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OF THE
YAMHILL
VALLEY

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEWS-REGISTER PUBLISHING CO.

2023





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We’ve come a long way baby! Yes, that’s the classic advertising slogan from the 1968 Phillip Morris ad campaign created by the famous Leo Burnett advertising agency. They may have touted Virginia Slims cigarettes to women back in the day, but little did they know by the 21st century women would have much more important things to think about, to create, and achieve.

It’s an exciting time for working women. The world is changing. Not only are we entering a new dimension in the way we do business, but the work culture is changing and our voices are being heard, recognized, and accepted socially, politically, and economically.

The Yamhill Valley is bursting with women-owned businesses and many are founders and working professionals spotlighted in this issue. I salute all of you. You are taking the actual risks and forging the path for all women who are looking to build their future and make a difference in our community.

My hope is every young girl who aspires to be whatever it is they want to be will be supported and guided by her peers, colleagues, family, neighbors, and friends. The next generation of young woman entering the workforce will have more power than any generation in history and have the ability to achieve anything they set their minds and hearts to.

We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. I believe we are heading in the right direction and that direction is finding what truly inspires us. Whether it be wisdom, freedom, growth, ambition, experiences or knowledge, we have the opportunity to make a positive impact in our community. I’m excited to help feature the women in this publication who make Yamhill Valley a special place to live and work.

STACY HEATHERINGTON
Advertising Manager, News-Register

Terri Hartt

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

**News-Register
Oregon Lithoprint Inc.**

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As accounting assistant at the News-Register and Oregon Lithoprint, Terri Hartt manages the Accounts Receivable department, interoffice management and payroll. She is moving into human resources duties, as well.

She enjoys the people and the company. “Contrary to popular belief, this kind of job has so much variety,” she said. “I never know what I will be facing from one week to another.”

She came to Oregon Lithoprint after working in the machinery maintenance field for several years. She wanted a career change that would let her expand her knowledge and grow. “I knew this would be something I would love doing with my time,” she said.

Hartt grew up in Tiller, a very small town in Douglas County, then moved to slightly larger, but still rural Riddle for middle and high school. She went on to Umpqua Community College. Over the years, she has attended many leadership courses, team-building roundtables and production training courses.

She loves gold panning, geology and enjoying local lakes and rivers. Someday, she hopes to buy property in the Amity or Carlton areas.

DID WE MISS YOU?

Contact us today to be included in next year’s *Women of the Yamhill Valley*

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Elizabeth Penrose

CPA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

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Elizabeth Penrose is a CPA practicing locally since 1995 who calls the beautiful Yamhill Valley home. Enjoying challenges, the constantly changing aspects of the tax and accounting profession fits perfectly. A graduate of Linfield, Elizabeth appreciates serving a diverse clientele including small businesses, individuals, non-profits and government agencies. She values serving clients in retirement who often have unique situations and needs, as well as those in the field of special needs and disabilities. In her leisure time, Elizabeth spends time traveling and exploring outdoors with family and friends.



Kathleen (Kathy) Bernards

CPA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

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Kathy Bernards had a desire to work in a profession where she could make a difference in the lives of people in her community. Since public accountants help individuals and businesses be good stewards of their hard-earned assets, the career fit for Kathy was perfect. As the sole owner of a firm that employs other para-professionals, Kathy enjoys watching them carve their own niches of service to the community.

Kathy most appreciates the interaction she has with clients in very personal matters – the opportunity to help clients discern what is really important, then chart a path to reach those goals. She enjoys helping people discover that philanthropy can make a big difference in their communities while reducing tax liability. Her firm also provides attestation, tax planning, and retirement planning services to businesses.

Kathy earned her degree at Linfield College and has worked as a CPA in McMinnville since 1976. Married for 48 years, she and her husband have three adult children. Kathy serves on various community boards and committees and participates in church and community choirs.

Bernards, CPA

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Teresa Smith

VICE PRESIDENT
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503.474.9441

Teresa Smith knows the value of a strong local economy. As vice president and commercial loan officer at Citizens Bank in McMinnville, Teresa enjoys helping people make their dreams become reality by creating successful businesses. Teresa's greatest reward is seeing her clients grow and achieve success.

