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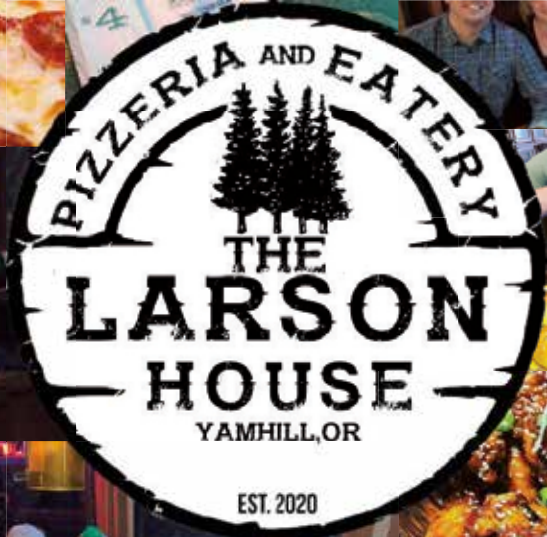


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VISITOR GUIDE



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Cover Photo: A spread at Hayward restaurant. Photo by Ilana Freddy



PHOTO BY ANDREA JOHNSON

Wine Country Welcome

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

By YVVG Staff

Oregon Wine country is waiting for you. Tasting rooms throughout Oregon are able to welcome guests for indoor and outdoor tasting experiences.

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 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 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 **23 AVAs** (American Viticultural Areas) in Oregon, the bulk comes from the AVAs in the northern Willamette Valley. For example, of the 1058 wineries counted in the "2022 Oregon Vineyard and Winery Report" (OVWR), 730 reside in the northern Willamette Valley;

of the state's nearly 1,476 vineyards, 890 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 winemakers 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 years,



PHOTO BY ANDREA JOHNSON

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. ■



ABOVE: Adelsheim Vineyard in Newberg offers cabanas, solving the social-distancing issue while providing a charming vineyard experience.

LEFT: Purple Hands' Haakon/Lenai tasting room hosts guests in the Dundee Hills.

FAR LEFT: A couple strolls the grounds of Penner-Ash Wine Cellars outside Newberg.

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LEFT: Brit and Jason's wedding day at The Water Oasis.

ABOVE: Chelsey Nichol, owner of The Bindery, puts the finishing touches on a table setting for a wedding reception.

A Piece of Cake

Sweet Weddings in Wine Country

By Hilary Berg

Surrounded by vines and stunning views, more and more couples are tying the knot in wine country. Why? Simply put: It is gorgeous out here. But there's more to it than just looks and photo-ops. The Yamhill Valley features the amenities essential to making the big day smooth and memorable, too.

Selecting a location is one of the first and most impactful decisions engaged couples

must tackle; the setting influences vendors, budget, décor and even attire. Fortunately, this region is filled with options, from wineries with sweeping views, such as Maysara, Youngberg Hill or Wine Country Farm, to other venues just as stunning but not a barrel — of wine — in sight.

The Water Oasis epitomizes such a treasure. At the edge of Newberg, the hidden gem offers access to five acres of beautiful landscaping: rose gardens, green

lawns, rustic meadows, water features and more. The Barn at Hildebrandt Cherry Orchards near Dayton also represents a no-vine venue. Originally built in 1939, the newly renovated barn offers a rustic yet modern feel.

Within city limits, more choices abound. The Allison Inn & Spa in Newberg features the ultimate in comfort and luxury; while The Bindery in McMinnville, located in what used to be the *News-Register's* former printing plant, delivers an industrial

warehouse vibe. Need a place for your guests to stay? The Atticus is located across the street.


Lodging is often a big part of the wedding equation; the Valley has it covered. The number of B&Bs, inns and VRBOs has flourished over the years. And yet places like the Wildwood Hotel in Willamina and Hotel Oregon in McMinnville are still popular picks. The latter remains one of the most eclectic overnight opportunities, with multiple bars inside the

McMenamins property, along with roof-top dining. Whether or not the venue contains a catering kitchen, the Valley boasts several companies that can woo guests with versatile menus covering a number of dietary requests, such as vegetarian, gluten-free and more. With fresh ingredients sourced from surrounding farms and expert chefs, finding the perfect caterer is a breeze.

Did I mention wine? We have that, too. Some of the best in the world — making possible this whole destination wedding reputation. Of course, there's beer here as well. Really great beer

available by keg to impress those IPA-, pilsner-, farmhouse ale-loving guzzling guests. Craft micro-breweries in Newberg, McMinnville and Dundee present a thirst-quenching opportunity to add even more local flair to the whole affair.

Striking flowers, talented photographers, first-rate cakes, reliable transportation and more, all can be booked for the big day in wine country. ■


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Drink beyond the vine

Oregon's new Wine Country Whiskey Trail

By Michele Francisco

While traversing idyllic rolling hills lined with neat rows of grapevines, whiskey is likely far from the first subject popping into your head. A small group of independent Willamette Valley craft distillers are working to change that. You might be surprised to learn handcrafted whiskey is as nuanced and unique as the distilleries producing them.

Earlier this spring, Oregon's Wine Country Whiskey Trail debuted. Clustered among the towns of Newberg, Dundee, Carlton and Dayton, six distilleries form the new route, complete with a passport to record your visits. Each produces distinctive whiskey, along with

other types of spirits.

BFFs

"Bull Run has always had a connection with the Oregon wine industry," explains Lee Medoff, founder and head distiller at Bull Run Distillery. "Beginning with all our winemaker friends that enjoy whiskey, our very first barrel aging project used Chinato Vermouth barrels from Patrick Taylor at Cana's Feast. That was the start of our entire barrel finishing program. Our Oregon Pinot Noir Cask Finished whiskey quickly became a success and we have since worked with over two dozen local wineries to source barrels," continues Medoff.

Wondering how the trail idea began, I asked Mitch Graham,

brand manager at Branch Point Distillery, to add more details.

"The Wine Country Whiskey Trail started with a desire to showcase Oregon whiskeys. The Willamette Valley is known for wine, but what a lot of people don't yet realize is we have a growing craft distilling industry," says Graham.

The allure of oak

Aging alcohol in barrels has been a practice used since before the fall of the Roman Empire. Barrel-aging spirits likely started first with brandy during the 11th or 12th century. Similar to wine, unique characteristics begin to develop as whiskey rests in oak barrels. Couple that with barrels previously used to produce

wine and, suddenly, things progress to a new level.

Graham says, "Being in Oregon's wine country, we have access to some amazing barrels for finishing. From Pinot Noir to Chardonnay to Riesling and Port-style barrels. As craft distilleries, we enjoy using what's around us and creating something unique for customers to taste and enjoy. From the trail distilleries, you can expect to find experimentation barrels being released."

"When we were looking to open a second tasting room location, it made sense to open in wine country, near our friends and sources for barrels," says Medoff. "Carlton proved to be an ideal location on a busy tourist route, adjacent to many wine tasting rooms. Local support has been keen and consistent from the start. We believe our wine barrel finished whiskeys are a surprising complement to anyone looking for something different, yet connected, to the local wineries," he continued.

Different beasts

Having made both wine and spirits, James Frey, Trisaetum's winemaker and proprietor of Brixeur Spirits, has an interesting perspective on how production differs. "When distilling spirits, you have more control during every step of the process and extra ingredients with which to play. And we can distill at any time we want. In winemaking, it's just grapes and harvest only happens once a year, so there's more pressure to get it right." Frey says, "Adding a spirits business has certainly given us a new set of challenges, but it's a blast."

Something special

"People following the trail can taste whiskeys not found on a store shelf and enjoy experiences you only get visiting a distillery in-person," says Graham. Tatum Frey, co-lead distiller at Brixeur Spirits, elaborates on this viewpoint. "Not only does the trail include great whiskeys but fantastic people as well. You will be amazed at the craft whiskeys being created in the heart of wine country. The added benefit is getting to meet the people who work hard to make it all possible." Tatum continues, "Each stop on the trail has great spirits to offer and people who enjoy explaining their approach to the craft...so bring your questions, along with a sense of curiosity."

Although the Wine Country Whiskey Trail is still comparatively young, feedback has been positive. Graham shares, "I have heard from those making

their way through the passport how excited they are to have something in addition to all the winery options. We provide alternatives for anyone who doesn't enjoy wine, those that want to finish with a high-quality spirit or just want to be adventurous. We encourage everyone to "drink beyond the vine."

Looking ahead

The trail's initial success convinced Medoff to launch a whiskey club, the Bull Run Whiskey Society. Tatum is looking forward to bringing Brixeur Spirits to farmers markets in both McMinnville and West Linn during select weeks in August. Looking to the fall, Graham says, "We are hosting an event in November showcasing all six distilleries, matched with six local breweries. Our group has high hopes for what the trail can achieve

for all involved and how it can draw more people to the area."

Trail visitors can expect innovative offerings from each distillery. Explains Graham, "We are constantly pushing boundaries and pioneering for future generations. That is reflected in our unique whiskeys. Every distillery takes a very different approach and style to their whiskeys that just can't be replicated anywhere else in the country." He continues, "With access to some of the world's best wine and beer barrels within 40 miles, to high-quality Oregon grain grown right around us, each distillery uses and focuses on different aspects of what makes whiskey great to enjoy."

