



West Valley Bulletin Board

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Nicole Pugh and Matthew Huegli Owners • bulletinwestvalley@gmail.com • (503) 687-3000 • 136 E. Main Street, Sheridan

Willamina Future Farmers of America Member to Obtain State FFA Degree

The Oregon Future Farmers of America (FFA) association has announced its list of members who will receive the State FFA Degree, the highest degree a state can bestow.

Rebecca Neese, a member of the Willamina FFA chapter, is one of those who was announced and will receive her State FFA Degree in March at the 98th Oregon FFA State Convention.

There are a slew of State requirements to receive the degree, with some of the more notable including completing at least two years of instruction in agricultural education at or above ninth grade level, earned and productively invested at least \$1,500 (or unpaid placement

hours of a rate of 3.56 per hour), having participated in a total of 30 FFA activities, with at least five activities above the chapter level, and complete at least 25 hours of community service in at least two different activities. Rebecca, whose mother, Kristine Neese, was an FFA member in high school, and her father, David Neese, who is the current advisor to the Willamina Chapter, has been a part of the organization since she joined 7th grade.

She has spent the last two years, under the direction of assistant FFA advisor Brenda Shenk, starting a goat breeding project, and has sold market goats for the last two years. She has spent

time working with other animals as well, breeding and raising rabbits year-round, working with her 4'H/FFA dogs Winter and Pip, and assisting with beginning dog obedience classes. When not working with her animals, she has taken on multiple leadership roles in the FFA as the Lower Willamette FFA District Secretary for 2025-2026 and has helped run district events throughout the past year. She has competed in various FFA events, including Advanced Public Speaking, Advanced Job Interview, Ag Sales, Parliamentary Procedures, and many others. In school, she is an active athlete, having played on both the varsity volleyball and the varsity basketball team, plays bass guitar for the school band, and is a photographer in the school's yearbook group.

During her time in the FFA, she has given back to her community, volunteering in activities like the Willamina Highway Cleanup

and 4th of July Pancake Kiwanis Breakfast.

Her future plans are to run for an Oregon FFA State Office position in her senior year of high school and continue to serve more for the future of FFA.



Rebecca Neese, with her dogs Winter (left) and Pip (right), during the Senior Rally at the Oregon State Fair last year.

FREE DOUBLE FEATURE MOVIES CLASSIC BLOCKBUSTERS



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21

Rotary Presents **FREE** Kid-Friendly Movies that Parents will Love!
MOVIES ON THE BIG SCREEN
Movies begin at 5 p.m. at Sheridan High School

Sheridan Chamber of Commerce

Continental Breakfast

8-9:15 am

Friday, February 20

Sheridan Museum of History
142 S. Bridge St., Sheridan

Join us this Friday to discuss your business and learn about others in our area. This meeting is the perfect way to spread the word about what you have to offer.

All Chamber members and potential Chamber members are invited to join this fun group of business owners, managers, and citizens who want to strengthen our business community by building stronger relationships.

Breakfast sponsored by

Sheridan Museum of History
Bring your business card to drop in the box for a chance to win a fun prize!



BULLETIN BOARD CLASSIFIEDS

bulletinwestvalley@gmail.com 136 E. Main Street • Sheridan • 503-687-3000

Council Vacancy

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY COUNCIL VACANCY CITY OF SHERIDAN

The City of Sheridan announces a vacancy on the City Council for a position with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Qualifications for the Office of City Councilor To be eligible for appointment; candidates must meet the following requirements:

Residency in the City of Sheridan for at least twelve (12) months immediately prior to the appointment, and the candidate must be a qualified voter in Yamhill County.

Interested individuals who meet these qualifications are invited to apply for consideration.

Submission Instructions

Please submit applications to Sheridan City Hall in person, by mail or email attention Omega Rodela Garces, City Recorder, email: orodela@cityofsheridanor.com, address: 120 SW Mill ST., Sheridan, OR 97378. Applications must be received by 4pm February 23, 2026.

For additional information, please contact Omega at 503-843-2347 or visit the City of Sheridan website at Elected Officials Information - Sheridan, OR.

Interview and Appointment Process

Selected applicants will be interviewed by the City Council during a meeting scheduled for March 2, 2026.

The City Council is expected to make the appointment to fill the vacancy at its regular meeting on March 16, 2026.

For additional information, please contact Omega at 503-843-2347 or visit the City of Sheridan website at www.cityofsheridanor.com.

3D Auto Sales Auto Body and Paint

Cars • Trucks • Other DA2753
Free Estimates • Collision Repair
Auto Glass • Re-restoration Projects

DB Rental

Renting: Tractor with Implements,
Ditch Witch-Walk Behind, Stock Trailer
812 W Main St. • Sheridan
(503) 843-2023

School Board

The Willamina School District is seeking candidates to fill the following positions: 1 - School Board position (#3) until 6/30/2029. Three Budget Committee volunteer positions. If interested in any position or would like more information, please contact the District Office 503-876-1500. Information also available on our website www.willamina.k12.or.us.

Venue Bid Wanted

Sheridan Chamber of Commerce Bid Request for Gala Venue

The Sheridan Chamber of Commerce is seeking bid requests for its annual Gala, to be held at the end of May.

Venue requirements consist of:

- 2,500-3,500 square feet at least to accommodate approximately 150 guests.
- Parking for roughly 75-100 vehicles.
- No limitations on serving alcohol at the event.
- Power is available to at least one area of the event.
- Available placement for 4-5 portable bathrooms.
- Terrain suitable for those with mobility issues.
- Preferably in or around the City of Sheridan.

The Sheridan Chamber will be responsible for providing all other equipment, personnel, and necessities, such as bathroom rentals, needed for the event; the bidder will provide the space and electricity.

Send information about location and bids to sheridanchamberofcommerce@gmail.com or mail bid offer to Sheridan Chamber of Commerce, 136 E Main St., Sheridan, OR, 97378.



**EVERY FRIDAY
AMERICAN
LEGION
POST 75**

Doors open 5:30pm • Bingo 6:30pm
125 N. Bridge Street Sheridan

Services

Three Feathers General Labor - Property cleanup, junk removal, pressure washing, landscaping, painting, retaining walls, tree removal, gutter cleaning, and more. Call/Text 503-857-9176. (p 3/25)

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. (12/30)

For Sale

Farm fresh eggs in Willamina \$5 per dozen. Text Tim at 503-560-7418

Old Morse push button and zig zag sewing machine (model m-22), 68 years old, works great! Instruction manual and parts included \$50. Call 971-221-5595

Cedar picnic tables different sizes, planters, and Seahawks tin men. Call 971-221-5595

Want a date with "Miss Haversham?" Main Street Books Revisited, 142 E. Main St., Sheridan. Open 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Thursday through Saturday.

2020 Chevy Silverado retract bed cover 8'. Call 503-931-1997

Collection of hats from all over 508 total hats. Call 503-931-1997

Wanted

Infant/Toddler Car Seat Wanted. Call 971-506-8450 to donate.

