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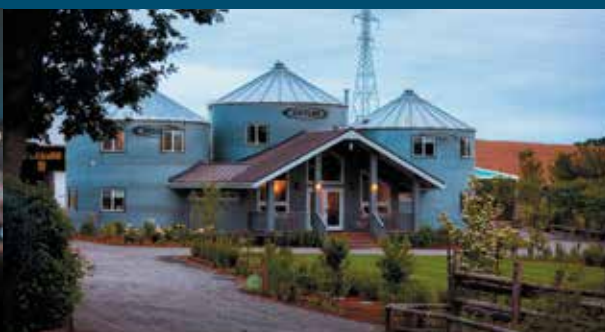
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Printer
Oregon Lithoprint

©2023 The News-Register
Publishing Company
PO Box 727
1315 N.E. Miller St.
McMinnville, OR 97128
503-472-5114

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Yamhill Valley VISITOR GUIDE



PHOTO BY ANDREA JOHNSON



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Kramer, CWK Photography

Entering Wine Country

Around every bend in the road, find fine wine, small-town charm



PHOTO BY ANDREA JOHNSON

By YVVG Staff

There's no stopping Oregon wine's trajectory. One of the latest economic reports, the "2022 State of the U.S. Wine Industry Report" by Rob McMillan, EVP and founder of the Silicon Valley Bank Wine Division, reveals that 2021 was actually a "good year" for the country's wine industry, and Oregon was the bright spot.

Considering the pandemic and its many economic casualties, the state's winemakers and growers feel grateful for

such resiliency, thankful for retailers, restaurants and bottle shops, not to mention the consumers themselves and tourists who trek to Wine Country to see where it's grown, made and best experienced.

The wineries are spread across the countryside and clustered in towns, particularly McMinnville, Carlton, Amity, Dundee and Newberg. When the sun comes out, these wine hubs buzz with activity. Visitors wander from tasting rooms to boutique shops to tree-lined parks and other charming



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

ABOVE: Wine drinkers enjoy the 8th annual Bubbles Fest at Anne Amie Vineyards. **TOP:** A group soaking in the sun with their tasting at Eminent Domaine.

spots, all the while enjoying the small-town hospitality and easygoing pace.

The area continues its rich culture of agriculture, replacing turkeys and walnut orchards with grapevines, not to mention hay, grass seed, hazelnuts, Christmas trees and major nurseries. If ever a traffic jam occurs, the likely culprit is a tractor, so city dwellers beware and be patient.

Despite the wine industry's five decades of development, the region has remained refreshingly unpretentious. The situation is changing, however, as some of America's largest

1,370 vineyards, 808 are located in the same area. The majority of these wines and vines call the Yamhill Valley home.

Pinot Noir is still king, counting for approximately half of the state's production, according to the OVWR. Pinot Gris and Chardonnay follow in second and third place, respectively. Local wine-makers explore and champion additional varietals — Syrah, Riesling, Gamay Noir and others. They also like to experiment in the cellar; the area's sparkling scene has grown exponentially over the last several

Venturing into the vineyards, you'll discover a common theme: Owners, winemakers and growers take pride in the product they create, and their camaraderie defines the character of Oregon wine.

wine companies continue investing in area wineries and vineyards. There's now a broad range of wineries and tasting rooms — from expansive corporate ventures to humble mom-and-pop shops — all within miles of one another and offering a truly unique wine country experience.

Although there are now 22 AVAs (American Viticultural Areas) in Oregon, the bulk comes from the AVAs in the northern Willamette Valley. For example, of the 995 wineries counted in the "2020 Oregon Vineyard and Winery Report" (OVWR), 650 reside in the northern Willamette Valley; of the state's nearly

years, adding to the region's exploding portfolio.

When you step into a tasting room, be sure to ask your hosts about the brand's farming practices, winemaking methods and history, too. You'll be amazed at their eagerness to share all the details. It doesn't matter if you're an oenophile, a foodie fanatic or simply a casual visitor. All "levels" are welcome to explore Oregon wine.

Venturing into the vineyards, you'll discover a common theme: Owners, winemakers and growers take pride in the product they create, and their camaraderie defines the character of Oregon wine. ■



PHOTO BY ANDREA JOHNSON



PHOTO BY ANDREA JOHNSON

TOP: A tasting among the vines at Raptor Ridge Winery. **ABOVE:** Visitors enjoy a flight at Seufert Winery in Dayton.

WINE

PHOTO BY PROVIDED BY BACKROADS LARSON



Local-Motion

Gettin' around Wine Country

By YVVG Staff

For those unfamiliar with the area, overwhelmed by the number of wineries available or simply wanting to soak in the experience of Yamhill Valley wine without needing to drive, there are a variety of guided tour options in the area offering both transportation and information about the region, including the best for your individual taste.

Motorized wine tours are available in vehicles of all types, from luxury cars to stretch limousines and larger vans when you want to bring along all your friends and family along for the day. They also help create the desired experience for the group, since

guides are well connected and knowledgeable about all wine country as to offer.

Interested in seeing wine country on four legs instead of four wheels? Carlton's Equestrian Wine Tours offers mounted outings through the Dundee Hills with a stable of Tennessee Walking Horses. They also feature a pair of four-seat carriages reminiscent of those circling New York's Central Park, as well as a 12-seat carriage for larger groups.

Looking for self-propelled wine country transportation? Numerous companies in the area offer guided cycling tours of local wineries. Brace yourself. This won't be like rides you may have

climbing worth it. Not interested in big group rides? There are several quality routes posted online allowing you to enjoy your day at the skill or comfort level that fits you best.

"Exploring wine country by bike is beautiful, easy, and fun," says Kitri McGuire of Visit McMinnville. "West of McMinnville, cyclists ready for a challenge will enjoy the hills of the Coast Range with riverfront riding along the Nestucca River. Or, ride a relaxing loop to various wine country towns and winery destinations."

Local routes are available via Tommy's Bike Shop and the Ride With GPS mapping system. You can find them at www.tommysbicycle.net. Ad-

helicopter. Firms based in McMinnville, Newberg, Salem or Hillsboro will take you over and into the area's vineyards, visiting in just a few hours a group of wineries it would take a whole day or longer to view by ground transportation. Helicopter tours are also the priciest way to move from winery to winery, but the views of the Valley from hundreds of feet up will be as memorable as the most delicious of vintages.

Another way to take to the air and view the beauty of Oregon Wine County is a hot air balloon tour with Vista Balloon Adventures. Group or private two-person excursions are available. ■



PHOTO PROVIDED BY VISTA BALLOON

ABOVE: Visitors to Troon Vineyard Biodynamic Wine Bar in downtown McMinnville enjoy glasses of the Southern Oregon winery's latest offerings. **TOP:** Tour groups such as Backroads bring out-of-state travelers to Oregon wine country for both the vineyards and cycling experience.

taken through Napa or Italy, where the wineries are clustered along valley floors. When local vintners say their tasting rooms are "in the Dundee Hills," they mean it, but the wine makes all that

ditional rides are posted on the Visit McMinnville website: www.visitmcmnville.com/visitor-guides/cycling-resources/

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Jim Bernau, Founder/CEO



LEFT: Diners enjoying a winemaker's dinner at Beacon Hill Vineyards. **RIGHT:** Beacon Hill owner George Hillberry welcomes guests and discusses the wines being served during dinner.

reservation at least a month in advance. These events are popular and fill up fast.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Dinners should include the presence of the winemaker — the expert on the wine you are tasting. It is possible your winemaker may choose a wine or two from another winery, but the main attraction will be the winemaker's products.

Dinners usually begin with a stand-up appetizer and a palate-cleansing wine, usually a bubbly, but not always. This is a good time to get to know others at the event, possibly to introduce yourself to the winemaker, and to choose a table, if it is not assigned. Hint: find out where the winemaker is sitting and sit close!

You'll be asked to take your seat when the first course is served. Most dinners will include at least four courses, and possibly more, starting with appetizers, soup, salad, at least one entrée and dessert. With each course, the winemaker or staff will serve you a wine chosen to complement the food you are eating. The winemaker will describe each wine, possibly tell stories about the harvest, the soil, the winemaking process, and he or she may tell other anecdotes that add to your understanding

Pairings Perfection

Winemakers' dinners offer unique experiences for all

By YVVG Staff

It's a tossup debating who most enjoys the special dining experiences of the Yamhill Valley's winemakers dinners: the attendees, or the chefs, vintners and staff who put them on.

In preparation for each event, winemakers select what varietals and vintages they wish to pour, and then it's up to the chefs to create a unique meal best presented with the flight.

Attendees then not only get to enjoy great tastes and camaraderie at the dinner table, they also get to learn about the winemaking

process, how the wines developed their flavors, and what makes them pair so well with the ingredients on the plate.

A winemaker's dinner is not something any oenophile should miss. So, for newbies to winemaker's dinners, here's a few tips:

IN ADVANCE

First, scan available dinners for the price that suits you. Dinners can range in price from \$50 up to \$200 per person, depending on the winery and the occasion (upper-end dinners are usually benefits).

Then, choose a winery that suits your palate. The

best choice is a winery whose products you have already tasted and admired because there's no place like a winemaker's dinner to get to know a winery, intimately. Some wineries post their menus online, so if you can see in advance what's going to be served.

Choose a winery that suits your style and mood. Ties and strappy heels might be proper for a Portland benefit, but more laid-back dining is available at dinners served in the Valley. If you love views and white tablecloth outdoor dining, seek out an event hosting among the vines or under the stars.

Lastly, make a



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

of the wine. Ask questions and don't worry about sounding dumb. Everyone is happy and generous at these events.

Follow the general rules of wine-tasting etiquette. If you don't like the wine,

don't drink it, and keep your comments to yourself. Everyone's taste is different. If you like it however, say so. Another rule of thumb: Make your glass last to the end of the course, and you'll have no problems with

over-drinking.

You are not obligated to purchase wine, but most winemakers will give you the opportunity to buy at the end of the dinner, and possibly at special discount prices. ■

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WINE

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DOMAINE WILLAMETTE



Bubbling to the top

Domaine Willamette celebrates rise of Oregon sparkling wines

By Annelise Kelly

Domaine Willamette, a new winery dedicated exclusively to crafting méthode traditionnelle sparkling wine, recently opened after five years of

construction. On Highway 99W, halfway between Dundee and Dayton, visitors will discover inviting gardens, farm-to-table dining, tours and tastings.

This passion project of Jim and Jan Bernau of

Willamette Valley Vineyards is an enterprise based on sustainability, community and collaboration. Landscaping and décor herald the winery's commitment to biodynamic farming practices, with weighty granite

ABOVE: An open interior serves as a welcoming space for visiting wine tasters.

TOP RIGHT: Guests enjoying sunshine and views at the new Domaine Willamette Winery.

sculptures such as a giant cow horn on display by the front entrance.

Conditions in the Willamette Valley favor the production of sparkling wine, and founder Jim Bernau is confident local producers can produce wines rivaling those of Champagne.

"The world's demand for high-quality sparkling wine has exceeded what the Champagne region can actually grow and make. The world keeps getting more wine lovers each year," says Bernau. "We've already seen, in our lifetimes, the North Willamette Valley take its place among the finest wine-growing regions in the world for Pinot Noir. And I believe that we'll see the same thing happen with méthode traditionnelle sparkling wine in our lifetimes."

He explains that "with thin-skinned grape varieties like Pinot Noir, in particular,



and also Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier, you get more aroma and flavor in the North Willamette from these varieties at lower levels of maturity." For example, Pinot Noir grapes are harvested for red wine when the sugar content approximates 23.5-24.5 Brix, while it's harvested for méthode traditionnelle sparkling wine about 18.5 Brix. "It's almost like the North Willamette is just made for this because at 18.5 Brix it hasn't started raining yet," emphasizes Bernau.

Another factor in the Valley's advantage is that veraison, the onset of ripening, occurs during August, our driest month. However, in grape-growing regions such as Champagne, Burgundy and Chablis, August is the wettest time of the year. As the grape clusters mature and fill out during

France's wet summers, a hospitable environment for botrytis fungus develops.

"Growers understand that month is critical for not only developing color and flavor in the fruit, but also avoiding disease," says Bernau. "Oregon is famous for growing sustainably. We can grow in a very low-impact way, experiencing far fewer problems with powdery mildew and botrytis than our French colleagues."

The Van Duzer winds also add to a lower incidence of disease. These cool marine breezes provide natural air conditioning, "allowing the grapes to retain more acidity. The other big advantage? It dries the fruit out. As a consequence, we have much lower levels of disease in our grapes, which means we don't have to apply a lot of sulfur or other remedies." ■

■ Corollary Wines 2018 Winter's Hill Pinot Blanc: Corollary is dedicated exclusively to crafting sparkling wines, and their Pinot Blanc offering is made using grapes grown in the Dundee Hills. ■ Troon Vineyard 2021 Piquette: Common in the Old World but

quite rare in the U.S., Piquette is produced by rehydrating already-pressed grapes. ■ Abbey Road Farms 2021 Sparkling Bland De Blanc: Made with Chardonnay, just as they do in Champagne, from grapes grown in the Yamhill-Carlton AVA Willakenzie soils.

Fizzy fun

If you think Oregon wine revolves purely around prim Pinot Noir and straitlaced Chardonnay, guess again. The state's winemakers may be all business up front, but there's a party in the back, and it's sparkling.

Everything from the Méthode Traditionnelle or Méthode Champenoise style to an array of atypical

varieties and creative blends are found while wine tasting in the Yamhill Valley.

Here is just a small sample of the festive bubbles to be had in the Valley:

■ Minimus Blaufränkisch Pét-Nat, Johan Vineyard, Van Duzer Corridor: "It was kind of a happy accident," admitted Minimus winemaker Laura Cusick of Craft Wine Co. in Carlton. The non-vintage

sparkling Blaufränkisch pét-nat combines two-year aged 2018 rosé of Blaufränkisch — also known as Lemberger — with 2020 grapes to "sugar," or re-ferment, the wine.

■ Kramer Vineyards 2021 Celebrate Grüner Veltliner: Kramer Vineyards produces many sparkling wines, including this one made with Grüner Veltliner grapes. Wine nerd alert: it might be the only Oregon sparkler made solely with this varietal.

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ABCs of AVAs

Explore the area's official appellations

BY YVVG Staff

When purchasing a bottle of wine, you'll see several key elements on the label, including the brand name, wine variety, vintage, alcohol by volume and the place where the grapes were grown, also called an AVA.

Short for American Viticultural Area, an AVA is a distinctive area of land possessing unique winegrowing characteristics, such as climate, soil type, elevation and geology.

It takes a lot of effort, coordination and research to submit an application to the U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), which manages and approves the official register. It takes years for the process to run its course.

As of March 2022, Oregon boasts 22 AVAs. Of those, 10 sit within the greater super AVA of the Willamette Valley. And of those 10, eight call the Yamhill Valley home.

DUNDEE HILLS

Dundee Hills is situated within an irregular circle of about 6,490 acres and is protected by the Coast Range rain shadow to the

west, resulting in only 30 to 45 inches of annual precipitation, most of which falls outside the growing season.