Teresa grew up in McMinnville and has over 40 years of banking experience. She tries to make the borrowing experience as painless as possible as she coaches individuals through the process.

Teresa is also Board President of Community Home Builders, which assists low to moderate income families build their own homes. In the 30 years as President, they have assisted over 260 families achieve home ownership throughout Yamhill County. She has a passion for making McMinnville a better place to live by being on the boards of McMinnville Industrial Promotions, McMinnville Economic Development Partnership, Visit McMinnville, and the McMinnville Noon Rotary.

Teresa and her husband, Duane, have been married for 44 years and have two grown sons and two granddaughters. When she's not serving her clients, Teresa loves spending time with her husband, gardening or competing on her cutting horse.

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Sandy Willius

VICE PRESIDENT &
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Sandy Willius has a strong desire to help others and make a difference. She has found a perfect way to do that as vice president and commercial loan officer at Citizens Bank. Her job entails building long-term relationships with customers, working with local businesses to help them succeed and providing customized lending solutions. She works with a variety of types of lending, including real estate, equipment and inventory loans as well as working capital lines of credit.

Sandy has more than 29 years in the banking industry, 12 of them at Citizens Bank. Her experience has given her great respect and admiration for business owners. She is happy to be part of the amazing team at Citizens Bank. She admires how they collaborate to find financing solutions that help businesses grow.

Outside of work, Sandy is active in the McMinnville Kiwanis Club. She and her husband have a daughter and a son. Sandy enjoys spending time with her family and friends, and going to the beach.



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Emily Wood
 CLINIC DIRECTOR
 PHYSICAL THERAPIST

**Therapeutic Associates
 Ability Physical Therapy**
TherapeuticAssociates.com/AbilityPT
 2191 NW Second St, Bldg 4, McMinnville
 503.434.9594

After undergoing rehabilitation from several injuries herself, Emily Wood, clinic director at Therapeutic Associates Ability Physical Therapy in McMinnville, knew the importance of recovery.

She knew, as well, that she wanted to help other people reach their recovery goals. So the Medford native studied exercise science at Willamette University and went on to earn a doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Southern California.

Emily is an orthopedic clinical specialist, a ASTYM certified provider and certified manual physical therapist. Emily achieved her Pelvic Rehabilitation Practitioner Certification (PRPC) in 2022 from the Herman and Wallace Institute and is treating both men and women for pelvic conditions in her community.

She enjoys working with members of the fantastic team at Ability Physical Therapy, who are like a second family to her. They support one another in their efforts to have a positive impact on patients who come in for recovery or proactive therapy. They help patients in a warm therapeutic pool, as well as using other equipment and techniques.

Emily lives in McMinnville with her husband, Kevin, their young son and daughter, and golden retriever, Theo. She enjoys traveling, hiking, running and skiing.



Clarissa Freeman
 PHYSICAL THERAPIST

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Clarissa received her Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Regis University in Denver, Colorado. Before that she spent time all over the country growing up as a military kid, including a few years abroad in England. She has always been active, beginning her fitness journey with gymnastics, then to water sports into cycling and triathlons and eventually into CrossFit.

During college, Clarissa played rugby and became a certified CrossFit coach. After graduating with her Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science, Clarissa continued to coach CrossFit and ultimately decided to go to Physical Therapy school. The coaching background in Clarissa's life plays a role in her approach to physical therapy. She recently completed an Orthopedic Residency to become a Board Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist. She is passionate about mentoring patients to facilitate an understanding of movement and activity.

Apart from physical therapy, Clarissa loves to lift, run, bike and paddleboard. She is passionate about training her dogs. She always loves a challenge. She continues to coach CrossFit part-time.



Natalia Casiano
 PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

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Natalia Casiano discovered her career when she was going through physical therapy and saw all kinds of people working hard to heal with the help of therapists. "That was my light bulb moment," she said. "I wanted to be a part of this world."

Today, she is a physical therapist assistant at Therapeutic Associates Ability Physical Therapy, in McMinnville, where she's worked for five years. Her job involves treating musculoskeletal injuries and dysfunctions through manual techniques and exercises.

Ability Physical Therapy has orthopedic, neurological and pelvic specialties. Like many other providers at Ability Physical Therapy, Casiano is on course to becoming a pelvic health specialist.

She is pleased to be able to relate to patients on a personal level and loves watching people improve from their first day to their last.