Place your classified
for just \$.20 per word
Bulletinwestvalley@gmail.com
503-687-3000

Employment

Willamina School District Employment Opening

Custodian: Needed ASAP for the swing shift 3 PM - 11:30 PM. M-F 12-month position. Previous custodial experience preferred.

A full job description is available by contacting the District Office at 503-876-1500. Applications are available on our website or at the District Office and can be emailed to craig.johnson@willamina.k12.or.us and april.johnson@willamina.k12.or.us.

If you are interested in this position or would like further information, please contact Craig Johnson, Maintenance Supervisor 503-437-1620.

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@agingways.com. (c)

Help wanted Sheridan IGA deli, experience preferred but not required. Please bring resume to Megan at Sheridan IGA to apply.

For Rent

Office Space for Rent, Two rooms, & Restroom Utilities included \$600/month 971-241-0283

Large commercial space for lease downtown Sheridan. Includes separate office space, kitchen and ADA bathrooms. Call 503-480-5121 for more info.

Sheridan, two bedroom, one bath, double wide mobile home in small park, new, carport, includes appliances. Rent is \$1465. You need excellent non smoker references please. Text only 971-237-7745

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.

**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

West Valley Mercantile

342 S. Bridge · Sheridan
503-843-9088

Delphian School

20950 Rock Creek Road
Sheridan • 503-843-3521



The West Valley community salutes the timeless values held by Scouts for more than a century. Since its beginning in 1910, Boy Scouts of America have brought out the best in our kids, who in turn, help bring out the best in our communities. The Cub Scout program for younger boys was added in 1930. The world of Scouting is filled with boys and girls with bright promise and worthwhile goals.

Scouts always strive to do their best. As a result, they become responsible, active adults and good citizens. The dedication of countless volunteers and the commitment of each unit's sponsoring organization keep Scouting going and growing.

Scout Law: A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

West Valley Scout Units:

Sheridan-Willamina Cub Scout Pack 215

For more local Scouting information:
www.sheridanscouts.com

**Scouts(5-10 Years) 6-7 p.m. on Mondays at
The Bridge learning Community
430 SW Monroe St • Sheridan**

**Scouts(10-17 Years) 7-8:30 p.m.
on Mondays at
Sheridan All Prep Academy
339 NW Sherman St • Sheridan**

**SIGN-UPS NOW OPEN FOR
SHERIDAN SCOUTS #215**

Everyone is Invited!

Annual Cake Auction

**5:30-9 P.M. Monday, Feb. 23, at the Bridge Learning Center
(Old Japanese School) 430 SW Monroe St. Sheridan**

Pinewood Derby

**12:30-3 p.m. Saturday, May 23,
at the Sheridan City Park
Hot dogs and hamburgers served**



**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

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

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

**The Confederated
Tribes of Grand Ronde**

9615 Grand Ronde Rd.
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

A MESSAGE FROM THE WILLAMINA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Spring's Promise: Renewed Growth and Community Spirit in Willamina

As the last vestiges of winter fade, our campus at Willamina is undergoing a beautiful transformation. The warming sun and longer days are coaxing vibrant colors from the tulips and urging the bushes to bud, signaling not just a change of seasons but also a season of new beginnings for our students and our town.

This period of awakening serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring value of being part of a strong, supportive community. Here in Willamina, our students are fortunate to have access to such a community, all within a short distance.

I was recently reminded of this profound sense of connection at a Willamina Town Council meeting. The Fourth of July committee shared how truly lucky we are to maintain cherished traditions, a testament to our town's unique legacy. Willamina remains one of the few places where these long-standing traditions continue to thrive, largely due to the tireless efforts of a dedicated group of community members who refuse to let them fade.

However, it's also clear that there's a growing need for more community members to engage and help carry the torch for these vital traditions. The enjoyable events and vibrant spirit we all appreciate are the result of significant hard work, and the burden on our "legacy" volunteers is substantial.

This is precisely where our schools are focusing our efforts moving forward. Education, as we see it, extends far beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic. In an increasingly digital world, we are actively working to minimize distractions like cell phones and other electronics, creating space for students to develop essential life skills: interacting with decorum, making eye contact, and fostering genuine human connections.

Crucially, we are also actively seeking ways to cultivate a deeper commitment to community service among our students. We are incredibly proud of our FFA students, CTE classes, leadership students, National Honor Society members, and numerous teams and clubs who consistently step up to volunteer and engage when they can. They are already making a tangible difference.

Yet, we believe we can do even more! Just the other day, our entire middle school demonstrated this commitment beautifully. For 30 minutes, they collectively patrolled the campus, collecting litter that had accumulated over the winter months. In that short time, they accomplished a significant amount of work, showcasing the power of collective action.

This spring, as our landscape awakens, so too does our renewed commitment to fostering responsible, engaged citizens. We believe that by instilling a sense of service and community ownership in our students today, we are helping to ensure the vibrant legacy of Willamina continues to flourish for generations to come.

Thoughtfully,

Mike Gass, Superintendent

Willamina Elementary School 503.876.2374
Willamina Middle/High School 503.876.2545
School District Office 503.876.1500

Centennial Cookbook Reprint, Order Your Presale Copy Now

The Fourth of July Committee is excited to announce a second printing of the beloved Original 4th of July Centennial Cookbook. Whether you missed it the first time or want an extra copy for gifting, now is your chance to secure one.

Presale ends April 1, and books are expected to arrive just in time for Mother's Day a perfect gift for the cooks and memory-makers in your life.

Simply scan the QR code or enter <https://forms.gle/iJFsiLM-HKaXmfwTg7> to access the electronic order form, or email Willamina4thofJuly@gmail.com to request a paper form you can print and mail. You can also connect with any committee member to purchase your copy.

Cookbooks are \$30 each don't wait, these are sure to go quickly again.

Thank you for supporting our cherished small-town traditions.

Falconer-Chapman Announces 2nd Annual Jazz Night Performance

After the success of last year's performance, Falconer-Chapman School (FCS) has announced that it will hold its 2nd annual Jazz Night starting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, in the FCS New Gym.

Joining the school's band to entertain the crowd this year will be local community bands, including the 99W Jazz Band, who graced the stage of The Bridge Learning Community during the Dayton Community Chorus' live performance of A 1940's Radio Show last June.

Returning this year to provide dinner for the show is Pitt Master Dennis Adams.

Once again, the school will be including a raffle for an electric guitar. Tickets are \$5; the winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the night's entertainment.

The concert is free to attend, with dinner tickets costing \$15 for children 12 and under and \$20 for all others. Tickets can be purchased at the Falconer-Chapman front office.



McMenamins to Hold FCS Friends and Family Night

McMenamins Hotel in McMinnville will host a Friends and Family Night fundraiser from 5 p.m. to close on Tuesday, March 10.

Fifty percent of sales from the night will be donated to the Falconer-Chapman School.

McMenamins is located on the corner of 3rd and Evans at 310 NE Evans St., McMinnville.

WEST VALLEY COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Greetings Gardeners!

