the judge sets a date. "Thank you, sir," the inmate says – polite, as are most of those who appear in court this morning.

At 11:40, though, an inmate gets upset at the judge.

She tells Wiles she doesn't want her court-appointed lawyer, and has hired someone else to represent her on trespassing and misdemeanor theft charges; she also faces a failure to appear charge for past trespassing and theft charges.

Problem is, the DA's office says, the lawyer she names has not contacted the court.

"I'll approve your lawyer withdrawing and appoint someone else," Wiles says patiently. "I don't want you to go without representation. You're in jail; you need legal help."

The woman gets angry, telling the judge

she doesn't understand why she's being held on what she considers minor charges. "This is double jeopardy!" she shouts.

"OK, we're done here," Wiles says, turning to the next case.

**Detective Sergeant Will Lavish** takes a break from writing a death investigation report to talk to the News-Register in the hallway outside the Sheriff's Office.

At the same time rural patrol teams are on the streets, support services man the front desk, detectives are working case-loads, and the command staff is at an Oregon State Sheriffs' Association conference in Bend.

"Currently I'm sitting at a keyboard and just being a keyboard warrior," Lavish says. "I've gone out, I've done my investigation, now comes the time to come back, review all the evidence and actually put it on paper."

It's imperative the reports are detailed and accurate as all death investigations are then sent to the DA's Office, Lavish says.

At noon, after hearing dozens of cases, Judge Wiles slips out of the courtroom for a moment, then returns – the hour is over, but the work is not finished. He still needs to hear a case that was scheduled for 11 a.m., but was delayed in part because of the heavy load this morning and mostly because the court was waiting for an interpreter.

The defendant speaks Chuj, a Mayan language used in Guatemala and some parts of Mexico. Yamhill County courts get quite a few cases in which a Chuj interpreter is needed, say the two staff members in court today, Rebecca Davis, judicial assistant to Judge Cynthia Easterday, and Sarah Brower, court clerk.

The interpreter calls in at 12:06 p.m., and the defendant, appearing on video, smiles when he hears a greeting in his own language.

The defendant, interpreter, lawyer and judge negotiate to find a date and time when all are available for the next hearing. It takes only a couple minutes.

At 12:10, the judge asks his staff, "Is that the end of the morning docket?"

Except for the paperwork, of course, he adds.



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Rusty Rae/News-Register

**Support Services Monica Saunders (left) and Erica Stepper help customers with records requests, service papers and general questions. Their job often involves pointing customers to a different building or agency. "We do a lot of redirecting," Saunders said.**



Above: “You’re quiet as church mice,” Father Richard Layton told photographer Rachel Thompson and reporter Kirby Neumann-Rea, who records their conversation at the Lafayette Trappist Abbey foyer. The 4 to 5 a.m. visit in September chronicled the pre-dawn vigil known as Liturgy of the Hours, a worship distinguished by acapella singing, liturgical readings, and silence. The Abbey has been Father Richard’s home for 55 years. Rachel Thompson/News-Register



Above: “I love making images of people,” states Rusty Rae, shown around 8:30 a.m. at Lum’s GMC. “There are so many facets of a person that are found in various poses and positions. But you never know when you’ll get the shot. So I am always watching the story through the viewfinder. You never want to wait too long and not get an image for the story, so it is a shoot and wait for the next moment, shoot, and wait. And then the challenge is to find that best image during the editing process.” Rusty figuratively and literally wears many hats; besides the backward-turned jockey cap, others he’ll wear on the job include a ball cap or summer fedora.

Kirby Neumann-Rea/News-Register

# ’24 Hours ON THE BEAT

’24 Hours was a happy blend of words and images, like so much of the News-Register’s content.

Reporters and photographers working together maintain a kind of running joke about the scribe staying out of the camera’s view.

But it happens, and as the ’24 Hours series made its way through the year, photographers either found themselves inadvertently capturing

the reporter (or themselves!) somewhere in the image — or made a point of getting a photograph of their partner at work.

