

FREE
Take One!

West Valley Bulletin Board

December 24, 2025 Weekly Publication Serving Sheridan, Willamina, and Grand Ronde Vol. 11, No. 45

Nicole Pugh owner & Janos Vamos journalist • bulletinwestvalley@gmail.com • (503) 687-3000 • 136 E. Main Street, Sheridan

Faulconer-Chapman School Squeeze in One of Two Concerts Before Storm

The Faulconer Chapman School was all set to perform their Winter Concert, with Kindergarten through 3rd grade kicking off the first evening of entertainment on December 17, and the 5th-8th grade band and choir concert following up the next evening. Mother Nature had other ideas, rolling a storm in through on December 18, causing the school to cancel the second night performance.

The School was able to knock out the first night of entertainment under the direction of Zack Vinyard, in his first year as the music teacher for Faulconer-Chapman K-3. The combined kindergarten and 1st grade choir kicked off the evening with Snowflake, Snowflake, and Let's Build a Gingerbread House, followed by a sing-along with the crowd of Frosty the Snowman and Jingle Bells. After a 15 minute intermission

to allow parents to gather up their enthusiastic children, it was time for the 2nd and 3rd graders to take the spotlight. The choir opened up with Golden Ribbons. They then sang The Reindeer Twist, a little number that had the kids showing off their dance moves on stage. The song also featured solos from Adrian Ayala, Harper Vesper, Amira Ben El Aali, Aria Aguayo, Ariana Victor, Alexander Martin, Willow Brown, Aria Lent, and Hazel Johansen.

Next up was the classic You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch, which had singing solos by Paisley Duarte and Grace Schilling, and speaking solos by Everly Phillips, Caden Rayback, Bradley Thomas, and Abigail Ables.

The young choir finished off the evening with two sing-along songs, Winter Wonderland and Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree.

The 5th-8th-grade concert was

anceled due to weather and rescheduled for January 8 at 6 p.m. in the FCS new gym. A guitar raffle will also take place at the concert, with raffle tickets at \$5 each. The drawing will be held at the end of the performance, and the winner must be present to receive the prize.



Zack Vinyard leads the Faulconer-Chapman K-1 choir during their winter concert. It is Zack's first year as K-3 music teacher.



The Faulconer-Chapman 2nd and 3rd-grade choir are all attentive on their director as they prepare to perform in front of family and friends during their Winter Concert on December 17.

Hofenbredl Realty, LLC



Barbara Hofenbredl
Principal Broker/Owner
Cell: 503-910-9261
barbhofenbredl@yahoo.com



NEW LISTING!

Beautiful 4 bedroom 4.5 bath home on 1.31 acres. Kitchen has granite countertops and SS appliances. Vaulted exposed beam family room with back deck access. Main floor master bed with bathroom and double closet. Lower level has a large rec/living space, separate entrance, non-conforming 4th bedroom, downstairs pantry and bar area. Laundry room w/utility sink, breakfast nook, 3 fireplaces and large living room. Shop 24x36 with electric, fenced back yard, chicken coop, greenhouse, Trex deck, fruit trees/bushes apple, plum, pear, blueberries, raspberries, Marion berries and elderberries. Solar panels and partial house generator hookup. Sheridan



NEW LISTING!

Main level living with bonus living space upstairs. Large lot with great covered patio, sprinkler system, beautifully landscaped, fully fenced backyard with fruit trees, raised garden beds and shed for extra storage. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, main bedroom with bathroom has duel sinks, a walk-in shower and walk-in closet. Forced air gas heat/AC. Kitchen has island with stainless steel appliances and Granite counter tops, living room with vaulted ceilings, gas fireplace, bonus room upstairs. Willamina



NEW LISTING!



NEW LISTING!

Affordable energy efficient single level 1394 sq ft home. Tankless hot water, 3 bedroom, 1 office, Kitchen has soft close cabinets, stone counter tops and SS gas appliances. Green built with sustainable resourced materials. Low VOC LVP flooring and plush carpet. Finished garage interior w/opener and keyless lighting. Fenced backyard, fully landscaped w/ sprinklers in front yard.

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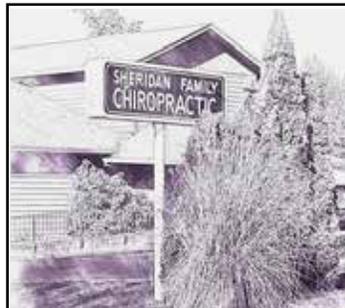
CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 25th

Sit down meal begins at 1:00pm.

To-go meals will be available at 2:00pm.

Sheridan United Methodist, 234 N Bridge St



Sheridan Family Chiropractic

639 W. Main Street
Sheridan
503-843-3888

Improves joint mobility

A Message from the Sheridan Superintendent

The Christmas week is finally here! Students are home for winter break and as I reflect on the past year one of the brightest spots for me as Superintendent has been the work of our Care Team, which I've shared in prior articles, and the ongoing impact of our Community Care Fund.

The Sheridan Schools Community Care Fund exists to meet some of the most basic needs for our students and families, such as clothing, household essentials, school resources and holiday support. It was established during the COVID-19 pandemic and has remained active through the generosity of local businesses and community members as a way to meet the emotional and physical needs of many students.

Every day our teachers and staff see students with needs that extend beyond the classroom and the Community Care Fund has become a place where they can access sweatshirts, socks, hygiene items, and other necessities. In past years, we have also helped provide Christmas gifts to students who missed deadlines for community giving programs, supplied groceries to families facing food insecurity, distributed coats, and restocked our school's clothing room. Our team meets weekly to identify students who are struggling emotionally, or with the abrupt changes in their lives, to identify how they can best be supported.