The Dundee Hills is known for its rich, red volcanic Jory soils formed from ancient volcanic basalt and consisting of silt, clay and loam soils. The AVA consists of a single, continuous landmass that rises above the surrounding Willamette Valley floors and is defined by the 200-foot contour line to the area's highest peak of 1,067 feet.

McMINNVILLE

Located in a protective rain shadow cast by the Coast Range, McMinnville's east- and south-facing vineyards receive less rainfall than sites only 12 miles to the east. The foothills also provide protection from cold wind occurring in the spring and fall. Winegrowers have the option of planting vineyards on more southerly facing sites to take advantage of the drying winds from the Van Duzer Corridor, which helps control mold and mildew during Oregon's humid summer days.

The soils are the oldest and most complex of any Oregon AVA, primarily consisting of uplifted marine

sedimentary loam and silt with alluvial overlays; beneath is a base of uplifting basalt. Elevation levels range from 200 to 1,000 feet, and the area encompasses the east and southeast slopes of the Coast Range foothills.

YAMHILL-CARLTON

Low ridges surround the towns of Yamhill and Carlton in a horseshoe shape. The free-flowing North Yamhill River courses through the center of it all. Vineyards thrive on sites with elevations between 200 and 1,000 feet. The Coast Range to the west rises to nearly 3,500 feet, establishing a rain shadow. Chehalem Mountain to the north and the Dundee Hills to the east provide more protection.

The moderate growing conditions are suited for cool-climate grapes.

Yamhill-Carlton is comprised of coarse-grained, ancient marine sedimentary soils over sandstone and siltstone. Grapes grown in such soil often result in wines lower in acid than those made from grapes grown in basaltic or wind-blown soils.

EOLA-AMITY HILLS

Measuring 37,900 acres, the AVA enjoys a temperate climate of warm summers and mild winters, and 40 inches of annual rain, most of which falls outside the growing season. The climate in this region is greatly influenced by its position due east of the Van Duzer Corridor, dropping temperatures

in the region dramatically, especially during late summer afternoons, helping to keep grape acids firm.

The soils mainly contain volcanic basalt from ancient lava flows as well as marine sedimentary rocks and alluvial deposits at lower elevations. This combination results in a relatively shallow, rocky set of well-drained soils that produce fruit with great concentration. The majority of the region's vineyard sites exist at elevations between 250 to 700 feet.

VAN DUZER CORRIDOR

The Van Duzer Corridor AVA sits 20 miles northwest of Salem with rolling hills stretching across 60,000 acres. The soil is marine sedimentary with some basalt over siltstone bedrock. While these soils remain unique to the area and impact both grapes and wine, the fortunes of this AVA rest with the wind funneling through the Van Duzer Corridor, a break in the Coast Range, and into this part of the Valley.

The vines respond to the hefty winds and cooler evening temperatures by developing thicker skins, which results in darker, richer Pinot Noir. Cooler evening temperatures also preserve the fruit's acidity, helping balance the tannins generated by thicker-skinned grapes.

CHEHALEM MOUNTAINS

Encompassing more than 100 square miles, the AVA's elevation ranges from 200 to 1,633 feet, resulting in varied annual precipitation (37 inches at the lowest point and 60 inches at the highest) as well as the greatest variation in temperature within the Willamette Valley. These variations can result in three-week differences in the ripening of Pinot Noir.

The Chehalem Mountains reflect millions of years of soil accumulation, creating a rich geological experiment in one tightly packed geographical area. Within this one region there are ancient, uplifted sedimentary seabeds, weathered rich red soils from lava flows down the Columbia River and relatively new glacial sediment scoured from western states and blown onto north-facing hillsides from windstorms.

RIBBON RIDGE

Ribbon Ridge is contained within the larger Chehalem Mountains. Protected by geographical features to the north, south and west, Ribbon Ridge's grape-growing hillsides are slightly warmer and drier when compared to the adjacent valley floors. Its moderate climate is well suited for early grape growth in the spring, consistent and even ripening over the summer and a long, full

maturing season in the fall.

Ribbon Ridge contains mostly sedimentary soils that are younger, finer and more uniform than the alluvial sedimentary and volcanic soils of nearby regions. These well-drained, silty clay-loam soils are part of the Willakenzie series and are of low fertility and ideal for growing grapes like Pinot Noir. Topographically, the ridge rises 683 feet from the Chehalem Valley floor, giving it an island-like appearance.

LAURELWOOD

Located within the Chehalem Mountains AVA, Laurelwood AVA contains 33,600 acres and exists between the elevations of 200 and 1,600 feet, near the top of Bald Peak.

While it's rainier and cooler than its Tualatin Hills neighbors, Laurelwood shares its one significant feature with them: Laurelwood soil, a reddish-colored soil comprised of weathered volcanic basalt mixed with windblown silt exists. Laurelwood soil also contains pisolites that contribute complexity and rose petal qualities to Pinot Noir.

With no big rocks or blocks of hardpan, roots drive straight down in search of water. Younger vines produce high pH grapes with powerfully floral aromatics, dusty tannins and red fruit flavors. As the

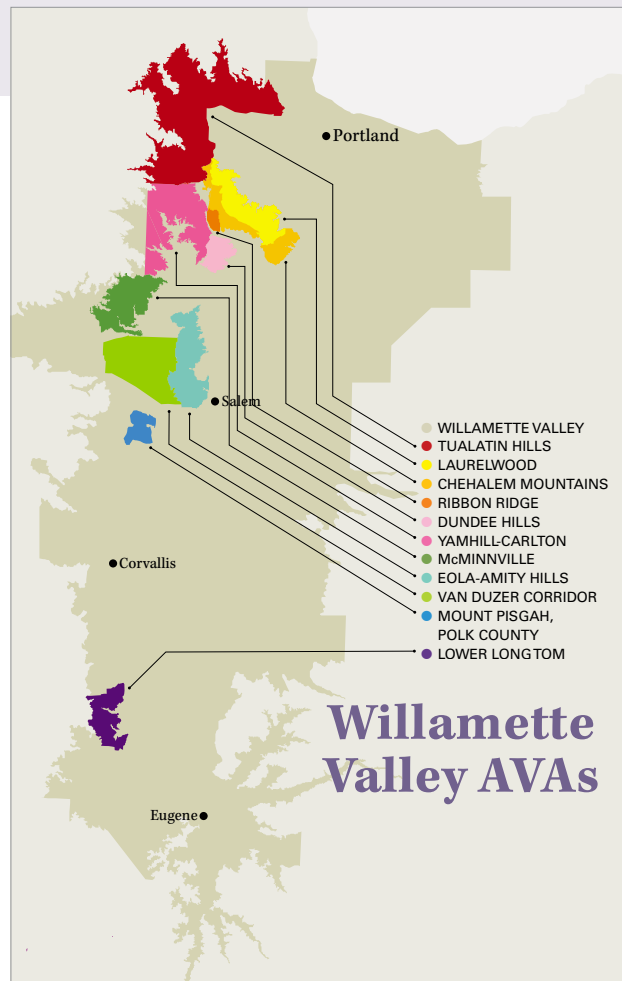
roots age and dig deeper, they touch the basalt zone. At that point, grapes gain in acidity, acquiring darker fruit flavors.

MOUNT PISGAH, POLK COUNTY

Named by Missourian Colonel Cornelius Gilliam as a tribute to a mountain sharing the same name near his childhood home, Mount Pisgah, Polk County, Oregon is our state's newest, and third smallest AVA. Wholly within the larger Willamette Valley appellation, the TTB agreed in 2022 with the proposal petitioners that the 5,850-acre mountain has unique features distinguishing it from the surrounding area.

The soil is marine sediment above ancient Siletz rock. Open Claim Vineyards comprises one of just nine vineyards within the new AVA. Owner Brett Wall explains, "Among the distinctions is the geological feature of the Siletz River volcanics parent material which provides a special character to the wines produced from the fruit grown in this area." In fact, the new AVA claims the oldest soils in the Willamette Valley.

Higher elevation and lower temperature remains another differentiating factor after soil and wind speed, allowing for lower sugar levels and higher acidity, resulting in wines that are fresh and vibrant. ■



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Facts

- Not all wines are vegan.
- Wine-flavored Kit Kats are a thing.
- Italy has a free, 24-hour wine fountain.
- Not all wines improve with age.
- "Drinking to one's health" started in ancient Greece.
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- World's oldest bottle is from 325 A.D.
- Oenophobia (fear of wine) is a thing.
- Wine is fat-free and cholesterol-free.
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Dine Seasonal Feasting

Local produce and products keep menus fresh year-round



PHOTO PROVIDED BY HUMBLE SPIRIT

By Mariah Johnson

It's not every day you can walk into your backyard and harvest produce for the day, but in Yamhill Valley, that is exactly what happens. These rolling, stunning, hills not only produce world-renowned wines, but they make the perfect environment for growing rich foods.

From Newberg to Willamina, the food will light up your taste buds — especially when it's fresh from local

farms. The popular phrase, “farm-to-table” essentially means sourcing your products from local farms. Whether it's fruits, vegetables, or meats, farm-to-table creates a relationship between the source, buyer, and guests of restaurants.

Raised in Guatemala, Javier Santos grew up speaking the language of food and hospitality. He learned that hospitality is the greatest gift you could give someone. He has taken everything he's learned from home and shares it with the guests

that visit his restaurant, SubTerra - Kitchen & Cellar which he and his wife Stephanie own in Newberg. SubTerra sources locally to produce foods with the boldest, and cleanest flavors, all while maintaining a happy place to eat.

“Our goal is to take every opportunity to create relational engagements with our guests, and one of the ways we do that is by showcasing where our food comes from and the people behind the products,” Javier said. “For our

local guests, it may be they learn something new about what's down the road. For our visiting guests, they get a better sense of who we are and why this area is unique and amazing,” he added.

Similarly, the Joel Palmer House, located in Dayton, not only locally sources their food, but also forages it. The Pacific Northwest is the perfect place for mushrooms to thrive. “For the culinary mushrooms we use, many factors go into their growth and proliferation: Terrain, altitude, rainfall,

“Our goal is to take every opportunity to create relational engagements with our guests, and one of the ways we do that is by showcasing where our food comes from and the people behind the products.”

— Javier Santos, owner of Subterra - Kitchen & Cellar

humidity, temperature, etc. The Pacific Northwest is great not just for the rain, or as we like to call it, ‘mushroom sunshine’, but for the mountains and coastlines,” said Christopher Czarnecki, chef and owner of Joel Palmer House. “The value in sourcing our own foods is all in how it ends up in the mouth. Especially when it comes to mushrooms, preservation techniques have a tremendous effect on the end dish. It's a special experience when guests

can walk up to the entrance greeted by multiple baskets full of mushrooms that had been foraged that very day. It's hard to put a price on authenticity and passion,” Czarnecki explained.

The Joel Palmer House offers a variety of mushroom-based dishes that promise to be fulfilling, taking diners on an experience of a five-course meal from the Mushroom Madness Tasting Menu.

Farm-to-table can also change the ways menus



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SUBTERRA



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE HORSE RADISH

serve. The Horse Radish, a restaurant located in Carlton, owned by Sean and Julie Davis, serves food that may vary, depending on the season. “Things are always changing depending on what's available,” Julie said. “We have relationships with a few local farmers who keep us up to date on what they have available at any given time. This can include seasonal items like mushrooms and greens as well as year-round items like pork and eggs,” she added. “We love to highlight the wonderful flavors each season brings. Berries in the summer, mushrooms in the fall, winter squash, and tender greens in spring.”

Mac Market and The Alchemist's Jam are other local businesses and restaurants that source locally. The Alchemist's Jam shop,

FAR LEFT: A fresh salad at Humble Spirit made of produce grown from its own farm. **ABOVE:** Salmon served on a bed of veggies at Horse Radish in Carlton. **LEFT:** Javier Santos of Subterra prepares dishes for a special dining event.

owned by Danny Roberts and Jennifer Fisher, uses local fruits and grains to produce quality jams while trying to be as sustainable as possible in their shop.

“We use locally-sourced fruits for our small batch jams as well as locally grown and organic grains for our slow-fermented sourdough breads, pastries, croissants and bagels,” Fisher said. She also touched on how important sustainability is within their shop. “When we think of sustainability, we think of creating procedures and work habits that have minimal harm to the earth, benefit

DINE

our community, and work well for us,” said Fisher. “We use very minimal plastic, encourage reusable cups and jam jars for our coffee drinks, and use washable fabric liners and towels as opposed to plastic bags and paper towels in our shop. All of our food waste is composted and we recycle everything else. All of these practices bring so much joy and beauty to our shop and makes us feel good.”

Farms sourcing for multiple local restaurants are also right here at home. These include Eola Crest Cattle, Source Farms, Even Pull Farm, and Abbey Road Farm. Eola Crest breeds, raises, and cares for their cattle, to ensure that they’re in the best shape for customers, and prioritizes their nutrition. It is a popular

beef supplier to local restaurants in McMinnville, including 1882 Grille, The Sage, Hawaii Five-o-Three, and numerous others. Their beef also appears at various farmers’ markets in the area.

Source Farm (formerly Kookoolan) in Yamhill values responsible and sustainable practices for farming and fishing. They believe in creating a better food system that is clean and sustainable for customers, with this main goal in mind: practicing regenerative agriculture and raising beef responsibly, to deliver the highest quality of product to your table. Source and Tabula Rasa Farms are part of The Ground, a company that has a collection of enterprises within the Willamette Valley with the



ABOVE: Erik Grimstad of Even Pull Farm holds recently-picked cabbage destined for a local kitchen. **BELOW:** Eola Crest Cattle owner Jennifer Dehaan sells beef, eggs and more at the ranch’s 71X Farmstore.

goal of reconnecting humans with nature through hospitality.

Located in McMinnville, Even Pull sources produce in a 25-mile radius of its farm, a distinct appeal to customers including Pura Vida and Mac Market in McMinnville and Carlton’s The Horse Radish.

Abbey Road Farm, located near Carlton, is a little different than traditional farms, by offering a place to stay — the Silo Suites Bed and Breakfast. As part of having the luxury to stay in the suites, guests are also fed foods that are grown

right on the land.

“When the garden is in full swing, we’re able to source almost all our vegetables and a good portion of our fruit from our own property, which is pretty amazing. Guests that are having breakfast on our porch are just a few feet away from where the produce is grown,” said Will Presich, chef and innkeeper. “Hospitality is very important to us. We want our guests to walk away feeling that they’ve really experienced what Abbey Road Farm is all about. Educating our guests about the ‘how’ and ‘why’ we do what we do is important for them to truly get the holistic experience. We’re so much more than just incredible food, wine, and views.”

That can be said for purveyors throughout Yamhill Valley. When the food is produced with love and care regarding the Earth, people, and animals, that’s what makes it special, and why the practice of farm-to-table is so valuable. ■



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What's New?

Valley's dining scene continues to grow

By YVVG Staff

Even for visitors who make annual trips to Oregon Wine Country, there's always something new to experience when it comes to the local dining scene. The notoriety of Yamhill Valley's foodie options was founded by the likes of Nick's Italian Café and Golden Valley Brewery, and further developed over the years by The Joel Palmer House, The Painted Lady, Cuvée, La Rambla, Thistle and many more.