Kinship

"A rising tide lifts all boats" is an aphorism commonly repeated within Oregon's wine industry. It might need to be

extended to include spirits' producers, as well. Jackson Harloff, co-lead distiller at Brixeur Spirits, says, "Much like we find in the wine community of the Willamette Valley, the collaboration and connectedness of those making spirits is impressive. There's definitely a feeling of comradery and genuine friendship among this group. I think those that taste at all six distilleries on the trail will walk away with an understanding that, while we all have our unique twist on whiskey, we really respect each other's work."

The Wine Country Whiskey Trail currently comprises these distilleries: Branch Point Distillery, Brixeur Spirits (at Trisaetum Winery), Bull Run Distillery, Ewing Young Distillery, Killdeer Distilling and Ranson Spirits. To learn more, visit www.winecountrywhiskeytrail.com. ■



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Wine and Music

Playing a myriad of complex duets

By Jenna Preston

When I think of wine, I think of all the people, effort, time, consideration and soul that goes into every vineyard, vintage and fermentation. With each glass, we personify our experience in words wrought with emotion as aromas fill our hearts and flavors dance around our palate. Elegant, strong, playful, dramatic, nuanced, bright, are all words I have heard at wine tastings throughout the years as we gage each selection, statements we could use to describe another person or even a

beautiful song.

Recently, I asked my WSET class at Linfield University to assess the aromas, flavors and structure of a Chianti; “What do you sense, how does the wine make you feel?” I received the best answer to date; “Family. It’s hard to describe, but when I taste this wine I feel like I am with them.” I cannot begin to picture the images that were swirling through her mind, the traditional Italian music blasting as grandma cooks and everyone passionately chats over a glass of strong, red, herbaceous bliss.

I empathize. It can be dif-

ficult to define the emotions a great bottle invokes: as I sip on a glass of sophisticated Oaks Oregon Pinot Noir all I hear is Chopin Nocturnes #2 in E-Flat Major; while when drinking a deep, rich California Rom-bauer Reserve Zinfandel I am welcomed with the silky voice of Barry White singing “Can’t Get Enough of Your Love Babe.”

Music, as a universal aspect of the world, comes in all genres subjecting itself to personal preferences and tastes, just like wine; similar to when I press a glass of Rioja to my lips and leap back into the windy vineyards of Sierra de la

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.

Demanda, a song transports us to a different place, a past memory littered with stories of the individuals we shared them with. The Grateful Dead show at Autzen stadium in 1994, that road trip down the Route 66 that ended with me “...standin’ on a corner in Winslow, Arizona...” takin’ it easy, or experiencing the “bulls and blood... the dust and mud...the white in his knuckles...the gold in his buckle...” at the Canby Rodeo. All these tactile memories come flooding back to me with the strike of one simple chord or the pop of a single cork.

As I sit at Pinot Vista on Third Street in downtown McMinnville, listening to the thunder and chime of dancing feet, clinking glasses and laughter, an overwhelming feeling of togetherness envelopes me. Facilitated not only by Rich Washburn or by wine, but by the joyful strums of Sammy, gleefully playing his guitar for, seemingly, the world to hear: suddenly, Marty Robbins’ cowboy passion emerges as “Big Iron” comes belting out of the mic. Words cannot describe the vibe, yips, hoots and hollers all around as we tapped our feet like a trotting horse, glasses in hand, with only smiles on our faces.

“I like music and the feeling of drawing people in not only through wine.” Rich states. The majority of musicians who play at Pinot Vista are expressing personal individuality through their own compositions: Myron, Darlene, John, Doug, Phillip and Sammy. Due to his passion of music Rich decided five years ago to open his space to these musicians, showcasing their creativity amid his own: wine. ■



PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE

Storied Past, Bright Future

Veteran of the industry chronicles local wine history in memoir

By Kirby Neumann-Rea

“I’m optimistic about Brand Oregon,” says Allen Holstein, a 43-year veteran of vineyard management and wine making in Dundee. He spoke in the fall of 2023 at Linfield University’s Nicholson Library, drawing extensively on his 116-page memoir about the Yamhill County wine industry, “Grape Whisperers,” which he published in 2022.

“There is a lot of opportunity in the future for an industry I am glad to have witnessed and participated,” said Holstein, who arrived in Dundee in 1980 and came to know well what he calls the “13 pioneers” of the local wine-making industry: Hillcrest, Eyrie, Knudson and Erath, Honeywood, Sokol Blosser, Adelsheim, Ponzi, Elk Cove, Amity, Oak Knoll, Tualatin, Martha Mareh and Fred Arterberry, and (closed in the 1980s) Cote Coloumbe.

Holstein (pronounced hall-steen) arrived in Yamhill County in the early years, a self-described “hired gun.”

He was college roommates with Ken Wright of Ken Wright Cellars, visiting Wright where

he studied at University of California/Davis, before heading to Oregon. Holstein grew vines on former coal mine property as part of his master’s degree from University of Kentucky before deciding to come west and study at Oregon State University, later landing his first job, as foreman for Knudsen Vineyards.

“Everyone was learning,” he said and the attitude was collaborative.

“Poor wine getting out hurts everyone. We knew it. It had to be high quality,” he said.

“The strength was we planted hillsides. Had that not happened, early wines out of Oregon would have the quality it did.”

“The Oregon climate was different. How different, no one knew at the time.” Vintners 35-40 years ago were adjusting to that while also learning about yield predication and management. For a time, Oregon had “a reputation for inconsistency” not just in quality — very fine years and some less so, he said — but also in volume, according to Holstein.

“No one had any idea in the

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The Fun Never Stops

Yamhill Valley has become a year-round wine destination

The calendar of events is packed 12 months of the year in the Yamhill Valley.

Thanksgiving Weekend remains the biggest celebration, full of special events, unique tasting tours and the start to holiday revelry. But no longer does it mark the start of an off-season. Leading up to Christmas, myriad wineries host markets where you will find an array of locally-made gifts for friends and family.

Winter fun is also to be had



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

at major events like the Oregon Chardonnay Celebration in February and the McMinnville Wine & Food Classic in March.

The May calendar is packed with events in tandem with Oregon Wine Month, with a special emphasis on Mother's Day

and Memorial Day weekends.

Summertime brings a host of cultural festivals and other events to seek out. From wine-maker dinners and concert series; to hikes, car shows and cycling events; and much, much more.

To see what's happening in the heart of Oregon Wine Country, visit these sites:

- oregonwinepress.com/event
- visitmcminnville.com/events
- tastenewberg.com/events
- willamettewines.com/things-to-do

STORIED PAST

Continued from page 27

1970s and 1980s what was the way to estimate. We were flying blind in that whole period. Wine yields had to fit the sales channel," he said, for the sake of stable pricing, supply and sales.

In the 1990s, new partnerships via foreign investment and professional connections in France and Australia led to "a new maturation of the industry, and sparkling wines arrived," he said.

"All these people were swirling around, owners and investors and talented people who were looking around for how to get involved," he said. Introduction of French Dijon clones in Oregon in 1989 helped save the California wine industry and

shape it in Oregon. California needed the plants and over the next few years Oregon could provide them; Holstein saw truckloads of clones heading south.

"The fact that they came through Oregon at the time they did really influenced west coast viticulture," he said.

A third wave of investment followed in the 1990s and local standout vintners "came of age": Stoller, WillaKenzie, Ken Wright, Lemelson, Willamette Valley, Bergstrom, Archery Summit, among others.

In the 2000s the region saw maturation of the vines, expansion of the market, and greater emphasis on wine education. This, according to Holstein, was joined by the advent of personal technology, big picture legal changes such as permitting of

direct sales, the rise of winery tourism, and the arrival of the Alison Hotel in Newberg.

"All of a sudden it's a destination," he said.

Climate change is the next rising challenge, but Holstein is bullish on local potential.

"Water is not so much an issue, and there is plenty of land. The shortage is in the supply of labor, and customers," he said. There is room to grow, he said.

Holstein noted that the Coast Range along the mid- and northern-Willamette Valley has the same soils as lower areas now extensively planted with grapes.

"Thirty years ago we never dreamed of planting vines west of Carlton."

Vintners and investors must say to themselves, "I have risk with climate change, so how do

I diversify my risk?"

"There is a delta in land prices between here and the rest of the world. So they are coming," he said. (The joint reality is that invasive pests such as mealy bugs and phylloxera "keep coming, too.")

Asked, "can we really create a market for all these new, and undistinguished (wine) brands?" Holstein answered, "if you can grow grapes, make wine, and sell wine, you have a business." Do two of those things and you likely still will. "Do one of those things, that means you're a hobbyist."

"There's a lot of dreamers (growing grapes or making wine)," he said. "There will be a period of shakeout of the landscape. If you can sell it 100 percent direct to consumer you hang in for awhile." ■

Wine Directory

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Random Wine 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.
- Toasting originated in ancient Rome.
- World's oldest bottle is from 325 A.D.
- Oenophobia (fear of wine) is a thing.
- Wine is fat-free and cholesterol-free.
- The lip of a red wine glass is sloped to help send aromas to your nose.