Local businesses and individuals have continued to support this fund, offering generous donations that allow us to provide clothing, cleaning supplies, care baskets for families experiencing loss, reading glasses, groceries, and other essential items. We are grateful to them every time we are able to offer a coat, socks, shoes or other items to a student.

Thank you to everyone in our community who has supported Sheridan students this year, whether financially, by donating items, or simply getting your child to school. Together we are better!

P.S.~ A quick reminder from our partner organization, Churches United for West Valley, that they will be serving Christmas dinner at the Sheridan Methodist Church on Christmas Day at 1pm for sit-down meals, and 2pm for take-out.

Sincerely,
Dorie Vickery Ed. D,
Superintendent

Sheridan School District
School District Office: 971-261-6959
Sheridan High School: 971-261-6970

BULLETIN BOARD CLASSIFIEDS

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Sheridan • 503-687-3000

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission has a vacant seat, and the City of Sheridan is recruiting for an individual with a general knowledge of the City and the services it provides. This is a four-year term volunteer position, and the duties for a Commissioner are to plan and regulate the development of land inside City limits. The Planning Commission recommends ordinances requiring that all land development undertaken in the City must comply with City ordinances and follow the terms of the City's Development Code, Comprehensive Plan, and Public Works Design Standards. The Planning Commission hears a wide range of applications including urban growth boundary expansions, annexations, property partitions, major variances, subdivisions, zone changes, etc. If you have questions, please contact the City Manager or Deputy City Recorder prior to submitting a Planning Commission application by calling 503-843-2347. Applications are due by 3:00 p.m. on January 14, 2026. They may be returned by email to orodela@cityofsheridanor.com, faxed to 503-843-3661, or to City Hall in person.

Parks and Rec

The Parks and Recreation Committee is looking for an enthusiastic individual ready to assist the Committee with improvements on parks and other recreational programs. This is an advisory volunteer position, with term limit of one year, but with no limit on reapplication. If you are interested, you just need a general knowledge and interest in the City's parks and other recreational programs. If you have questions, please contact the City Manager or Deputy City Recorder prior to submitting a Parks & Recreation Committee application by calling 503-843-2347. Applications are due by January 14, 2026, at 3:00 pm. They may be returned by email to orodela@cityofsheridanor.com, faxed to 503-843-3661, or to City Hall in person.

For Sale

Three wheeled Phantom mobility chair. \$200 call 503-930-2353

Services

Sheridan Auto Detailing, 148 N. Bridge St. in Sheridan, is now offering full details. Interior details, exterior detailing, and ceramic coating. We also detail RVs, boats, and farm equipment, including tractors and combines. Call 971-237-9649. (C)

Shaun Wagler offers many services, including: house/pet sitting, personal mover, lawn care, car detailing, pressure washing, designated driver, scrap removal, wood/brush cutting, gutter cleaning, trash removal, and more. Call 971-241-4860 or email shaunwagler1@yahoo.com to discuss your needs today. (12/31)

Volunteers Needed

Northwest Senior and Disability Services is seeking volunteer help at our Sheridan location to deliver meals to home bound seniors and help in our kitchen. We deliver meals three days a week and would like additional help at least one day a week. Our volunteers are eligible for a hot meal on the days they work and mileage is reimbursed. Please feel free to call (503) 843-2000 and learn more.

Employment

River Park Senior Living is now hiring caregivers, housekeepers, and a maintenance worker. Wage DOE. Come in to apply or email your resume to patty.angus@ag-ingways.com. (c)

For Rent

School Building for Rent/Request for Proposals

- Modern school campus in Sheridan
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 - Large gathering space, half gym, office space, up to 7 classroom spaces including science lab, and outdoor space
 - Rent full building or blend with existing early childhood program
 - We are particularly motivated to partner with innovative education organizations
- What are your dreams for education opportunities in Yamhill County? Let's Brainstorm! Contact: 503-435-9760

Pineapple Express Causes Flood Worries in West Valley Area

A pineapple express atmospheric river, with some reports measuring it a Category 4, battered the Pacific Northwest and Parts of British Columbia starting Thursday, December 18.

The storm, which reached from Hawaii to the Pacific Northwest, dumped anywhere from 1.84 inches of rain in Willamina to 4.53 inches in other parts of the West Valley and outlying hills, stirring up fears of flooding throughout the area, mainly in the lower elevations of the City of Sheridan, which sits at 195ft above sea level, 40 feet lower than Willamina.

With original National Water Prediction Service (NWPS) estimates of the river crest hitting just below 15 feet at around 4 a.m. On December 19, the City of Sheridan provided sandbag stations for residents early Thursday morning to load up and protect their property.

Later in the morning, the crest level prediction from the NWPS was increased to 16.24 feet, less than a foot below the South Yamhill River's record crest of 17.1 feet in 1964.

The Sheridan City Council held an emergency meeting at 3 p.m. on Thursday. With one councilor wearing her hard hat to help protect against possible falling debris from trees due to strong, over 30 mile per hour winds that were whipping through the area, the council voted unanimously to pass the emergency declaration, Sheridan Municipal Code, Chapter 2.36, which will remain in effect until 7 p.m., Monday, January 5, unless council votes to end the declaration sooner.

As the storm gained strength, photos, questions, and posts of water levels, power outages, and road closures throughout Yamhill and Polk Counties began popping up on social media from local residents, businesses, and government officials.

Throughout the night, Sheridan Public Works personnel were seen moving about town, keeping an eye on culverts, grates, and other blockage points to look for potential flooding in the City. Luckily, the crest of the river came nowhere close to the National Water Prediction Service's estimate of 16.24 feet, falling a foot-and-a-half short, reaching a peak of 14.73 around midnight.