The West Valley Community Campus Community Garden is opening up for the 2025 season on March 1, 2026, to



anyone who would like to sign up for one of our spaces. We have 12 raised beds of various sizes plus four round planters, and we are working on preparing some ground space for gardening as well. Please contact us through email, info@westvalleycommunitycampus.org or call at 503-929-4037 and leave a message. We will call you or write you back to add you to our list of interested gardeners when we open up for the new season and send you further details for signing up. We have been working on preparing our garden spaces through the winter and are excited to offer these spaces to all! Please check out our Facebook page and our website to see past and present pictures of our garden!

Sponsored by **WEST VALLEY FUNERAL HOME**

108 NW Lincoln St. • Sheridan • 503-843-2525
westvalleyfuneral.com • office@westvalleyfuneral.com

Obituary



LaVerda Yvonne (Irwin) Butler
Oct. 28, 1938 - Feb. 5, 2026

LaVerda Yvonne (Irwin) Butler, 87, passed peacefully at home on February 5, 2026, in Willamina, Yamhill Co., Oregon, surrounded by family. She was born on October 28, 1938, in Dallas, Gregory Co., South Dakota, to Walter and Virdah (Vadnais) Irwin, and later moved to Oregon, where she attended school in Hopewell, Dayton and Amity. There she met her lifelong love, Doyle Duane Butler. They married on October 5, 1957, in Dayton Oregon, sharing 64 years of marriage before his passing December 13, 2021. After living in several communities in Oregon, Nebraska, Idaho, and California, LaVerda and Doyle made Willamina their

permanent homestead, where she lived for the past 62 years. For more than 60 years, she lovingly cared for generations of children through babysitting, and opening her door to neighborhood children by creating a home known for warmth, kindness, and stability. LaVerda was a devoted mother to six daughters: Cindy Houk (Jim), Tina Meyerhofer, Sandy Pond, Tammy Gould-Helms (John), LeAnn Keyser (David), and Candy Scranton (Jared Nunley). She was a proud grandmother of 16 and a great-grandmother of 20. She was a quiet force—strong, steady, and endlessly loving. She did not use many words; her presence alone brought comfort. She taught us by example what it means to show up, work hard, care deeply, and love without conditions. She found her greatest joy in simply being with her family. Her husband Doyle, granddaughter Shelby Wren, son-in-law Scott Pond and siblings Roland Irwin and Wanda Ellenberger precede her in death. Survived by her brother, Alec Irwin (Leila), of Redmond, Oregon and sister in-law Lorene Irwin, of King City, Oregon. Services will be held Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Hopewell Cemetery, 21600 SE Church Rd., Dayton, Oregon. A celebration of life will follow.

Wildwood Hotel Held Birthday Bash for Beloved Employee Cathy Lehnherr

The Wildwood Hotel in Willamina is known for its music entertainment, hosting the weekly Open Mic Night on Sunday and various musical and comedic talents throughout the year. This last Friday, it played host to a whole different night of entertainment, the birthday bash for Wildwood's cargo shorts-wearing cook, Cathy Lehnherr, who turned 49 this last Friday. Approximately 45 people attended the night festivities, which included Karaoke provided by local K.J. Chance Kawa, a photo area to capture the memories, and a banquet table full of snacks and goodies made by Wildwood's weekend morning server, Roberta "Bert" Waddell. As soon as Cathy entered, arriving fashionably late, the sound of party blowers and cheers

could be heard all around the lounge area, celebrating the birthday girl's arrival, and putting an official start to the party as congratulations were given, drinks started flowing, and the sign-up list for karaoke began to fill up. Tatiyana Ascencio, Wildwood's evening waitress and bartender, emotionally expressed after the party, "Thank you, everybody, for such a good turnout. We really showed Cathy how much we love and appreciate her."



Cathy Lehnherr poses for a picture at the photo booth during her 49th birthday party at the Wildwood Hotel, Lounge, and Restaurant last Friday evening.

- Doggie Daycare
- Boarding
- Comfort for your pet



- Monday-Saturday 8 a.m.-5:30p.m.
- Sundays by appointment
- Affordable Rates

RUFF LIFE, LLC
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 29795 Salmon River Hwy 18 • Grand Ronde
rufflifekennels.com

Empowered Women Empowering Women

THE WEST VALLEY

WARMUP 7:50 AM
START 8 AM



sole sisters

Walk or Run




Southside Sheridan Park

Saturday Mornings Feb 28-May 30 2026

DAVE NUDD




FREE SHOW!

PARTY NIGHT!

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 21 • 7- 10PM

8655 FORT HILL RD, WILLAMINA OR

SPECIAL DRINK AND DINNER SPECIALS
 WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON THE FORT
 HILL RESTAURANT FACEBOOK PAGE
 FOR THE NIGHT OF THE SHOW

Word Scramble

Use the letters and clues below to unscramble the words related to National Muffin Day (February 20). Place the letters from the circles on the dashes at the bottom to solve the last remaining word.



T R A S K A F E B



D A B E K



L O R U F



H O G U D



Y A P R S T



The teddy bear turned down the muffin because he was?



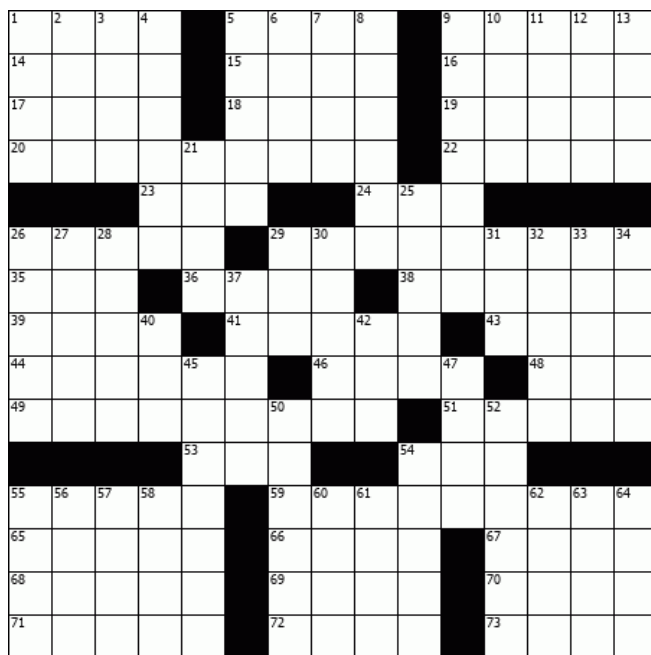
Last weeks answers

Cupid, Kiss, Romance, Valentine, Lovesick

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. Facial features
5. October's stone
9. Annoying ones
14. Notion
15. Paste
16. Reverse
17. Pained sound
18. Furrows
19. Leased again
20. Inseparable friends (2 wds.)
22. Chile's mountains
23. Distress inits.
24. Snaky curve
26. Green sauce
29. Dialect of Chinese
35. Presidential nickname
36. "All ___ Jazz"
38. Warns
39. Nevada town
41. Dark wood
43. Wallet fillers
44. Pressed
46. Touse
48. Lyricist Gershwin
49. Most peculiar
51. Quite little
53. Not him
54. Cheerless
55. Luau greeting
59. Listen in
65. Fine fabric
66. Pincer
67. ___ of Man
68. Caper
69. Quality of sound
70. Perpetually
71. Supermarket
72. Prophet
73. Blot