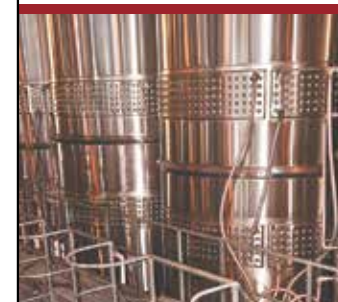
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LEFT: Travis Bird, co-chef/owner of Cypress, serves up shakshuka, a North African breakfast dish.

PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

and food crafters within 20 miles of their establishments. They know those relationships translate to the absolute best tastes and presentation in the meals they serve.

When you sit for a dining experience here, it's likely the produce was grown at a nearby family farm; the meat products raised and cut just outside of town; the bread baked, the coffee beans roasted and the chocolate made within minutes from your seat.

Another great characteristic of the wine country dining scene is its diversity. The cultural offerings of French, Italian, Korean, Spanish, Thai, Caribbean and so many more cuisines are represented in kitchens throughout the Valley, often presented with a Northwest twist for a totally unique eating experience.

The area also caters to the dietary needs of all visitors. Gluten-free and vegan options are available at most restaurants. And with two dedicated gluten-free breweries in the area, there is plenty of expertise to help guide those who must be a bit more selective in their dining options.

Whether it is a lunch basket on the go, a sit-down five-course meal matched with big city hospitality or a food-centric special event, your culinary adventure in the Yamhill Valley is sure to be a quality one. ■

Garden of Eatin'

Revel in a farm-fresh noshing nirvana

By Ossie Bladine

What do you get when a world-class wine industry develops in a region rich in agricultural history? Answer: Yamhill Valley.

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the Valley's reputation as a foodie destination starts with the ingredients and products grown and raised on our rural lands, celebrating some of the finest soil on Earth.

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Fresh Additions

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, Pura Vida, Subterra, Thistle, Tina's

and many more.

In 2022-2023, McMinnville restaurants Hayward, Pinch, Humble Spirit and Okta, along with the Blind Pig in Carlton, re-invigorated the local culinary scene after the pandemic uneasiness.

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

ABUELA'S NUESTRA COCINA

After years of operating a restaurant in Sisters, the

Fernandez family restarted in McMinnville with Mezcal Sabores de Mexico near Linfield College. In 2024, the family moved to downtown with their new venture, Abuela's Nuestra Cocina, 226 N.E. Third St.

While Mezcal also featured family recipes, the new Abuela's is even more centered on the foods from the Fernandez family and its heritage in the Mexico City area — particularly the mole sauce, a recipe Laura's mother passed down after many asks from Jimmy.

"Our grandmothers live on

through their food," said Mariana Fernandez, Jimmy and Laura's daughter who works with her parents and her brother, Allan, in the business. "It's not the Tex-Mex standards found in most Mexican restaurants. Not everything has rice and beans."

TASTE OF INDIA

"McMinnville needed an Indian restaurant," said Paul Johal, owner of the new Taste of India, 315 N.E. Third St. in McMinnville.

With how fondly the restau-

rant's authentic dishes from the Punjab region have been talked about, it's evident locals would agree.

Johal is a native of the Punjab region; his two nephews, restaurant veterans who will manage the eight employees, have a Punjabi background as well. A Taste of India's chef and bartender also are from India, the chef by way of Texas.

In addition to curries, the menu lists butter chicken, garlic naan, vegetable or meat samosas, kebabs and it offers Indo-Chinese noodles and rice. Vegetarian options are available along with chicken, goat and lamb.

ALPINE KITCHEN/ALPINE CROSSINGS

Jeff Glodt, owner of the Grain Station Brew Works, spent the last couple years rolling out a new three-legged venture across the street from the pub he owns with his wife, Kelly, a Linfield University graduate.

First to earn a faithful following was Alpine Kitchen, a breakfast and lunch restaurant, followed by Loft & Lies, which offers drinks and food along with indoor golf and a variety of other virtual sports, from bowling to hockey to baseball. Then came Alpine Crossings, a dinner house that carries on the reputation the Glodts earned with Robert's Crossing in Salem.

"The food was excellent, with a different twist," said a patron of the meals prepared by head chef Matt Haj and his crew. "It's a good place."

WOODEN HEART

Starting out of a 1964

Kenskill camp trailer turned mobile, wood fired kitchen, Ryan and Yvette Clark crafted their own dining experience in a brick and mortar location at The Dundee Hotel.

Diners can start with the kitchen's rotating menu of wood fired pizzas featuring local ingredients, but the pastas and sandwiches are easily indulged as well. With an emphasis on community, Wooden Heart has quickly settled in as a strong addition to Dundee's culinary scene.

MAC PLAZA

Diana Perez and her sister, Nancy, and their family opened a combination deli, gift store and nursery in October 2023, and expanded it into a mini community with multiple food trucks and a gathering place with beer and cocktails.

Mac Plaza, 500 S.E. Adams St. in McMinnville is next-door-neighbor is El Rancho Market.

"We can kind of call it 'Mexican town' but it is open to everyone," Diana says.

The tastes expand to Italian cuisine with a Northwest flair thanks to House of Brassi's, one of the trucks preparing meals with a wood fired oven. Brassi's uses local ingredients, including wheat grown and ground in the Willamette Val-

ley for their pizza crust.

It's hard to miss the former carnival concession stand turned eatery on wheels, and it'll be hard to forget how good the fare is.

LOAM

Kim Lattig and Corey Taylor, who had been selling mushroom pastries and catering in wine country for several years, provided Dayton with a new brunch and dinner spot in 2003.

Lattig credited friends and her network of contacts in the local wine and food industry

with helping inspire them; "farm friends" also provided a loan to help them get started.

The mushrooms, which they forage themselves, play a leading role in Loam — even inspiring the name, which refers to the layer of nutritious earth in which the fungi flourish.

Local purveyors featured at Loam include Durant, from which they get olive oil and balsamic vinegar; Flag & Wire coffee; Bernard's Farm, Eola Crest Cattle, etc. "The camaraderie of small businesses in this county is pretty special," Lattig said. ■



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

LEFT: Brad Asher, who runs the House of Brassi's food truck with fiancée Kassi Irwin, adds ricotta to a pizza before cooking it in the wood-fired oven. The "Forest Floor" pizza also includes spinach, sorrel, local mushrooms, béchamel and mozzarella.

TOP: Fernandez family — parents Laura and Jimmy flanked by daughter Mariana and son Allan — stand in entry of Abuela's Nuestra Cocina, the family's new restaurant, a fulfillment of their hope to open a restaurant in downtown McMinnville.

ABOVE: Partab Singh serves lunch to Donna Wright-Block, center, and Marcia Jones at Taste of India. The restaurant serves authentic dishes from the Punjabi region of India.

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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY HAYWARD

Breaking Through

New Mac restaurant quickly earns a name for itself

A remodel of the Mac Market building in McMinnville allowed Chef Kari Kihara to create a fine dining restaurant all her own. In the process, it became as much about the uniqueness of her new hometown scene as it did her journey through the food industry.

Opened in April 2024, Hayward quickly earned notoriety as a finalist for the James Beard Foundation's "Best New Restaurant" award. The story of Kihara and her small crew, all equally dedicated to the craft, is indicative of the joy

and love created in Oregon Wine Country's dining scene each day.

Kiraha is part owner of Mac Market, which also features an indie market, a cafe, a bar, a pizza joint and frequently hosts community events.

The following is an excerpt of an interview with Kihara,

Q: Is that challenging as a chef to present that fine dining aspect while still being accessible?

Kari: It's hard because you view yourself as the chef and the owner and the operator. And then you also view yourself how you want to be as a customer. Those are the two lenses: how is it going to work on the operating side, and how's the customer that isn't me going to look at it, and what would I want if I was the customer?

On the operating side, I love making the food that we make. We always call ourselves a chefs' kitchen. We're very chef forward. First is, how does it make sense to us? How

does it work in this format? Do we really enjoy it? Is it technically challenging enough to keep this interesting? But at the end of the day, all of that doesn't matter; it needs to taste good. That's priority number one.

Q: What was the biggest challenge when first opening up?

Kari: The part that I struggled with the most is learning that a big city restaurant and a small town restaurant are two very different things. As much



as I want to run the kitchen and run the team and run service in the way that I know, which is from working in cities, a small town doesn't always take to that. It's different people, it's different clientele and you can't anticipate the numbers and the sales that you expect in the city to happen. There's kind of a common thread for restaurant owners that if every seat isn't full every night, then you don't make money, then you don't win. And that's pretty impossible in a small town.

Q: You're definitely not really the only game in town.

Kari: And nor do I want to be. I want everyone else to succeed and we're all better if we are all here together; we're just a bigger draw for locals

and tourism.

So for trying to figure out how to work around those measures and understand what a small town is versus the city, Emily [Howard, former owner of Thistle] is like the greatest gift for that to bring me back down to understand McMinnville better. She runs the floor, I run the kitchen and she's so good at reeling me in a little. Because every chef struggles with being a little too "chefy" sometimes.

Q: You do a lot of work with butchering products: what was the reason to start doing that?

Kari: I worked at a restaurant called Sons & Daughters in San Francisco. We did a lot of whole animal butchery there, and it was very

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eye-opening to me because it was a tasting menu at nine courses where everything is small. So you get in these animals and you're like, "Oh great, I just need the chops for this one dish." Then it's like, "I know butchery is cool, but what else is happening with this animal?" So you're trying to plug and play into different dishes and that's where I got super stoked.