Here's the most recent crop of restaurants ensuring this area is as much a destination for great meals as it is for great wines.

BLIND PIG

Owners of the food truck Renegade took to brick-and-mortar with the opening of this restaurant in downtown Carlton in the summer of 2022. Chefs Nicolas Bell and Cody Drew built out their menu of from-scratch dishes made with locally-sourced ingredients and developed an experience it describes: "One part renegade, two parts humble, three parts hush hush."

The Blind Pig is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner.

CYPRESS

Opened in late April at the Atticus Hotel in downtown McMinnville, chefs Henry Kibit and Travis Bird draw inspiration from the diverse kitchen traditions of the Mediterranean while featuring the vegetable and meat products of local farmers and ranchers.

Cypress is open every day for breakfast, lunch and dinner, or just a drink at the bar, and also offers constantly changing grab-and-go items.

HUMBLE SPIRIT

Part of The Ground, a collection of local farms focusing on sustainable practices, Humble Spirit opened in mid-July 2022 on McMinnville's Third Street.

Under the direction of Chef Brett Uniss, Humble Spirit offers "simple, really delicious, clean, approachable" food, according to director of hospitality Andrew Mosblech. The restaurant's menu changes with the seasons, but always sources ingredients from its own market garden and pastures and other local farms that share The Ground's philosophy of regenerative farming. Open daily from 4 to 9 p.m.

MAC MARKET 2.0

Multifaceted operation and

community gathering space Mac Market on Alpine Ave. in McMinnville closed in mid-April for a few weeks for renovations to consolidate its cafe and bar into one, European-style eatery, "Bakery Bar," and bring in three new businesses: Honey Pie Pizza, which has a New York style pizza place in Newberg; Wellspring Market, expanding from Portland; and a new restaurant called Hayward, operated by Chef Kari Kihara.

The new restaurant space will allow Kihara build out a more personalized dining experience featuring her dishes inspired by foods of the world and rooted in hyper-local seasonal offering from local farmers.

OKTA Michelin-starred Chef Matthew Lightner prepares multi-course dining experiences meant to tell moments in time.

One of the most ambitious culinary endeavors in Oregon wine Country history, okta presents menus depending upon what's ripest on any given day. Fermenter Larry Nguyen uses ancient techniques, from fermentation to pickling to drying, to preserve produce at its peak, and along with Lightner and staff are building out an ever-evolving experiment.

Tasting menus are seven to 12 courses Wednesdays and Thursdays, and expanded to "as many as the chef wants" Fridays, Saturdays and Sunday.

PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE



ABOVE: Chef Cody Drew with a scattering of select cuts of meat in the kitchen of The Blind Pig, which grew from local favorite food truck Renegade, owned by Drew, Chef Nick Bell, Noelle Amaya Bell and Wesley Jones.

PINCH

After more than a decade of operating French-inspired restaurant Recipe in Newberg, Chef/Owner Paul Bachand closed his operation to pursue a new venture in downtown McMinnville.

Set to open Spring 2023 as of printing of this visitors guide, Pinch's website promises "a fun and flirty, casual yet sophisticated" lunch hand dinner experience, Wednesdays through Saturdays, along with Sunday "shell-a-bration" seafood towers and family suppers.





PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE



ABOVE: A sampler of all dark beers at Golden Valley Brewery, served in a unique holder made out of a piece of wine barrel. **LEFT:** Lupulin-loving brewers David Coyne, left, and Charlie Van Meter, celebrate hop harvest by topping off their pints with hop cones from vines picked an hour earlier at Crowing Hen Brewery near Carlton.

at Third and Cows streets and features hard-to-find beers on tap as well as a select cooler with great beers from Oregon, the west coast, Belgium, and other ports.

Yamhill County is home to a variety of other beer

bars and places with tap selections of varying sizes, with 10 or so cider and beer selections at:

■ Mac Market, 1140 N.E. Alpine Ave., a small but well-collated beer bar located in the same space as the Mac Market café;

■ Park and Main, 211 W. Main in Carlton, with a larger wine room but a bar with an ever-interesting tap list and cooler filled with familiar as well as unusual wares;

■ Old Town Pub, 315 E. First St., serves a balanced list of beer, wine, cider, and cocktails;

■ Barley and Vine, 408 E. First St., emphasizes “beer from around the world and

down the road” and its 16-tap list is still hand-drawn in chalk.

■ Blind Pig, 325 W. Main, Carlton, features ciders and beers poured through a set of steampunk taps made from garden implements, tools and curved metal.

Places with larger numbers of taps are:

■ Mac Taps on 1306 Highway 99W, home of a popular mug club, features

Tap Dancing

Breweries hoppin’ all over the Valley

By Kirby Neumann-Rea

McMinnville has not received the kind of attention for its beer scene as other Oregon towns such as Astoria, Bend, Hood River. All these places, and, of course, Portland, richly deserve the attention.

But with five breweries, and a pub with regionally-made ales, concentration as well as quality are assured

for anyone seeking well-made beers. All are located downtown and within seven blocks of each other and are creating varied and distinctive brews. Those breweries are Bierly Brewing, Fore-Land Beer, Golden Valley Brewing, Grain Station Beer Works, and Heater Allen Brewery, and rounding out the list is McMenamins Hotel Oregon, serving ales brewed in McMenamins brewhouses in Lincoln City and West Linn, each an

hour away.

Heater Allen, a lager-centric brewery, has seen the most change in the past year. It celebrated its 15th birthday a year ago and is in the midst of an expansion project that doubles its space. (Production continued as usual.) Meanwhile, Lisa Allen and her partner, Kevin Davey, formerly of Portland’s Wayfinder, have purchased Heater Allen and are launching a joint venture at the brewery, Gold Dot. The beer garden, scheduled for reopening in June, will be dubbed the Gold Dot Spot.

Crowing Hen Brewery near Carlton, and Chehalem Valley Brewing and Wolves and People Brewery in

Newberg have taprooms well worth a visit, and Long Brewing in Newberg is a small but potent brewing force, with no taproom but containers available at select taprooms and bottle shops in the area.

Focus is also well-placed on those taprooms and bottle shops. Around here, the discerning beer drinker can find local as well as regional and national fermented goods in a diverse selection of these establishments. McMinnville cracked the Wine Enthusiast list of best beer bars in America when The Bitter Monk, 250 N.E. Third St., was listed second among Northwest and West Coast beer bars. “The Monk” is



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32 diverse taps and its own brand of festivity during the UFO Festival in May;

■ Growlers Tap Station at 1036 N.E. Baker St., a compact, bustling place with indoor and outdoor seating – and a small but select cooler with Belgian, German and a rarity from Bend’s The Ale Apothecary;

■ Two Dogs Taphouse, 401 N.E. Evans St., the largest beer bar in the county, carved out of a historic building (phase two scheduled for April completion) and a strong sense of history and sense of place, as depicted by artist Courtney Pownall in a new interior mural adjacent to the bar;

■ Social Goods, 500 E. First St. in Newberg taps in with a total of 40 and has what is certainly the most extensive bottle/can shop in the county;

■ The Roadside Pub, 335 W. Third St., in Lafayette,



ABOVE: A friendly baby finch greets a table at Heater Allen Brewing in McMinnville. **RIGHT:** Levi Danielson, owner of Raw, pours a locally made cider in to a glass.

also boasts a wide choice of beers.

Notably ciders, on tap and in bottles or cans, are increasingly available in Yamhill County. Art + Science, ciders and wines made in Sheridan, are available on line and

summers at the 22900 Pitman Road tasting room. Just over the county line in Polk County is Salt Creek Cider House, north of Rickreall, an all-season location for enjoying cider at the source. Raw, a new label made in McMinnville,

can be found at Mac Market, and examples of Carlton Cyderworks/Slake are sold at Harvest Fresh grocery, and Carlton’s Park and Main stocks Kristof Orchards and the county’s newest cidery, Cameron Winery of Dundee. ■

Get in the spirits

The Yamhill Valley boasts myriad passionate beverage makers crafting libations worthy of a quaff, and we’re not talking wine.

North of McMinnville, Branch Point Distillery has created “original whiskeys” since 2016. The tasting room near Dayton, is open seven days a week.

Ewing Young, located on

Highway 240 near Newberg, began current production in recent years and is named for the man who created the state’s first distillery and at that same location many years ago.

Lockdown Vodka in Yamhill is available at McMinnville liquor stores, and bars and restaurants in Yamhill, Carlton and McMinnville. Proceeds from the sales of Three Old Guys Distilling’s Courage Vodka go to local breast cancer support groups.

Ransom Wine Co. & Distillery,

founded in 1997, produces spirits in Sheridan. Vodka, bourbon and other wares are available daily at the tasting room of the co-owned Duck Pond Cellars on the edge of Dundee.

Killdeer Distilling’s small batch spirits can be tasted from noon to 5 p.m on the weekends at the distillery located in the Ribbon Ridge AVA east of Yamhill. In that same area, Brixeur takes a winemaking approach to distillation, as it’s brought to you by the same family-led team of Trisaetum.



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The Beer Diagram

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Stay



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ABBEY ROAD FARM

Comfort In Style

Lodging options for every taste

By YVVG Staff

Dream up a vision of your perfect lodging experience, and there's a good chance you'll find it in the Yamhill Valley. From elegant to eclectic, rustic to retro, urban to rural, and all points in between, there are lodging amenities to fit anyone's style and budget.

Two staples of luxury include Atticus Hotel in McMinnville and Allison Inn & Spa in Newberg.

The 36-room Atticus is

packed with detail to enliven the stay of visitors, from the glass of bubbly served upon entering, to the local feel of the furniture, art and overall craftsmanship. The Allison is a campus of high-end comfort located on 35 acres of hillside beauty, with an on-site spa, an indoor pool and whirlpool, fitness studio and the acclaimed Jory Restaurant.

Many bed and breakfasts also offer lavish and leisure with a range of concierges and friendly hosts to help personalize your stay. Opt

for a historic home in town, with leisurely walks to shops, dining, wine tasting and nightlife, or choose a secluded countryside setting with awe-inspiring views to start and end the day. B&B lodgers have the advantage of owners present and eager to guide your getaway experience.

Another option: Have wine country come to you. At Douglas on Third Boutique Hotel, located inside a

Opt for a historic home in town, with leisurely walks to shops, dining, wine tasting and nightlife, or choose a secluded countryside setting with awe-inspiring views to start and end the day.

LEFT: The three silos at Abbey Road Farm are transformed into a unique bed and breakfast experience outside of Carlton.

1912 building in downtown McMinnville, wine tastings are hosted every Friday evening in the lobby.

If you seek more retro surroundings with a historic flair, check out McMenamins Hotel Oregon in downtown McMinnville, the boutique Wildwood Hotel in Willamina and the glamping-friendly Vintages Trailer Resort near Dayton.

Soon, an additional unique lodging experience will be added near McMinnville's Granary District. The Boutique Retreat will feature eight tiny-home custom cottages with an inviting outdoor experience along the newly renovated Alpine Avenue.

If you're wanting to stay in wine country with your own recreational vehicle, Olde Stone Village, located outside McMinnville, next to Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum, offers special features like a heated seasonal pool, kids playground,



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sports court, clubhouse and more amenities.

More conventional but equally hospitable options include McMinnville's Red Lion and Comfort Inn & Suites, and Newberg's Shilo Inn, as well as the Spirit Mountain Lodge and Casino in Grand Ronde.

Travelers may also select the "home away from home" option. Dozens of vacation rentals are available and great when traveling in large groups. Like the menu of B&Bs, a wide array of rentals in wine country allows travelers to match their style and preferences with their experience. Most are full homes, but there are also attached rooms

or apartments, perfect for thrifty on-the-go couples. Downtown flats are also popular options for their close proximity to urban tasting rooms and restaurants.

Do you prefer to wake up with a view overlooking a vineyard or have easy access to the burgeoning arts and culture scene? Want to eat out exclusively, dine with in-house chefs or hire a private chef to host a dinner at your rental? These are just a few questions to ask yourself while seeking a lodging style that matches your personality.

Almost certainly, the Yamhill Valley will have the right answer for you. ■

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CALENDAR of EVENTS 2023



WEEKLY

Farmers Market
Downtown McMinnville,
Thursdays noon to 5 p.m.
May 11 through Oct. 12, at
First and Cowls streets
www.downtownmcminnville.com

McMinnville Grange,
Saturdays, 1700 Old
Sheridan Road
facebook.com/
McMinnvilleGrangeFarmMarket

Downtown Newberg,
Wednesdays 4 to 8 p.m.
May 3 through Sept. 27, at
Second and College streets
www.cprdnwberg.org

MONTHLY

3rd Friday on 3rd Street
Third Street, McMinnville
www.3rdfridayon3rdstreet.com

ARTwalk
Downtown Newberg, first
Fridays except Jan. and July
www.newbergartwalk.com

Wet Season Concert Series
West Valley Community
Center, Willamina, third
Saturdays Oct. through
March
westvalleycommunitycampus.org

ABOVE Pioneer Hall on the campus of Linfield University looms over the International Pinot Noir Celebration Grand Dinner, one of several IPNC meals with 1,000 or more people seated and served by regional food and wine industry professionals.

APRIL

■ 4/13
Newberg Camellia Festival
Chehalem Cultural Center
www.chehalemculturalcenter.org

■ 4/15
Flavors of Carlton
Abbey Road Farm
www.yctogethercares.com

■ 4/15
Farm Fest & Plowing Competition
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, McMinnville
www.yamhillcountyhistory.org

■ 4/21
Earth Day Jam
Grand Ronde
grandronde.org

■ 4/22
Earth Day (and Earth Night)
McMinnville
www.zerowastemcminnville.com

■ 4/29
Terroir Writing Festival
Chehalem Cultural Center, Newberg
terroircreativewritingfestival.com

MAY

■ 5/3
Edible Gardening Festival and Compost-Palooza
Mac Market, McMinnville
www.edibleyamhill.org

■ 5/5
Camas Festival
Linfield University, McMinnville
www.linfield.edu/camasfest

MAY cont.