Casiano grew up on Bainbridge Island, Washington. She graduated in 2018 from Pima Medical Institute in Seattle. She recently married her partner, another Yamhill County physical therapist assistant. They met in school when her son was two; he's now 9 years old.

She enjoys hiking, camping and swimming with her family during the sunny months of the year.



Caroline Strode
 PT
 PHYSICAL THERAPIST

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As a physical therapist at Therapeutic Associates Ability Physical Therapy, Caroline Strode enjoys meeting community members and helping them heal. She wants them to be able to return to the activities they enjoy.

She said she appreciates being able to practice in McMinnville, where she has a opportunity to work with a variety of patients. They range from older people who are focusing on balance or recovering from falls, to young athletes who want to get back to their sports.

"I personally enjoy learning about neurological conditions and helping people navigate and return to daily activities after a life-changing event such as a stroke," she said.

Strode has a bachelor of science degree from the University of Missouri - Columbia, and a doctorate in physical therapy from George Fox University in Newberg.

She joined Therapeutic Associates Ability Physical Therapy in 2015 as an exercise specialist. After finishing her doctorate, she returned as a physical therapist in 2021.

Strode was born and raised in Missouri. She came to McMinnville in 2015.

She enjoys spending time outdoors with her daughter, Wynne. She and her husband also enjoy playing golf at Michelbook Country Club.



Robin Scherrinsky
 PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

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Physical therapist assistant Robin Scherrinsky understands the value of using exercise as medicine to heal patients' bodies and improve their quality of life.

She first learned the benefits of physical therapy when she was young. After suffering an injury, she needed physical therapy in order to resume ballet.

She realized then that she wanted to work in healthcare, specifically in physical therapy.

Scherrinsky, who grew up in Dubuque, Iowa, earned a bachelors of science degree in kinesiology and health, and an associate of science degree in physical therapist assisting.

She said she loves her job and her co-workers at Therapeutic Associates Inc.

"Every day is different. I consistently have to be creative and think on my feet," said Scherrinsky, who has advanced training in pelvic physical therapy.

No matter what her job requires on a given day, it always leads to helping people feel better, she said.

Scherrinsky lives in McMinnville. She enjoys wine tasting, dancing, traveling, and being outdoors. She plans to continue her career in physical therapy. Twenty years from now, she hopes to be married with children and to own some property, too.



Starla Pointer
 REPORTER

News-Register
NewsRegister.com
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 503.687.1263

Starla Pointer has enjoyed watching the community grow and change during her 39 years as a reporter for the News-Register.

She loves knowing what's happening and, especially, talking with the many people she meets through her work: all sorts of people, each with a unique story to tell.


It's her job to find those stories, present them to readers and help community members get to know one another.

A Linfield graduate, Pointer has covered many topics over the years. Her main beats are education — she has covered seven different superintendents with the McMinnville School District — and the arts; she recently added the Along the Street business column to her areas of responsibility.

People are at the heart of every story she writes, whether she is detailing the actions of those who serve on local boards and councils or celebrating the honors received in the Distinguished Service Awards. Each week, she focuses on someone for her Stopping By column. She's been writing weekly Stopping By stories since 1996: more than 1,300 of them so far!

When she's not writing, Pointer enjoys swimming, taking walks, reading and spending time with her husband and cats.

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Stacy Martin

PRINCIPAL BROKER, OWNER

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708 N Baker St, McMinnville
503.560.2144

Stacy Martin and Jen Feero continued their long standing real estate careers when they opened the business Baker Street Real Estate in 2022. The Baker Street Real Estate team have been doing business for many years in the Dutch Colonial Building located at 708 NE Baker Street and continue to support their clients through the process of buying and selling real estate. It is the long time connections to Yamhill County that allow the Baker Street Real Estate Agents to provide top-notch service.

A long time real estate agent and lifelong resident of Yamhill Valley, Stacy has proven time and time again that she is a seasoned expert in helping home buyers, home sellers and investors. Stacy shepherds her clients through the process of buying and selling. It is this special connection to the community and the years of experience as a negotiator, mediator and marketing specialist that allows Stacy to give every client personalized service. Mary Martin, Stacy's mother and longtime agent, has passed down to Stacy that the client's needs are her needs and that clients can become longtime friends.