Down

1. Peru's capital
2. Golden calf, e.g.
3. Bog fuel
4. Most sensible
5. Monsters
6. Stopper
7. Passenger vehicle
8. Reduce
9. Umbrella
10. Adam's garden
11. Auctioned off
12. Sycamore or oak
13. Hardens
21. Source
25. Remains behind
26. France's capital
27. ___ & Roeper
28. Mister (Sp.)
29. Metered vehicle
30. Tiny particles
31. Trinity's boyfriend
32. Bert's buddy
33. Strict
34. Student's assignment
37. Bushy fence
40. "Snakes ___ Plane" (2 wds.)
42. Filbert, e.g.
45. Improve
47. Amtrak stops (abbr.)
50. Builds
52. Whirlpools
54. Underground drain
55. Lamenting cry
56. Dryer fuzz
57. Aware of
58. Inheritor
60. Lotion ingredient
61. Wind indicator
62. Invitation inits.
63. Butter alternative
64. Cheeky

Horoscopes Feb. 18-24

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

You have the cosmic green light to start that major project you've been planning or to take a leap in your career, Aries. Trust your intuition -it's sharper than ever.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Abundance is knocking, Taurus. Your hard work is translating into tangible rewards, and you may receive unexpected good news regarding finances or resources.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21

Your mind is sparkling, Gemini, making you the most magnetic person in the room. Use this vibrant energy to connect, share ideas and lead discussions.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, a feeling of emotional security empowers you to tackle any professional challenge with grace and confidence. You are totally centered right now, so go for it.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you are radiating charisma this week and attracting positive attention wherever you go. Use this incredible visibility to network or showcase your talents.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

You'll find great satisfaction in clean, organized work that earns sincere praise this week, Virgo. Your dedication is about to unlock a significant reward. Surprises are in store.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Relationships are the key to your happiness this week, Libra. Expect delightful interactions, smooth negotiations and the forging of beneficial alliances.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

This week is all about your own transformation, Scorpio. You feel a surge of internal power and clarity that allows you to confidently pursue deep, personal goals.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Your sense of optimism and love for exploration is fully charged, Sagittarius. Even if you can't take a trip, your mind is open to exciting new philosophies or ideas.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Your professional reputation is soaring, Capricorn. Key figures at your job are recognizing your dedication and leadership. Expect exciting opportunities for advancement.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Your network is buzzing with opportunities, Aquarius. Collaborative efforts are highly favored, and you'll find incredible support for your most innovative ideas.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, your intuition is a superpower that guides you toward fulfillment and emotional satisfaction this week. Embrace your artistic side and allow your imagination to lead the way.

Homemade Pasta Makes Flavorful Comfort Food During Winter Chill

Pasta is enjoyed across the globe. Whether it's the main course of a meal or served up as a side dish, pasta will seemingly always have a place on the dinner table.

Pasta may not be the first thing people think of when pondering comfort food, but certain dishes, including ravioli, certainly meet the comfort food criteria. Such is the case with this recipe for "Herb Ravioli" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Herb Ravioli

Makes 4 servings

For the dough:

14 ounces flour; for pasta

2 egg yolks

2 eggs

1 pinch salt

1 tablespoon olive oil

For the filling:

7 ounces baking potatoes

1 slice stale white bread

3 1/2 tablespoons soft butter

1 bunch finely chopped chives

1 bunch finely chopped parsley

Sprig chervil

4 ounces crème fraîche

1 finely chopped shallot

Salt

Pepper

In addition:

Flour for the work surface

1 egg white

4 1/2 ounces bacon

1 bunch chives

Chervil or parsley, to garnish

1. Combine the flour, egg yolks, eggs, oil, salt, and 2 to 3 tablespoons cold water and quickly

knead to a pliable dough. Form into a ball, cover with plastic wrap and let rest for 1 hour.

2. For the filling, peel and quarter the potatoes and cook in boiling, salted water for 20 minutes.

3. Finely dice the bread. Heat 1 tablespoon butter and fry the diced bread until golden brown to make croutons. Let cool, then reserve 1 tablespoon of the croutons for serving.

4. Drain and mash the potatoes, let cool slightly, then mix with the rest of the butter, salt, pepper, herbs, croutons, and crème fraîche.

5. Divide the pasta dough in half and roll out thinly into 2 sheets. Put teaspoonfuls of the filling on one of the sheets of pasta, leaving about 2 inches between them.

6. Brush the dough around the filling with egg white. Lay the second sheet of pasta dough on top and press together between the heaps of filling.

7. Cut out the ravioli with a pastry wheel.

8. Drop the ravioli into boiling, salted water and cook for 4 to 5 minutes, then take out and keep warm.

9. Dice the bacon and fry until crisp and brown. Wash the chives, shake dry and snip. Serve the ravioli onto warmed plates, scatter with bacon, chives and croutons and serve garnished with chervil or parsley.



Honoring Our Nation's 250th Anniversary

Presented by the Sheridan Museum of History.

Fascinating Facts About George Washington (1732-1799)

- George Washington was a man of few words.
- His political success was attributed to his strength of character rather than intellect.
- He was 6'3 1/2" tall with enormous hands.
- He married Martha Curtis, a rich widow from Virginia.
- By the time he became president of the United States (1789-1797) he had lost most of his teeth, so for portraits he stuffed cotton in his cheeks. He never had wooden teeth.
- He had the shortest inauguration speech in American history, 133 words, delivered on Mar 4, 1793.
- In his will, he freed all 300 of his slaves.
- He favored a strong central government.
- His closest political ally was Alexander Hamilton.
- He was the only President to win unanimously twice.
- He served the nation best by keeping the government away from the tension between England and France.
- His most famous quote "Government is not reason; it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to an irresponsible man."

Last issue's crossword solution

D	A	T	A		S	H	R	E	D		A	R	C	H	
E	V	I	L		T	E	A	R	Y		N	E	R	O	
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Willamina City Council Meeting: New Planning Commissioner, School

A letter of complaint about muddy potholes on Yamhill St. was added to the agenda, City Manager Meneley stating, "This was received in December, but it was in my box upon my return on Monday. Jeff and his team already took care of it, but it was correspondence, so we included that in your packet."

John Glenski of the Willamina Fourth of July Committee gave a presentation to the council. He commented on the celebration, its fundraisers, events, vendors, and lastly, the fireworks at the end of the evening, which are all run by local individuals. He added that the committee is working with local IT specialist Matt Huegli to improve internet connectivity on B Street for the vendors using cashless systems, giving them an easier time connecting their systems in that area, which is prone to cellular dead zones.