■ 5/5
Dayton Cinco de Mayo Celebration
Downtown Dayton
www.daytonoregon.gov

■ 5/12-5/13
Pacific Overland equipment auction
Yamhill Co. Fairgrounds, McMinnville
www.pacificoverlandauction.com

■ 5/19-5/20
McMenamins UFO Festival
Downtown McMinnville
www.ufofest.com

■ 5/26-5/28
Memorial Day Wine Tasting Weekend
Valley-wide
www.oregonwinepress.com

■ 5/27-5/28
Memorial Weekend Boat Races
Rogers Landing, Newberg
www.newbergboatclub.org

JUNE

■ 6/10
Porklandia
Downtown Carlton
carltonbusinessassociation.com

■ 6/11
Summer Garden Tour & Faire
McMinnville
www.mcminnvillegardenclub.org

■ 6/17
Hay Day/Play Day
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, McMinnville
www.yamhillcountyhistory.org

■ 6/16-6/17
Oregon Brews & Barbeque
Yamhill Co. Fairgrounds, McMinnville
orbrewsandbbqs.com

■ 6/18-6/19
Sheridan Home Town Days
www.cityofsheridanor.com

■ 5/27-5/28
Make Music Day
McMinnville
www.makemusicday.org/mcminnville

■ 6/23-6/24
Carlton Fun Day
facebook.com/carltonfundays

■ 6/30-7/4
St. Paul Rodeo
St. Paul
www.stpaulrodeo.com

■ 7/2-7/23
Aquilon Music Festival
Linfield University, McMinnville
www.aquilonmusicfestival.org

■ 7/4
Willamina Old-Fashioned Fourth of July
Willamina
www.willaminaoregon.gov

■ 7/8-7/9
Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow
Uyxat Powwow Grounds, Grand Ronde
www.grandronde.org

JULY

■ 7/8-7/9
Lavender Festival & Plein Air Paint Out
Chehalem Cultural Center, Newberg
www.chehalemculturalcenter.org

■ 7/14-7/15
Yamhill Derby Days
Beulah City Park
www.facebook.com/yamhillderbydays

■ 7/17
Fueled By Fine Wine Half Marathon
Dundee Hills
www.foottraffic.us/the-races/fueled

■ 7/27-7/30
Newberg Old-Fashioned Festival
newbergoldfashionedfestival.org

■ 7/28-7/30
International Pinot Noir Celebration
Linfield University
www.ipnc.org

■ 7/29-7/30
Old Timers Weekend
Dayton
www.ci.dayton.or.us



AUGUST

■ 8/2-8/5
Yamhill County Fair
Yamhill Co. Fairgrounds, McMinnville
www.yamhillcountyfairs.com

■ 8/12
Valley View Air Show
Rock of Ages, McMinnville
www.rockofagesvalleyview.com

■ 8/18-8/20
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Contest Powwow
Uyxat Powwow Grounds
www.grandronde.org

■ 8/18-8/20
Bounty of Yamhill County
Valley-wide
www.bountyofyamhillcounty.com

■ 8/19
Recycled Arts and Sustainable Living Festival
Downtown McMinnville
www.zerowastemcminnville.com

■ 8/19-8/20
Lemonade Day
McMinnville
www.lemonadeday.org/mcminnville

■ 8/19-8/20
Harvest Fest
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, McMinnville
www.yamhillcountyhistory.org

■ 8/19-8/20
McMinnville Music Festival
Downtown McMinnville
www.mcminnvillemusicfestival.com

■ 8/26
Cruising McMinnville
Downtown McMinnville
www.cruisingmcminnville.com

SEPTEMBER

■ 9/2-9/3
Walnut City Music Festival
McMinnville
www.walnutcitymusicfest.org

■ 9/8-9/9
Beers, Bites and Bands
Oregon Mutual parking lot, McMinnville
www.mcminnville.org

■ 9/9
Carlton Crush Harvest Festival
Downtown Carlton
www.carltoncrush.com

■ 9/9
Vintage Baseball
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, McMinnville
www.yamhillcountyhistory.org

■ 9/24
Wine Country Pride Street Fair
Alpine Avenue, McMinnville
www.winecountrypride.com

■ 9/29-10/1
Oregon International Air Show
McMinnville Airport
www.oregonairshow.com

OCTOBER

■ 10/7-10/8
McMinnville Scottish Festival
Linfield University
www.macscottishfest.com

■ 10/6-10/8; 10/13-10/15
Art Harvest Studio Tour of Yamhill County
Valley-wide
www.artharveststudiotour.org

NOVEMBER

■ 11/10-11/11
Willamina Coastal Art Tour
facebook.com/willaminaarttour

■ 11/11-11/12
¡Salud! Oregon Pinot Noir Auction
Ponzi Vineyards, Sherwood; Domaine Serene, Dayton
www.saludauction.org

■ 11/24-11/26
Thanksgiving Wine Tasting Weekend
Valley-wide
www.oregonwinepress.com

■ 11/24
Santa's Parade & Tree Lighting
Downtown McMinnville
www.downtownmcminnville.com

DECEMBER

■ 12/2-12/3
Handmade Holiday
McMinnville
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, McMinnville
www.yamhillcountyhistory.org

■ TBD
Wine Country Holiday Home Tour & Auction
McMinnville
www.simcminnville.org

FEBRUARY

■ All Month
The Melt Down
Valley-wide
www.yamhillcap.org

■ TBD
McMinnville Short Film Festival
McMinnville
www.mcminnvillefilmfest.org

■ TBD
Oregon Truffle Festival Yamhill County
Various locations
www.oregontrufflefestival.org

MARCH

■ 3/8-3/10, 2024
McMinnville Wine + Food Classic
Evergreen Air & Space Museum, McMinnville
mcminnvillewineandfood.com

■ TBD
Amity Daffodil Festival
www.amitydig.org



5/19-5/20
McMenamins UFO Festival

Event Calendars

Art shows, wine tastings, trivia nights, recreation activities, concerts ... The Yamhill Valley is packed with events each week. Check out these websites to discover what's happening this week:

- www.newsregister.com/events
- www.visitmcminnville.com/events
- www.tastenewberg.com/events

Tour



PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE



PHOTO PROVIDED



PHOTO BY MARCUS LARSON

Cultural Offerings

Valley packed with sounds, shows and creativity

By Starla Pointer

Yamhill Valley natives and residents have it good. Not only is the area known for its food and drink scene, the arts are thriving, too. What's the common denominator? Creativity and good taste, for good measure.

FINE ART

One of the finest examples of this is the Art Harvest

Studio Tour of Yamhill County, which invites people inside artists' studios to view their work and chat with the artisans themselves. Marking its 29th anniversary, the tour happens over two consecutive weekends, Sept. 30–Oct. 2 and Oct. 7–9. With the purchase of a \$10 entry button, visitors can spend as much time with as many artists as they like over those six days.

Art Harvest represents one of many events showcasing the area's creative residents, yet throughout the year, many of these same painters, potters, sculpturists, etc., display their work inside local art galleries.

Works from local, regional and national artists are on displays at venues throughout the county, including The Gallery at

Ten Oaks in McMinnville; Currents, organized by an artist collective; Linfield University's own collection on campus, with student art and shows by visiting pros; and the Narthex Gallery inside the McMinnville Presbyterian Church, offering several shows a year.

World-renowned painter Erin Hanson displays her contemporary impressionist works of art in her own gallery in McMinnville. Hanson and her staff also host a "2nd Saturdays" art reception each month.

Major galleries in Newberg include Art with Elegance, showcasing nature-inspired abstract art and jewelry, and nearby ART Elements, founded by Loni Parrish, the art curator for the Allison Inn & Spa.

More than a dozen other galleries are open around the county. A list with more information can be found at yamhillcountygalleries.com.

Another popular place to experience the vibrant art scene is the Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg, featuring five galleries of professionally curated exhibits rotated throughout the year.

Each month, downtown Newberg hosts its First Friday ARTwalk, connecting a variety of retail shops with artists and wineries, too, sampling their latest bottles. In addition, Willamina hosts an annual studio tour. The Willamina

Coastal Hills Art Tour will return the second weekend of November.

PERFORMANCE

Besides visual art, the Valley boasts live theater and a lauded film festival.

Gallery Theater in McMinnville offers several productions each season in its proscenium auditorium and smaller black-box venue. The 2023 season includes "9 to 5 The Musical" (May 5-28), "Pride and Prejudice" (July 28-Aug. 13), "Matilda The Musical" (Sept. 8-Oct. 1), "Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Yeats at a Certain School of Magic and Magic" (Oct. 20-Nov. 5), and "Anne of Green Gables" (Nov. 24-Dec. 17).

Penguin Productions produces its Shakespeare plays and more under the stars on a temporary stage set in the countryside. It's Summer 2023 schedule includes Twelfth Night (July 14-15, 20-21) and "Almost, Maine" (Aug. 18-19, 25-26 and Sept. 1-2).

For film lovers, the McMinnville Short Film Festival in February features

FAR LEFT: Actors Evan Tait and Larissa Miller share a romantic moment during the show "Barefoot in the Park" at the Gallery Theater, which ran in 2022. **LEFT:** Anton Below, a Linfield University professor and director of the Aquilon Music Festival, leads vocalists and musicians during a benefit concert for Ukraine. **ABOVE:** Artist Erin Hanson adds to one of her "open impressionism" paintings.

TOUR

Local band Ships To Roam performs on the streets of downtown McMinnville during Make Music Day, an international celebration in June coincided with the Summer Solstice.

work by directors from all around the world. Short films vary from local student productions to Academy Award nominees. An awards ceremony caps off the festival each year with a keynote speaker and contest winners, including the esteemed “Will Vinton Award for Best Animation,” named after the Claymation legend and McMinnville native.

Finally, film and classical music lovers, take note: The Aquilon Music Festival is a month-long celebration of opera and young musicians, July 2 to July 23, at Linfield College and venues around the county. Highlights for 2023 include Mozart’s Don Giovanni, lieder recitals, lectures and more.

LIVE MUSIC

For music lovers, visitors can find everything from country and rock performers at the Yamhill County Fair in August to classical work and opera offered by Linfield students and faculty. Many wineries host concerts, as well, often among the vines. Summer-time is especially busy as myriad tasting rooms and wineries concert series.

Community concerts series include Tunes on Tuesday in Newberg (July through August) and the McMinnville Parks & Rec Summer Fun Concert



PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE

Series (Tuesday in July at City Park).

For weekly tunes, McMenamins Hotel Oregon in McMinnville is a go to, with open mic nights every Thursday hosted by local musician Freddie Lamb, and performances by regional acts on Fridays and Saturdays. The Horse Radish in McMinnville also features bands frequently, as doesn the historic Wildwood Hotel in Willamina, which also features an open mic night each Sunday.

Also in Willamina, the West Valley Community Center stage plays host to bands on the Third Saturdays, Oct. through March, for the Wet Season Music Series.

On June 21, the Summer

Solstice, McMinnville will host its second annual celebration of Make Music Day. Part of an international program launched in 1982, the free event features players from all musical persuasions, young and old, amateur and professional, performing on sidewalks, parks, plaza, alleyways, porches and more.

The Walnut City Music Festival returns in 2023 for its ninth volume of rock, folk and more from around the country, presented in the oak grove on the campus of Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum over Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 2-3. In its third year, the McMinnville Music Festival will get you dancing on Third Street Aug. 18-20. Finally,

two hoppy events bring live music to the stage: Oregon Brews & Barbecue Father’s Day Bash, June 16-17 at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds; and Brews, Bites and Bands, Sept. 8-10 in the parking lot of Oregon Mutual Insurance in downtown McMinnville.

If it’s big names from the music world you’re after, check out the calendar of Oregon’s No. 1 tourist destination, Spirit Mountain Casino. Legendary acts like Tower of Power, The Pointer Sisters and more are scheduled to play at the venue in Grand Ronde. The casino also hosts touring comedians and offers free live music each weekend in its sports bar. ■



Yamhill County Fine Art Galleries

Enjoy a bounty of fine art galleries in the heart of Oregon Wine Country

McMinnville Galleries

The Erin Hanson Gallery

1805 NE Colvin Ct., McMinnville
503-334-3670
erinhanson.com

1

Currents Gallery

532 NE 3rd St., McMinnville
503-456-1316
currentsgallery.com

2

John Stromme Gallery

307 NE 3rd St., McMinnville
503-857-3205
strommegallery.com

3

Mason-Rivera Sculpture Garden & Art Gallery

20901 SW Caleb Payne Rd., McMinnville
503-437-3652
masonriverasculpture.com

4

Narthex Gallery – First Presbyterian

390 NE 2nd St., McMinnville
503-472-6256
fpc-mac.org/narthex-gallery

5

Newberg Galleries

ART Elements Gallery

604 E. 1st St., Newberg
503-487-6141
artelementsgallery.com

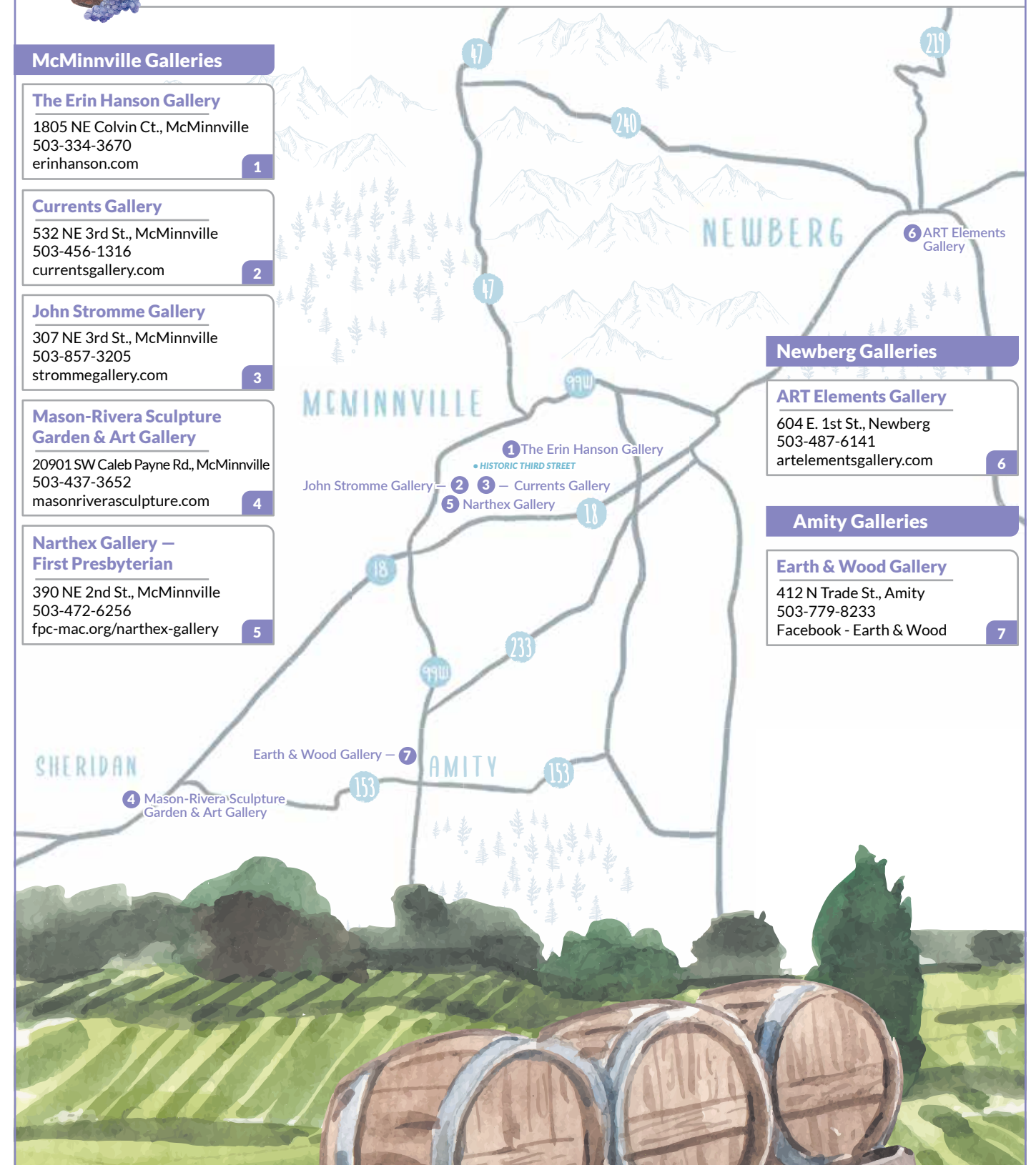
6

Amity Galleries

Earth & Wood Gallery

412 N Trade St., Amity
503-779-8233
Facebook - Earth & Wood

7





LEFT: A 75th anniversary celebration was held Nov. 2022 for the one-and-only flight of The Spruce Goose, the centerpiece exhibit at the Evergreen Aviation Museum. **BELOW:** The Linfield Telescope is part of The Carlton Observatory Project at the museum.