The West Valley area was not without its damages, though, as Sheridan residents woke up Friday morning to little to no water pressure caused by a landslide

that took out the water main supplying the city.

The City of Sheridan announced a water boil notice as the Sheridan Public Works crew awaited word that the area around the landslide was safe to work in. As they awaited word, City Hall obtained bottled water, a potable water truck, and port-a-potties as a backup for the residents, receiving 21 pallets of bottled water from the state, with the City purchasing an additional four pallets.

The water pressure was restored by midday Friday, but the boil water notice would remain in effect through Tuesday, December 23.

While most of Willamina escaped the assault by Mother Nature with only minor damage, the City of Willamina reported that the E Street Pump Station experienced a Sanitary Sewer Overflow, dumping 102,928 gallons into Willamina Creek during the deluge. The City has an auxiliary pump for times of heavy rainfall, but it was down for repairs at the time of the storm.

Sheridan Mayor Cale George stated after the storm, "I am very proud of the quick response to this disaster event that occurred last week. I am particularly impressed by the response of city staff and the long hours they have put in the last few days. Their dedication to the city is amazing. The assistance the city has received from local and state agencies is also very appreciated. Beth Wytoski from the Governor's Office, and Brian Young, Yamhill County Emergency Manager, were especially helpful sending resources and providing guidance. The City's main water line has been repaired, and we wait on lab results to ensure our water is safe to drink. Now, citizens will need to conserve water until we are able to put our water system back into operation. Bottled water is still available at City Hall for anyone who needs it." City Manager Preston Polasek also thanked others, saying, "The assistance from our contractors and local agencies has been outstanding. Our community received help from K&E Contractors, Civil West Engineering, City of Lafayette, Sheridan Fire District, CERT, and work crews from FCI."

One death was reported in Yamhill County, when a 52-year-old Amity man, on his way to work, disregarded road closure barricades on Dejong Rd. The shallow

but strong flow of water pushed his vehicle off the road. The man was able to exit his vehicle but succumbed to the currents and

was swept away by the water. He was found deceased 30 minutes later by Yamhill County Sheriff drones.



The National Weather Service data of rain that fell from 1 a.m. to midnight on December 18, causing the South Yamhill to surge upwards by nine-feet, going from just under 5.83 feet to 14.73.



A landslide up by the water tower in Sheridan broke the water main feeding the City, causing loss of pressure and a boil water notice to be issued by the City of Sheridan. Sheridan Public Works was able to fix the break, but the water boil notice remains in effect until testing of the water comes back as safe for human use.



Water levels surged in the South Yamhill River on December 18, as storms dumped inches of rain in the West Valley area. The photo on the left was taken at 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 18, before the storm. The photo on the right was taken at 9 a.m. on Friday, December 19, nine hours after the river crested. Water marks on the bridge pillars show how high the water reached at its crest.

Merry Christmas

Thank you, West Valley community,
for your gracious support and friendship
throughout 2025.

We hope the holidays find you surrounded by
family, friends, and all you hold dear.

Grand Ronde Water Association

26690 Hwy 18
Grand Ronde
503-879-5624

Hampton Lumber Mills

Willamina Division

Sheridan Building Materials

345 S Bridge · Sheridan
503-843-7150

Techtonics Tuning

21801 SW Rock Creek Rd.
Sheridan · 503-843-2700

Willamina Coastal Hills Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 411 · Willamina

Davison Auto Parts

317 S Bridge · Sheridan
503-843-2211
1717 NE Baker · McMinnville
503-472-6114

Sheridan Chamber of Commerce

503-852-1760

Ruff Life Rescue

29795 Salmon River Hwy
Grand Ronde · 503-879-5003

Best Stop Market

313 E Main · Willamina
503-876-9091

West Valley Mercantile

342 S. Bridge · Sheridan
503-843-9088

Delphian School

20950 Rock Creek Road
Sheridan • 503-843-3521

Hurricane Coffee

201 E Main · Sheridan
971-241-2564

Sheridan Family Chiropractic

639 W Main · Sheridan
503-843-3888

Stuck Electric

147 W Main · Sheridan
503-843-2322

West Valley Funeral Home

108 NW Lincoln · Sheridan
503-843-2525

Coyote Joe's

142 NE Main · Willamina
503-503-876-3003

Hofenbredl Realty

322 Main · Willamina
503-876-9004

Sheridan Pharmacy

103 W Main · Sheridan
503-843-2422

Sheridan Museum of History

142 S. Bridge · Sheridan
Open 11am-3pm Sat.

Sheridan Rotary

P.O. Box 322 · Sheridan

Green Crest Memorial Park

office@greencrest
memorialpark.net
503-843-3420

Sheridan Fire District

233 SW Mill · Sheridan
503-843-2467

City of Willamina

City Council & Staff
411 NE C · Willamina
503-876-2242

City of Sheridan

120 SW Mill · Sheridan
503-843-2347

www.cityofsheridanor.com

West Valley Bulletin Board

136 E. Main Street
Sheridan, OR 97378
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(503) 687-3000

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

9615 Grand Ronde Rd.
Grand Ronde, OR 97347



Grand Sheramina Food Bank volunteers worked hard on Saturday to pass out special holiday gift boxes. The volunteer above is bringing a frozen turkey to an awaiting resident. The line stretched for several blocks on N. Bridge St. during the giveaway.



Notice something missing? The Willamina welcome sign has been taken down for renovations by local artist Billy Bobb. Billy will re-furbish and repaint each of the two signs that lead into the City. He stated the east end sign should be back in place by mid-January. He'll then get to work on the sign from the south end of town.