John also made mention of the \$20,000 needed for just the fireworks alone, and the fundraising efforts and sponsorships they worked towards to raise those funds for this year's celebration, and thanked the City of Willamina for their support

of the committee. The council later discussed the request for a donation from the Willamina Fourth of July Committee that will go towards funding the fireworks show for the 2027 celebration. With \$4,950 available in the City's fiscal year donation budget, they eventually settled and approved a donation of \$750 to the committee.

An application for the planning commission for Joseph Arvin was brought before the council. Joe and his wife have been residents of the city for about a year now, and he has been looking for opportunities to volunteer in the area. "I saw the flyer for the planning commission, so I figured I'd go ahead and apply for that. I'm a plumber and a general contractor, so I figured maybe something that I might know something about," he stated.

The city council voted to approve the application for Joe to fill the vacant three-year term position, which will terminate on December 31, 2026. Mayor Vickie Hernandez congratulated Joe and thanked him for stepping up to fill the position.

A formal appeal of construction application fees was brought be-

fore the city council by the HMK company on behalf of the Willamina School District. The 5% fee set forth by the city of Willamina, HMK stated, is higher than the regional fee comparison study the company conducted, with findings ranging from 0.75 to 1.7%. Under Willamina's scheduled fee, the school district would have to pay, out of its bond, \$245,000 of the estimated \$4.9 million project to the City. In the comparison, the next highest fee, 1.7 percent in the City of Newberg, would cost \$83,100 should a similar project be conducted there.

City Manager Bridget Meneley presented Resolution 25-26-001 to the council. She stated that since the City utilizes a contract engineer and contract city planner, along with their staff, the 5% would encompass all of those charges, minimizing the staff time the City would have to spend itemizing the entire billing. The resolution proposes that the City only charges what is billed to them for this specific construction project, which City Manager Meneley believes would fall well below the original fee of \$245,000.

Before voting, a question about Willamina's 5% fee was raised by Councilor Mike Alger, asking, "Why are we so out of line with the rest of the county?" City Manager Meneley responded, saying, "This construction fee and these ordinances were adopted years and years ago. We inherit processes, and we're a new team. We are working diligently with the City Attorney to provide an answer to that question. I will just say that we will bring some additional information to the council as we work through the legal process. Legal's recommendation (on the matter of the Willamina School District fee) is we adopt this resolution."

The council voted unanimously

to adjust the fee to only what is billed to the City of Willamina for this project.

Willamina Superintendent Mike Gass was on hand to say a few words after the vote, stating that when they first saw the initial fee, it gave him and others he is working with on the project a bit of a panic, as the budget would take a major hit with that amount. He went on to thank the city council for passing the resolution, stating, "We appreciate that opportunity to get that money back in there, and we'll make good use of it."

Keller Associates announced that they have identified a responsive low bidder for the project that will repair the degrading asphalt on Hill Drive around the Cherry Street intersection and replace four ADA curb ramps on Oaken Hills Drive at 3rd Street and 4th Place. The project is being funded by a Small City Allotment of \$250,000, with K&E Paving, doing business as H&H Paving, providing a bid of \$192,218.50, which includes an \$18,000 management reserve. The engineering fee for the project is \$64,200, bringing the total to \$258,418.50, making the city responsible for \$8,418.50 of the project.

The council voted unanimously to accept the bid to get that project started.

City Manager Meneley presented a staff report to the council on the subject of re-codification of the City of Willamina's Municipal Codes. In the report, it stated that the last comprehensive update to the code was in 2008, and since then, there have been 61 ordinances that have been adopted, but have not been incorporated directly into the current code. Meneley stated, "When people ask questions, we currently go to the charter, then we go to the code. If we can't find the code, but there's a mention of it somewhere else,

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Construction Fee, the Future of Municipal Coding, and Clarification Talks

then we have to go find the most updated code and make sure that we're sharing the most accurate information. American Legal (who did the codification in 2008) came in with the lowest bid (\$11,045)." The new contracted services would include online hosting of Willamina's Municipal Code, new ordinance updates online when passed by the city council, and a user-friendly search option for the online publication. American Legal, during the process, will also ensure that current ordinances in the Municipal Code meet all state and federal legislation. If any are found, then those will be brought to the attention of the City for further action.

Due to the length of the project, American Legal allows for payments throughout the process, 20% upon acceptance of the agreement, 30% due upon receipt of the draft, and the balance 30 days after receiving delivery of the completed code. The council voted to contract with American Legal to update the City's Municipal Code.

Council Johnson, liaison to the Yamhill County Transit Authority (YCTA), reported that surveys about fares are going out to the individuals utilizing the transit system. He also added that the YCTA is still looking for a replacement for their Director, who will be retiring.

The library report, provided by Willamina Public Library Director Sarah Frost, stated that the Love our Library murder mystery fundraiser, which will take place February 27 and 28, has completely sold out. The library's next major event, Free Comic Book Day, will take place on May 2.

Finance/HR Manager Marissa Matias, during her report, responded to an earlier question about the City's debt. She stated, "We have two active loans, one is the water fund, which is a USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) loan. That was awarded on February 1, 2001, with an interest rate of 4.5%. That is a 40-year term, so we've got 15 more years to go on that. The wastewater loan is our second one. Our current balance right now is \$331,420. That was for the Willamina Wastewater Treatment Improvement. That's a 25-year term, and the interest rate on that is 4.34%. That should be paid off on December 1, 2028."

The library will attend outreach literacy events at Willamina High School and Sheridan All Prep Academy in March, and for the 3rd year, astronomy club members will participate in the Carlton Observatory Science Fest happening on March 7. She also mentioned that the library will be closed at the end of the month, just before the murder mystery fundraiser for spring cleaning.

Sarah stated that the library has made connections with a couple of local churches, The Free Methodist Church adopting the library's food pantry, helping the library to keep the pantry stocked for its patrons. They have also made a connection with the new Pastor at the Willamina Christian Church. "We're bridging out and trying to get some extra help," she said.

The council continued with discussions not listed on the agenda, bringing up talks on ethics, outside meeting discussions, getting some clarification on some what-if scenarios, so that the topic is clearer on what type of discussions are allowable without accidentally creating a quorum or serial (walking quorum) meetings.

Councilor Baller also brought up Stoney Mountain Reservoir and emergency notification systems regarding the 60-million-gallon pool of water sitting above the City of Willamina. That discussion will be added to the next council meeting.

Councilor Alger brought up during the talks that he received a citizen complaint last month on the speed of traffic coming out of Willamina at the bottom of Hill Drive. Requests from the City to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) have been made before on moving the speed limit sign past Hill Drive. ODOT responded in 2021, after conducting a traffic analysis of the area, that they would not move the sign. Councilor Alger stated that he personally knows the ODOT supervisor for this area, and requested that the council allow him to talk to them further about the matter.

The council voted to allow Councilor Alger to chat with the person he knows at ODOT, about moving the signs on both ends of town, working with staff, and bringing that information back before the council.

Councilor Alger, who is a board member of the Livestock Association, mentioned that there is a possibility of the Polk County Fairgrounds closing permanently at the end of August after the fairgrounds were denied funds to "upgrade electrical and things like that," he stated.