Sunday, June 18.

See details at evergreen-museum.org, also about guided tours of the museum, veterans programs, and summer camps for kids. The website has an informative “only have an hour?” section, which highlights the mu-



PHOTO BY MARCUS LARSON

Air Wonders

Explore air, space and waves at Evergreen

By YVVG Staff

The Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum, home to a renowned collection of planes, spacecraft, artifacts and more, reopened fulltime in mid-2021, marking its 20th year. The star attraction is the Spruce Goose, the world’s largest aircraft; in November 2022 Evergreen celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Spruce Goose’s one-and-only flight.

Admission is \$22 for adults, \$16 for veterans and seniors, \$10 for youth ages 5-15 and children under five get in free. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, closed

Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Evergreen is in partnership with the Carlton Observatory, which provides hands-on experiences and special events at the space museum.

Evergreen showcases plenty to see and do for a wide variety of tastes, from the ardent aviation aficionado to the swim-crazed eight-year-old at the Wings and Waves Waterpark. (The waterpark and large-screen theater have separate admissions).

The 300-acre property is home to numerous public events, including the spring McMinnville Wine and Food Classic and the annual International Air Show,

scheduled this year in October. The interior of the aviation and space buildings, and the expansive museum grounds, have emerged in recent years as the go-to location for fun runs, music and art events, and more and events as diverse as the Special Olympics airplane pull and Walnut City Music Festival.

Museum events in 2023 include the Father’s Day SR-71 featuring presentations and panels on the famed Lockheed SR-71 spy plane, Saturday, June 17 and

seum’s newest addition, the F-86 Sabre, following a year of restoration of the Korean War plane.

Outdoor exhibits include military and commercial aircraft and something visitors might walk across and not notice – a scale diagram of the Solar System etched into the concrete, with the planets identified and shown in relative size and distance from each other and from the sun. It’s next to the main parking lot, directly in front of the Evergreen theater. ■

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Cruising McMinnville™ is a 501(c)(3) non-profit committed to partnering with and giving back to our community and providing scholarship opportunities for local students. For more details about who we are and how we give back, please visit our website at CruisingMcMinnville.com.



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

Relax A Bit

Don't forget to unwind while on vacation

By YVVG Staff

Visiting the Yamhill Valley can be a busy, activity-filled adventure, but a slower-paced experience is also easy to find. Here are five sure-fire ways to unwind and find tranquility during your visit to the area.

With Gentle Hands What's more relaxing than a day at the spa? The region has a variety of places to receive massages, facials, foot scrubs and other tranquil treatments. The Allison Inn & Spa in Newberg offers a list of services, including the "Divine Wine" facial, using ingredients such as honey, wine grapes and grapeseed oil, with options for both women and men — yes, guys, you can enjoy a spa day, too. In-room treatments are also available for overnight guests.

In McMinnville, Breathe Body & Spa is the only

couples massage oasis in downtown. Don't let the lack of signage trick you; services like hot stone massage, four-hands massage and hot scalp treatments are simply up a flight of stairs — or brief elevator ride. Spa Cha Cha at Second and Evans streets, as well as Spa Bliss in the hip Granary District also know how to relax and beautify any customer.

Like a Monk Monasteries aren't exclusively for Western Europe and the pages of medieval novels. Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey sits on a secluded estate along Abbey Road east of Carlton. Unlike their counterparts in Belgium, these monks do not craft beer but instead sell fruitcake, operate a small book bindery and an industry wine warehouse to financially support the Abbey. If your idea of relaxation involves contemplation

LEFT: McMinnville Pilates Center owner Michelle Melasecca encourages Carla Arriaza to hold and deepen her stretch in a workout.

and a serene atmosphere, the Abbey contains rooms in its guest house for those seeking the secluded meditation that defines monastic life. The Brigittine Monks at the Priory of Our Lady of Consolation in Amity are best known for their fudge and chocolate truffles; find moments of relaxation in their "divine" chocolate treats at Blue Raeven Pies in Amity and Harvest Fresh in McMinnville, among many other food and gift shops.

Along a Trail Oregon is well-regarded as a hiker's mecca, and Yamhill County is no exception. For a short trip, head north of McMinnville to Miller Woods Conservation Area. The 130-acre property is managed by the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, and open from dawn to dusk. Miles of trails snake through forests of various ages, offering a display of native plants and wildlife. For those looking for something more remote, Pheasant Creek Falls and Niagara Falls Trail awaits just 18 miles north of Willamina in the Siuslaw National Forest. The 1.3-mile trek takes visitors past both waterfalls with scenic views along the way. The route descends from the trailhead to the water, so save your strength for some uphill

hiking on the return and be careful; there are some steep drop-offs along the way.

With Binoculars

If you haven't quite "gone to the birds," but are interested in doing so, there are a number of prime spots in the region. McMinnville Rotary Park has gravel paths tracing through 33 acres of prime bird habitat just north of the city on Baker Creek Road. The county's west end is flush with bird-watching opportunities, including the Willamina fishing pond, Sheridan's Wetlands Park and the Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area near Grand Ronde. Be sure to bring your binoculars — you won't want to miss any of the many species of avians calling Yamhill County home.

In a Pose

The ancient practice of yoga can be restorative for body, mind and spirit, and, luckily, there are a number of places to connect with that kind of rejuvenation in Yamhill County. In McMinnville, both Earth & Elevate Movement Studio and Boho Yoga offer classes catering to a variety of different styles, ages and skill levels. While others strike poses in more traditional spaces, All People Yoga hosts classes inside its "yoga hut" in Dundee. If Gyrotonic exercise method is what you seek, McMinnville Pilates Center has you covered. ■



UNCOMMON

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Linfield
University

linfield.edu/community



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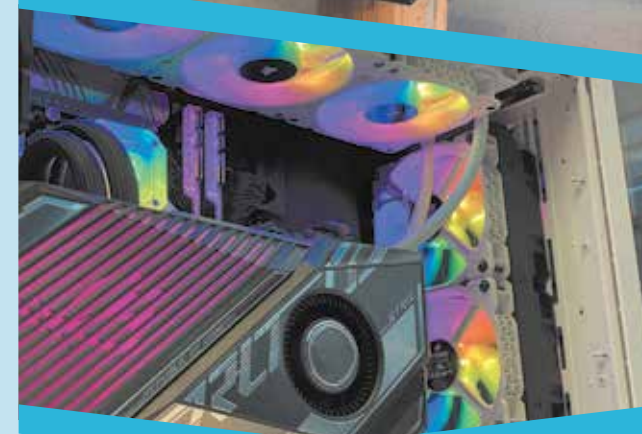
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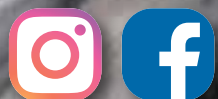
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Come, Kids Come, All

Family-friendly adventures await

By YVVG Staff

The Yamhill Valley remains a great home-base for a vacation with the kids, partly due to its central location to myriad adventures. The Oregon Coast, the state Capitol and the Portland Metro Area all exist within an hour drive. But, there is also plenty of splashing, riding, exploring, gaming and more right here for the family to enjoy without the extra mileage.

BIG SLIDES AND SCREENS
 For fans of waterparks, a

trip to Wings & Waves on the campus of the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum is a must. Where else can you launch onto four slides from inside a 747 sitting on top of a building? The indoor park's aviation theme is carried throughout all the water attractions, including an aqua play structure, plus vortex, leisure and wave pools.

Aqua play is also on tap at the Chehalem Aquatic Center in Newberg, which features a leisure pool equipped with a slide, a fire truck play feature and a climbing wall.



PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE

From pools to screens, another landmark attraction of the area is the 99W Drive-In theater in Newberg. The 1953-built theater is open mid-spring to mid-fall. Unique cinematic experiences can also be had at the historic Cameo Theater in Newberg and the living room setup of the Moonlight Theater in downtown McMinnville (connected to Third Street Pizza).

KID-FRIENDLY WINERIES

Many wineries offer yard games such as cornhole or a bocce ball court. Stoller Family Estate even features its own disc golf course. Several wineries boast hiking trails around the vineyard, and kids will enjoy a walk through the farm at Abbey Road Farms to get up close and personal with the resident animals.

Crowing Hen Brewery between Carlton and Lafayette is a kid-friendly zone, with a fenced beer garden supplied with games to play in the yard or in the shade under the ample awning.

ANIMAL ADVENTURES

Children who enjoy getting up close with furry creatures can take an Alpaca

Trek at Wings and A Prayer outside Amity. Yes, it's just what it sounds like. Families will learn about the animals and hand feed some before taking their own alpaca for a refreshing stroll in the woods.

There are several equestrian tour activities in wine country, but Fiddlestix Ranch in Yamhill is unique in that it offers a family lesson and trail ride, too. "My whole goal is to include the family," said owner Sarah Kimmel. "It's a really laid-back, friendly barn."

Speaking of laid-back and friendly, Petey the Donkey is himself worth the drive out to Eola Crest Cattle's 71X Farmstore on Booth Bend Road, two miles from the intersection of Southeast Davis Street, near the Linfield University campus.

If your little adventurer is keen on searching for frogs, small snakes and lizards, Miller Woods outside McMinnville offers a five-mile trail and an educational one-third-mile Discovery Loop Trail with age-appropriate activities for visitors. Open daily from dawn to dusk, the nature park also hosts events throughout

Continued on page 54



PHOTO BY OSSIE BLADINE

ABOVE: Just an hour drive from downtown McMinnville, Pacific City is a family favorite for day trips to the beach. **TOP:** Youngsters will find plenty of thrills at the Yamhill County Fair and other local events with rides, games and activities.

TOUR

the year. Volunteers built a modern restroom facility at the park in 2022.

CAST A LINE

The Sheridan Pond and Huddleston Pond (in Willamina) are both family-friendly fishing spots and picnic areas stocked frequently with trout by the state wildlife department. At Huddleston, 100 trophy trout are released in the spring. Four hundred more trophies are released, along with 1,000 legals in the Yamhill River during spring months, one of the few opportunities in Oregon to catch some succulent hatchery fish in a free-flowing river.

For information on free family fishing weekends, release schedules and more, go to dfw.state.or.us/fish.

PLAY IN THE PARK

Yamhill Valley communities take great pride in their park systems. Discovery Park in McMinnville features a splash pad kids love in the summer months. The Chehalem Parks district throughout Newberg and Dundee offers several easy-to-moderate hikes. When planning a trip, call the local parks and recreation departments for more ideas of family fun.

Carlton's Ladd Park features a multi-faceted playground, and outdoor pool, right in the center of downtown. Historic markers include a small

one noting a 100-year time capsule. A question for the kids might be: what will Carltonites find in the capsule when they open it on 11-11-2099?

A block away on Main Street, pose for a few photos with the red British "call box".

In nearby Yamhill, kids can enjoy Beulah Park and, downtown, a walking tour of significant places in the childhood of renowned author Beverly ("Ramona and Beezus") Cleary, who grew up there.

On the Linfield University Campus (on Keck Avenue just east of Albertsons) is a flat walking resource and comes with a bonus "art walk" with whimsical student-made wooden and metal sculptures. You might see a melting cake, pagoda, ocean wave, or tentacle-creature in the 20 or so outdoor art works, with more scattered nearby on the grounds of the university arts center.

Kids will enjoy the "Dragon" playground at McMinnville's City Park (next to the aquatic center) and then some quieter time at storytimes held several mornings each week at 10:30 a.m., in the McMinnville Library, also right next door.

For more on local parks, visit cprdnewberg.org, mcminnvilleoregon.gov/parksrec and (particularly for waterway access) co.yamhill.or.us/parks. ■

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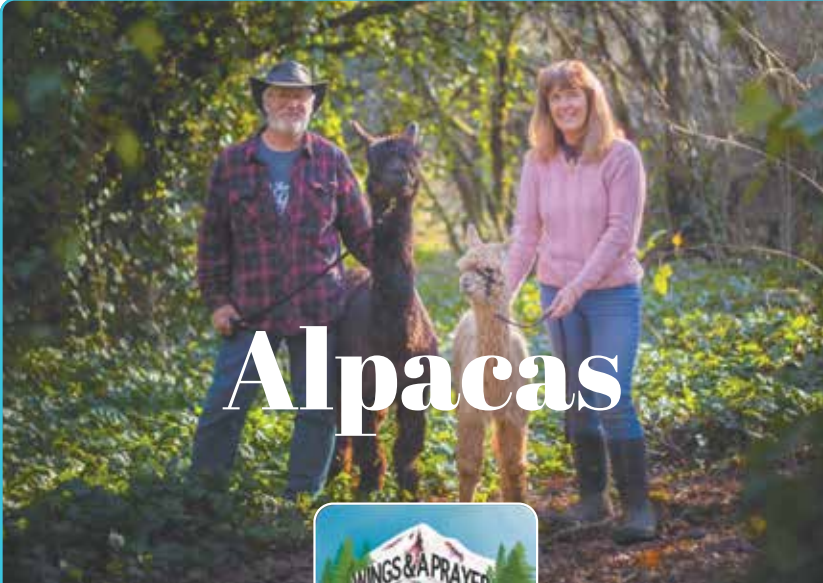
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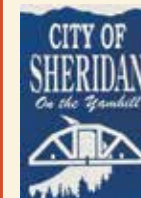
Contact Randy or Barbara today to schedule your visit and enjoy our little slice of heaven – alpacas and dogs! See us online at alpacatrek.net or wingsandaprayeralpacos.com. Visit us at 18100 S Hwy 99W Amity, Oregon. Randy: 503-310-9367 | Barbara: 503-263-6944



A river runs through it...

While in town, don't miss the Sheridan Museum of History, located at 142 S. Bridge Street. The museum is open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. every Saturday. Admission is free, the coffee is on, and long-time Sheridanites will be on hand to answer your questions and help you find information of interest to you.

Join us for Sheridan Days on June 17!



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For more information about Sheridan or to reserve the covered picnic area in Sheridan City Park for group activities such as birthday parties and family reunions, call Sheridan City Hall at 503-843-2347. <https://www.cityofsheridanor.com>

You won't need to travel far to enjoy the scenic beauty of Sheridan. The South Yamhill River flows through the middle of Sheridan's historic downtown. The truth is, there are many ways to enjoy spending time on the river. So whether you're looking to relax and kick back while floating down the river or you're ready to try your luck fishing, Sheridan invites you to enjoy this beautiful river and area wildlife.