And, through the wonder of cell-phone cameras, that works both ways.

These images “on the beat” of the reporters and photographers at work, were recorded during 2024, with notes and memories of the moments or the situations.

— Kirby Neumann-Rea, managing editor

Right: Rachel Thompson at work in the courthouse, a multi-faceted assignment requiring two photographers, 11 a.m. to noon. Thompson had waited for just the right moment as two subjects descend the stairs on their way from court. Moments later, Thompson uses her phone to record a brief interview; her expression captures the deep curiosity and apt listening skill she brings to the job.

Rusty Rae/News-Register



Below left: Reporter Starla Pointer sniffs a scented bowling ball belonging to avid bowler Jim Shimota. Fruit scent was built into the resin; the same company makes balls that smell like vanilla and other pleasant aromas. Pointer and photographer Rachel Thompson met Shimota and bowling alley owner Jerry Rettke during a visit to Walnut City Lanes from 9 to 10 p.m. May 21 — in between covering election results at the Yamhill County Clerk’s office the same night.

Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Below right: Pointer takes notes as karaoke DJ Kai Pickett programs music at the Blind Pig in Carlton on Friday in June for the 10 to 11 p.m. segment of “24 Hours.” The restaurant has karaoke every Friday night. Pointer almost worked up the courage to try karaoke herself, but decided to remain an observer, instead. (Editor’s note: Karaoke courage is one thing, but Starla regularly sings solos with the Carlton Blues Band.)

Rachel Thompson/News-Register



# '24 Hours UNSEEN SCENES

*Previously unpublished images from the News-Register's yearlong hour-by-hour project*



Above: Noon to 1 p.m. at Brookdale: Dave Garner chats with other residents of Brookdale McMinnville City Center before lunch in the retirement center's dining room. Garner, a Korean War veteran, likes to tease fellow residents and staff. Rusty Rae/News-Register

**T**his was a series that made the clock come alive.

'24 Hours started on Jan. 15 at noon and concluded on Dec. 18 at noon: 24 stories with photos from many corners of the community: a classroom, the ER, a bakery, karaoke night, a farm, the courtroom and more.

One article for each hour, in 24 different settings.