Councilor Alger moved on, asking further questions during discussions. He said, "I ask questions so I can answer questions." He added, "I also tell people to quit being Facebook warriors and come down here to the meetings."

City Manager Meneley piggy-backed onto the conversation, stating that the City staff cannot perform any action from comments made on non-official platforms such as social media. "Our legal team advises us not to respond on Facebook," she stated during the meeting.

Individuals using platforms such as Facebook, while it does help spread awareness to other members of the public on matters of the community, it cannot be acted upon until brought to public comment or the attention of City staff through official submission methods.

The council continued discussions until the meeting adjourned.

The schedule for future meetings and agenda packets, including minutes for past meetings, and more can be found on the official City of Willamina website at willaminaoregon.gov.

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Notable Events In Colonial America In 1776



The year the United States came to be was an interesting time to be alive, particularly for those living in colonial America. The American Revolutionary War began in 1776, and much of the year was marked by events stemming from that conflict. Below are some of the more notable events to take place during a year that has come to symbolize so much to generations of Americans.

- Thomas Paine publishes his 47-page pamphlet *Common Sense* in Philadelphia on January 10. Initially published anonymously, the pamphlet is considered a watershed moment in American history, as Paine's easily digestible writing style appealed to the masses, helping promote his arguments that encouraged common people to fight for an egalitarian government.

- The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge takes place near Wilmington, North Carolina on February 27. The battle is sparked when loyalists, after storming across a bridge over Moore's Creek, attack a group of men they believe to be rebels. Though the engagement was brief, two loyalist leaders are killed, another is captured and the force is scattered. The failed attempt later complicated efforts to recruit loyalists in the area to fight.

- The Fifth Virginia Convention is held in Williamsburg between May 6 and July 5. The meeting of the Patriot legislature of Virginia ultimately leads to the declaration of Virginia as an independent state and the production of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which asserts the state's right to reform or abolish any form of government it deems inadequate.

- Thomas Hickey becomes an early casualty of the burgeoning

conflict between the colonies and England when the Irish-born soldier is the first to be executed by the Continental Army for "mutiny, sedition, and treachery" on June 28 in New York City. Hickey had been part of a protective detail for General George Washington but was briefly jailed for passing counterfeit money. During that brief incarceration, Hickey told a fellow prisoner he was part of a conspiracy, and reports ultimately indicated he might have been part of a plot to assassinate General Washington, which proved enough to warrant his execution.

- An uptick incidents of violence between Native Americans and settlers in Kentucky was a ripple effect of the American Revolutionary War, and that increase in aggression was behind the capture of Jemima Boone and the Callaway girls on July 14. Days later Daniel Boone led a successful attempt to rescue his daughter and Elizabeth and Frances Callaway, who were the children of Colonel Richard Callaway, one of the first white settlers in Kentucky. A fictionalized version of the incident was included in James Fennimore Cooper's novel *The Last of the Mohicans*.

- The Great Fire of New York destroys as much as 25 percent of all buildings in New York City as it burns through areas in lower Manhattan on September 20 and 21. The fire broke out shortly after British forces began occupying the city. While each side accused the other of arson in the aftermath of the fire, historians dispute such assertions, noting the fire likely started with burning rooftop debris before windy conditions spread the conflagration to surrounding buildings.

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Bulldog Basketball Ends Season Better Than Last

Despite dropping their last two games of the season, the Willamina boys basketball team had a much-improved season over last year.

Opening their last week of play, the Bulldogs lost both matches, first losing 57-70 versus Salem Academy on Tuesday before falling 46-70 against Blanchet Catholic in their last game of the season.

Willamina ended with a record of 7-16 overall, going 3-13 in league play. It was a vast improvement over last year's 1-22 performance.

This year, the team increased its average points-per-game by 15, bringing it up from 36.7 in last year's run to 51.7 points-per-game this season.

Their defense also improved on the court, limiting their opponents to seven fewer points per game this year.

They also capitalized on the majority of their close contests, winning six of their eight games that were decided by ten points or less.

The young Bulldog team will only lose three seniors this season, with Coby Steele-Torosian, Matthew Atherton, and Austin Verdino playing their final year in high school basketball.



Willamina's Ben Moore tried to weave through Salem Academy's Defense in the Bulldogs 57-70 loss to the Crusaders.

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Lady Dawgs Split End of Season Matchups

The Bulldogs girls basketball team finalized their 25-26 season with a 50-37 Tuesday home win against Salem Academy during Senior Recognition Night before heading to Salem to take on the Blanchet Catholic Cavaliers in their last game of the year.

It was a close contest throughout the match, with neither team able to break away from the other. In the first half, there were only three lead changes, with Blanchet's largest lead of 5 points coming in the first quarter, while Willamina took the lead in the second, grabbing their biggest lead of the game so far at just six points, with the girls going into the locker rooms at halftime, Bulldogs up 33-29.

The teams continued to trade scoring, with the Bulldogs edging out another six point lead during the 3rd quarter, but the Cavaliers would refuse to go away, the Bulldogs going into the 4th quarter with a 46-44 lead.

The Bulldogs Grace TerBush would drop in two from the charity line on Willamina's opening possession of the 4th quarter, before Blanchet Catholic would go on an eight point run to put the Bulldogs down 48-56.

Willamina's Rebecca Neese was able to finally break the Bulldogs scoring drought with 47 seconds remaining in the game, but by then it was too little too late, Bridget Manley dropping in the last two points at the buzzer and the Lady Dawgs losing 51-56 in their final game of the season. Willamina ended their season with a 4-19 record, and will be returning all five starters in next years action.



Naveen Pressley (23) works to get position for a rebound against a Crusader during the Bulldogs final home game win.

Lady Spartans Grab First Win of Season

It's been a rough year for the Sheridan High School girls' basketball team, but the Lady Spartans pulled off a win against North Marion in the week they'll remember most, the final week of the season.

In their last meetup, North Marion squeaked away with a 34-31 win over the Spartans. Turning out to be the 1-17 Huskies' only win of the season so far.

Sheridan got on the board first after Madison Blacketer picked off a pass, taking it down for a quick layup. In a moment of Deja Vu, same play, same location on the court, same Madison poking the ball away from the Huskies offense, and of course, the same layup at the other end to put Sheridan up 4-0 after only 30 seconds of play.

Jay Ott and Blacketer would add another two points each before North Marion was able to get on the board, two minutes into the matchup. Neveah Stewart would add five, and Ella Prach drained one from beyond the arc to add three, putting the Spartans up 16-4 at the end of the first quarter.

Sheridan would only manage three points in the second, with the Huskies cutting the Spartan lead, scoring seven points of their own, Sheridan up 19-11 going into halftime.

The girls battled it out coming out of the locker room, Sheridan only improving its lead by one point going into the final quarter of their last home game.