The menu that we have now is very much like that. We get an animal in, we use it for more of a protein heavy section on the menu — we always have three or four proteins on, where meat or fish is the star of that dish — but then you get left with all these other bits and bobs that we can do cool things like make sausages or make a filling for a dumpling or make an XO sauce, which is this like super savory Chinese condiment that's made from dried meat. You can use it as accents to other dishes, and I just love that. I nerd out over that. It's definitely more work than just calling up and ordering 20 shops.

Q: So it's not just about doing it for the respect or just to say that's how you do it.

Kari: I think there's always a part of that, if I'm being really honest. Yes, it is cool to say that we break down all of our own animals in house. It's even cooler to say that we actually raise all of our own cows.

A part of it is because it feels good to know you put in that much effort and now you get to serve someone that, and then all of a sudden it's gone.

That's the weird thing about being a chef, that experience oddly feels really gratifying.

Q: Are relationships with farmers and ranchers different here than what you experienced in the past?

Kari: One-hundred percent. If you're looking at pros and cons of city restaurant versus small town restaurant: the relationships make any small town struggle all worth it. I've never experienced anything like it.

I used to go to the San Francisco farmers market every Saturday with my chef and we would chat with the farmers. That was great and I thought that was cool and special. And then I moved here and I was like, [holy cow].

The relationship that we have with Even Pull Farms is unbelievable. I get to go to their team planting schedule meetings and hash out all of the details. Me, Jon [Inonueri] and Søren [Kalbfleisch] — who are my two chefs, the three of us are the whole kitchen team — we flip through all the catalogs, we talk about what we want, we go back to Beth and Eric, they're going to give us knowledge, like we tried that five years ago; that crop didn't work because of this ... So we have this whole planning schedule that we do every winter and then we take on the year after that.

We work with Campfire Farms for pork and chickens and ducks. And then for beef, we raise our own - if we need more, we supplement through Revel Meat Co., who processes



all of our animals for us. And for lamb, Søren raises sheep, so we get that in-house, too.

It's just such a unique relationship with all of these people. I just didn't know that you could do it that tightly and you didn't have to be a place that has three Michelin stars and their own farm. You don't have to be that level of place to source that well. I think it's super cool because I want those everyday people to be able to eat that well also.

Q: Do you have any dishes that are mainstays?

Kari: Focaccia is always on. That is never changing. Since closing the bakery, it's given us a little bit more flexibility and freedom to have some time to dive into our bread program and play around with things.

I'm now doing different flavors of focaccia, based off of where the menu is at.

Pickles and ferments are always on. The fried clams are something that we've done recently. We put that on in the beginning of Fall; it's a lightly pickled manila clam coming from the Washington coast that we batter and fry with a seaweed aioli. Those are staying — I like to have one fried snack that a people know and are comfortable with coming back for that.

Some sort of dumpling has always been in the rotation since we started Hayward. And that's kind of it for mainstays. We'll revisit a lot and make tweaks to things.

Q: Have you been open long enough for people to come request a previous dish yet?



Kari: Everyone wanted the black cod. It was great, it was a really good fish.

It has happened where someone has come in and say, "I came for this dish and you don't have it. See you later." That's a bummer. It's tough. But you can't make everyone happy. So, sometimes you lose those people, but hopefully you gain others. And hopefully, you sell them on the other fish that's on the menu, and you get them to try something new. Then they bought in and then they're believers, which we've had. I've been pleasantly surprised by the

demographic that comes in expecting one thing, we sell them on something else that maybe is a fish or a dish that they're not entirely familiar with, or that they haven't had before, and then they walk out of here bought in — and now they come here once a month and they feel confident that whatever fish they get on the menu, they're going to love it. That feels really good to get those people to believe in changing menus and rotating menus. ■



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The Silo Suites at Abbey Road Farm in Carlton offer a unique lodging option.

PHOTO BY KATHRYN ELSESSER

Home Away From Home

Unpack and unwind in beautiful wine country

By Ossie Bladine

Abundance: a term used widely in Oregon Wine Country, from the wine to the food to fresh produce and seemingly endless miles of serene landscape. The term also easily describes local lodging options, too.

“There’s a world of offerings out there, and that’s what I always tell people,” said Leigh Wellikoff, who has been an innkeeper and in the Valley for

many years.

The region has its own association for bed & breakfast inns and an ample supply of vacation rentals of all kinds. Wellikoff’s University House in downtown Newberg is among the options that blend the two, a private home but with a full-service experience, including a massage therapist on call and wine tour offerings.

Her first advice to anyone coming to the Yamhill Valley for a stay is to “find out what you want.”

If it’s the ‘suite’ life you are craving, seeks out one of the three boutique luxury options offered in downtown McMinnville: the Atticus Hotel, Douglas on Third and the Tributary Hotel. These three offer modern amenities among the historic charm of downtown McMinnville. A Friday night stay at Douglas between May and October comes with a complimentary wine tasting in the lobby, while the friendly concierge at Atticus can help with anything from where to

get breakfast to how to plan a wedding.

Anyone seeking more retro surroundings with a historic flair will find unique hotel rooms at McMenamins Hotel Oregon in downtown McMinnville and the quainter Wildwood Hotel in Willamina.

At the Vintages Trailer Dayton, it’s not just the decor that’s retro. Over-nighters can choose from 36 fully restored and classic custom trailers. Another way to live big in a small space is at the recently opened



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Boutique Retreat, located along McMinnville's Granary Districts, just a few blocks from downtown. Here, select one of the nine tiny house cottages on site and enjoy a sit by the outdoor fireplace in the courtyard.

There are plenty of options for RV campers. Both Willamette Wine Country RV Park (sharing the same property as The Vintages) and Old Stone Village (near the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum) feature an outdoor pool among their many amenities. Two recent additions to scene are Valley's Edge RV Park in Sheridan and Dundee Hills Resort in Dundee — the former featuring its own dog park and pet washing station, and the latter a tasting room all its own (Archer Vineyards), along with cottage and glamping options, too.

Of course, it wouldn't be wine country without bed and breakfast options to personalize your stay. When deciding on a B&B, opt for a historic home in town, with leisurely walks to shops, dining, wine tasting and nightlife, or choose a countryside setting with spectacular views to start and end the day.

Many wineries also operate their own B&Bs that often feature the rural tranquility of wine country, with the added benefit of wine tasting and winery events on site. The Silos Suites at Abbey Road Farm

TOP: A stay at a winery B&B like Youngberg Hill Inn (background) can come with live entertainment from your doorstep. LEFT: Inn the Ground's breakfast room features views of Tabula Rasa farm and the hills west of Carlton. All the guest rooms face the view, as well.

is perhaps the only lodging building with its own festival (Silobration NW in August) and features a renowned breakfast from the onsite chef and strolls through the farm.

Visitors can also appreciate farm living during a stay at the new Inn at the Ground. At the bed in breakfast west of Carlton, they can watch the steers that graze in the expansive pasture beside the inn and on the hillsides across Meadow Lake Road. Or they may have seen different animals, since the herds and flocks move frequently as part of the Ground's philosophy of "diversity, rotation and rest," resident farmer Wayne Didier, Wescott's co-innkeeper and partner.

Travelers may also select the "home away from home" option. Dozens of vacation rentals are available, 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 downtown 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 always, dine with in-house chefs or hire a private chef to host a dinner at your rental?

Those are just a few questions Wellikoff recommends asking yourself while seeking a lodging style that matches your personality.

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PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

Cultured Country

Valley packed with sounds, shows and creativity

By YVVG Staff

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, Oct. 4-6 and 11-14. 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.

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.

There are around galleries to tour through around the county. A list with more information can be found at www.yamhillcountygalleries.com.

PERFORMANCE

Along 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. See www.gallerytheater.org for current and upcoming shows.

Penguin Productions produces its Shakespeare plays and more under the stars on a temporary stage set in the countryside. It's also broken ground on a new indoor black box theater on the same property. See penguinsonstage.org for more info.

The Chehalem Valley Vaudeville is fun for the whole family at the Cultural Center in Newberg. Head to www.chehalemcenter.org to see when is the next scheduled of magic, juggling, skits, singing and more.

The theater departments of Yamhill Valley's two universities — Linfield and George Fox — also present on the stage throughout the year.

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

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. Summertime 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 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 Carlton also features bands frequently, as does two venues in Willamina, which had long been a hidden gem for touring acts, with the historic Wildwood Hotel and Swan Hall.

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. Just up the road, Art + Science/Roshambo ArtFarm used to host a weekend music festival and campout. That's now turned into a summer series from June to September.

On the Summer Solstice of each year, musicians take to the open air for Make Music McMinnville 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.

Summertime is full of tunes



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

ABOVE: Glitterfox playing the Walnut City Music Festival. LEFT: A performance at Gallery Theater in McMinnville.

at wineries and tasting rooms. For resources to find what's coming up this weekend, see the events website links on page 14.