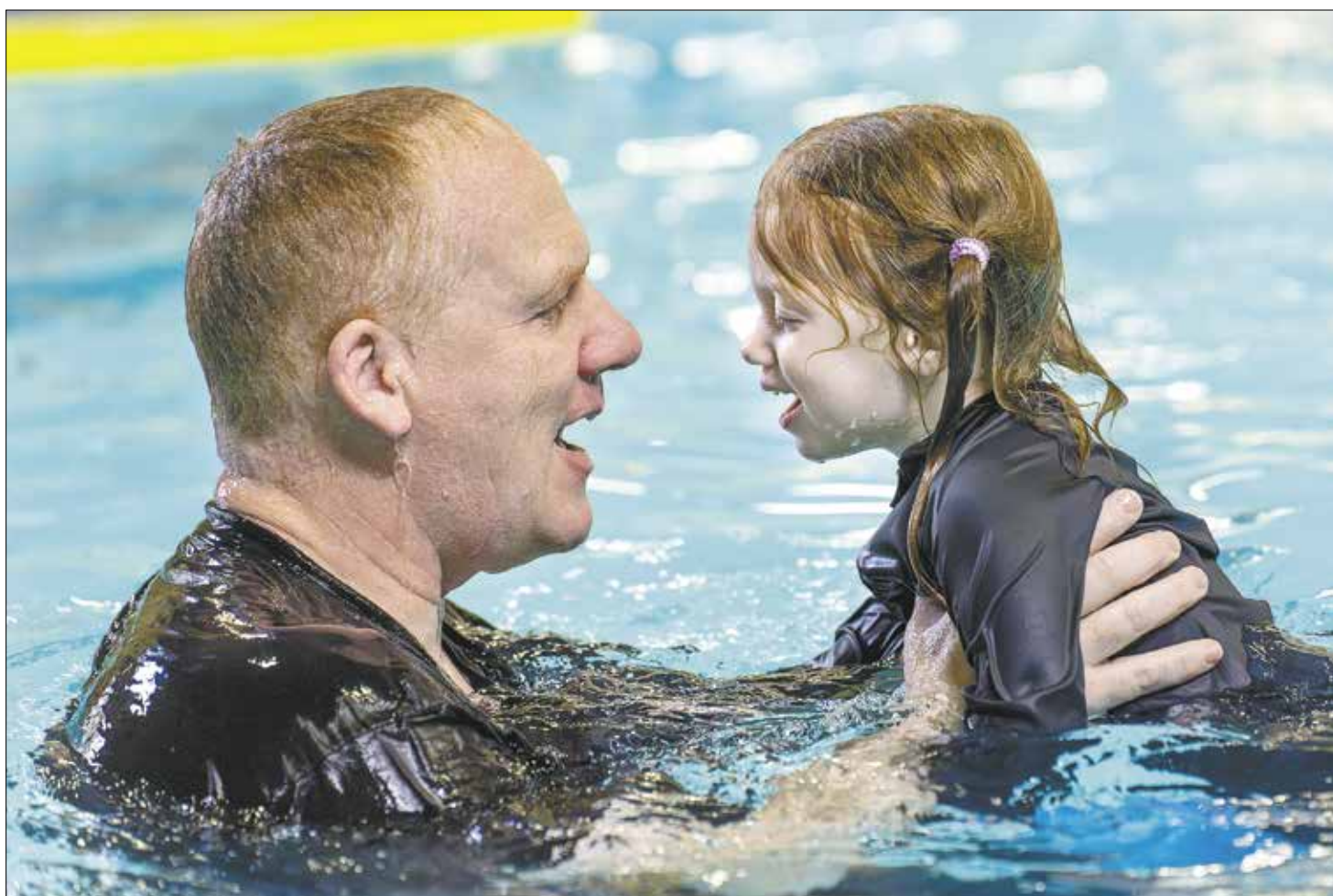
There never seemed to be enough words to describe these one-hour slices of life, nor space enough for photos of the faces and situations.

During 2024, certain images were selected in the moment, but looking back on the year-long chronicle, we knew there were unused photos from February or May or September that also deserved to be seen.

Therefore, as a summing up, we present some bonus photos: 24 added glimpses of the people and places from '24 Hours — images recorded primarily by Rusty Rae and Rachel Thompson, with some by Kirby Neumann-Rea and Starla Pointer.

Photos on these pages are both a review and a preview: readers will find the 2024 stories in full, as a package, in the special '24 Hours section inside the Jan. 17 e-edition of the News-Register.

— N-R Managing Editor  
Kirby Neumann-Rea



Above: 1 to 2 p.m. at the pool: At McMinnville Aquatic Center, Dominik Jacobs of McMinnville and daughter Gemma, 2 1/2, enjoy their regular swimming time. Gemma has been accustomed to the water since she was three weeks old. Rachel Thompson/News-Register



Left: 2 to 3 p.m. in the classroom: Yamhill-Carlton Elementary third-graders in Cheyenne Meyers' class gather personal items, homework, and Valentine's Day materials, as the school day wraps up. Kirby Neumann-Rea/News-Register

Near right: 4 to 5 p.m. at Wheatland Ferry: Captain Jack Brittan and maintenance worker Steve Everts watch as another boatload of vehicles drives aboard the cross-river link between Yamhill and Marion counties, near Dayton. Rusty Rae/News-Register

Far right: 3 to 4 p.m. at the library: Joe Travis skims the fiction shelves in the northeast corner of the McMinnville Public Library. Travis, then a Mac High junior, said he loves to read. Starla Pointer/News-Register





Above left: 6 to 7 p.m. backstage at the theater: Wade Moran, center, mimicking a rabbit, is framed by Adrian Martin, left, and Danielle Ross, right, as the cast and crew of "Romeo and Juliet" warm up shortly before the Gallery Theater audience arrives. Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Above right: 7 to 8 p.m. at the grange: Sandra Pinion and Paul Myatt, center, along with other dancers, swing to the music at the McMinnville Grange on a Saturday night. The Braves & Braids Square Dancing Club hosts dances there several times a month. Rusty Rae/News-Register