North Marion started chipping away at the Spartan lead, getting to within six points with two minutes remaining in the game when Sheridan called a timeout. Sheridan coach Jake Ruger told the Lady Spartans, "I don't want to see a shot until there's less than 10 seconds on that shot

clock," hoping to eat up time and kill the Huskies rally.

Sheridan was able to pull it off, allowing no more scoring from North Marion, and winning their first game of the season, 35-27 over the Huskies.

Spartan Scoring: Neveah Stewart (16), Ella Prach (7), Madison Blacketer (6), and Jay Ott (6).

Prior to this matchup, Sheridan lost their opening contest of the final week 26-43 to Gervais. After their win, the Spartans traveled on Friday to Kennedy in their last game of the season, losing 7-61 to the Trojans. Lady Spartans finished the season with a 1-19 overall record, with no wins coming against league opponents.



Sheridan's Madison Blacketer (5) picked off two passes in the first 30 seconds of the game launch the Spartans towards their first win of the season.



Spartan teammates celebrate their last home game of the season, which happened to be their first victory of the year, winning 35-27.

Spartan Wrestling Squad Grapples at District Meet

The Sheridan Spartans boys wrestling team headed to Colton for the OSAA 2A/1A Special District 1 Championship meet this last weekend.

Spartans Benicio Depiero (190), Nicholas Leno (126), and Tirston Sayer (285) each picked up a 4th-place finish in their weight bracket while Conner Trammell landed in 5th-place in the 215-pound division. Danny Gonzalez (165) exited the tournament in the second round of the consolation bracket.

Sheridan's team score put them in 11th place out of 18 teams at the meet.

While Depiero, Leno, and Sayer did not automatically qualify for the State Championship, the 4th place finisher from each league will be "pooled," and a defined criterion will be applied to select one additional qualifier as per OSAA regulations.

The Lady Spartans will hit the mat on February 20-21 at the OSAA Girls 4A/3A/2A/1A Special District 1 meet at Molalla High School to see who, if any, will qualify for state.

Delphian Boys Basketball Finishes Season Winless

The Dragons boys' basketball team ended up with a 0-16 record after suffering two more losses in the final week of the season against 10th-ranked Western Christian and the 9-13 Santiam Wolverines.

The team, which averaged only 42 points per game versus their opponents' 70.4, was unable to keep any of their contests close, suffering their lowest point difference in two games where the Dragons lost by 14 points.

The Delphian boys' team ended up being the only team in the 2A division to go without a win this season.

Lady Dragons Slide to 8-12 to Finish Season

The Lady Dragons finished off their basketball season last week, starting with a loss against the 3rd-ranked Western Christian Pioneers, who trounced the Dragons, Delphi losing the contest 10-50.

In their last game of the year, the game was a little bit closer, hosting the Santiam Wolverines at home, losing the match 29-40 to end the season with an 8-12 overall and 4-10 league record, besting Gervais and Sheridan in league standings.

Bulldog Boys Wrestling Sending Six to State Meet

Though only 12 wrestlers from the Willamina boys wrestling squad were able to compete at the 3A Special District 1 Championships this last weekend in Yamhill due to injuries and other issues, those 12 made the trip count, earning Willamina a 2nd-place finish in the nine-team event. Half of those who competed qualified for the 2026 OSAA State Championships, taking place from February 26-28, at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Four of the Bulldog mat-men battled their way to the top spot on the podium during the district meet, with Adonijah Stanton (132), Grayson Hubbard (113), Jacob Bazy (157), and Kisor Savage (138) earning 1st place finishes in their weight class.

Joining them at the state championship meet will be Landon Risseeuw, who snatched 2nd place in the 285-pound bracket, and Eden Stanton, who placed third in the 138-pound division.

Mahlashlok Eaglepipe, who grappled his way to 4th-place at 190 pounds, and Elisha Stanton, who finished 5th in the 126-pound bracket, made the alternative list for state and will compete should another qualified wrestler withdraw from the competition.

The Willamina girl wrestlers will be competing on February 20-21 at the OSAA Girls 4A/3A/2A/1A Special District 1 meet at Molalla High School to determine state qualifiers.



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Sheramina Cheerleading Perform Routine at State

The combined Sheridan and Willamina cheerleading squad performed at the OSAA Cheerleading State Championships this last weekend.

The only 2A school in their division, the squad placed 5th out of the six teams, competing against all 4A schools in the Coed Traditional Scores, with only one of three teams in the division to hit a zero-point reduction during their routine.

Sarah Neel (Hillyard), Athletic Director at the Sheridan High School and head coach of the joint cheerleading team, stated in a post on social media, "So proud of this team. Through injury, illness, and challenges, they progressed and brought things to the mat we couldn't have dreamed of a few months ago."

The team will be traveling to Las Vegas this week to compete in a national cheer competition.



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**Congratulations to the
WVBB Survey
Contest winner**

Survey Winner Drawn

It could be luck, it could be fate, it could be the makings of a nice dinner out. Regardless of one's beliefs, **Greg Poupard** has been announced as this year's West Valley Bulletin Board Survey Winner. Greg may swing by the office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Thur. or from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday to pick up your \$50 prize.

Can You Find Corky, Bubbles and Ronzo Hidden in the WV Bulletin Board?



They are hiding somewhere inside every edition



EXTENDED BUSINESS COUPE

You will never see another one of a kind 1940 Chevy extended business coupe, (named by owner). The rear half of the body has been modified by owner Jim Boekhoff. The body work is so perfect that it looks like it could have just rolled off a show room floor. Jim also installed the split windshield and tinted windows. The power is provided by a stock 454 cubic Chevy engine and coupled to a turbo automatic transmission with a floor shifter, and 8.8 Ford rear end .with 327 gears. The independent front suspension with power disc brakes, power steering, and tilt steering wheel handle the road with ease. Entertainment is provided by a 1000 amp Kenwood blue tooth stereo and 5 speakers, with the controls hidden in the glove box. The paint is Winton White. Jim is retired after working 12 years as a logger, and 26 years working for Cascade Steel. Jim said that this, "one of a kind," custom could be for sale to the right person. Picture and story by Gary Meyer.

Keegan Smith
MEMORIAL BASKETBALL GAME

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MARCH 5, 2026 | 6:00 PM

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Congrats to Students of the month from Sheridan High School for most improved. From left to right: Londyn Thompson-Sale, Adelina Hernandez, Cayden Adams, Nolan Boekhoff.

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Lt. Harold Werth Pilots "Fortresses" With 8th. Squadron

EIGHTH AIR FORCE BOMBER STATION, England — Second Lieutenant Harold E. Werth, 22, of Willamina, Ore., pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress, received his baptism in aerial warfare during an Eighth Air Force bombing attack on Nazi rail transportation lines.

The assault was part of the concentrated effort of the AAF to cut Germany's supply lines and relieve hard-pressed Allied troops on the Western Front.

Lt. Werth was recently assigned to aerial combat activity in the European Theater of Operations after many months of intensive training in the United States.

The Oregon flier is a member of the 34th Bomb. Gp. a unit of the Third Air Division, the division cited by the President for its now historic Eng-and-Africa shuttle bombing of Nazi Messerschmitt aircraft plants at Regensburg, Germany.

