



**THE
PRESS
CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

April 2025

SAVE THE DATES

**- From Too Much -
to Just Right: A
Practical Guide to
Downsizing Your
Home**

Wed, May 14, 2-3:30pm
at The Laughing Bean

**- "Best Of Mac" -
Reception**

Thu, Jun 26, 5-7pm at
Lum's GMC

**See Page 4 of
newsletter for more
information**

**SPRINGTIME
IN THE CLUB**

By OSSIE BLADINE
Editor, The News-Register

Greetings loyal Press Club members, and happy Spring to you all!

It has been, as always, a busy time within the News-Register office walls.

Community Engagement Director CB Mason has made much headway organizing and promoting our Community Partners program — the N-R's advertising subscription model that offers businesses great marketing deals, as well as the warm-fuzzies that comes with supporting local journalism.

As has been discussed often, it's our goal to find new ways to connect our readers — and, most importantly, our Press Club members — with the Community Partner businesses. We're excited to have on the calendar our first Press Club/Community Partners gathering, which will celebrate the release of this year's Best of Mac publication (see page 4).

In the newsroom, the changing of seasons was met with a change in leadership.

You may have seen in the paper that Managing Editor Kirby Neumann-Rea has retired after 45 years of professional Oregon journalism.

Kirby and his wife plan to stick around town, and we will continue to write some sporadically for us. Beer drinkers need not to fret, Kirby's monthly Barrel Roll column will continue pouring the good, frothy brewing

news from around Yamhill County.

Instead of seeking an outside replacement, I have decided to fill the role of Managing Editor moving forward.

I'm excited to return to the position and be able to commit more of my time and focus to the editorial side of the News-Register.

As Kirby's retirement deadline approached, the anxiety of finding a new sports editor increased. While I've enjoyed filling in the past six months, with much help from reporter Emily Bonsant, fulfilling both positions seemed like a good recipe for a mental breakdown.

Luckily, the stars aligned, and after a six-month search, we found what I believe is an amazing young sports journalist to take the reigns.

We have signed Nathan Ecker, is a recent graduate of Northern Arizona University, to step into the batter's box.

Ecker described the Pacific Northwest as a "dream destination of mine" and is excited to get to know the athletes, coaches and communities of Yamhill County.

He will work part-time while he prepares to make the move from Arizona to Oregon, which he hopes to do by the end of April, or soon after.

With the new-look newsroom soon to be intact, we can continue on providing the quality local journalism our readers enjoy.

TAKE THE SURVEY

CB has compiled a survey for Club members. Please take a few minutes to complete this (QR code link below, or find it at newsregister.com/press-club). From CB:

Being a Press Club member means that you already know the importance of supporting a local news and information provider. Thank you.

Beyond your subscription and Press Club membership, you can further support the News-Register by supporting businesses who advertise in the paper.

■ *Tell them that you saw their ad.*

■ *Stop in to support their event or every day operations.*

■ *And help us get them in front of you.*

To make sure you get the most out of your Press Club membership, we want to know what you hope the membership includes. Thank you for taking this short survey to give us feedback and input on how we can make your membership even more valuable.

Together, let's build a stronger community.



APRIL GATHERING RECAP

Thoughtful convo with CASA leaders

By **CB Mason**

Community Engagement Director,
The News-Register

April Gathering. The Press Club gathered in the deli seating area at Harvest Fresh on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, with our sandwiches and coffees to learn more about Yamhill County CASA. Our gathering was small but mighty, enjoying a vibrant and thoughtful conversation with three members of the CASA organization, Executive Director Sarah Johnson, Board Director Susan Dirks, and Case Supervisor Ellie Vityukov.

The nonprofit organization will celebrate its 30th anniversary serving Yamhill County this July. The information we learned is too good to miss out, so here are the highlights, courtesy of Yamhill County CASA, for those of you who were unable to attend.



Rusty Rae/News-Register

Mel Baughman speaks up for children who are involved in court cases as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate. She and her work were profiled in Starla Pointer's April 11 Stopping By article. Baughman said more volunteers are always needed by the CASA of Yamhill County program.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF CASA?

Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers, or CASAs, advocate for the best interests of children in court cases of abuse and neglect. They provide a voice for the child in the courtroom, classroom, and community. In 2024, CASA volunteers advocated for 117 of the 144 children with open court cases. This number represented a 9% increase over 2023 open court cases. They are limited by two factors: the number of volunteers and

funding.

WHAT DOES A CASA VOLUNTEER DO?

CASA volunteers are everyday community members who receive 30 hours of specialized training and on-going support by peers and Yamhill County CASA staff. The average monthly time commitment for a volunteer is 8 hours. They meet with the child, their family, and all the adults that help shape the child's world.

Each child mandated for CASA services has one CASA volunteer who will track with them for their duration in the court system, making fact-based recommendations to the judge about what is in the best interest of the child. This means the CASA volunteer becomes an integral part of the child's support system during what is likely the worst time of their life. They support outcomes that keep the child connected to their families without

jeopardising the child's safety and stability.

There are currently 54 CASA volunteers but are in need of an additional 12 volunteers to cover the open cases expected for 2025. With an 85% retention rate of volunteers, you can be rest assured that as a CASA volunteer, you receive appropriate support from staff and continuing education to be a successful advocate for the child. The next training for new CASA volunteers is in May.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Tell your friends and family about CASA.
- Follow them on social media.
- Attend fundraisers (Solid Foundations Tour, April 19, 9am-2pm, <https://www.solidfoundationstour.org/>).
- Apply to become a board member.