Sheridan's South Side Park includes a fishing pond, fishing docks, picnic areas, and other amenities. Oregon Fish and Wildlife stocks this pond regularly. (*Fishing licenses are required.*)

Sheridan City Park offers covered picnic tables, a skate park, a covered basketball court, and more.





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OF YAMHILL COUNTY

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Random Oregon Facts

- Oregon boasts the only Scenic Bike-way program in the nation. Discover its 17 routes across the state.
- Oregon residents own one-fourth of the country's total llama population.
- With more than 80 abandoned towns listed on the national register, Oregon holds the nation's top spot as the ghost town capital.
- Oregon is the only state with an official state nut: the hazelnut.

Shop

Off the beaten path

Local goods found downtown and beyond

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

From antiques to toys to records to items for the mind, body and spirit, dozens of locally owned shops can be found in the charming downtown of the Yamhill Valley,

making it easy to find that perfect keepsake or gift on your visit.

Anyone looking for locally-made and grown gifts and products can also drive an extra few miles to find two unique rural stores with plenty of offer.



PHOTO BY KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

One is just outside of McMinnville, the other is just off busy Highway 153 in the southeast corner of Yamhill County.

They have much in common — from pleasant aromas to varied merchandise that is almost entirely locally produced, including fresh eggs.

Eola Crest Cattle 71X Farmstore, 7140 S.E. Booth Bend Road, McMinnville sells its own meats as well as dozens of offerings of food items, jewelry, pottery,

books, candles, blankets, pet goods, kitchen and gardening supplies, and soaps and lotions, and more, either produced by Eola Crest or passing owner Jen DeHaan's muster. Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, and Saturday, noon to 5.

Jen and Pete DeHaan opened the store in 2018, and also sell their steaks, chops, burger meat and ribs at local farmers' markets as well as directly to restaurants. The meat is cut at

LEFT: Hopewell Hub is one of many hidden gems in the Valley.

Mark's Meats in Canby.

Get to Booth Bend Road off Highway 99 and drive three miles east, or take Southeast Davis to Booth Bend, turn left and go two miles.

Hopewell Hub, 22460 Hopewell Road N.W., 10 miles southeast of McMinnville, is an oasis for espresso drinks and home-made soup and bread, and a gallery and workshop space that serves as a community, well, hub, for the area south and east of Dayton and Amity. Take Highway 154 out of Dayton or Highway 153 east out of Amity.

The hub is tucked away but is a short drive from both McMinnville and Salem or the nearby Wheatland Ferry. The Rothan sisters Lynn, Lizzie and Julianne, purchased the long-vacant, 130-year-old store, five years ago and lent their business and artistic skills to turning it into showcase of local art, sculpture, clothing, jewelry, and more.

Goods in addition to art are eggs, hot soup, honey, whole milk, coffee and tea, and kombucha on tap. The signs are a down-home touch, but the Hub also provides a lively web page, hopewellhub.com

The store hosts musical events and live theater, and an ongoing series of classes taught by the owners or local residents. Meanwhile, it's an enjoyable place to visit while wine touring. Rizzo, Bjornson, Mystic, Brooks, and Lingua Franca wineries are all nearby. The Hub is open Thursday through Sunday most months, and in summer is open every day but Tuesday. ■

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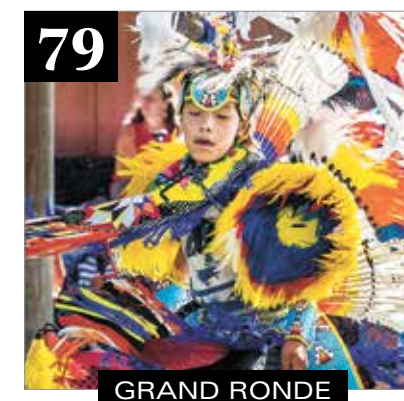




PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE

McMINNVILLE

Colorful Cast

Creativity found around every corner

By Kirby Neumann-Rea

McMinnville mannequins have names. That’s just one thing you need to know about the multi-faceted streak of quirk you will find in this north Willamette valley “Wine Country” hub town known mainly for its fine food and wine and scenic beauty.

At one of McMinnville’s busiest intersections, the downtown gateway of Third and Baker streets, brightly-colored hand-painted signs give visitors a basic

orientation to town: arrows and classic pointed fingers indicate “Hospital,” “Police Dept.,” “Public Library,” “Park” and more. The nostalgic signs are a whimsical nod to simpler times, and are works of art unlike any you will see.

In 2022, downtown McMinnville burgeoned with new, large art — some of it larger and more colorful than anything seen yet — and this is a town graced for year with extensive public art. McMinnville High School art club students created “The Hummingbird



PHOTO BY MARCUS LARSON

TOP: The sun shines on locals enjoying camaraderie and brew at Bitter Monk, from the sidewalks of scenic downtown McMinnville. ABOVE: Danielle Zemlicka poses with Clark the mannequin, herecelebrating St. Patrick’s Day.

Wall” in June 2022, next to the main parking lot in Joe Dancer Park, located south-east of downtown (and an expansive place for walking, picnicking, and enjoying soccer, softball and other pursuits, including the UFO

Fest fun run in May.)

Downtown, five new murals went up between May and November 2022, adding to an outdoor gallery that already included works such as Ashley Hope’s “True Vine” panorama on the west

wall of City of Hope Church. This one is large but kind of tucked away on Northeast Adams just north of Third Street.

Within two blocks of “True Vine” are two of the new quintet of murals: across Adams is the McMinnville Library, with its new mural by the Start Making A Reader Today, celebrating the SMART literacy program and the joy of reading exemplified by that storehouse of books. Artists Allison McClay and Elide Sanchez created the work, which spans the breezeway entrance to the library.

Two blocks east of the library, another Hope mural can be seen on Cows Street. The tribute to Rose Marie Caughran, a former librarian and longtime beautification volunteer who died in 2021, graces the wall across the street from popular Harvest Fresh grocery and deli.

From the library, look directly south across Second Street to the police department, and see one of those mannequins in the upper window — his name is Clark, seen in the upper story window at First and Adams, giving him rare if not unique status as police department mannequin.

“Some detective called him Clark years ago and it stuck,” reports Danielle Zemlicka, who works in police records and regularly changes Clark’s theme. Her daughter, Bria, now 13, dressed Clark for years but has recently decided the gig is now her mom’s.

Another mural eight blocks east on Third Street is “The Heist,” Will Schlough’s whimsical mural of butterflies stealing grapes

from a picnic, one of two new murals commissioned by Visit McMinnville in 2022. The second of those, and the largest yet in McMinnville, went up on Northwest Alpine Avenue at Eighth Street. “Rounding the Bend” celebrates local train travel history as well as agriculture of Yamhill Valley, and it’s by Angelina Merino-Heidel and Joel Heidel.

In the middle of Third Street, you’ll find two more well-dressed mannequins, Inez and Franz, in the window of McMinnville Antique Mall, owned by vendor Katie Wennerstrom. Two blocks away that’s Eva, the semi-permanent greeter in the box office of iconic Mack Theater, a regular at the McMinnville UFO

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RIGHT: The mural on the side of the Boho Building shows images related to McMinnville, such as the Spruce Goose and a UFO.

Festival, which will be back on May 19-20 at locations downtown. In 2023 the festival is the next place you will see the versatile Regina, who spends her time at Parlor, a second-story tattoo place on Third Street. She was last seen in fabulous red wig and chic green leatherette vest but who knows what threads, and tats, she'll sport next.

The mannequins are all part of the welcoming spirit found in McMinnville.

"There are so many opportunities to be able to participate in different events from Farmers Market or Dine(Out)side, but there are new initiatives," noted Dave Rucklos, recent director of the McMinnville Downtown Association (MDA), which teams with the city to field requests and help groups plan events. One of his organization's ongoing signature events, Farmers Market, resumes its weekly sessions from noon to 6 p.m.



PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE

"There are so many opportunities to be able to participate in different events from Farmers Market or Dine(Out)side, but there are new initiatives." — Dave Rucklos, McMinnville

Thursdays on May 11, at Second and Cows streets. Look for more vendors this year, yet with an emphasis on variety, lack of duplication, and as many Yamhill County vendors as possible.

Many groups are expanding what they do, or starting new events, in 2023.

"I see it as a return to the normal, and I'm certainly feeling it because we're getting hit with more ideas and thoughts about doing different things that didn't exist a few years ago," Rucklos said.

The Third Street core is a smoke-free zone. Signs indicate that smoking and

vaping are not allowed. Adding quirk to it is the fact that facing trees all but block some of the signs unless you stand right underneath and look for them.

New events in downtown McMinnville are Earth Day (and Earth Night) parade and party on April 23, the Lions' "Taste of Mac" in July, and Chamber's Brews, Bites and Bands the second weekend of September.

Pick a weekend between mid-May and October, you'll find something going on in McMinnville.

Two top bets for live music happen in September, with the downtown McMinnville Music Festival Aug. 18-20 and the annual Walnut City Music Festival, Sept. 3-4 on the grounds of Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum.

Musical depictions play a big role in the fifth massive mural installed in 2022, this one on First Street on the southeast edge of downtown, on the east well of the multi-business

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McMINNVILLE

Boho Building. The mural, by Brian “ZuhG” Nichols celebrates the tenants and their goods and services, as well as numerous cultural aspects of McMinnville, from an alien spacecraft to a bicyclist.

The mannequins with monikers are examples of how there is quirk in the art and art in the quirk when it comes to the off-beat, one-of-a-kind pleasures in McMinnville.

Eva, the green “alien” figure in a lavender sequin dress (our celestial visitors have sartorial style) stands invitingly in the ticket window along with a few other

pieces of memorabilia from the Mack’s days as a theater up until the 1990s. She was placed there in early 2022; later that year the property owners blocked off the ticket window opening in late 2022 after vandals reached in and snapped off a couple of Eva’s fingertips. Yet Eva, who has appeared in other windows in town, is a reminder that good things are to come again at the Mack, where further quirk can be seen in the dated posters still on display under the marquee. The Mack and its surrounding Yamhill Hotel building are scheduled for major makeover in the next



ABOVE: Third Street in McMinnville is often referred to as the community’s living room, where dancers young and old are seen here enjoying a live concert.

PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE

couple of years; keep an eye on newsregister.com for updates.

Another “figure” greets motorists on the southeast outskirts. The “McMinnville Home of the Dragons” roadster whose “driver” — a Styrofoam wig holder — sits behind the wheel at Highway 18 onramp and Cumulus Avenue. Adornments change on the head inside; in July 2022 it wore a COVID mask.

And don’t be alarmed when driving south toward Amity on Highway 99W and look up and see the outline of Bigfoot on fence in Whiteson, or the wide-eyed, lifelike monkey at Alf’s Café, a longtime diner that once had live monkeys in a mini-zoo next to the dining area.

The quirk takes many forms besides simian or sasquatch. Indoors and out, McMinnville and the rest of Yamhill County is replete with personal and individual touches you might not see anywhere else.

Prominent examples are the sidewalk corner

paintings, done each year for the summer by Natalie Fletcher, with event or attraction themes; the 2022-23 versions should be visible through May 2023 and many paid tribute to well-known McMinnville citizens who had died in the past year, such as the trumpet at Third and Galloway remembering band leader Frank Messina.

Just east of downtown Alpine Avenue — a pedestrian-friendly commercial stretch worth investigating — are planting bins with free produce and herbs all summer long, courtesy of the nonprofit group Edible Landscapes planting beds, Alpine Avenue.

Just outside of Dayton along Highway 18 are sand and gravel silos painted with wine bottles ... you can buy a used golf club for a dollar outside T & E General Store ... see bagpipes or a neon ukulele in the window of Grumpyfish Music ... a frog sculpture titled “The Thinker” in the McMinnville Library breezeway ...

the rock-and-roll posters, objects and general pop culture memorabilia (some even for sale) on the shelves and walls at Vortex Records

Hey, in downtown Mac, just as there have been for decades, there’s a bookstore,

a pharmacy, a record store, a shoe store, music store, a bakery, a stationers, a donut shop, a vacuum cleaner store, a jeweler, a florist, a grocery store, and an art supply store. Now, that’s quirk. ■

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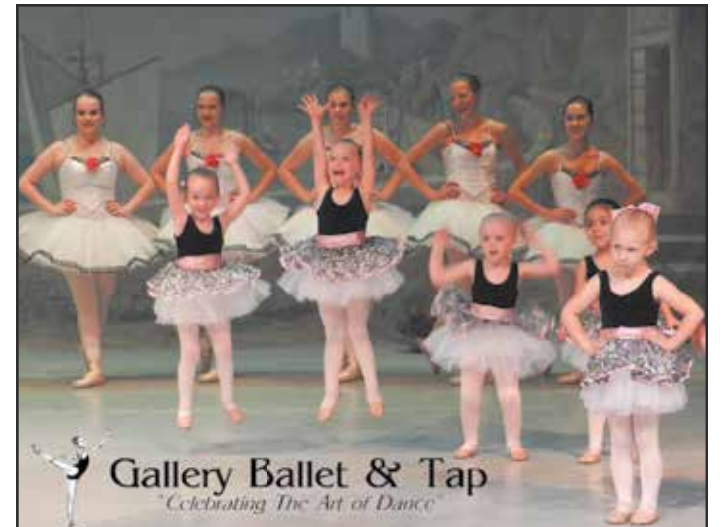
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NEWBERG

Gateway to Great

City welcomes visitors to Wine Country

By Charlotte Abramson

Coming around the bend at Rex Hill Winery on Highway 99W, visitors get a sneak peek into the riches of Newberg, a city surrounded by green vineyards and forested hills. A welcoming place, the community embodies its entry-sign message: “A great place to grow.”

Whether tourists are looking for wine tasting, dining out, historical tours or cultural endeavors, Newberg has it all. Mayor Rick Rogers, who moved to Newberg 20 years ago with his family, has witnessed the growth of the wine industry and the accompanying culinary offerings.

The Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce recently hired Scott Parker as the executive director; he, too, invites everyone for a visit. “What attracted me to Newberg was how beautiful it was. I really liked the lush green beauty of the Pacific Northwest. It’s been a very welcoming and supportive community for me and my family after relocating from Colorado after 25 years.”

Newberg is home to many well-established fine dining restaurants, including The Painted Lady on College Street and Jory, located inside the Allison Inn & Spa. In the last year, Rosmarino Osteria Italiana opened downtown, featuring northern Italian cuisine served

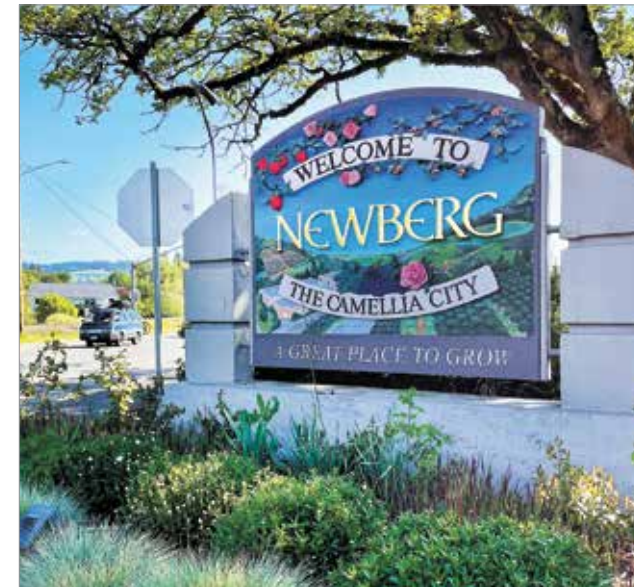


PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE

during five-course dinners paired with wines from surrounding vineyards.