The Walnut City Music Festival returns in 2024 for its ninth volume of rock, folk and more from around the country, presented in McMinnville's Lower City Park Aug. 16-17. Finally, two hoppy events bring live music to the stage: Oregon Brews & Barbecue Father's Day Bash in June at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds; and Brews, Bites and Bands, the weekend after Labor Day 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. ■

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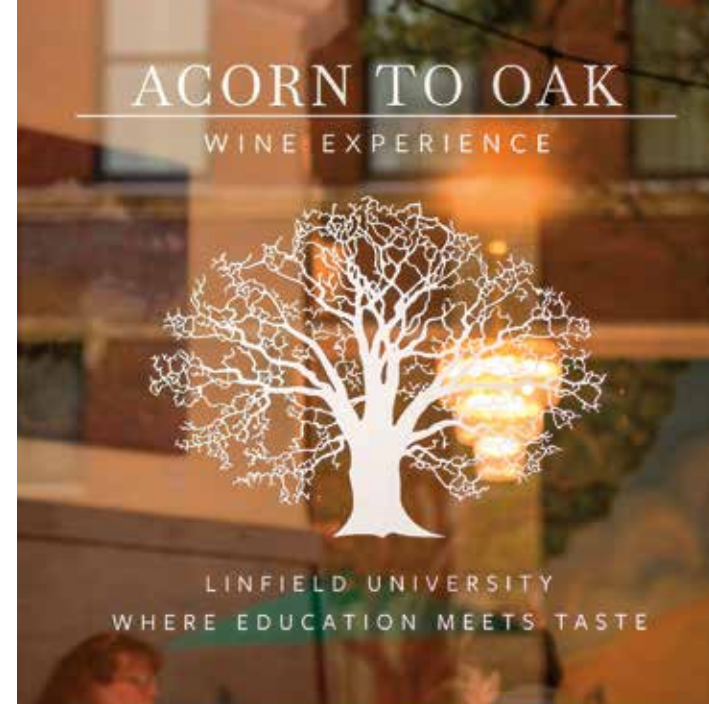
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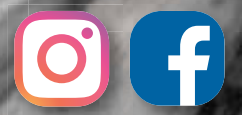


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Get it in Gear

Tips for Cycling in Wine Country

By YVVG STAFF

A couple dressed to ride sits at a table outside Union Block coffee shop in downtown McMinnville. Their sleek road-style bicycles rest a few feet away. They are exploring Oregon wine country, they say, over the winding, rolling backroads of Yamhill Valley.

It's a common scene; the number of cyclists on local roads is noticeable. The area is a destination for riders who want to explore the vineyards from the seats of their bikes. There are several ways to

accomplish this depending on your comfort level. No matter what path you choose, you'll enjoy the ride.

Here are a few ideas:

TAKE A TOUR

An organized cycling tour is a great way to see wine country when you don't know your way around. Day trips through vineyards can be arranged with regional cycling companies typically based in Portland. Some groups even offer e-bikes for anyone ready for a little extra power. In addition, national tour groups include McMinnville and Yamhill County as regular

tour destinations each year.

Tours typically take you to designated wineries that are expecting you and ready to serve a group.

FIND AN EVENT

Wine country is a popular destination for event organizers searching for attractive roads. One of the most popular events is Cycle Oregon, a ride through the backroads of McMinnville, each July.

There are options galore each day including a short, medium, long and gravel option for the ultimate choose your own adventure ride. There is a mix of rolling hills

and a few challenging climbs on our long and gravel routes. For more information about the rides, visit: www.cycleoregon.com/ride/weekender.

MAP YOUR OWN RIDE

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.

Several more are available via Tommy's Bike Shop and the Ride With GPS mapping system. You can find them at www.tommysbicycleshop.com.

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

LEAVE YOURS AT HOME

The recently opened Mike Bike Rentals has rides for touring the countryside or cruising downtowns — as well as e-bike options. visit-macbikerentals.com for more info.

BIKE-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

Several restaurants, hotels and shops throughout the area welcome cyclists whether you are wearing Lycra or not. These "bike friendly businesses" have been certified by Travel Oregon, the state's tourism organization, for the services these businesses extend cyclists.

Look for the Bike-Friendly Business sign at locations such as Union Block coffee and Grain Station Brew Works in McMinnville and various wineries. ■



LEFT: A youngster enjoys a stagecoach ride during Harvest Fest, one of many annual events at the Yamhill Valley Historical Museum that celebrate the region's rich agricultural history.

PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

of the Kalapuya land and the formation of Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, its history, and the legal and social changes affecting indigenous peoples stemming from European exploration and domination. One feature is a panoramic depiction of the extent of the ancient Missoula Floods on what is today the Willamette Valley.

In Newberg, the Hoover-Minthorn House, was the childhood home of Herbert Hoover, the nation's 31st president. Hoover lived there from 1885 to 1891 with his uncle and aunt, John and Laura Minthorn, administrators of the local Quaker middle school. The Italianate-style structure, built in 1881, was restored and opened to the public in 1955, and has been furnished with late 19th century accents.

The West Valley has two spots to relish the past. The Willamina Museum of Local History, occupying a former church built in 1877, serves the community as a place to share the past and to fulfill the Willamina Historical group's operating slogan, "History has no meaning unless it's shared." The museum features a growing collection of local genealogical material and Timbertown tales. The Sheridan Museum of History also offers a collection of artifacts and more. ■

Past Present

History alive and well in Yamhill Valley

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.

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

On the other end of McMinnville, the Yamhill County Heritage Center is a hub of local history and home to a transplanted schoolhouse, a vintage sawmill, a blacksmith shop and myriad pieces of antique farm equipment and other transportation vehicles.

The site also houses some 10,000 artifacts of local history on rotational display.

In addition, the heritage center hosts educational programs for children and several special public events each year, such as Farm Fest and Plowing Competition (April), Hay Day/Play Day (June), Harvest Fest (August), plus a vintage baseball game (September).

The area's newest museum, Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center in Grand Ronde, presents exhibits curated by tribal staff celebrating history, stories and impacts of tribes and bands of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Admission to Chachalu is free, and donations are accepted. Permanent and rotating exhibits are also on display, including bead work, basketry and canoes, and information about food sources and other lore. Exhibits include photos and text describing the history



ABOVE: Cyclists prepare for ride through wine country.

Walks We Like

Follow Your Feet

By YVVG STAFF

Walking is a sure way to relieve the cares of the day, soak up some vitamin D, and enjoy fresh air and exercise, as well as a lovely preface or follow-up to a fine meal or evening of music or theater. Members of the News-Register news staff discuss a few favorite walking routes, both urban and rural, at six locations that are easy to get to and, except where noted, free. — *Kirby Neumann-Rea*

A CARLTON RAMBLE

I love the city-country mix of walking in Carlton: Watching yards change with the seasons, monitoring the progress of construction projects, seeing what's swimming in the little creek on the east side of town and viewing the vistas of hills and fields. A favorite route takes me north on Fourth Street from Main, exchanging greetings with two big dogs who are always alone in their yard, then three more who spent time outside with their owner (I greet him, too), then into a bit of country before I reach a relatively new subdivision. I walk east on Johnson Street, then south on Seventh, passing a community park before I arrive at a little bridge over the creek. On summer mornings, I see

nutria napping on the banks. A couple more blocks takes me back to Main, where I turn west toward downtown; keep walking and you'll find the gift shops, restaurants and wine tasting rooms. — *Starla Pointer*

RIVERSIDE SIDEWALK

My newest walking route takes me to work, although you could walk it any time.

I disembark from the Yamhill Transit bus at Lafayette Avenue and Riverside Drive, then head east to Miller Street. The route measured .8 miles on my vehicle's odometer, although the first time I walked it, in heavy fog, it felt longer. Now, as I think more about the interesting buildings and beautiful countryside, rather than about my feet, it feels good. The route passes the dog park, so there are usually some friendly greetings as I go by; then YCAP, McMinnville Water & Light, McMinnville CrossFit gym and several manufacturing businesses. If I kept walking, instead of going to work, I'd really feel as if I were out in the country as Riverside winds past small farms and other residences. I'm looking forward to nicer weather, when I may see colorful hot air balloons from Vista Balloon Adventures heading our way. — *Starla Pointer*



ABOVE: A couple of locals take a leisurely stroll along the trails at Miller Woods.