- Volunteer in a non-advocate role—they always need help at fundraisers!
- Become a CASA volunteer.
- Make a donation (one-time or small monthly donations).

HOW IS CASA FUNDED?

The second limiting factor for Yamhill County CASA is funding. The cost for each child to have a CASA volunteer for one year has remained steady at \$2,000 per year. Prior to 2021, about 22% of their funding was federal, 20% came from State coffers, and the balance was raised through fundraising efforts, donor participation, and private grants. In 2021, the funding through the federal grant program created in the 1980s by the Reagan Administration, the Victims of Crime Act, or VOCA, was reduced. Loss of this funding affected CASA and other support programs like Juliette’s House, Henderson House, and the victim’s advocacy group through the DA’s office. A stop-gap funding source from a state emergency grant ended in August 2024. This means that funding sources for 2025 are in jeopardy. On March 14, 2025, Congress eliminated the community project funding from the FY 2025 budget. This removed \$1.7 million for Oregon CASA programs, which included \$32,000 budgeted for Yamhill County, or about 15% of their budget. Unless the bill before the Ways & Means committee that would create a longer-term solution for state funding passes, CASAs across the state will be severely underfunded.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Yamhill County CASA’s strategic plan has them poised to serve 100% of the children in need by 2027 provided efforts to recruit more volunteers and funding sources stabilize. Their plans include an expansion of their advocacy program, launching two pilot programs: educational surrogates to increase educational support for children and mentors to increase preparedness for post-high school education or vocational training and developing independent living skills.

PRESS CLUB DISCOUNTS!



Discount tickets to the Chemeketa Annual Barrel Tasting and 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Chemeketa Wine Studies Program on June 7th from 1-4 p.m.

Northwest Wine Studies Center, 215 Doaks Ferry Rd NW, Salem

- Receive 33% discount off of the regular ticket price (\$20 tickets instead of \$30) when you use promotion code “PressClub” at checkout.

www.chemeketacellars.com/product/Barrel-Tasting-2025



Gallery Ballet & Tap *“Celebrating The Art of Dance”*

Program signed by Principal Dancers from Gallery Ballet & Tap’s performance of “Coppelia 2025” — June 13 and 14.

- Email CB when you buy your tickets for one of the shows, and she will arrange for the program to be picked up before the performance that you attend! Free.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PRESS CLUB GATHERING

Save the Date



From Too Much to Just Right: A Practical Guide to Downsizing Your Home

Thinking about downsizing but want a clear plan first? This informative session is designed for homeowners who want to make strategic, informed decisions about selling a larger home and transitioning to a simpler lifestyle. Our panel of experts—including a CPA, estate sale professional, and experienced real estate agent—will provide actionable steps, tax-saving insights, and guidance on how to assess what's worth keeping or selling. Walk away with a checklist, resources, and a plan that makes financial and practical sense.

Wed, May 14, 2-3:30pm
The Laughing Bean
2274 SW 2nd St, McMinnville

UPCOMING EVENTS

■ **Sat, April 19, 9am-2pm** Solid Foundations Tour to benefit Yamhill County CASA. A self-guided historic architecture tour. Ticketed event, open to the public.

■ **Thu, May 1, 9am** Downtown Beautification Project. All are invited to join efforts to spruce up our historic downtown. Meet at the McMinnville Chamber office (319 NE 5th Street) at 9am. Garbage bags, “grabbers” and gloves will be provided. (Or bring your own work gloves.) Plan for an hour, but stay as long as you like. FREE, open to the public.

PRESS CLUB & COMMUNITY PARTNERS CELEBRATION

Save the Date



“Best of Mac” Reception

Save the date to celebrate with the winners of the “Best of Mac” contest. Food, Drinks, Music, and Fun!
More details to come.

Thursday, Jun 26, 5-7pm
at Lum’s GMC
830 Hwy 99W, McMinnville

■ **Wed, May 14, 2-3:30pm** Downsizing Your Home with Realtor Lacey Summers. Get tips and insights from real estate, estate sales, and accounting professionals! Coffee and Pastries at the Laughing Bean, hosted by Lacey Summers. FREE, private event for Press Club Members only!

■ **Fri, May 16 & Sat, May 17** UFO Fest downtown McMinnville with special events at McMenamins. Saturday Parade at noon. FREE, open to the public.

■ **Sat, June 7, 1-4pm** Chemeketa Wine Cellars 25th Anniversary Celebration & Annual Barrel Tasting in their tasting room (215 Doaks Ferry Road NW, Salem). Ticketed event, open to the public. Use discount code “PressClub” when you buy your tickets! (This is a Cap Sensitive Code.)

■ **Fri June 13, 6:30pm, Sat, June 14, 2pm and 6:30pm** Gallery Ballet & Tap presents “Coppelia 2025” at Gallery Theater, 210 NE Ford St, McMinnville OR. Ticketed event, open to the public.

■ **Thu, June 26, 5-7pm** “Best of Mac” Reception at Lum’s GMC. FREE, private event for Press Club Members, Community Partners, and winners of the “Best of Mac” contest.



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