“Newberg is an up-and-coming wine region that is growing each year,” said Rosmarino co-owner Sheena Pisoni. “It has some of the best Pinot Noir in the world. You can experience big commercial producers to small mom-and-pop producers where the winemakers serve you their thoughtful

masterpieces.” Newberg is “a place for anyone who loves food and wine,” Pisoni said.

Tasting rooms within city limited include Chehalem Winery, Artisanal Wine Cellars, Anam Cara, Distaff, among others. Adventuring into the hills around Newberg will unveil a handful of tasting rooms overlooking the city and vineyards beyond.

The city is also home to George Fox University, one of the Northwest’s premier Christian colleges, as well as a handful of art galleries and boutiques. First Friday ARTwalk remains a prime opportunity to engage with local artists and visit local businesses.

The Chehalem Cultural Center also features art with works by local and student artists. The city treasure

TOP: “A Great Place to Grow” is the city motto for Newberg. The annual Newberg Camellia Festival celebrates the city’s official flower and its Asian origins. **LEFT:** Chefs at work in the kitchen of The Jory restaurant at the Allison Inn & Spa.



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

hosts programs for both children and adults, and is a hub for annual events such as Old Fashioned Days, the Camellia Festival — celebrating pan-Asian culture — and the Oregon Truffle Festival Market, as well as Tunes on Tuesday, a summer music series.

On the Willamette River just outside town, Rogers Landing offers a dock and launch and hosts the annual Memorial Weekend Boat Races. The city’s parks program also features a disc golf course and several Heritage Trails.

Newberg offers two classic ways to go to the movies: the 99W Drive-In, one of a few still operating in the state and The Cameo, a vintage indoor theater with cool movie memorabilia on the second floor.

Taste Newberg, the official online visitors guide for Newberg provides an in-depth walk-through of all of the potential adventures for arriving visitors. “Newberg is a gateway town from Portland to the Willamette Valley, offering an easily accessible destination in wine country, with experiences for all travelers, from budget to luxury,” said Leslie Caldwell, executive director of Taste Newberg. “It’s home to over 60 wineries, including some of Oregon’s Pinot Noir pioneers, and the Allison Inn & Spa.

“And don’t miss our downtown; it’s charming and walkable, filled with locally owned shops, galleries and tasting rooms run by the friendliest people, along with some of the best restaurants in the Valley. ■

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DUNDEE

Cool Comforts

City upgrades bolster visitor ease

By YVVG Staff

Dundee continues its quest to make itself a prime tourist destination, from its charming hotel at the south end of town and numerous bed and breakfasts, to its rolling hillsides of vineyards, to the restaurants and wine-tasting shops in and around town.

Last year, it opened a new two-acre park on Alder Street across the from the Dundee Hotel. Tipsu Palach Park is named to honor the city's relationship with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Tipsu Palach, meaning "plant gift," is from the Chinuk Wawa trade language. The park features seating and gathering areas, an amphitheater, a cutting and pollinator garden and native plantings. A rest-room will be added this year.

The city is also working

with the Chehalem Parks and Recreation District to develop Dundee-Billick Park.

Construction of the new Newberg-Dundee elementary school building at the corner of Southeast Eighth and Edwards streets is expected to begin this spring. Plans call for it to be the first step in creating a walking path along the riverside between the two cities.

The city also has created a master plan for a 360-acre parcel named The Riverside District, situated southeast between the city and Willamette River. Plans will accommodate future residential and commercial growth while also providing plenty of parks and a trail network.

In 2022, the city began working on a plan for protecting riparian habitats for waterways in the city. Keeping stream and river water shaded helps to keep

the water cooler and more habitable for fish and other aquatic animals. The city continues to work on developing its plans to restore public access to the Willamette Riverfront, and to add connectors between existing trails in the city, and is developing an ordinance to protect existing riparian areas and wetlands, and to restore damaged ones.

All that work will enhance visits to some of the Valley's most renowned wineries along Dundee's main street, including Argyle, Dobbles, Methven,

Hyland, Purple Hands, NW Wine Company, Day Wines and many more. Dundee boast more than a dozen tasting rooms on its main street and dozens more with adjacent vineyards in the nearby hills.

Lodging is another feature: In addition, the Dundee Hotel, with its own assortment of tasting rooms on the ground floor, there are multiple bed and breakfasts located in the immediate area, along with numerous vacation rentals.

Briar Rose Creamery, an award-winning artisan cheese company, makes its home in Dundee, along with more wine country dining staples such as Tina's, Trellis, Dundee Bistro and Red Hills Market. La Sierra Mexican Grill & Lounge and Jin's Chinese Restaurant offer family-friendly and delicious dining in addition. ■



PHOTO BY KELSEY CHANCE

LEFT: Diners eat alfresco at The Dundee Bistro located on Highway 99W. BELOW: Guests relax inside the Hideaway, a chic tented structure at Dobbles Family Estate.

LAFAYETTE

In the Books

History on display in Lafayette

By YVVG STAFF

Lafayette is synonymous with Oregon's past, dating before statehood.

Founded in 1846, the town began as a trading and agricultural center, stocking supplies sent to California goldfields. Today, it is seeing growth in population and amenities and is becoming a regional hub for antiques.

Lafayette is within a short driving distance to numerous wineries, and bed and breakfasts, and minutes away from McMinnville, Dayton and

Newberg-Dundee.

The town's centerpiece is the Lafayette Schoolhouse Antique Mall and adjoining Groovy Mart (in the former gymnasium). Built in 1912, the Lafayette Schoolhouse became its current incarnation in 1988 and has been a Yamhill County attraction since. With upwards of 15,000 square feet of stall space and 110 store spaces, the mall offers antiques as well as contemporary, vintage and repurposed options. Stop by the wine store, vintage sports or music stores or furnish your sanctuary at the Man Cave

or She Shed stores. There are also smaller antique outlets along Highway 99 providing even more selection.

For culinary options, Lafayette offers several Mexican restaurants including Martha's Tacos, Carniceria Abastos, and El Toro, whose salsa is a favorite of City Administrator Branden Dross. Recently opened Hamblin Eatery serves handmade pastas, thin-crust pizza and classic sandwiches. The Roadhouse is an upbeat tavern with a wide tap list. Also new in town is Cafeyette, serving up the best coffee in Yamhill County according to resident Norm Tognazzini.

Notable past residents include suffragette Abigail Scott Duniway, who taught

school in Lafayette in the 1850s, and U.S. District Judge Matthew Deady, who practiced law and taught in Lafayette prior to his election to the Legislature in 1850.

Also of interest is Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey, located a couple miles north of Lafayette on Abbey Road. The monastery is famous for its lush forested property, walking trails, church services and its income-generating enterprises of book binding and delicious baked goods — don't leave without a famed Trappist Abbey fruitcake. A few miles west on Abbey Road is Crowing Hen Brewery, opened in March 2021, offering a unique rural setting for beer tasting made with hops grown on site. ■



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LEFT: The Grape Gatsby team members, up on the stage Shelly Charles, Maggie Hill, and helping on the ground Amy Rolle and Mary Grundon, react as the grape juice flies. **ABOVE:** A highlight of each holiday season is the Christmas light display in Ladd Park in downtown Carlton.

and around Carlton.

Several occupy historic buildings, such as Cathedral Ridge tasting room inside the town's original bank; Ken Wright Cellars in the old train depot; and Flâneur Wines in the historic Madsen Grain elevator. La Biblioteca is new this year in the former Cathedral Ridge space.

Throughout the year, Carlton caters to both visitors and locals with festivals such as Carlton Crush, a harvest festival complete with grape stomping in September.

For the family, Carlton Fun Days Festival in late June offers a parade, activities in the park and a fun run; National Night Out in August brings the whole community to Ladd Park for food, music and neighborly activities. ■

summer, the outdoor pool.

Or simply take a walk in Wennerberg Park next to the Yamhill River or Ladd Park downtown. Both parks offer children's play structures and picnic tables, so before heading there pick up breakfast, lunch, a snack or picnic supplies at the Carlton Bakery or Carlton Coffee Company.

And about that wine ... dozens of wineries and tasting rooms are located in

47 and the cleverly named Blind Pig – a reference to speakeasies of the past – are perfect for the weeknight or weekend meal. Park & Main adds wood-fired pizza and homemade ice cream to the main-street mix, and The Horse Radish serves up both food and live entertainment for visitors and residents alike.

For relaxed dining, Carlton Corners offers award-winning burgers, pizza and breakfast items. Myla Thai, next to the American Legion Hall on East Main, and Margarita's offer extra spice to the food scene.

Before you eat, browse in Carlton's shops, such as the Violet Rose or Rough Cut Soaps & Sundries, which offer gifts for yourself and for others. Afterward, if you're looking for a workout, try H-Bomb Fitness or, during the



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

Country Charm

Treasures abound in Derby town

By Starla Pointer

Yamhill offers the best of small-town life, including services — a bank, a real estate agency, a barbershop, a salon, restaurants, an antique mall and a grocery store — all in a friendly, community-minded setting.

No wonder the town proudly proclaims itself “A Small Taste of Oregon.” And you'll find event more places to visit just outside the city limits, such as equestrian venues. Numerous wine tasting rooms are within miles of the Yamhill's center, as well.

Yamhill startled as a hub between the Willamette Valley and the Coast for those traveling by horse-drawn vehicles. Trains moved people and goods headed north to Portland or south to the rest of the Willamette Valley.

Those roots are displayed throughout town, especially at the Larson House Restaurant, which is located in a building that once held a tavern drawing loggers from the hills west of town.

Today's visitors also can buy soda and snacks at T & E General Store after perusing the ever-changing display of nostalgic finds in the store's back room and shelves surrounding

groceries and other supplies. More unique items can be found across the street in the old grain mill, now home to a collection of vintage and antique dealers

Just south of town on Highway 47 is The Source Farms (formerly Kookoolan), a small market stocked with locally-raised meat, mead, and other products.

Foodies will find delight in fresh ingredients prepared at The Larson House Pizzeria and Eatery, the newest restaurant in town, which also hosts entertainment most weeks, from live music, bingo nights and trivia. If you're looking for a

night cap and want to learn more about town from locals, the Yamhill Bar & Grill can provide just that.

Locals treasure the tradition of Derby Days, a festival started by T & E in the 1950s. Held on the third weekend in July each year, the city's biggest party starts with a huge parade featuring farm and logging equipment, children's groups, fire trucks and more. Later, everyone moves to the oak-shaded Beulah Park for music, bingo, frog jumping and the beloved soap-box derby.

Year-round, Beulah Park remains a popular spot for picnicking. Families enjoy its play equipment and skateboarding area.

From Highway 47, which runs north and south through Yamhill, you may catch a glimpse of what

at first looks like a pair of flying saucers. No need to run; these are the domed gym and STEM buildings on Yamhill-Carlton High School campus.

A vineyard also grows behind the classic brick high school, giving students a chance to learn about one of the biggest local industries.

Just as striking is a barn covered with quilting squares on the north side of the road; in spring, it sometimes seems to float in a sea of red clover.

Another unique building in town is the Queen Anne-style house where beloved children's author Beverly Cleary spent her childhood. In recent years, a festival has been started in her honor, and interpretive signs around town celebrate Cleary's life. ■

BELOW: John Turner and family cruise in the blue ribbon-winning, all-original equipment 1914 Republic truck during the Derby Days parade down Maple Street.



PHOTO BY KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

AMITY

A Bright Spot

Calm, colorful choices along Highway 99

By paul daquilante

Amity, located a few miles south of McMinnville on Highway 99W, invites visitors “to a place where friendships begin and where residents enjoy the simplicity of a relaxed lifestyle in small-town Oregon.”

The oak-canopied Amity City Park, blocks off Trade Street, is a welcoming place to recreate, and is home to the Pancake Breakfast and Car Show held at City Park in late July. A detailed interpretive sign gives an entertaining description of the town’s settlement by Europeans and development as an agricultural and economic hub in the west Willamette Valley.

Note that travel from Amity west on Highway 153 is subject to a detour through the end of 2023. The highly scenic route to the community of Bellevue

and Highway 18 is not open to any kind of traffic, due to rebuilding of the Salt Creek Bridge just west of the city park. Detours to Highway 18 are south to Highway 22 and north on Highway 99 to McMinnville.

As summer turns to fall, Halloween is celebrated with a pumpkin decorating contest, the creation of Mayor Rachel King.

Throughout the city, there is plenty of good food and spirits to satisfy everyone’s taste throughout the year.

In 2006, the Eola-Amity Hills District American Viticultural Area was designated, and by 2008 the area supported some 30 wineries with 1,460 acres in vineyards.

Coelho Winery and tasting room and The Bramble/Silas winery tasting rooms are located downtown just blocks apart downtown, and Keller Estate is two



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

Throughout the city, there is plenty of good food and spirits to satisfy everyone’s taste throughout the year.

miles away, at the end of Rice Lane.

A former taphouse on Highway 99 (aka Trade Street within city limits) was transformed in 2022 into Retro Pizza and arcade, where pizza, beer, and a wide range of video games appeal to gamers of all ages.

There are an array of eateries, particularly on Trade Street, including Tacos Burros, Amity Bakery and Café, Fred’s Bistro, El Toro Loco, and The Common Cup, notable for its waffle bar and handmade espresso drinks. Common Cup is part of the Trade Street Commons, once home to the

Independent order of Odd Fellows, a downtown staple. It features apartments and office space upstairs and multiple businesses on the ground floor.

On the outskirts of town, you’ll find much sought-after bakery items at the Blue Raeven Farmstand at the south end on Highway 99W and fudge and truffles of all types at the Brigitte Monastery, also to the south. The Amity school playfield on Highway 99W at the south end of downtown is another appealing open space for tossing a Frisbee or other summertime pleasure. ■

ABOVE: Amity Downtown Improvement Group volunteers Eve Silverman, left, and Caralyn Miller lend their assistance at the Amity Daffodil Festival, an annual celebration of the spring flower.

WILLAMINA

Gathering Place

Music, arts, July Fourth set town apart

By PAUL DAQUILANTE

The original Willamina High School, built during the Franklin Roosevelt presidency and abandoned in the early 2000s when students and staff relocated to the Oaken Hills Drive campus, is being revitalized as a teaching venue.

The 2003 class was the last to graduate from the red brick structure on Washington Street.