LINFIELD WELLNESS TRAIL,

This trail, at 1.1 miles, is open to the public and popular with walkers and runners, and wide enough to accommodate plenty of traffic. Yet it often feels secluded, like you have the whole trail to yourself. This flat and, mostly, dry trail is open to anyone, and can be approached either at a small parking area on Booth Bend Road or on the northeast side of the trail, on Keck Avenue on the Linfield campus. (Benches are provided but no water or toilets.) A third of the route is tree covered but the rest is open. On warm days take the counter-clockwise route and enjoy the shady pines and maples on the last half of the route. Another idea is to incorporate the trail with a general campus walk. If you need refreshment, Albertsons and other retail are on the north side of the route and a key amenity is the "art walk" at the university's Miller Art Center, on the northeastern section of the trail. This makes

it a satisfying urban walk with both human and natural appeal. — *Kirby Neumann-Rea*

MILLER WOODS

For a pure dose of accessible nature, Miller Woods Conservation Area, six miles west of McMinnville, is prime walking territory with ponds, streams, native plants, birds and other wildlife. Day pass for one vehicle is \$5. Owned and operated by Yamhill County Soil and Water Conservation District, the 130-acre site offers varied trail loops that pass through oak savannah land and a hayfield, as well as deeper into the woods, with mild and steep slopes that give the feel of being in the middle of the Coast Range. The longest route, called Outer Loop, measures 4.5 miles. Or, start with the short Discovery Loop around a large pond, active with wildlife. It's just down the slope from the parking area. (Volunteers built a modern restroom facility last year, replacing porta-potties.) The area was bequeathed by

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Frieda and K.T. Miller in 2004. Note that no bikes or dogs are allowed, and the site closes at dusk. Sturdy shoes are recommended. Also, groups of 10 or more are asked to make reservations; details at yamhills-wcd.org/miller-woods. To get to Miller Woods, take Baker Creek Road west and turn on Northwest Orchard View Drive. — *Kirby Neumann-Rea*

HOSPITAL TRACK

The Willamette Valley Medical Center all-weather track, located on the south side of the McMinnville hospital property offers a perfect location to get some steps in

no matter what the weather is, because you're walking on a rubberized surface. It's a quarter-mile oval. My first experience using the track came after undergoing a total hip replacement procedure. It was good physical therapy. What I further like about the track is that it's available for use day and night. The Baker Field track, located on Northeast Evans Street, across from McMinnville High School, was once an option 24/7. No more, as hours of use are now more restricted. If after finishing up on the hospital track, you can always continue your walk by establishing a personal route

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that takes you across the hospital property, which is quite expansive. — *Paul Daquilante*

JOE DANCER PARK

The Joe Dancer loops might offer the perfect lunch-hour hike. Close to downtown, the park is ideal in summer as portions of the trail are shaded by the wide and low-hanging branches of maple and fir trees, including the stretches near the Yamhill River. This flat trail, mostly wood-chip surface with some grassy stretches, is well-maintained by the city of McMinnville. There's essentially two loops: the south one that goes around

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the Drew Gary Ottley Memorial Skatepark and the softball diamonds, and the north loop, taking in the Rotary Wetland Park. Take a picnic and rest at one of the unusual metal picnic tables along the trail, and listen to extensive birdsong. Worth viewing en route is the "Power of Play" mural done by Mac High art students in 2022. In July and August, Joe Dancer is also great blackberry-picking territory. The parking lots near the south entrance, at the skatepark, and in the center of the park provide excellent trail access. — *Kirby Neumann-Rea* ■



PHOTO PROVIDED

Talking Shop

An Eclectic Array of Bustling Businesses

By Hillary Berg

We've got great taste here in the Yamhill Valley, and it's not only for food and beverages. Thoughtful shops dotting charming downtowns are filled with treasures waiting to be found. Chic boutiques and classic small-town retailers form the backbone of each main street showing personality and pizzazz, too.

In McMinnville, you'll find a couple rare places for towns of any size: a bookseller, Third Street Books, and an independent toy store, Hopscotch Toys. In addition, upscale clothiers, natural grocers, jewelers, knitting and art supply

stores, décor depots, as well as fine art galleries and other cool companies make for busy days of browsing and buying.

For those in search of lost gems, you'll want to explore the eclectic antique stores within every town, with the Lafayette Schoolhouse Antique Mall at the top of that list; for gently used clothes and housewares, head to Simple Needs in the same area, Lucky Finds in Newberg or down the road in McMinnville, where New to You and Mac Rack have been outfitting customers and their homes for years at reasonable prices.

Fill your tummies and shopping bags with artisan goodies, too. Who doesn't

love condiments? Check out Third Street Oil & Vinegar in McMinnville and Red Ridge Farms in the Dundee Hills for serious olive oil tastings; then, hop over to Carlton for sweet and savory samples from Republic of Jam.

These represent only a few of the fantastic shops you'll find in the area, so get out there and explore all the stores and more. ■

ABOVE: Oregon Olive Mill tasting at Red Ridge Farms in Dayton.

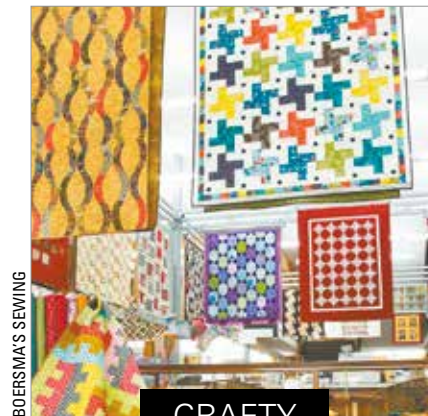
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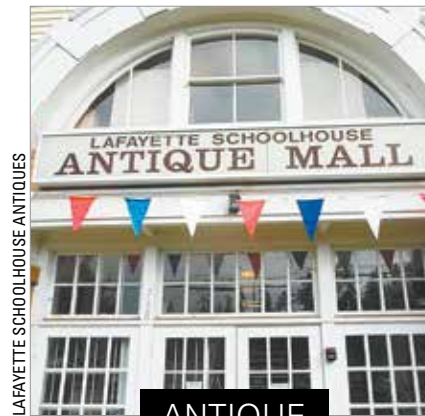
You Can Find it all in Yamhill Valley



BOERSMA'S SEWING

CRAFTY

Boersma's Sewing in McMinnville is a quilter's paradise with so many fabrics on display and inspiration hanging in the windows. **The Merri Artist** just down the street is yet another destination for the creative crowd.



LAFAYETTE SCHOOLHOUSE ANTIQUES

ANTIQUÉ

Find treasures you seek and ones you didn't know you needed at **Lafayette Schoolhouse Antique Mall** via multiple vendors on multiple floors. One town over, the **McMinnville Antiques Mall** also delights with bygone buys.



THE RAINFLOWER

FRESH

Bloom where you're planted, or visit Yamhill Valley for a beautiful bouquet of flowers from **The Rainflower** in Amity and **Poseyland Florist** in McMinnville. Both promise splashes of color and the sweetest of scents.



TIMMRECK & MCNICOL

SHINY

Go for the gold — or silver — at **Susan Goodwin Jewelry Studio** or longtime merchant **Timmreck & McNicol Jewelers**, both in McMinnville. Find the perfect heirloom at a variety of shops eager to make you shine.



EOLA CREST CATTLE

DELICIOUS

Tickle your tastebuds in McMinnville at **NW Food & Gifts** and **Eola Crest Cattle 71X Farmstore**. Stop by **Parkway Foods**, also in Mac, for treats for those with food allergies; stay for the store's housemade split pea soup.



TYPE A PRESS

LOCAL PRIDE

Show your love of the Valley with **Type A Press** garb at Nash & Nichol in McMinnville. Other places for tourist take-homes include **Oregon Stationers**, also in Mac, as well as **The Violet Rose** in Carlton.

Shop Directory

Amity

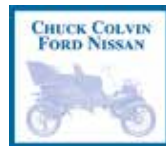
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64 GRAND RONDE



PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE

The Charmed Life

Visitors quickly learn why locals love their hometown

By YVVG Staff

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.," "Fire Dept.," "Air Museum," "Public Library," "Antiques" and "Park." Mounted prominently on the east and west sides of the intersection, they are courtesy of Boersma's Sewing Center. Originally done by Rod Axtell around 2000, the signs were repainted in

April 2021 by Colt Bowen of McMinnville.

The nostalgic signs are a whimsical nod to simpler times, and are works of art in themselves.

In a city already replete with excellent outdoor art, new murals are set to be revealed in 2022. One on Cowsl Street will play tribute to the late Rose Marie Caughran, a former librarian and longtime beautification volunteer. It will be a well-deserved tribute for a woman who once guided an OPB Oregon Art Beat on a tour of McMinnville's public art on display, which can be viewed any time with lights for

nighttime exploring.

Treasured McMinnville cultural traditions are scheduled to debut or make full returns in 2022. Mark your calendars for the UFO Festival in May; Art Harvest Studio Tour the first two weekends in October; and the Camas Festival, also in May 5. Organized by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and Linfield University, the celebration of the native plant will take place in Linfield's oak grove.

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 museum plans a November celebration to mark the 75th anniversary of the inaugural — and only — flight of the historic Spruce Goose, the museum's marquee feature. 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 300-acre property is home to numerous public events, including the spring McMinnville Wine + Food Classic and the annual International Air Show in August. Evergreen organizers are in the process of

"reimagining the museum" with new educational programs and updates to exhibits and interpretive materials.

Steep in pre-aviation Yamhill County at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, just south of McMinnville on Highway 18. The area's timber and farming history is on full display, along with local artifacts such as the 1901 Ford driven across the Coast Range in 1903 — a two-day trip at the time.

After taking in the museum exhibits, or following an urban wine tour, a good meal and downtown stroll are in order.

One of the city's biggest champions is local realtor Beth Caster, who posts daily on the I Love Third Street Facebook page, usually starting by listing the day's soup specials at The Sage.

"McMinnville is small enough for people to care

about each other and take care of each other," she said.

She also contributes to McMinnville's economy by supporting other businesses, especially the small stores and eateries started and operated by her fellow residents.

"I try my best to buy local," she said. "If we don't spend our dollars locally, how can they survive and thrive?"