Lt. Werth is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Werth, Route 1, Willamina. Before entering the Army Air Forces in April, 1943 the Lieutenant was a student at Oregon State College, Corvallis.

Acres of Rubber Plants Growing

Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Cobb returned last week from a trip to Los Banos, California, where the two of them spent a week visiting at the home of their son, Floyd Huddleston, and his family. One interesting event of their visit was a drive out into the farming district where they saw thousands of acres of the plant from which rubber is manufactured under Gov't control, growing in long, seemingly endless rows. The present crop was planted three years ago and will have to grow two more years before it is harvested. One truck farm visited has 7000 acres in cultivation under the irrigation system. Floyd's work is surveying these ditches for the Miller & Lux Co., and he explained the system as they drove along. They also saw mountains of the chalk like deposit that is mined and shipped out for fertilizer all over the world. The weather, while they were there, was very much like it was here during the week. Mrs. Cobb states that she is in a little better health than when they left, but not well yet.

NEW TELEPHONE CENTRAL OFFICE NOW REALITY

Willamina's new telephone exchange office is now a reality. And while the building is neither large nor imposing, it is the acme of convenient arrangement and is substantially built to house what will eventually be an automatic exchange.

The new building is of brick veneer construction, with glass brick windows for light, and is scientifically ventilated. It has lavatory facilities and hot and cold water for the convenience of the operators, since the automatic installations to do away with operators cannot be made during the war.

Three booths are installed in the lobby for the placing of local or long-distance calls, and all calls from the office will go through the booths and will not be handled by the local operator, except as any other call coming in.

G. W. Wells, manager of the Northwest Telephone Company, and O. C. Yocom, builder of the building, are entitled to the congratulations of the community for their enterprise, while conditions present so many.



Past Commanders Annual Calendar Tea Colorful Social Event

Willamina Civic Club held their January meeting at the Rebecca Hall on January 25. The main feature of the day was the success of the annual calendar tea. Much credit is due to Mrs. Garbrant, chairman of the tea. The twelve tables were appropriately arranged to represent each month of the year.

Musical selections were presented by Bobby LeRoy, Shirley Harpole, Ladonna Lentz, and Floriene Welker. Willamina High School senior girls and the mothers were special guests. Refreshments consisting of open sandwiches, cake, and coffee were served from the January table, which was attractively arranged. Ladies pouring were Mrs. Esther Fawk and Mrs. Belle LePage. Birthday greetings were sung to Mrs. LePage.

Fendall School Hears District Attorney Nott

District Attorney Earl Nott gave a very interesting discussion on the subject, "Women and the Law," last Friday evening at the Fendall School House. Property ownership, disposition of property by owner via will, or inheritance, was discussed.

Birth certificates, adoptions and guardianships, inheritances, and many other subjects of which the average layman knows little were the basis for the meeting. A fair-sized crowd turned out to hear Mr. Nott and appreciated his talk.



Dallas Grade School Wins Basket Ball Game

In a game Tuesday evening with the Dallas Grade School team, Willamina dropped an almost certain win to the tune of 45-15.

The Dallas team lost their game with Grand Ronde earlier in the season, and the Wilamina team took an easy victory at Grand Ronde — so this game with Dallas was practically "in the bag."

However, when Dallas came to Willamina Tuesday evening, the team had worked up a surprising power and speed in passing the ball and landing it in the basket.

Morris Cook, captain of the local team, was ill, and Bob Smith, who took his place, was fouled out in the third quarter. Better luck played with the girls Volley Ball game. The Willamina girls won from Dallas by one point in a whirlwind finish.

This is the first game for the season that the Grade school boys have lost, tho' at times they were held to a one-point victory.

\$1,147. Final Amount From Willamina Polio Fund Campaign

Final figures on the recent Infantile Paralysis drive have been submitted by Chairman Engdahl and returns made to officials handling the funds. Complete and final figures showed a net return from the Willamina drive of \$1147.00.

Chairman Engdahl, speaking for the entire committee, named in the Times last week with the exception of Ira Green, again expressed the appreciation of the committee for the splendid and generous response of the community. "While the committees worked hard," he said, "final credit must go to all of the individuals who gave so liberally to make the drive successful."

W. B. Cumiford Victim of Sudden Heart Attack

W. B. Cumiford, resident of Willamina, died suddenly Wednesday morning, apparently from heart failure. Mr. Cumiford had been a semi-invalid and was compelled to wear a brace due to a broken neck sustained about a year ago when he inadvertently bumped his head against a heavy steel shaft at the Plywood Mill where he was employed.

Mr. Cumiford leaves his wife and a daughter, Mrs. W. E. Smith of Gopher Valley, and a son now in the South Pacific.

Funeral arrangements had not been made at the time of going to press.

Wentworth Barber Passes After Short Illness Sunday

Wentworth V. Barber, long-time resident of Willamina, passed away Sunday at his home here after a short illness. Mr. Barber was stricken Saturday, the end.

Mr. Barber was a little more than fifty-four years old and leaves besides his wife, four children, his aged mother, and three brothers. His mother resides here, but the brothers are all in other sections of Oregon.

Funeral services were held at the chapel of the Sheridan Funeral Home, Wednesday, Feb. 7th, conducted by the Rev. DeVries of Sheridan, and interment was in the Evergreen Memorial Park in McMinnville.

Possible Goodbye to Polk County Fair Grounds at End of the Year

The Polk County Fairgrounds in Rickreall could face possible closure if the community decides not to back the long-time venue. The first Polk County Fair, held in Dallas in 1934, moved around the county until it established a permanent home in Rickreall. Since then, it has been a community hub for agriculture events, flea markets, entertainment, and other events throughout the years. Polk County Fairgrounds Board Chairman Rim Ray announced with around \$300,000 of the county's general fund was used to help keep the fairgrounds operational. With reduced funding from the Federal and State levels, increased costs, and higher

employee wages, the Polk County Board of Commissioners may have to pull that funding for other resources in the county. The grounds operated on a \$348,000 deficit in fiscal year 2024-25, according to a county audit, and maintenance and replacement of vital infrastructure would cost much more than that. David Hayes of the Polk County Itemizer, Volume 151, Issue 6, dated Wednesday, February 11, 2026, stated that "The most dire need, electrical replacement, would take place of the first two years being the most costly at about \$700,000." In a last-ditch effort to keep the fairgrounds running, the Polk

County Commissioners are discussing placing an advisory question on the May 19 election ballot to hear from voters on if they would support a levy in the November election, at a rate of 10-13 cents per year per \$1,000 property valuation. The fair's current budget will run

out on June 30. "Hopefully, the county will support us through August and the 2026 fair," Ray said. "But I don't speak for the county. It's their decision. In theory, it's the end of our current budget. They have not done the 2026-27 budget yet. But I've been told we most likely won't be in it."



Willamina Future Farmers of America Chapter during the 2024 FFA competition at the Polk County Fairgrounds in Rickreall.



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