Stacy is a graduate of Wester Oregon University and Portland State University. A small business owner and former educator, Stacy is keen to support children and the beautiful community in which she lives. In her spare time, Stacy is active in community events, and enjoys taking in the Yamhill Valley life in its restaurants, shops, and outdoor activities.



Jen Feero

BROKER, OWNER

Baker Street Real Estate

708 N Baker St, McMinnville
503.708.2658

Stacy Martin and Jen Feero continued their long standing real estate careers when they opened the business Baker Street Real Estate in 2022. The Baker Street Real Estate team have been doing business for many years in the Dutch Colonial Building located at 708 NE Baker Street and continue to support their clients through the process of buying and selling real estate. It is the long time connections to Yamhill County that allow the Baker Street Real Estate Agents to provide top-notch service.

Jen Feero has a passion for Yamhill County life which makes her a perfect ambassador for people interested in moving to the community. A McMinnville native, Jen considers herself lucky to be a part of this amazing community which is always changing, growing and giving. Jen knows the towns of Yamhill County, the dining, shopping, art, education and offerings in the area.

A graduate of the University of Oregon, small business owner, long time member of the McMinnville Downtown Association, and realtor for 10 years, Jen has terrific experience in business, marketing, and helping buyers and sellers navigate the buying and selling of their homes and properties. She is extremely hard working and is passionate about meeting the needs of her clients. Jen was deeply honored to be named the Outstanding Junior City in 2018, is active on the Visit McMinnville Board and a part of a family owned business on Historic Third Street. In her spare time, Jen enjoys time with friends, her three lovable labradoodles, reading and gardening.



Kerry Hoffman

DPT


Andrew Physical Therapy

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503.435.1900

Born and raised in Montana, Kerry is now happy to call Oregon home. She attended the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, earning her Bachelors in Athletic Training in 2019 and continuing on to achieve her Doctor of Physical Therapy in 2022.

Kerry enjoys treating patients of all ages and conditions, with a passion especially for pelvic health and orthopedic pediatrics. She enjoys building relationship with each and every one of her patients and developing personalized care to help others live a healthy and optimal lifestyle they enjoy.

In her spare time, Kerry enjoys spending time with family, friends, cooking, and keeping up an active lifestyle. She loves hiking, running, biking, weight lifting, backpacking, and skiing and is excited to explore all Oregon has to offer.



Whitney Anderson Gonzalez

DPT


Andrew Physical Therapy

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Whitney grew up playing sports locally and graduated from Willamina High School in 2014. She then played collegiate basketball at Willamette University in Salem, and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science in 2018. Whitney finished her Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania, in 2021.

Whitney returned to the area she grew up with her husband, Agustin. She enjoys being active, especially when it involves the outdoors. Hiking and snowboarding are among her favorite hobbies. Whitney also likes training CrossFit and learning about health and wellness.

Whitney enjoys working with people of all ages to personalize their recovery, in both English and Spanish. She is happy to use her knowledge of exercise and movement and her hands-on skills to help others.



Beth Caster

PRINCIPAL BROKER

**Keller Williams Portland Premiere
Keller Williams Realty**

bethcaster.kw.com
220 NE 7th St, McMinnville
971.241.2509

When Beth Caster discovered the Yamhill Valley in the early 1990s, she fell in love with the rich assortment of vibrant communities that populate this picturesque corner of Oregon. In the 29 years that she's called McMinnville home, Beth has made it her mission to share her affection for the people, products and property that make this area so special.

"I love what I do!" says Beth. "I can't wait to get up in the morning and go to work each day!"

Beth is a full-time, full-service REALTOR® who uses her infectious enthusiasm for this area to showcase some of the valley's outstanding properties, both large and small. Possessed of a deeply-rooted commitment to excellent customer service, she goes out of her way to give her clients what they need. "I am always available when my clients need me," says Beth.

A naturally creative and energetic person, Beth knows the field of real estate is the perfect fit for her. "I love that, in the course of any day, I can go from showing a modest home in town to a luxury home on acreage that has spectacular views of the valley," she says. According to Beth, no two days are ever alike, no two deals are ever alike and no customers are ever alike. "It is a constant opportunity to learn, grow and create possibilities every day," she says.