She said she feels overwhelmed in a big box store. "But when I walk into Accessory Appeal," she said. "Hollyann (Finch, the owner) or Stephanie (Johnson, the manager) says, 'this just came in; we think you'll like it!'"

Likewise, she is greeted warmly at Alchemist's Jam for a biscuit with her favorite Marionberry jam, or at Harvest Fresh, where she takes her own container to hold deli salad.

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service, she said. A clerk in a chain store looks at a computer, she said, while a local business looks at a person.

When potential real estate customers come to visit, she takes them to the farmers market, as well as to look at properties for sale. She recalled one couple from a large city.

“He came back with beets, and he was in tears,” she said, remembering the man’s amazement and happiness. “Look, there’s dirt on them!” he told me. “The only vegetables we see at home are in plastic boxes,” she said

Caster, who recently received a volunteer award from the McMinnville Downtown Association, is on the farmers market’s steering committee and has been a sponsor for many years.

National recognition has become the norm in downtown. Most recently, McMinnville was a finalist nominee in the “Readers’ Choice: Best Main Streets” award offered by USA Today.

While it didn’t finish first in that one, Doris Towery, director of the McMinnville Downtown Association, thinks it should have.

“This is a beautiful, vibrant downtown, one of the most vibrant around,” she said.

She cited the diversity of businesses on and near Third Street and the broad range of community events held there, from Cruising McMinnville to the Farmers Market to the UFO Festival and Mac Fresco, formerly Dine Out(side).

“It’s charming, warm and interesting,” she said, adding that it’s a historic district with



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

ABOVE: McMinnville’s new “Art Alley,” which runs between Davis and Evans streets and Third and Fourth.

well-kept vintage buildings.

Third Street also “feels intimate,” Towery said, and it’s easy to walk the entire street, view public art, have a bite or a sip of wine and find a unique gift to take home.

Third Street and McMinnville as a whole have won numerous honors in the past, including first runner up in Parade Magazine’s 2014 “Best Main Street” contest and numerous mentions on “Best of” lists in Sunset magazine and national wine publications.

Lights abound on Third Street during the now-familiar summer downtown scene Dine Out(Side), (June–September), which started in 2020 to give ample outdoor options to patrons of restaurants, breweries and wine bars. Third Street closes to traffic, letting restaurants spread out. This year, during Mac Fresco — formally known as Dine Out(side) — there is more live music along Third Street, building on the success of portable stages in previous years. The summer

weekend series transforms the leafy and inviting Third Street into an even more festive scene, Thursday–Saturday, most of the summer, adding Sundays in mid-summer.

Speaking of lighting, MDA this winter turned a Travel Oregon grant into new “passageway” illumination between Second and Fourth streets on Cows, Davis and Ford streets, giving pedestrians a more comfortable way around the busy downtown core after dark.

For a pre- or post-prandial stroll, pick up an art map or just start walking in any direction: around the library, along Second Street, and certainly along Third. Along the way, you’ll find sculptures, carvings or murals on nearly every block. The Benjamin Franklin bench at Third and Cows remains a favorite McMinnville photo-op, and Abraham Lincoln by the same artist, Gary Lee Price, can be found a few blocks away at the Community Center. Discover more murals and sculptures via Visit

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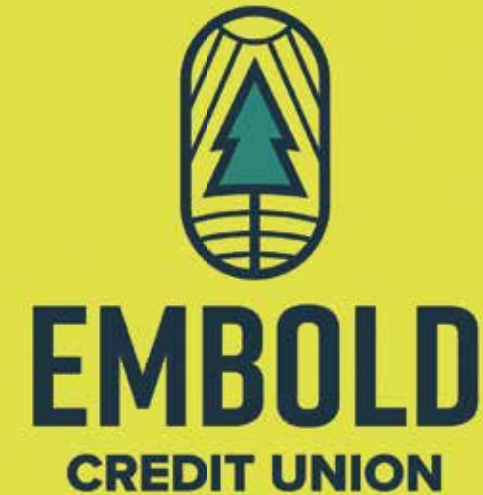
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PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

McMinnville's exhaustive 2019 art map; it is available and accurate, though due for an update this year.

The passageways are one more definition of McMinnville as a welcoming city for walking. Urban treks of note include Galen McBee Airport Park, a quiet forest loop with — here's the art again — rock sculptures; take Highway 18 east and look for signs near the airport, which the park abuts.

Third Street can serve as a walker's base. Heading west: Stroll past the library and pool, through the McMinnville City Park, with several walking loops including one with remnants of McMinnville's historic grist mill and first swimming pool, and interpretive signs. The "lower" (western) part of the park offers a network of short trails fanning out from a wide picnic area with plenty of tables, and room to

throw a Frisbee.

Heading east: From downtown, you don't have to turn around at the railroad tracks. Keep going a block or two and angle north and east via Fifth and Galloway, or turn at Third and Irvine toward the Granary District/Alpine Avenue area, where breweries, tasting rooms, coffee shops, restaurants and more amenities await, along with raised gardens featuring edible herbs — feel free to taste the basil or tomatoes, or take sprig of lavender.

In October, parts of the Granary District, home to several wineries, closes to vehicle traffic as it buzzes with harvest and crush activities, but it does remain open to pedestrians, via Fifth Street between the R. Stuart and Buchanan Cellers buildings. Crush is an integral and exciting part of the life and times of living in wine country. ■

On the Lookout

As of 2019, Oregon ranks No. 6 for the most bigfoot sightings in the U.S. Yamhill County has officially had one reported sighting; while Clackamas County has the most with 27 sightings.

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Despite its nickname, the Spruce Goose, the Hughes Hercules H-4 flying boat was actually built mostly of birch.



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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.

Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Scott Parker also 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 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 ART-walk 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 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, including over 60 wineries and the Allison Inn & Spa. ■

TOP: A bluegrass jam at Wolves & People farmhouse brewery. LEFT: Chefs at work in the kitchen of The Jory restaurant at the Allison Inn & Spa.



PHOTO BY KIRBY NEUMANN-REA RAE

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.

In 2003, the city’s tourism organization launched a monthly celebration of all the city has to offer.

Dundee’s Vino & Vibes event, aka Third Thursday, started as the vision of a local group of businesses and citizens, conceived to showcase regional art, and to activate Dundee’s newly walkable downtown and new city park, according to event committee member Sondra Storm.

“With 16 businesses and wine tasting rooms in Dundee hosting over 30 artists and musicians, food trucks and more, the first three events were bustling,” Storm said. “With plans



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

Cool Comforts

City Upgrades Bolster Visitor Ease

for salsa dancing, yoga, games, music, art, food vendors and surely more wine, Vino & Vibes is just getting started,” she said.

Supported by Oregon’s Wine Country License Plate Match grant program, the walks are free of charge and attendees

can participate in a digital “passport” to win prizes. Visit traveldundeeoregon.com for a downloadable map, and look for information on overnight accommodations. Also sign up for a Third Thursday Passport, with holders eligible for prizes..

Looking ahead, the city 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

LEFT and ABOVE: Games, wine tasting and more is happening every Third Thursday in Dundee during Vino & Vibes.

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.

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, Wooden Heart, 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 RACHEL THOMPSON



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

Friendly Faces

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. ■



PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE



PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE

TOP: Summer fun in the park as local kids dance along to the music. ABOVE: Cafeyette, like the name of the town but starting with a C. Or "Cafe ... yet?", as in, "Have you had your coffee today?" No matter how you say it, owner Maria Quillen, left, and staff are eager to serve up hot and cold beverages, ice cream, pastries and a Soup de Jour.

Bright Spot

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 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

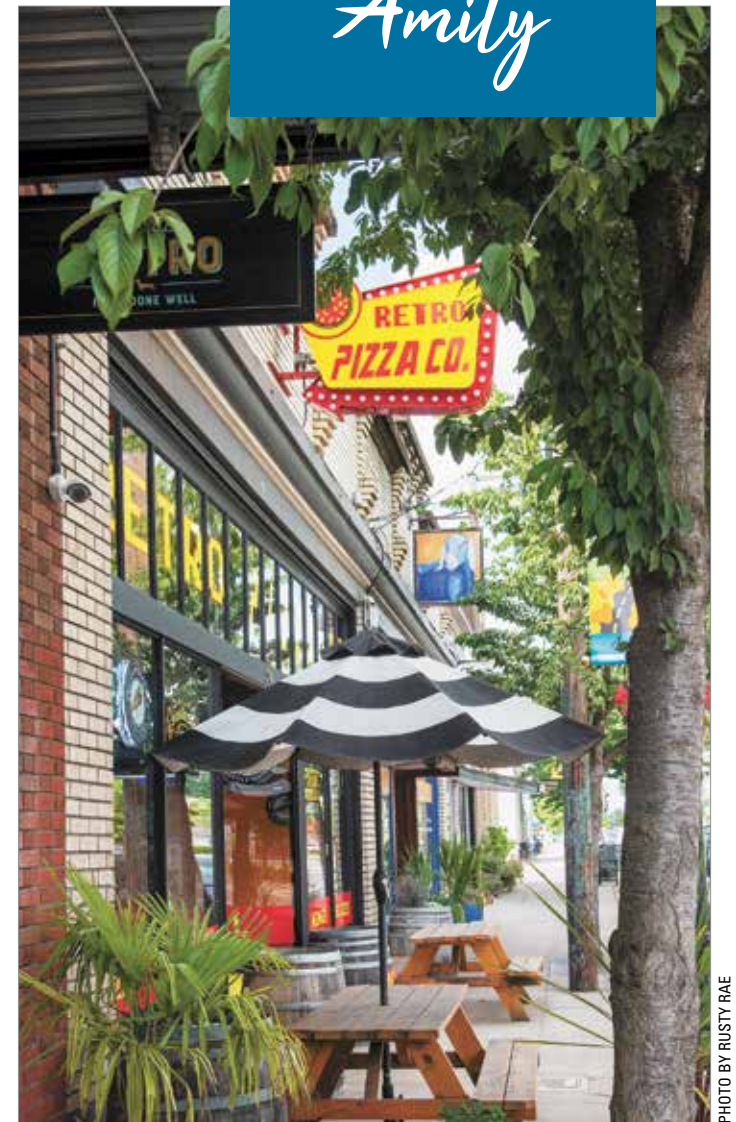


PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE

ABOVE: A stroll through downtown Amity features bistros, wine shops and a retro arcade.