The Willamina
Coastal Hills
Chamber of Commerce

sends warm wishes
to you and your
family for the best
Christmas ever.

We add our thanks
for supporting
Willamina's
local businesses.

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Christmas

GIVEAWAY

SHOP & WIN

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TABLET | TV | HEADPHONES | GIFT CARDS

Sheridan City Council Meeting: Financial Transparency,

The Sheridan City Council held a regular session on Monday, December 15. Here is a summary of some key points during the meeting:

The council held a moment of silence for the passing of Sheridan Water Plant Operator Joe Loiselle. Mayor Cale George, proclaimed "I, Cale Aaron George, do hereby Proclaim December 15th be Bill of Rights Day in the City of Sheridan; a copy of the Bill of Rights is on display at the Sheridan Library and a copy will be provided to any patron upon request; and that all government agencies be encouraged to observe our annual Bill of Rights Day in a manner that brings to mind the meaning and importance of each of the Ten Articles contained in that Bill." During Public Comments, Joe Neeley of West Valley Transparency, stating, "in the spirit of the Bill of Rights and the population," went on to read the Bill in its entirety.

During the Sheriff's report, Councilor Dennis McElroy asked Deputy Grant, "I've been getting a lot of questions about Balm Street, how are we going to clean that up?" Grant stated that the Sheriff's Office has met with the City Manager and discussed some strategies for addressing the area. Council President Jim Buckles noticed that traffic stops are up again this month, which her personally thinks is great, as he's heard and noticed a lot of stuff flying through town. Deputy Grant replied that Deputy Brown, one of Sheridan's new contract

cars, is a traffic expert, stating, "I would imagine some of that increase is him getting out and doing what he's best at."

Councilor Liz Hodgins questioned the financial report, wanting to know what "outside services" covered. City manager Preston Polasek said it was for contracted services for work done by a non-employee of the City.

Talk turned to the city logo, for which the winner, who received \$500 for his logo that won the contest, was paid another \$250 to edit the image into various colors and file types. Multiple councilors thought that all edits would be included in the winning design. Councilor Peter Flynn said, "I don't think we could have structured it in a way where edits were accounted for on the initial because one, it was a contest, it was just prize money. But also, any edits we might want are an unbounded problem. They don't know how much editing we'll need going in, and so I think the only way it could have been structured is initially, or use of the design, and then paying for either his services or some other graphic designer, but might as well pay the guy that designed it in the first place. So from my perspective, having to use graphic design in the past, this is very reasonable."

Councilor Lucy Hebert was of a different opinion, using the example of the street sign at the corner of S. Bridge and Sheridan Rd., stating, "That fellow who did

that sign, I corrected that three or four times, and it still was the same flat amount." Mayor Cale George chimed in, saying, "But you didn't give him prize money, you engaged in a service. It's a little different than paying someone to do work for you. If it were a normal situation, if we went out for a bid for someone to create a new logo for us, I would assume in that scope of work that any changes to the logo would be included in that."

Councilor Hebert countered, stating, "We simply didn't know about it at the time that we were critiquing it here. But I had no idea when we were discussing it, maybe we would have done something different. Just wanted it to be on the record."

Staff report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit Report and Compliance Plan was presented to the council.

The document reported background findings that "The fiscal year 2023-24 Financial Audit was recently completed.

As a part of the audit process, the auditors identified that bank account reconciliations were not completed and reviewed on a timely basis throughout the fiscal year.

The primary checking account reconciliation remained outstanding for extended periods and was not completed accurately until a year after the end of the fiscal year under audit.

Timely and accurate bank reconciliations are a fundamental control designed to ensure the completeness and accuracy of cash balances recorded in the general ledger and to assist in the detection and correction of errors or irregularities. It appears the delay in bank reconciliations was due primarily to a lack of experience of the personnel performing the reconciliations and a lack of oversight due to management transition." The document stating the effects of this, reporting "The lack of timely reconciliation increased the risk that errors, misstatements, or irregularities related to cash might not be detected and corrected in a timely manner. Furthermore, this delay resulted in subsequent delays in providing the audit team with reconciled cash balances and supporting documentation, thereby extending the overall timeline for completion and issuance of the audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024."

Discussion ensued about the audit. City Manager Preston Polasek stating that there is information useful in the audits to help budget for the next fiscal year. The numbers ending in fiscal year 2024 are not far off to what the beginning numbers will be for the next fiscal year. This audit is a year old, so we're budgeting very conservatively. The next audit will only be 60-90 days late, and that one will bring things up to speed. Council President Buckles adding to the conversation, stating he is ready to approve this audit, but urged the current manager to ensure that the City did not fall behind again on the reconciliation and auditing of the City's finances.

Polasek replied, saying, "It's like this requirement here tonight, that the council see the audit report, see the comments, and accept it and agree that this is important. We need to do this. It's a new statute, only a couple of years old. I didn't know about it, but Amber (Mathiesen) has been advising cities across the valley for two years. It's a way for councils to be more involved, and cities can be held more accountable for their financial lapses. It's more regulation, obviously it's needed, and we're going to comply." Councilor Liz Hodgins weighed in, stating, "Isn't that sort of a libelous statement? Everyone knows who has worked here, and the next one says the lack of time and reconciliation increased the risk of errors. I just think that's blam-

WEST VALLEY COMMUNITY CAMPUS

The WVCC wishes everyone a safe and joyous Holiday

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Winter Preparation, and Grateful Words from City Manager

ing something that is sort of an organization-wide thing.”