Beth has a unique outlook when it comes to things local — a perspective that can benefit her clients. "Prior to becoming a REALTOR®, I was a retail store owner, an artist and a freelance writer," she says. Beth's popular wine column ran in the News-Register for years. Today, Beth focuses most of her inventive energy on her work but she still tries to make time to create. "I am an avid knitter and fiber enthusiast," she says. Beth is the recipient of the 2022 McMinnville Downtown Association Rose Marie Caughran Volunteer of the Year Award.

Beth maintains offices at 220 NE 7th St. in McMinnville. She can be reached via telephone at 971-241-2509 or by email at beth@bethcaster.com.

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Kristen Stoller

CEO
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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826 SE 1st St. McMinnville
311 E. First St. Newberg
1363 Edgewater St NW Salem
503.537.3902

Kristen Stoller has been the CEO and artistic director of the Chehalem Valley Dance Academy in McMinnville, Newberg, and West Salem. “I get to watch our young humans grow and evolve through dance,” she said. “I get to witness them finding their voice, their strength, and their place in the world.” Dancers learn to smile through challenges, communicate in a myriad of ways, accept critical feedback and work not only in a team, but individually, she said.

The 2000 McMinnville High School graduate knows. She grew up dancing and started teaching dance 22 years ago, when she was a teen. Fourteen years ago, she became the owner of CVDA. As the studio owner, she choreographs, produces and directs CVDA’s competition teams; produces and directs its annual benefit performance of “The Nutcracker,” which has donated over \$200,000 to local non-profits in 11 years; and manages the staff and curriculum programs, strategic partnerships, community outreach and general operations — all with the help of her amazing team, she said. Stoller is active in the McMinnville and Chehalem Valley Chambers of Commerce, the Newberg and McMinnville downtown organizations, and dance-related organizations such as the International Dance Entrepreneur Association and the Dance Studio Owners Association. Stoller also enjoys cooking, entertaining and, most of all, her family: her husband, Francisco Stoller, and daughters, Vada, 16, Riley, 14, and Stella, 8.



Kelly Weir

STACKER OPERATOR

**Hampton Lumber
Willamina Division**
Hamptonlumber.com
1000 Willamina Creek Road, Willamina
503.876.1314

As a stacker operator at Hampton Lumber’s Willamina Division, Kelly Weir runs a machine that stacks rough-cut lumber for transport to the mill’s planer.

She’s responsible for making sure the boards are placed correctly to ensure no cross-ups that could create broken boards or unstable loads.


Weir, who’s been with Hampton for a year, loves her job with the mill and her coworkers, as well. But she didn’t set out to work in the lumber industry; instead, after growing up in North Bend, she trained to be a certified esthetician.




She learned about Hampton Lumber after moving to the Willamina area. It fit her desire to work for a family-owned company that contributed to the community and cared about its employees.

As a stacker operator, she especially enjoys working both inside and outside. “I can see what the weather is doing all the time!” she said.

She also likes working independently while knowing she has that support from the mill’s team. “The opportunities available at Hampton are exciting,” she said.

Weir loves the outdoors. She has summited Mt. Hood and hiked the Grand Canyon. She also enjoys animals, gardening and fishing, along with spending time with her husband.






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Becky Turner

PERFORMANCE MANAGER

J&W CARSTAR

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Becky Turner describes herself as “a solutions-oriented forward thinker who listens to learn, and who specializes in client/customer collaboration and top-notch customer service.” Those qualities make her perfect for her jobs as owner, president and certified medical revenue manager at PBT Practice Solutions, LLC, and as performance manager at J&W Collision Repair Center.

She oversees JW Carstar's financial and production efficiency. At PBT, she helps private practice doctors streamline their business, maximize profitability, reduce claims rejection, code reviews, market their services, HIPAA compliance tracking and other issues. “I like knowing the solutions I provide help doctors spend more time and focus with patients and take the worry out of running their business,” she said.

Turner grew up in a small Ohio town in the heart of Amish country. She graduated from Berkshire High School in 1997 and The Ohio State University in 2001. She is a member of the McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Turner lives in McMinnville with her husband and 4-year-old daughter. She enjoys running, spending time with her family, traveling, walking her dogs, reading and listening to stories and podcasts. In the future, she would like to be a camp host.



