



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

Crucial Decisions on the May 19 Ballot: Are You Ready to Have Your Say?

With crucial decisions on funding, safety and leadership on the May 19 primary ballot, Yamhill County residents are urged to ensure they are registered to vote. Eligible voters, who must be U.S. citizens, Oregon residents, and at least 18 years old by Election Day, can register online at the Oregon Secretary of State's website, by mail, or in person at the county elections office. Registration requires an Oregon driver's license, state ID card, or the last four digits of a Social Security number, and must be completed by April 28 to participate in the upcoming election.

Here's what's on the ballot:
A statewide gas tax measure will

appear on the May 19, 2026, primary ballot as Measure 120.

Measure 120 is a veto referendum on House Bill 3991, a transportation funding law passed by the Oregon Legislature in September 2025. A citizen-led petition gathered enough signatures to pause the law's implementation and put it to a statewide public vote.

The measure asks voters whether to uphold or repeal several tax and fee increases designed to fund the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), as well as county and city transportation projects.

A "Yes" vote upholds the law, allowing the tax and fee increases

to take effect. This includes raising the state gas tax from \$0.40 to \$0.46 per gallon, increasing standard vehicle title fees from \$77 to \$216, raising base passenger vehicle registration fees from \$43 to \$85, and temporarily doubling the public transit payroll tax from 0.1% to 0.2% of a worker's paycheck.

A "No" vote repeals the law, preventing these increases from taking effect and keeping the current tax and fee rates in place.

The referendum was originally scheduled for the November 2026 general election. However, in early March 2026, the state legislature passed Senate Bill 1599, which moved the vote up to the May primary ballot. Supporters of moving the date argued that the state needs budget clarity sooner rather than later to address funding gaps, while opponents argued the move subverts the intent of the original petitioners and places the vote in an election with historically lower turnout. A recent court ruling denied a legal request to stop the date change, confirming its placement on the May ballot.

Yamhill County Commissioner Races

Position 1: Incumbent Kit Johnson is running against challenger John Linder for a 4-year term.

Position 3: Because incumbent Mary Starrett is term-limited, Jason Fields, Neyssa Hays, and David S. Wall are competing for the open 4-year term.

Note: The County Clerk race between incumbent Keri Hinton and Cindy Johnson will not appear on the May ballot; it has been moved to the Nov. 3, 2026, General Election.

Sheridan Rural Fire Protection District:

A measure has been filed regarding the rural fire district. Since the Sheridan Fire District met the March 19 deadline just a few days ago, the final wording and tax rate are now officially locked in. The Yamhill County Elections office should be assigning it an official measure number and updating their records with the finalized text very soon.

In addition to the county-level items, the primary ballot will include candidates for federal and state offices (such as U.S. Representative, State Senate, and State Representative), District Attorney, judicial seats, and Precinct Committee persons.

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NOTICE OF CITY OF WILLAMINA BUDGET COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Budget Committee is appointed annually by the Mayor of the City of Willamina. The role of this committee is to meet annually to approve the City of Willamina's budget for the following fiscal year. Applicants for this position must be available to attend one or more meetings in the months of April, May and/or June. Terms are 3 years.

To apply, please complete a government office application which can be found on the City of Willamina website or at City Hall. Applicants can submit the applications via email to stevensK@ci.willamina.or.us or drop the application off at City Hall.

Applications must be submitted by end of day on April 10, 2026.

Please call Krystal Stevens, Deputy City Recorder at 503-876-2242 with any questions. You may also email Krystal at the email address above with questions.



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)

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Community Volunteer Opportunity

BUDGET COMMITTEE INFORMATION

What is a Budget Committee? The Sheridan Budget Committee is made up of seven citizen volunteers and the seven elected members of the City Council. Citizens are appointed to three-year terms. The committee traditionally meets once per year in May to receive and review the draft budget. They forward a recommended budget to the City Council for final approval. They receive budget updates throughout the year.