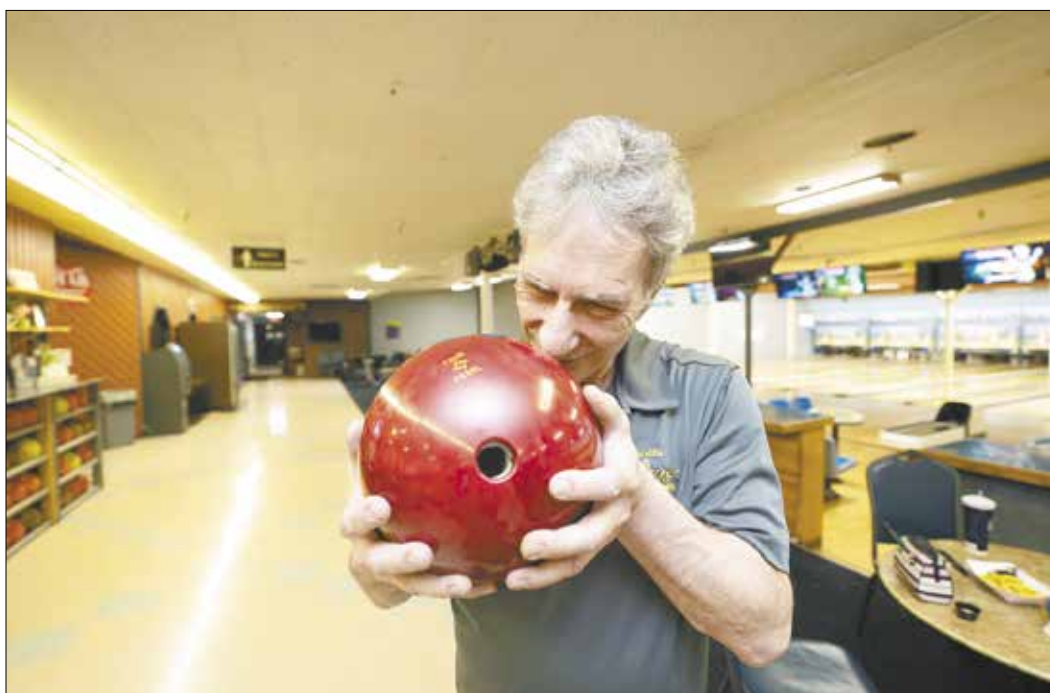


Above: 5 to 6 p.m. at "the local hang": Carlton Corners owner Mike Larson shares a laugh with a table of regular customers. "Regulars come here just about every day," he said. "We get all the news right here at the Corners." Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Below right: 9 to 10 p.m. at the bowling alley: "Bowling is in my blood," said Jim Shimota, who started bowling to recover his strength after a bout with cancer. Shimota bowls at Walnut City Lanes several times a week and owns 50 bowling balls, including a fruit-scented ball. Rachel Thompson/News-Register



Above: 8 to 9 p.m. at the 99W Drive-In: Dusk settles in as previews and ads find their way to the screen, in this view from the second-floor projection room. Patrons in cars are tuning in to the sound on their FM radios and awaiting the coming feature. Rusty Rae/News-Register





Above: 6 to 7 a.m. at the gym: After her morning workout at Excell Fitness is complete, Shannon Resser takes a moment to center herself and prepare for her day's work. Rusty Rae/News-Register