After the building sat empty for many years, it was purchased by West Valley businessman Dick Paay in 2011. Two years later, the West Valley Community Campus non-profit organization was formed. The West Valley Kiwanis donated \$50,000 to the organization and work began in an effort to restore the building to some degree. Physical improvements are being made, and areas of the north and south wings being made useable again, on a gradual basis. The auditorium and connecting classrooms are seeing growing use, and the campus hired its first paid staff member, executive director Amanda Widemark, in mid-2022.

The campus continues to host activities, classes and events. A campus goal is to create a sustainable community center with a focus on culture, education, music and recreation through

activities and events.

The Wet Season Music Series, Sing Along Music Group and drop-in quilting classes are examples of activities the campus has hosted.

The campus grounds even hosted the Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration logging show one year. The celebration is a community staple, featuring the only fireworks presentation on the Fourth in Yamhill County.

The Willamina Farmers Market is open Sundays during the summer months, offering local produce and crafts.

Willamina celebrates history with its museum downtown at 118 D St., and the nearby Galloping Goose display — a restored train car with an interesting back story told in the signage, at the Y intersection of Northeast and South Main streets. Next to Galloping Goose is a detailed interpretive display relating “Timber Town USA” and the story of how Willamina “made millions of bricks.” Across the way next to a small picnic park is a large metal sculpture by Walt Mendenhall titled “Rusty the Logger” honoring “a bygone era of massive trees and rowdy logging camps.”

Heading into the fall season, the Coastal Hills Art Tour has become a popular November attraction, while the Christmas holiday



PHOTO BY KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

TOP: “Rusty the Logger” sculpture stand tall in the heart of Willamina in honor of “a bygone era of massive trees and rowdy logging camps.”

season is highlighted by the Light parade.

Great options for a tasty meal are Coyote Joe’s

restaurant and the Wildwood Hotel, complete with guest rooms, and frequent live music in the bar. ■

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DAYTON

Much To Love

Hallmarks of history, wine

By YVVG Staff

Those familiar with Dayton are no stranger to the town's charm and history, as the town of around 2,700 people is home to more than 40 places on the National Historic Registry.

One of the staples is the famous Joel Palmer House, known for its truffles and cuisine. Named after one of the town's founders, the Czarnecki family has offered a fine-dining experience in the house since 1996, when the home was restored. It is now led by fourth-generation chef Christopher Czarnecki.

"I am honored to be carrying on the family tradition and proud to share our family's passions for fine dining," Czarnecki says on the restaurant's website.

Dayton is also home

to the Fort Yamhill Blockhouse, a building constructed in the era of conflict with the Native people of Western Oregon. Built in 1856, the U.S. army built the blockhouse to limit contact between the native people and Oregon's resettlement communities.

In 1911, the building was moved to Dayton and reassembled to prevent its demolition, and in tribute to Palmer, who served as the state's superintendent of Indian Affairs in the 1850s.

Brick Hall, located in the historic church, offers a private, upscale option. The space can be rented out for dinners, parties, events and more.

The By-Pass Bar & Grill and Juanita's Café Y Nieve-ria, offer more diversity in dining selection. For a lighter option, head over to



ABOVE: A group enjoys the tastes of The Stoller Family Estate Gastronomic Tastings. **BELOW:** The setting of the Joel Palmer House restaurant is one of over 40 in Dayton listed on the National Historic Registry.

the high school, where Pirates Den offers subs, pizza and coffee.

Every summer, the Courthouse Square Park downtown lights up on Fridays, when the town hosts its award-winning Friday Nights series. Residents and visitors can enjoy live musical performances, children's activities, and downtown shopping experiences, including a market in the park. Car lovers can enjoy a rotating cruise-in, a chance to see unique and antique cars from around Willamette Valley.

The city is continuing to work on re-opening the Dayton footbridge, which provides access to Alderman Park on the Yamhill River and Vintages RV Resort. The anticipated completion date has been pushed back, but is still expected to be completed in December.

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Dayton footbridge, which provides access to Alderman Park on the Yamhill River and Vintages RV Resort. The anticipated completion date has been pushed back, but is still expected to be completed in December.

Located in the heart of the Oregon Wine Country, Dayton is also home to several wineries, including Stoller Family Estate, Sokol Blosser and Archery Summit. This year, Alex Sokol Blosser became the Winery President at Sokol Blosser, and Robin Howell became the first female winemaker in the company's 52-year history.

The city celebrates its heritage and future through both art and science. Whimsically painted wine barrels can be found around downtown, and the annual ArtScape showcases local talent by exhibiting a collection of banners with original Dayton-themed artwork. ■

GRAND RONDE

Native Pride

Tribe keeps heritage alive

BY YVVG STAFF

Visit the Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center on Grand Ronde Road to discover a story of great resilience.

It speaks to the people of The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, honoring tribal elders who kept traditions and dreams alive during the termination years by the federal government. The cultural center, at 9615 Grand Ronde Road, just off Highway 18, also celebrates the revitalization that continues to this day. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Yamhill Kalapuya people called their homeland Chachalu, which

translates to "place of the burnt timbers," named for a massive forest fire that burned through the Grand Ronde Valley shortly before the time of relocation in 1856. The land has fully recovered with healthy forests and abundant wildlife, including salmon that have returned to area streams.

Chachalu, transformed from a former grade school building, is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and there is ample parking in front of the museum. Check grandronde.org/history-culture for more information. New temporary exhibits are planned for 2023.

Just west of the museum on Highway 18, Spirit



PHOTO BY KIRBY NEUMANN-RAE

Mountain Casino and Spirit Mountain Lodge ranks as one of the top tourist attractions in the Northwest. The casino offers a full gaming experience, sports bar, dining choices and an event center that hosts a variety of world-class entertainers.

Grand Ronde also celebrates its West Valley Veterans Memorial, the setting for an annual Memorial Day ceremony. It is located off Grand Ronde Road.

Veterans are also honored during the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow each July, and the Contest Powwow, each

ABOVE: The Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center tells the story of great resilience through its rotating exhibits. **BELOW:** A traditional dancer competes at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Contest PowWow.

August at Uyxat Powwow Grounds, adjacent to Fort Yamhill State Park, off Highway 22. This colorful event attracts huge crowds.

In 2022, the Tribes and Linfield University combined to create the first Camas Festival, celebrating the flower and root that is a food staple and essential cultural symbol. The festival returns to Linfield on May 5. ■



PHOTO BY MARCUS LARSON



SHERIDAN

Rural Charm

A kaleidoscopic West Valley town

Sheridan could be considered the gateway to the West Valley, with Willamina located five miles to the west and Grand Ronde a few miles beyond on Highway 18.

The city offers several recreational opportunities, highlighted by the Sheridan pond, which is regularly stocked with rainbow trout, and where the Hometown Days fishing derby is annually held.

Hometown Days, scheduled this year on June 16-18, features food and family events, including a parade through town, a fishing derby, live music, motorcycle games and much more..

To the north of downtown is J Wrigley Vineyards and to the west Roshambo Art Farm and Art + Science Cider & Wine. Maysara

Winery can be found east of Sheridan on Muddy Valley Road.

The McMinnville AVA runs from the county seat, McMinnville, to West Hill toward the Coast Range.

Downtown saw refurbishment of American Market service station market on Highway 18, where a new façade and windows meant the loss of a historic mural, while the city gained a new mural in fall 2022. By McMinnville artist Natalie Fletcher, it's a colorful, kaleidoscopic visual summary of all things Sheridan, on Monroe Street on the Figaro's Pizza building. Other dining options include Riverside Café and Lee's Green Frog.

Sheridan Museum of History, 142 S. Bridge St., is one of three West

Valley museums, along with Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center on the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, and the Willamina History Museum, both a few miles west.

Sheridan parks range in size from City Park, where a skate park is also located, and a "pocket park" along the popular walkway (West Main Street). In response to a request from the Oregon Veterans' Motorcycle Association, the city partnered

with the group to establish the park.

The granite monument, two granite benches, a flagpole, trees and shrubs form an area about 3,000 square feet in size. While it is designed to remember all veterans, it highlights three servicemen from Sheridan who are listed as missing in action: Robert Altus, Clifford Francis and Grant Teats. The memorial was dedicated in June 2016. ■

TOP: While waiting for the fish to bite at the Sheridan Hometown Days fishing derby, five-year-old Briar Thompson gets distracted by a pill bug climbing on her arm. Fishing with her are older brother Denton and father Ryan. **BELOW:** The new kaleidoscopic mural brightens up downtown Sheridan.



PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE



Community Matters

Local residents share myriad reasons why they love it here



PHOTO BY KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

By Ossie Bladine

Charming downtowns, natural beauty, and world-class wine and culinary scenes are all major draws for people wanting to relocate to the Yamhill Valley.

But, once here, new residents rave about a different aspect that's even more important: the community members.

"Nothing compares to the people," said Patty Herzog, a recent transplant and the executive director of McMinnville Economic Development Partnership. "It's an incredibly welcoming, open community."

She quickly learned the secret ingredient to the many successes throughout this part of Wine Country remains an abundant supply of engaged residents working together to problem-solve and make their home as livable as possible.

"The level of involvement is just amazing," she continued. "I don't know many communities that have as many volunteers who actively participate in making their community a better place."

She also added that there's no barrier to entry in those discussions.

"Here, they want everyone's voice at the table. We

all have the same heart to make the community better."

Lisa Bernard, a native of France who spent years training as a pastry chef, moved to the area from Pittsburg so her husband, Fred, could work in the burgeoning wine industry. She says they arrived without any relatives nearby, but Bernard feels as if they were readily accepted into the community as family.

"Everyone is so nice here," she said. "We've been adopted by so many grandparents, so many friends."

She says the couple has been amazed at the supportive nature of the wine industry here.

ABOVE: Pinot Vista Vineyards owner Rich Washburn greets friends outside his tasting room on a summer day in downtown McMinnville.

"It's crazy how each winery is trying to help each other and make the best wine ever, improve the soil and quality of wine," she said. "(Fred) is amazed how it is such a big family and how good it feels to work here."

BEAUTY AND HEALTH

Bernard wants to remind longtime residents, in case they've forgotten, how spoiled they are to live here.

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ABOVE: Ramsey McPhillips, a volunteer of r Edible Landscapes of Yamhill County, gives Pam Gosling of McMinnville and Pamela McLain of Woody Creek, Colorado, insight into the use of charcoal for fertilizer. Behind them are all-access vegetable bins, an ongoing project along Alpine Avenue in McMinnville, where the group demonstrates how much food can be produced in small spaces.

in the United States, and piled it into one area,” she said. “When we moved, we were not sure if we’d stay or not. When we saw how nature spoiled you guys, we decided to stay”

The couple enjoys the myriad hiking opportunities in the area, and the natural riches of the valley floor and surrounding hills. She says one of her favorite walks is a morning stroll through the property of Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey outside Lafayette.

It’s so beautiful. Every-day when you wake up with that sun coming up and all the colors on the mountains. Everything is so gorgeous.”

Bernard grew up in Lyon, France, known as the “Gastronomical Capital of the World,” so a healthy diet has always been important to her. Farm-fresh produce was something she missed while living in Pennsylvania. She’d been in the U.S. almost six years before she found “a tomato that tasted like a tomato,” she said, and that was right here in Yamhill County.

She said Wine County is “nailing the food environment,” and she’s constantly having experiences similar to those she grew up with. Working with chef Kari Kihara at the Mac Market, she saw firsthand how local culinary artists source high-end ingredients in the area and find the best produce to use in dishes, and all at a reasonable cost.

“I love the idea of being able to eat good food, good for you, good for your soul, and not spending all of your money on it,” she said.

Bernard launched her own French pastry business, Choux Patisserie, in 2022.

“I’m bringing a little bit of the taste of France to Oregon and able to share my love for pastries.”

BALANCED LIVING
 Residents of the Yamhill Valley often point to the area’s convenient location as a perfect lifestyle fit. It’s an hour drive to the Oregon Coast or downtown Portland. It’s close enough to Interstate-5 for travel convenience, but separated enough to limit urban

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LIVE

congestion.

“It’s a good combination of having plenty of activities to do and still have a small-town feel,” said Heather Miller, a former board president of the McMinnville Downtown Association, who first moved here to attend Linfield College, and now runs Local Flow Health Bar on Third Street. “I love that you’re able to strike a healthy balance between fun, family and business.”

The two universities in the area — Linfield in McMinnville and George Fox in Newberg — are key providers of both educational and entertainment options. And many of the events are free or very cheap, noted Tim Matz, who recently moved here to become director of the Evenstad Center for Wine Education at Linfield.

“Being in town with a university is very enriching because you get so many experiences you wouldn’t get, whether it’s theater or music concerts or athletics or all the other activities that are offered to the

community.”

The local colleges also supply workers and a network of volunteers from their student bodies.

“It’s wonderful to be around our young future leaders of the world,” Matz said. “That’s partly why it’s so fun to live here.”

Like other transplants, Matz, who moved here from the Napa Valley, says it didn’t take long to feel right at home.

“The best thing is that everybody is very warm, welcoming and genuine in wanting to get to know you.”

A diverse workforce, a supportive, small-town culture and ideal location makes the region perfect for businesses looking to relocate or grow, Herzog said.

“Not many communities can boast the kind of infrastructure that McMinnville has,” she said, also noting the city’s municipal airport as a major asset. “It’s such a strong business community with wraparound services to help startups all the way through large, high-growth



PHOTO BY STARLA POINTER

businesses, and everything in between.”

MAKING THE MOVE

As more and more people fall in love with Wine Country and want to be part of it, finding a residence might be challenging. Like many places throughout the West Coast, prices have increased in recent years, and offers are made days, even hours after a new listing.

While local partners continue to come to the table to devise creative solutions to address the housing crunch, local realtor Jen Feero stresses patience and flexibility for anyone looking to relocate.

“Obviously, the market is tight for about every price point possible, so be open to where that might take you in the Valley,” she said.

Feero sees a pretty even mix of people moving to the area, from young families arriving for new job opportunities or looking for a change of pace from busier, more populated areas, to retirees wanting to settle in the temperate climate and charming countryside of

Wine Country.

She says many people coming from the Northwest corridor aren’t too surprised by the increased housing prices, but new arrivals from the Midwest may have some sticker shock.

Pricing is more affordable as one looks to more rural parts of the Valley outside McMinnville and Newberg. Willamina realtor Esther Stewart says a three-bedroom, two-bath house in the West Valley typically costs, at least \$100,000 less in the West Valley. She also sees a lot of interested parties looking to purchase larger swaths of land in this part of the county.

A Willamina native, Stewart says she appreciates the proximity to the beach, the privacy of the country and the many hiking and outdoors opportunities that come with life in the West Valley.

Feero adds that while it might take a little time to find the right housing match, people are always happy after they’re settled.

“Be patient,” she stressed, “It’ll be worth the wait.” ■



PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE

LIVE

LEFT: The Roadhouse Band performs in the “Silobration NW” event at Abbey Road Farm.
LEFT BOTTOM: A lion dances for the crowd at the Lunar New Year Celebration at Mac Market in McMinnville.

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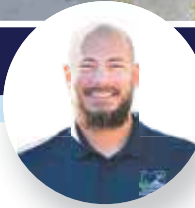


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