Polasek replied, “I don’t see it that way. I don’t think the auditors see it that way. I think it’s important that they talk about public trust in our finances. They’re reporting what went wrong, and we’re just using their exact words. This isn’t organization-wide. We hire people to do specific jobs, and under this form of government, we should know who is accountable all the time. So I don’t think it’s libelous. I think they’re doing their job to inform the public as to what happened, and we don’t want to do this again. The only way to make sure it doesn’t happen again is to talk about what happened and agree not to let that happen.

Councilor Hodgins countered, stating, “Just for a little clarity, if I remember right, our financial director had left to go get another job, and we didn’t have anybody here to write checks. Somebody volunteered.

They came in to discover we didn’t have anybody. I think what happened was, because it was chaos, they tried to fix something that they couldn’t finish because you weren’t the person who was hired, you’re just trying to help out.

They couldn’t follow through because they couldn’t get the accounting figured out. How many times have we changed the accounting system? I can do book-keeping too, but I wouldn’t have wanted to be in that mess, but somebody was just simply trying to help the city out.

I don’t mind saying that they couldn’t do it, but they came in to help out when there was nobody sitting in the seat to write the checks. To the best of my knowledge, especially payroll, they were just trying to get a situation cleared out in the beginning. So kind of a tough situation.”

After the discussion, the council voted to accept the audit. A first and second reading of Ordinance 2025-07, which would amend the Sheridan Municipal Code to change City Council meeting time to 6 p.m., was performed. There will be a third reading and a public hearing during the January 20, 2026, council session.

The council voted after each reading. All councilor’s voting aye, with the exception of councilor Lucy Hebert, who voted nay. Public works reported that “Streets: Potholes have been filled where necessary, with ad-

ditional work still pending. Thermoplastic crosswalks have been completed on the north bridge. A no-parking sign (barricade) has been placed on the north side of West Main (sidewalk) where vehicles have been parked. Painting and signage will follow.

Equipment should be prepared for ice and snow if required, with an ample supply of ice melt available. Vehicles and equipment have undergone winterization. The street sweeper has been actively collecting leaves, having picked up and disposed of 49 loads so far this winter. The grader has improved the condition of our rock roads! The sewer lagoons, water treatment, and South Side Park roads have all been recently graded.

Parks: Mowing and leaf collection have been ongoing daily tasks. The bleachers at the ball field were damaged by a fallen branch from a nearby tree, affecting the top seating section; repairs are currently in progress. The crew has organized and cleaned the public works shop area. We have begun to install Christmas decorations throughout the town. Concrete has been poured at the dog park. All debris that was removed and accumulated from our storm ditch cleaning projects has been burned.

Water: New motor being installed at the city intake.

Sewer: Jefferson Plugs, multiple electronic failures with replacements on the way, all have been reported to DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality).”

Councilor Hodgins inquired about what was reported to DEQ. Polasek said that there were two backups in the line on Jefferson street that were addressed before the spills affected private property, but some still got out, and that was reported to DEQ.

Polasek continued stating that the city does do routine cameraing of the system, more frequently in hotspots in the system such as low spots and grease collection points. The City is discussing the option of lining the system instead of replacing the lines, as long as it doesn’t reduce capacity too much. “I hope to have good numbers in the spring to show that the lining works. We’re not going to proceed with that project. You can make that decision when we present you with the numbers,” Polasek added.

The Mayor, City Manager, and Code Compliance officer met with Everbridge, a company that the City can sign up for organizing

alerts. The State of Oregon has already contracted with Everbridge to provide a certain level of services to counties and cities. As of now, Polasek is not aware of the services the City would have to pay for to have this service. He is currently talking with Brian young, Yamhill County’s emergency manager, and will bring this topic of discussion up with the council in a future meeting. Polasek reported that phase one of the Hebert Memorial Decking Project is underway, stating that the project is estimated to cost around \$40,000.

Councilor President Buckles brought up, during that project, placing large rocks underneath the plaza to make it uncomfortable for homeless people to camp, raising concerns that during colder weather, homeless individuals would start a fire to keep warm, which could get out of control and catch the decking of the plaza on fire.

Councilor McElroy added that the City has been fighting the homeless underneath the bridge for years. “We’ve had law enforcement for years. We’ve tried to beat it a little bit, and also the city workers. But it didn’t stop it. We’ve had dump truck loads of crap under there and the bridge, too. So I don’t have a lot of faith in the City, keeping people from camping under there, and there’s nothing to stop that again. You see that (rocks) along the freeways coming out of Portland. It stopped the problem there; it moved somewhere else, but it stopped it there very well.”

Mayor Cale George chimed in, stating that deterring individuals from being down there would also stop the risk of someone being caught by the river rising quickly, if they were to fall asleep. Polasek reported that at the end of Monroe Street, there is some

refuse piling up from a homeless camp. He is going against the rule of thumb not to spend public money on private land, but feeling it is within the public interest to have the area cleaned up, he has instructed the City to rent refuse bins to remove the garbage from the area.

The City of Sheridan is working with Oregon State University on a testing protocol for the South Yamhill River next summer for pentafluorophenol and other carcinogenic chemicals that have been used in the past at the pole plants on Rock Creek Road.

Towards the end of the meeting, City Manager Polasek wanted to mention at the year-end council meeting, about some of the things that he was grateful for, stating he is really grateful for council support, which has been very deliberative and moving the city forward in many ways, and grateful for the downtown revitalization committee. I was so impressed with the folks dedicated to improving the downtown area.



SATURDAY NIGHT BINGO
Doors Open: 5:30pm
Bingo: 6:30pm
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Odd Fellows Lodge
143 SW Monroe St.

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City of Willamina
Mayor, City Council & Staff

Valley Is Well Lit Up For The Holiday



May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter, and goodwill. And may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy.