Committee Responsibilities:

Membership is composed of the seven-member city council and seven citizens-at-large. The citizen members are appointed for three-year terms by the City Council. Requirements for the Budget Committee are contained in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 294.

The Budget Committee is responsible for reviewing and acting upon all budget documents. The City's budget sets out the fiscal operation of the City. The budget committee considers the budget proposed by the budget officer and comments made by the public. Committee members propose and vote on additions or deletions to the budget, as they deem appropriate. After the committee agrees on a complete budget, it is submitted to the City Council for review and adoption in June.

Member Responsibilities:

Ability to analyze funding requests to support requested or required levels of City ser-

vices. Ability to develop an understanding of the legal and practical difficulties of funding municipal services with limited available resources. Willingness to be objective to ensure that services are provided to meet the needs of the majority of the Sheridan citizens. A commitment to fiscal responsibility for the present as well as the future. **Background/Experience which might be useful:**

General knowledge of the City and the services it provides. Basic understanding or interest in budgeting and figures. Good communication skills and a sense of humor. Prior committee membership in a private, government, or non-profit organization.

If you have questions, please contact the City Manager or City Recorder prior to submitting a Budget Committee application. Applications are due by 1:00 p.m. on April 15, 2026. They may be returned by email to orodela@cityofsheridanor.com, fax 503-843-3661, or to City Hall in person

For Sale

Money talks. Mine always says, "Wanna go to the bookstore today?" Main Street Books Revisited, 142 E. Main St., Sheridan. Open 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Thursday-Saturday.

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

Fresh daffodils, 15 stems per bunch for \$3. Stand located at 23550 SW Loganberry Ln, Sheridan.

Truck Bed Cover - 2020 Chevy Silverado Long Bed cover or compatible. Never been used, \$2,000 setup, selling for \$1,000. Call 503-931-1997. (f3/4)

Collection of hats - Large collection from all over the United States and some parts of the world, 508 total hats for sale. All on display. Call 503-931-1997.

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

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@agingways.com. (c)

Garden General Maintenance Seeking a dependable, organized individual with a positive can-do team player attitude, strong work ethic, and the ability to multitask and communicate with others. Duties include: gardening, janitorial work, laundry, and general maintenance. Must be available to work weekends (early start/early finish). Flexible work environment and excellent career growth opportunity for the right candidate. Come work for an award-winning company, voted "Best Wedding Venue in Polk County" for 2026. Call Karen at 503-307-9219.

City of Willamina Employment Opportunity Tentative review date: March 16th

Do you care about community pride, neighborhood safety, and helping your town look its best? The City of Willamina is seeking a motivated individual to join our team. The ideal candidate will be someone who enjoys working with people, solving problems, and making a visible impact every day.

A full position description is available online at willaminaoregon.gov/jobs or by contacting City Hall at (503) 876-2242.

To apply, submit a completed City of Willamina job application, resume, and cover letter to meneleyb@ci.willamina.or.us or deliver to 411 NE C Street, Willamina OR 97396.

For questions, contact Bridget at meneleyb@ci.willamina.or.us or (503) 876-2242.

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.

Obituaries



Frank A. Phillips
Mar. 21, 1933 - Mar. 16, 2026
 Written by Family

This was Frank:

A husband, father, grandpa, great grandpa, and great-great grandpa, hunter, crack shot, fisherman, born farmer, apple guy, grafter, wood cutter, and dog lover.

Frank grew up in the mountains of North Carolina, shooting squirrels and rabbits for food. After moving to Oregon, he became a deer hunter and a hound dog man. About ten years ago, he drew a prong-horn antelope permit. "George" now hangs on the living room wall.

Growing up, he fell trees. By the time he was seven or eight years old, he could lay a quarter where he wanted a tree to fall and hit it every time. His job at home was cutting wood every day to heat the family's home.