Heather Ankeny

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Oregon Lithoprint Inc.

Oregonlitho.com
1315 NE Miller St, McMinnville
503.687.1210

Heather Ankeny loves working and interacting with people on a daily basis. No wonder she chose to become a customer service representative.

At Oregon Lithoprint Inc, a printing company in McMinnville, Ankeny is responsible for producing job plans so the OLI production crew can meet its customers' expectations. She also takes care of invoicing and general customer service.

The best part of her job, she said, is “the company I work for, my customers, and the people I get to work with every day.”

With 20 years of customer service experience already under her belt, she plans to continue growing within Oregon Lithoprint and the industry.

Born in Southern California, she moved to Eugene during her freshman year of high school.

The mother of “one amazing teenage boy,” Ankeny has lived in McMinnville for about five years. “Its beautiful out here,” she said. “It's like living in the country, but you're only a hop, skip and a jump to the big city of Portland or to the coast.”

She and her son enjoy hanging out together, going camping and playing disc golf.



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Cami Nyquist
MACHUB DIRECTOR



Mary Martin Miller

CCIM
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With an extensive background in operations management with several Fortune 500 manufacturing firms, Mary Martin Miller was exposed to problem solving and working for common solutions through teamwork early in her career. She was responsible for her crew, efficiency, and problem solving using analytical tools and the know how of her team. The results were great since the team's input was always part of the solution. Mary went on to earn her MBA in Finance at a “Top 25 Business School”. When she returned to manufacturing operations, she continued to hone her teamwork skills. In 2001, Mary entered the commercial real estate arena and worked in several commercial brokerages in Salem and Portland. She was fortunate to have had several seasoned mentors, who helped her to learn, all the while doing deals in Yamhill County, where she has lived for the past 30 years.

In 2010, Mary attained her CCIM, Certified Commercial Investment Member designation, and the following year she launched Miller Consulting Group, LLC, specializing in Commercial and Investment Real Estate with a focus on Yamhill County and the Willamette Valley. Her team is responsible for many commercial sales, leasing and consulting deals working for local clients with a focus on collaboration to find solutions that work for our local businesses. When she is not helping clients, she loves spending time with her family, volunteering at the Chehalem Cultural Center, and giving her time to local, non for-profit groups. Mary enjoys reading, music and cooking when she is not working on a community event in her free time.



Cami Nyquist

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Swedemom Center of Giving, Swedemom LLC, MacHub

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When Cami Nyquist founded Swedemom.com 23 years ago, she planned to run a global web-based business. She has succeeded; in fact, Swedemom.com was selected by eBay as a top, values-driven seller for their 25th anniversary.

But she also has found ways to enrich the community in which she grew up by adding a charitable arm, Swedemom Center of Giving, which was named 2020 Workforce Partner of the Year by the McMinnville Economic Development Partnership. She also helped found and grow MacHub.

“To be known by your community makes integrity all the more important,” she said. “Having the support of my community is tremendous, and I realize I couldn't do any of this without that support.”

Nyquist graduated from Mac High in 1981, went on to North Park University in Chicago, then finished a bachelor's degree in communications in 1985 at the University of Oregon. Entrepreneurial by nature, she has been a marketplace platform developer since 1999.

“I try to live my brand: it's about simplicity, compassion and caring,” she said. “Wherever I am, I will be encouraging people to come together and help each other out.” She enjoys music, being outdoors and identifying plants and animals.

The Provoking Hope Project

The mission of our project:

Provide a safe, sober and supportive environment, to the residents of Oregon's Willamette Valley, to help those struggling with addictions to transition onto the path of recovery.

All services are free of charge

Relapse Prevention | Housing Assistance | Transportation to Appointments
Substance Abuse Education | Support Groups



213 NE 10th Street, McMinnville
971.261.2259 | Fax: 503.883.9647
www.ProvokingHope.com



Bobbie Wert

RESPONSIBLE FAMILIES PROGRAM

MANAGER

Provoking Hope

Provokinghope.com
213 NE 10th St., McMinnville, OR 97128
971.253.4687

Bobbie Wert had a difficult childhood herself, but she is making up for that by helping others, especially children, through the Provoking Hope Family Center.