Have a Merry Christmas!

City of Sheridan

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The Boston Tea Party December 16, 1773

On May 10, 1773, the British Parliament passed the Tea Act to rescue the struggling East India Company and generate revenue for King George III's government. The act allowed the company to sell tea directly to the American colonists, bypassing colonial merchants, while still maintaining the taxes imposed by the Townshend Acts. In response, the Sons of Liberty rallied their fellow colonists to resist what they saw as an unjust display of British power threatening local merchants. Inspired by the rallying cry "No taxation without representation," American colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships and dumped 342 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773. In today's money, the destroyed tea would be worth approximately \$1.7 million. This bold act of defiance helped spark widespread colonial resistance against the tyrannical rule of a distant king.

Word Scramble

Use the letters and clues below to unscramble the Christmas words. Place the letters from the circles and diamonds on the dashes at the bottom to solve the riddle below.

□ □ □ ○ □
R E M Y R

Last weeks answers
 Public, December, Caroling, Party, School, Event, Pullover

□ □ □ ◇ □ □
L U F Y J O

○ □ □ □ □ □
S T E N L I

□ □ □ ◇ □ □
O C O E K I

○ □ □ □ □ □ ○
T E E S I F V

□ □ □ ◇ □ □ □ □
T R A M N E O N

□ □ □ □ □ □ ○
N A D G L A R

□ □ □ □ □ ◇
H I L G S T

□ ○ □ □ □ □
L Y O L H

□ ◇ □ □ □ □
L E S B L

□ □ □ □ ○
L E S V E

□ □ □ ◇ □ □
L Y O J L

What does Santa eat for breakfast?



○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

Horoscopes Dec. 24-30

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

If you are feeling half-hearted about what you are working on, then put it off for a little bit and focus on something more interesting this week, Aries. You can use the rest.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Make it your business to remind others not to take life so seriously this week, Taurus. The best way to do that is to show them how to laugh by example.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21

Your thoughts are on an important decision that you need to make, Gemini. It's best to wait a few days before you get into the thick of things. You need to mull all possibilities.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you may have the courage and the confidence to deal with whatever life throws at you right now, but not everyone is as dedicated as you. Make allowances for others this week.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Sensitive feelings are coming to the surface this week and you are not sure what to do about them, Leo. You won't find peace of mind until you have dealt with them thoroughly.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, some unexpected news could come your way between now and the weekend. It may seem like a lot, but in the grand scheme of things, it will only be a minor issue.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

You have reason to be suspicious of someone's motives this week. Just don't go to extremes and start reading into every message or nuance, Libra.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you might look super confident on the outside, but underneath you get anxious like everyone else. At some point this week you may need to ask for some help.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

It is easy to believe you have enemies around every corner, Sagittarius. Although you might have rubbed a few people the wrong way, most people actually are on your side.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, usually you couldn't care less what other people think about you. But this week it seems important to get another person's approval for your actions.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, be careful when dealing with someone in a position of power. They may have sights on a promotion you also hope to earn. Keep your cards close to the vest.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, some people believe the world is full of doom and gloom, but you know that every day is what you make of it. Brighten the days of others with your positivity.



WILLAMINA COASTAL HILLS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

EID meets at 8 a.m. on the first Wednesday of Every Month
Chamber meets at 8 a.m. all other Wednesdays

503-843-2966 • PO Box 411 • Willamina

Warm Fuzzies

We would like to extend a warm holiday thanks to the folks at the Willamina IGA for providing 100 ham holiday meals to the folks who popped into your market on Saturday. Your involvement in, and generosity towards the communities of the West Valley are greatly appreciated. Thanks for your support.

-West Valley Bulletin Board



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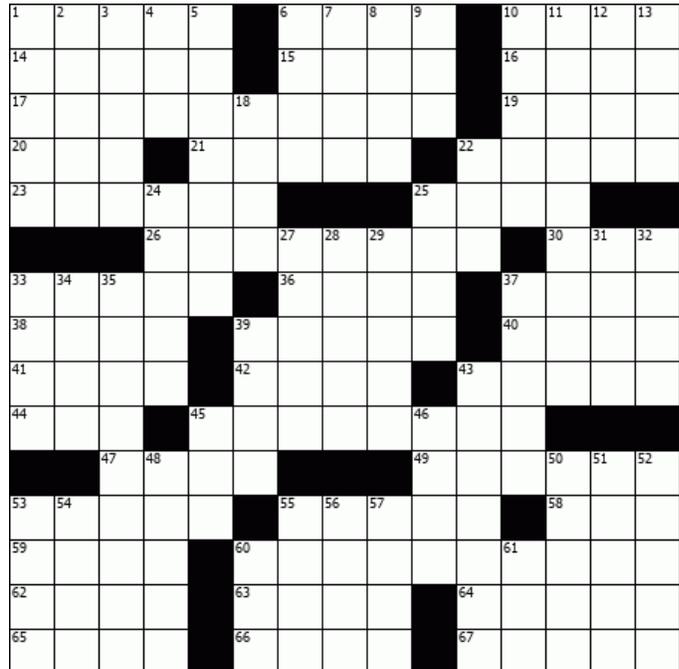
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. A la ____
6. Goad
10. Garden walk
14. Zodiac ram
15. Highway division
16. Attract
17. Restlessness
19. Operator
20. Salmon eggs
21. Old saying
22. Furry swimmer
23. Elaborate
25. Aroma
26. Ocean scene
30. Ruckus
33. Wrong
36. Hound's prey
37. Broadway bomb
38. Innings number
39. Consumed
40. Wild disorder
41. Emanate
42. Prayer close
43. Paper measures
44. Damp
45. Batters' stats
47. Unoccupied
49. Close by (2 wds.)
53. Distinguishing quality
55. Hockey shoe
58. Southern general
59. Strikes
60. Admission
62. Actor ____ Baldwin
63. French cheese
64. Young people
65. Koppel and Kennedy
66. Becomes firm
67. ____ of humor



