

Yamhill Valley
News-Register

WEDNESDAY May 23, 2012 • \$1 *Keeping you connected since 1866* **McMinnville, Oregon** 147th year, No. 41

Mac united in authorizing bypass bite

By **NICOLE MONTESANO**
Of the News-Register

Twenty people testified Tuesday night on what financial role McMinnville should play in the first phase of construction on the Newberg-Dundee Bypass, as a masked protester stood at the back of the chamber holding a placard expressing his opposition. Eleven of those offering oral testimony favored the proposal before the council, which calls for

the city to contribute \$3.2 million to the project over the next 20 to 25 years, while eight opposed it. The remaining witness, local real estate broker Alan Baker, touted an alternative backed by a group of private businessmen — a toll road spanning the Willamette River and then running through Marion County farmland to Interstate 5. But not even the presence of the masked protester stirred open passions. The crowd seemed unusu-

ally sedate. All members of the council expressed support for the bypass, whose first phase is expected to run well over \$200 million. However, some of them balked over the local match share the city was being asked to shoulder, as it exceeds the combined shares of Newberg and Dundee. A plea from prominent local attorney and civic leader Dave Haugeberg, who is chairing the

county's Parkway Committee, ultimately turned the tide. He said newly elected congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici plans to speak with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood about the project today, and a vote of support from McMinnville would provide valuable leverage. With members of the local business community echoing Haugeberg, councilors swallowed their reservations and unanimously

approved the payment terms as presented. Plans call for McMinnville to join Newberg, Dundee and Yamhill County in borrowing \$16 million from the state Transportation Department for the first phase of a proposed 11-mile, four-lane parkway — a 3.5-mile, two-lane stretch running from northern Newberg to southern Dundee. The

See **BYPASS**, A8

"They came from everywhere."

Ginger Williams
McMinnville Downtown Association



Star Wars characters roam Third Street at the 13th annual UFO Festival, which drew large crowds to downtown McMinnville.

Joel Ray/News-Register

A vivid invasion

More peaceful participants than ever materialize for UFO Fest Parade

By **KARL KLOOSTER**
Of the News-Register

Like clockwork — not to be confused with A Clockwork Orange — creatures from distant worlds were inexplicably drawn to McMinnville once again last Saturday. For the lucky 13th consecutive year, these unearthly beings set foot, claw, pad and tentacle on our downtown streets. McMinnville Downtown Association operative Ginger Williams, on assignment to observe, monitor and even interact organizationally with all manner of sentient life forms, was debriefed in the aftermath.

"They came from everywhere," Williams gasped, barely able to maintain her composure after such a taxing ordeal. "Word has apparently gotten out over the intergalactic communications network, and they're determined to make a show of force."



Parade-goers roam Third Street before the parade.

Joel Ray/News-Register

According to her calculations, the 2012 parade established a new record for entries at 55 and individual participants at 619. By comparison, the 2009 parade

logged 37 entries and 349 individuals. Williams expressed both elation and consternation at the prospect of continued increases. "Being

able to have positive encounters with even more humanoids and other intelligent beings is exciting, but the logistics may become challenging."

Pointing out that the growth of such an event is necessarily restricted by the size limitations of McMinnville's central district, she mentioned that this year, the parade route was expanded to Fourth Street to accommodate more attendees.

"Not only were there more exotic aliens this year," Williams said, "but more curious humans came to welcome them."

The homo sapiens gawking in awe and wonder at the extraterrestrials and their bizarre vehicles passing by lined Third Street five deep. Observers who elected to view the scene from Fourth Street sidewalks enjoyed less crowded

See **INVASION**, A2

Bicyclist dies after Hwy. 18 crash

By **PAUL DAQUILANTE**
Of the News-Register

FORT HILL — A bicyclist from Camas, Wash., died Saturday night at Salem Hospital of injuries suffered earlier in the day when the cancer patient was struck by a pickup just east of the Fort Hill Restaurant.

The Oregon State Police identified him as 65-year-old Steven Y. Dayley. He was transported to the hospital by a Reach Air Medical Services helicopter following the 2:30 p.m. crash.

Senior Trooper Bridget Taylor gave this account:

Dayley had joined cyclists participating in the 22nd annual "Reach the Beach" bike ride, an American Lung Association fundraiser featuring four different routes of varying lengths and degrees of difficulty, each finishing in Pacific City.

However, he was not an official entrant. He just joined up on his own.

Dayley was westbound on the right shoulder of the highway in an area congested with weekend traffic when he was struck by a westbound Chevrolet Avalanche driven by Fred M. Moore III, 24.

See **BICYCLIST**, A8

Man jailed for threats, break-in

By **PAUL DAQUILANTE**
Of the News-Register

A McMinnville man faces charges stemming from incidents involving a female acquaintance whom he's allegedly been harassing for some time. The suspect reportedly threatened to shoot and kill her.



Rocha

Oscar Martin Rocha, 24, of 550 Border Lane, was arraigned in Yamhill County Circuit Court on one count each of first-degree burglary, a Class A felony; second-degree robbery, a Class B felony; and misdemeanor counts of menacing and possession of a controlled substance/marijuana within 1,000 feet of a school.

Through those actions, police said, he also violated terms of 18 months probation meted to him on convictions from October on one count of fourth-degree domestic assault and two counts of harassment, both misdemeanors.

Judge Cal Tichenor set bail at \$220,000. He appointed McMinnville attorney Mark Lawrence to handle Rocha's defense.

Officer Brendi Galloway gave

See **JAIL**, A8

Restaurant hearing resumes today

By **MOLLY WALKER**
Of the News-Register

A show cause civil hearing Tuesday in a dispute between Los Molcajetes restaurant owners Rogelio S. Gutierrez, Oscar Diaz-Higareda and Francisco Gutierrez-Martinez and building owner Jack Thornton was originally scheduled to run four hours.

But it ended up taking much of Judge Ronald Stone's day in Yamhill County Circuit Court, and then being continued to 9 this morning

for additional testimony. At least two witnesses remained on hand throughout the Tuesday proceedings without getting the chance to testify. They were scheduled to return this morning.

Attorney Robert Johnstone initiated the case on behalf of the plaintiffs, who filed suit against Thornton after he locked them out of the premises. He is seeking to turn a temporary restraining order issued last week by Judge Cal Tichenor into a preliminary injunction, pending

resolution of the suit. Thornton is being represented by attorney Erin Walters. The restaurant owners are alleging breach of contract and lease agreement, petitioning for injunctive relief, petitioning continued right of occupancy through the lease's Dec. 31 expiration and seeking award of both actual and punitive damages from Thornton, along with reimbursement of legal fees.

When Tichenor granted the temporary restraining order, he scheduled a show cause hearing designed to give Thornton a chance to show why the order should not be continued until the case can be heard. Thornton locked the plaintiffs out after they failed to respond to a demand from him for payment of \$20,000 to cover repair and cleanup work he deemed necessary to maintain the property. They cited on-site inspections by a city officials and private contractor in rebuttal.