"I love hearing how happy kids are when they return every week," she said. "Seeing them use skills I have taught them to communicate in a safe way is so amazing! I know beyond a shadow of a doubt this program is changing their lives."

Provoking Hope works with the whole family, not just children, to "help them heal, cope and succeed together," she noted. Wert, 43, started babysitting at age 12. "I just always felt so peaceful when I was around kids," she said.

She realized she can show children someone truly cares for them. "Watching them learn healthy boundaries and ways to process their feelings in a safe way really brightens my world," she said.

Wert earned her GED in 2010. She has completed many trainings since joining Provoking Hope. Her job includes managing several program facilitators, the care coordinator who runs family self-help groups, "and my amazing assistant," she said.

She lives in McMinnville with her husband of 26 years. She loves spending time with her family, including her grandnieces and grandnephew.



Connie Crafton

CIRCULATION MANAGER
FRONT OFFICE CLERK

News-Register

NewsRegister.com
1315 NE Miller St, McMinnville
503.687.1236

Connie Crafton, circulation manager and front desk clerk at the News-Register, enjoys making sure customers — including many who are now friends — get the answers and outcomes they are seeking.

"Having my hands in so many different departments keeps me hopping and the push to meet deadlines keeps me focused," she said. Crafton is responsible for all aspects of circulation, classified, obituaries and legal notices. She answers phones and greets everyone who walks in the News-Register's front door.

Once office work was the last thing she saw herself doing. At Newberg High, she recalled, "my Office Procedures in the Workplace class and I did not get along at all."

When her son started a News-Register paper route that grew to more than 200 customers, the whole family became involved. Then-circulation manager Roger Williams suggested she apply for an opening. "Twenty-three years later, I think I have the hang of it," she said.

Crafton and her husband of 43 years, Ron, live in McMinnville. They have three sons, a daughter-in-law and three grandchildren. She also is a hairdresser at Friendsview Manor in Newberg. She enjoys gardening and crafting, Trail Blazers basketball, church and her family.



Nicolette Nickolaou

OWNER

Youngberg Hill Inn & Winery

youngberghill.com
10660 SW Youngberg Hill Rd, McMinnville, OR
503.472.2727

Nicolette Nickolaou took a leap of faith in 2003, leaving her familiar home of Chicago, she loaded up her family, and moved to the Willamette Valley to make wine. Having found Youngberg Hill, she knew she had found her future, forging a dream come true.

Nicolette and her partner, Wayne (winemaker/winegrower), rolled up their sleeves and put their heart and soul into making the best wines by focusing on creating a sustainable vineyard. Through loving improvements to the vineyard and expansion to over 23 acres under vine, they forged ahead with solid and stable winemaking practices resulting in award-winning wines.

While Wayne focused on farming and winemaking, Nicolette concentrated on company direction, brand building, and product expansion. Nicolette inspired the development of more than just Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, expanding the Youngberg Hill label to include Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Chardonnay, Rosé, Grenache, Syrah, Port, Sparkling Wine, and the wineries reserve label, Bailey Family Wines.

In addition, she has developed and created many events at the vineyard that locals and visitors look forward to every year.

For more information about Youngberg Hill or Bailey Family Wines, visit youngberghill.com



Rachel Thompson

PHOTOGRAPHER

News-Register

NewsRegister.com
1315 NE Miller St, McMinnville
503.687.1293

Rachel Thompson joined the News-Register in 2022. She is responsible not just for taking photos for the newspaper, but also for photo processing, archiving and studio work.

She fell in love with photojournalism while studying at Pacific Union College, where she earned a degree in photography. It gave her "a means of exposing hard truths, affecting change and contributing to the world in a meaningful way," she said.

Her job allows her to meet people of all ages and backgrounds, "often times at the point of their passions ... living out their dreams, finding their way, making a way for others." Every day is a new adventure, she said, recalling that one day she photographed a 101st birthday celebration, and five days later the first baby of 2023.

She feels she is "living in and documenting history each day," she said, adding, "It's a profound honor and responsibility."

Thompson grew up by turns in Wheeling, West Virginia, and Hilo, Hawaii, with a year in China in between. She lives in McMinnville, where she is close to her family. She enjoys cross-cultural experiences, cooking, eating, kayaking, road trips, worshipping Jesus and serving in ministries to kids and teens.

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