Down

1. Egypt's capital
2. Knight's suit
3. Mature
4. Steeped brew
5. Landed properties
6. Petition
7. Chimed
8. At one time
9. Poor mark
10. Small planet
11. Sydney's country
12. Wood source
13. German title
18. Inspiration
22. Lyric poem
24. Desirable quality
25. Unlatch
27. Dishonor
28. Supply food
29. Sports venue
31. Tragic fate
32. Chooses
33. Afresh
34. Silent actor
35. Started
37. Novel
39. Roof edge
43. Quizzes again
45. Key near Ctrl
46. Fence entrance
48. Phonograph records
50. UFO pilot
51. Broadway lights
52. Thickly populated
53. "All ____ Jazz"
54. Aggravate
55. Tender
56. Make socks
57. High cards
60. Major network
61. Understand



The Sheridan Chamber of Commerce would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season.

Special thanks for shopping with local businesses who support our communities all year long.



Delphian School Holds Annual Winter Festival

The Delphian Music Program hosted its annual Winter Festival art and music showcase on the evening of December 16. Opening their doors at 5:30 p.m., attendees were greeted with artwork in clay and painted mediums, while Santa sat in his chair next to the Christmas tree to the delight of the younger children present. An hour later, the doors to the chapel were opened, allowing the crowd in for the music portion of the evening, titled "Somewhere In My Memory." Starting the performance was the All Choir, entering the chapel from the main doors once guests were seated, singing Little Drummer Boy as they made their way to the stage. After their bit, the children of the Lower Choir, with kids as young as 5 years of age, took to the stage.

The evening continued on, Youth Choir, Concert Choir, Community Choir, Jazz Choir, and Varsity Choir all getting their time in the spotlight. The evening hit its crescendo with a song by candlelight from the Super All Choir, performing the

evening's theme song "Somewhere in My Memory" by Leslie Bricusse and John Williams. After the concert, a reception was held where attendees and music students socialized over appetizers, drinks, and dessert.



Delphian Super All Choir sings "Somewhere in My Memory" as the choir and the crowd all hold candles to light the evening's finale.

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Members of the Delphian All Choir line up outside the Delphian Chapel before entering, singing "Little Drummer Boy" to kick off the concert.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
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Deck the House 2025

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Willamina Wrestlers Compete Invitational

The Willamina Bulldogs wrestling team traveled to Sprague High School in Salem Saturday to battle against 15 other teams on the mat.

The Willamina boys grappled their way to a 5th-place finish, with 1st-place personal championships by Grayson Hubbard (120 lbs), Adonijah Stanton (132 lbs), and Kisor Savage (144 lbs). Other Bulldogs to place in the tournament: 2nd - Landon Risseuw (285 lbs), 3rd - Jacob Bazzy (157 lbs), 4th - Eden Stanton (138 lbs), 5th - Elisha Stanton (126 lbs) and Julian Gnos (150 lbs), and 6th - Mahiashlok Eaglepepe.

The Lady Dawgs pulled off a 9th-place finish, with half of the ladies placing in the tournament. Paige Baker led the way, finding her spot on top of the podium with a 1st-place finish in the 190 lbs bracket. Kelsea Gray tallied up a 3rd-place spot in the 125 lbs division, and Jaidyn Bolen fought for a 4th-place finish in the 145 lbs division.

Bulldog's Kisor Savabe was named Outstanding Lightweight Wrestler for the tournament.

Bulldog Boys Grab Only Win on Court; Remaining West Valley Teams Defeated

The Willamina boys basketball team was the only team in the West Valley last week to grab a win on the court.

Starting the week off with a league opener against Santiam Christian, the 15th-ranked Eagles quickly jumped to a 10-0 lead over the Bulldogs, and never looked back. Willamina lost the contest 37-59.

The Bulldogs would bounce back later in the week against a non-league opponent, the Rainier Columbians.

This time it was Willamina's turn to take a lead from the start, never to relinquish, downing Rainier 64-38 and improving their record to 2-4 overall for the season.

Coby Steele-Torosian led the offensive assault, downing four shots from beyond the arc, scoring 19 points for the Bulldogs.

Bulldog Scoring: Coby Steel-Torosian (19), Austin Verdina (18), Ryan Beauchamp (15), Ben Moore (10), Wyatt Hubbell (2). The Lady Dawgs dropped their three games of the week, falling 27-50 to Santiam Christian, losing on Thursday to Yamhill-Carlton 27-35.

Against Rainier, the Lady Dawgs were able to dance toe-to-toe with the Columbians throughout the game. Tied 28-28 with 1:20 left in the game, Rainier would run away with the game with seven unanswered points. Willamina was able to drop one last shot in at the buzzer, falling 30-35, ending the week with a 1-7 record on the season.

The Delphian Dragon boys and girls lost to Colton in their only matches of the week. The boys lost 47-63, and the girls failed to keep up with the 12th-ranked Vikings, losing their third game of the season, 13-51.

The Lady Spartans continued their hunt for their first win of the season, but Sheridan was rolled over by the 4th-ranked Regis Rams, 23-83, falling to 0-5 overall for the season.



Bulldog's Coby Steele-Torosian launches one from beyond the arc. Coby would make four from beyond the three in Willamina's win over Rainier Friday.



Happy Holidays from your friends at Hofenbredl Realty

We want to thank everyone who listed and purchased homes with us in 2025.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you.