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 Raven Farmstand at the south end on Highway 99W and fudge and truffles of all types at the Brigittine 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. ■

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ABOVE: A waitress carries plates of food through the bar at Carlton Corners. BELOW: Cyclists stop for a glass of wine in front of K&M.

Crush on Carlton

Wine, Food and More

By Starla Pointer

Carlton offers a variety of experiences, including the opportunity to visit numerous wineries and tasting rooms that give the town its reputation as the “Capital of Oregon Wine Country.”

Spend a day walking around this “Great Little Town,” as its entrance signs proclaim, or stay overnight at the Carlton Inn or one of several B&Bs and other lodging options available in town and in the surrounding hills.

While you’re here, be sure to enjoy one of its many eateries, ranging from quick and casual, to fine dining, white tablecloths and all.

While Cuvée and Earth & Sea are just right for special occasions, the Blind Pig and The Horse Radish are perfect

for the weeknight or weekend meals. Those two also provide weekend entertainment, with karaoke every Friday night at the Pig and live bands frequently playing the Radish. Park & Main adds wood-fired pizza and homemade ice cream to the main-street mix.

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 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 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 Porklandia. “In Carlton we like the Porklandia celebration because it’s an opportunity to tie our locally owned businesses with our community and strong agricultural roots,” said Carrie Lawson of the Carlton Business Association, which hosts the event.

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. ■



PHOTO BY STARLA POINTER



PHOTO BY KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

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

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 started 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. ■



PHOTO BY MARCUS LARSON

LEFT: 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.

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. ■



PHOTO BY RUSTY RAE

Creative Spirit

From bricks to timber to a style all its own

By YVVG Staff

Sampling stops on the Coastal Hills Art Tour in November adds layers to an appreciation for Willamina. The quilt show is a good the starter; the old "fabric of the community" line is a cliché, but a workable one.

The town has a subdued vibrancy to it, featuring several centrally located art and historic landmarks. They include the postcard-style mural on D Street, with classic scenes of art, lumber and recreation, and the Walt Mendenhall "Logger" sculpture and Galloping Goose train, both three blocks west. With the latter is a detailed and informative history of



PHOTO BY KIRBY NEUMANN-REA

ABOVE: "Rusty the Logger" sculpture stands tall in the heart of Willamina in honor of "a bygone era."

Willamina's history as a brick-making center.

There's the local history museum, where Gary Brooks' meticulously detailed historical dioramas of Willamina-area lumber and brick-making mills are a sight to behold. The room full of Willamina High School memorabilia is as thorough as any you'll find at a community history facility.

At the West Valley Community Campus, elements remain from its high school days, but the nonprofit that runs it is gradually transforming the facility (and its grounds, home to the town July 4 festivities) into a gathering place used for more activities. The annual Wet Season Concert Series is a

shining example:

The Willamina Farmers Market is open Sundays during the summer months, offering local produce and crafts. Also during the summer, Willamina shows off its timber roots during the annual Old Fashioned 4th of July festival.

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. Live music can also be enjoyed also at Oddfellow's Pizza and the recently unveiled Swan Hall, featuring touring music acts of bluegrass, folk and more. In fact, the local creates who love their town have built a far-reaching reputations as musicians' favorite out-of-the-way places to perform. ■



Historical Goose



WillaminaOregon.gov



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Much to Love

Hallmarks of History and Wine

PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

centered there, along with the popular Dayton Friday Nights each summer. Rucklos said he wants to see economic development spread beyond the park to other parts of the city, as well.

He envisions “Dayton as a destination,” as well as a great place for local people.

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.

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 city broke ground in May 2023 on

the \$7.5 million project.

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.

With all that to build on, Rucklos envisions “Dayton as a destination,” as well as a great place for local people. ■



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

ABOVE LEFT: Rocking out with the community during a Dayton Friday Nights event. ABOVE: Pageantry, music and plenty of traditional food highlight Dayton’s Carnaval de Cinco de Mayo celebration.



By YVVG Staff

Dayton is planning big things, said Dave Rucklos, the city’s new tourism and economic development director.

“I saw the potential” when applying for the newly created Dayton job, he said. “It will be intriguing to build something from the ground up. There’s a thirst there to create activity and commerce.”

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.

One of the town’s staples is the famous Joel Palmer House, known for its truffles and cuisine. The Czarnecki family has offered a fine-dining experience in the house bearing the city founder’s name since 1996.

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, Loam and Juanita’s Café Y Nieveria, offer more diversity in dining selection. For a lighter option, head over to the high school, where Pirates Den offers subs, pizza and coffee.

Much of Dayton’s activities have been tied to Courthouse Square Park, with reunions, concerts and festivals



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2024 Events Calendar

Cinco De Mayo Carnival
Sunday, May 5, 1 pm-7 pm
Courthouse Square Park, Downtown Dayton
Parade, Live Music, Food, Vendors

Dayton Friday Nights
Fridays, June 28-August 30, 5:30 pm-8:30 pm
Courthouse Square Park, Downtown Dayton
Live Music, Food, Vendors

Dayton Fireworks Show
Friday, July 5, 9 pm
Dayton Elementary School
Fireworks Show, Food, Vendors

Old Timers Weekend
July 26-28
Courthouse Square Park, Downtown Dayton
Parade, Live Music, Food, Vendors, BBQ

National Night Out
Tuesday, August 6, 6 pm-8 pm
Palmer Creek Lodge Community Events Center
Food, Laser Tag, Fire and Sheriff Departments

Fall Into Christmas Craft Faire
Friday-Saturday, November 8-9, 9 am-5 pm
Palmer Creek Lodge Community Events Center

Holiday in the Park
Saturday, November 30, 5:30 pm-8 pm
Courthouse Square Park, Downtown Dayton
Music, Tree Lighting, Santa, Free Hot Beverages

www.daytonoregon.gov
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PHOTO BY MARCUS LARSON

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 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 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 continues to grow each May. ■



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



PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON

Community Matters

Local residents share myriad reasons why they love it here

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.

“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

ABOVE: McMinnville celebrates its Farmers Market, one of the oldest and largest in the state of Oregon.

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.

“It’s like Oregon just took everything that is good 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

Living Here

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. Everyday 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



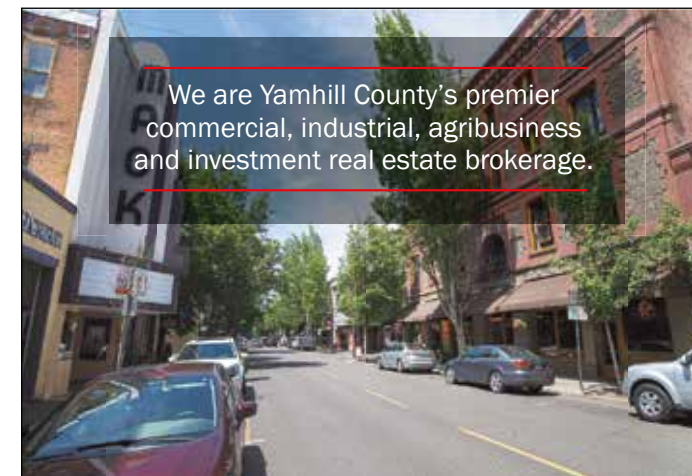
ABOVE: Third Street is affectionately known as "McMinnville's Living Room." During the Summer months, Mac Fresco occurs each weekend, where the street closes to vehicle traffic and visitors can dine, drink and enjoy music in the open air.

pastries."

BALANCED LIVING

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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 congestion.



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Living Here

“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.”

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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 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." ■

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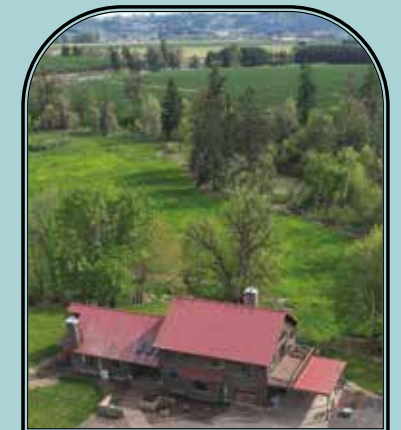
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