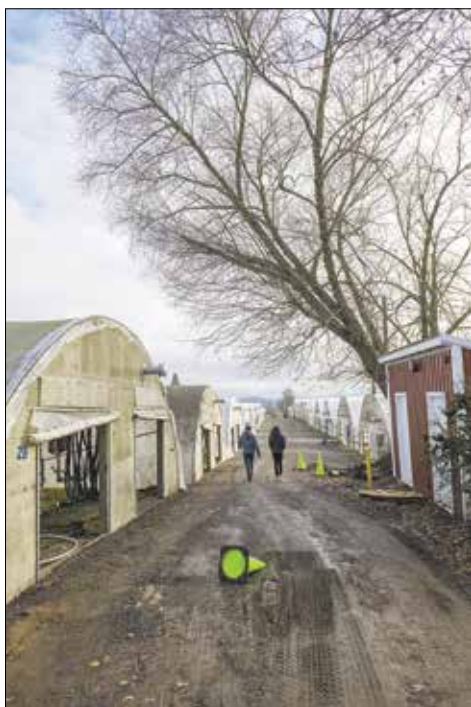
Below: 2 to 3 a.m. at Muchas Gracias: The 24-7 restaurant at 12th and Baker streets, with its colorful decor and bright lights, is a beacon for people with wee-hours munchies — and DoorDash drivers busy at work. Rachel Thompson/News-Register



Below: 7 to 8 a.m. on the farm: Dayton High senior Izzy Gonzalez buckles her seatbelt for her 10-minute drive to school as she heads to her first class of the day after finishing her farm duties. Rachel Thompson/News-Register



Above: Midnight to 1 a.m. in the ER: Nurse Sean Elliott walks into a trauma room, where new arrivals are stabilized and assessed. Elliott, who became an RN after a military career, works to make sure patients feel more comfortable. Rachel Thompson/News-Register



Near left: 5 to 6 a.m. at the bakery: Carlton Bakery general manager Iain Danicic sprinkles sugar onto a sheet of dough. He has been on the job for about an hour by 5 a.m. "I like early hours," he said. Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Far left: 10 to 11 a.m. at the nursery: Abby Coyle and Paolo Folis begin their day making the rounds at the greenhouses at Bailey Nurseries near Yamhill. Coyle said she regularly clocks more than 10,000 steps in a day checking on plants. Rusty Rae/News-Register

Right: 4 to 5 a.m. at Trappist Abbey: Brothers bow in prayer during liturgy readings in the Abbey chapel. Daily schedules include several worship and prayer times and work, including making fruitcake and doing sustainable forestry. Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Below: 8 to 9 a.m. at Greeters: Local real estate agent Heather Acker laughs during introductions at the Chamber of Commerce Greeters' meeting, where members and guests say their names, affiliations and, sometimes, tag lines. Rusty Rae/News-Register







Above left: **1 to 2 a.m. on Third Street: Bright lights and pulsing music persist until just before 2 a.m. at the Cabana Club, when staff turned up the house lights and turned down the volume. Groups of two to 10 people move to the sidewalk to smoke, gossip and laugh.** Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Above right: **3 to 4 a.m. at Rock of Ages: As the clock ticks toward 3:30 a.m., Rock of Ages caregiver Tammy Cruz hangs up shirts, pants and undergarments, then delivers the hangers to residents' doors for something clean and familiar to wear.** Rachel Thompson/News-Register



Above: **10 to 11 p.m. at karaoke: Pam Hadsell sings "These Boots are Made for Walking" at the Blind Pig. A first-time karaoke performer, Hadsell initially didn't plan to sing, but decided "I'm going to be bold" — and loved the experience.** Rachel Thompson/News-Register



Above: **11 a.m. to noon at the courthouse: Judge Cynthia Easterday's robe hangs in a dry cleaner's bag next to the entry of her chambers.** Rachel Thompson/News-Register



Above: **9 to 10 a.m. at the feed store: 11-month-old Ava Riedman is growing up behind the counter at McMinnville's Buchanan Cellers. Her mother, Tessa Riedman, is the store manager.** Rachel Thompson/News-Register



Above: **11 to midnight on DUII patrol: Yamhill County Sheriff's Deputy Jody Ingham talks with the occupants of a vehicle he pulled over outside Chan's Chinese Restaurant on Highway 99W in McMinnville.** Rachel Thompson/News-Register