Thinking of selling or buying? Stop by the office and say hi! We look forward to serving our community in 2026.

Barbara Hofenbredl
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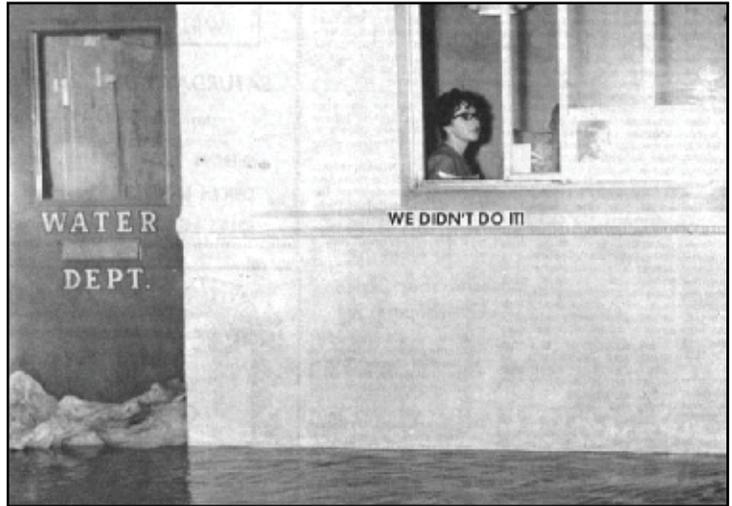
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Sheridan's bridge was only inches out of the Yamhill River at the height of Tuesday's flooding, but withstood the pounding of numerous objects floating down the stream. The Gold Creek bridge was washed out and carried downstream, where it smashed against the old Wallace Bridge. (Sun Photo 348).



Sandbags help protect the entrance to Sheridan's Water Department as flood waters rose throughout the town.



Bridge Street and Sheridan Road Tuesday Morning

Cleanup Begins as Water recedes from Area Homes

Cleanup operations were underway in the Phil Sheridan County Wednesday morning after the damaging flood waters receded, leaving mud and debris in houses and businesses throughout the area.

Highways were closed by high water, and some area bridges were washed out by flood waters as the Yamhill River spilled over its banks. Swollen by melting snow and more than two inches of rainfall Monday, the Yamhill made virtual islands of isolation of Sheridan, Grand Ronde, and Willamina.

Water up to near three feet deep flowed through some sections of Sheridan, flooding homes and businesses. One Sheridan man reported that he had measured the water mark in his home at 44

inches on the walls inside.

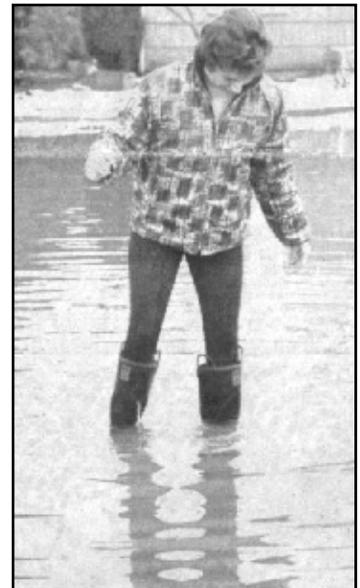
High water closed off Sheridan from McMinnville and Willamina early Tuesday morning, and shortly after 9 a.m., the Yamhill spilled over its banks into Sheridan. The main flow of water in Sheridan's business district was down Monroe and Mill streets, flooding business houses on South Bridge Street. The water poured around the corner at the U.S. National Bank, down the block to Sheridan Road, and around the corner as if it were in a river channel.

Heavy damage was reported more in area homes than in businesses throughout Sheridan, with water damage resulting from a few inches to the nearly four feet, as cited by one resident.

Sandbagging operations per-



Wading people show depth of water flowing around City Hall in Sheridan, although it was deeper in other sections of the city. Firemen were worried about alarms, but received only one call. Fire caused slight damage in a shop at the Jerry Purvis home at 340 NE Hill Street. (Sun Photo 339)



DAMP TRIP - Water flooded the parking lot at Stuck Electric Monday, a day ahead of the main flood waters, and it made a soggy trip from the office to her home for Nadine Stuck. She mad several trips (wearing her husband's fine boots) back and forth to check on the Stuck youngsters, home from school with the chicken pox. (Sun Photo 343)

Additional info provided by Jan Stuck Mellgren - Back then, Stuck Electric was located at 409 NW Gardner St. Jan and her three sisters were at home with chicken pox. During the flood, local childhood friends Jerry and Joni Huntley, grandchildren of the original owners of the Huntley Building, had a little wooden rowboat named the Leaky Tiki, which the two friends rowed around the north side of town during the flood.

formed by a large group of volunteer residents kept the water at a minimum level in many business firms. Water in the streets created no particular problem for some businesses, such as Agee's Marketeria, but water spurting in through the basement floor did. Workers labored all night at the market to keep the floor as dry as possible.

Numerous residents of the Valley Junction area were evacuated by boat from their homes and temporarily housed at Willamina Grade School. The Sheridan Convalescent Home was evacuated and the elderly residents taken first to Chapman Grade School, then to the Mennonite Church, where women of the church cared for them. They slept on cots at the church.



We are a proud part of the communities we work in and we are honored to give back by supporting our local area youth, schools & non-profits.



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Willamina Division

Best wishes for the Holidays

We wish you support and kindness throughout the coming year.

Thank you for your support over this past year.

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Sheridan Pharmacy

Merry Christmas

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Wishing You a Warm and Cheerful Merry Christmas!

Many thanks for your support of our students and staff.

Sheridan School District