He joined the Army in 1952 and was trained to be an M.P. While stationed in Japan, he was asked to be on the pistol team. He traveled all over Japan competing in competitions. In the last competition, he came within one shot of winning and would have returned to the States to compete for the Western Command.

He loved fishing small streams for trout. We also fished Central Oregon lakes and Devils Lake. He didn't much like fish but ate them anyway because you have

to eat what you catch.

Frank was a born farmer. He loved to grow things. The pine trees at the Sheridan Fishing Pond were grown from seeds he planted. Growing up, he was working in the cornfields when he was six years old. He grew the best corn you have ever eaten; all our neighbors will miss his wonderful corn. He could grow vegetables on a rock pile. We have an apple orchard with 60 trees, which he grafted and planted. Many people in Sheridan knew the apple guy on Edison St.

Frank never met a dog he couldn't make friends with. All the dog walkers knew Frank and his two rat terriers, Molly and Toby. At home, he usually had a dog or two in his lap.

He was a mill worker, worked for Boise Cascade for 15 years, had several other jobs, and retired from Liberty Homes in 1995.

He belonged to the Oregon Hunters Association, Yamhill County Sportsmens Association, and the Chehalem Valley Sports Club.

He married Adlene Pilcher in North Carolina in 1955. They had four children, Andy, Ronda, Randall, and Margaret. They divorced, and he later married Mary Tharp Yoast in 1979.

He leaves behind his wife, Mary, daughters Margaret (John) Weidner and Ronda Phillips, son Andy, step daughter Dawn (Paul) Hayes. Grandchildren Erik Redding, Angela English, Mary Ritter, and Roy Ritter, step grandchildren Matt (Lisa) Parlette, Beth (Eric) Reed, and Tyler Hayes. Seven great-grandchildren, eight step great grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Frank was preceded in death by his son, Randall.

Service and potluck will be held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 28, at the VFW Hall, 771 NE Main St., Willamina.



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State's Highest Honor for Bravery Presented to Deputy Alex Grant

A Yamhill County Sheriff's deputy has been awarded the state's highest honor for bravery following a harrowing encounter last summer that left a stabbing suspect dead and potentially saved the lives of bystanders in Sheridan.

Deputy Alex Grant was recently presented with the 2025 Medal of Valor by the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA). The award recognizes his actions on July 7, 2025, when he responded alone to an active "rampage"

at the Valley's Edge RV Park in Sheridan.

According to reports from the Newberg-Dundee Police Department and the Yamhill County District Attorney's Office, Grant arrived at the scene to find a chaotic situation. Witnesses described 60-year-old David Erwin Jordan as having randomly stabbed two neighbors and attempting to steal a vehicle while armed with a large Bowie-style hunting knife.

District Attorney Kate Lynch,



Yamhill County Deputy Alex Grant

who cleared Grant of any wrongdoing in August 2025, noted that the deputy was immediately confronted by the suspect upon exiting his vehicle.

Body camera footage showed Grant retreating and issuing multiple verbal commands for Jordan to drop the weapon. Jordan instead advanced, closing in within five yards of the deputy before Grant fired his service weapon.

"Deputy Grant took action that he reasonably believed to be necessary to defend himself and others against a deadly threat," Lynch stated in her final memorandum. "His decision likely saved the lives of both the deputy and other residents of the RV park."

The two stabbing victims, one of whom was airlifted to a regional hospital with life-threatening injuries, survived the attack, though officials say one victim suffered permanent injuries.

The OSSA Medal of Valor is reserved for deputies who perform acts of courage involving "imminent threat to life" while going above and beyond the call of duty.

The recognition comes after a standout year for Grant, who was also named the 2024 Enforcement Deputy of the Year by the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office.

Grant, a five-year veteran of the force, has served primarily as a rural deputy covering the West Valley.

A Message from the Sheridan Superintendent

Dear Sheridan Residents,

When students return from spring break next week we will start the fast-paced march through the final weeks of the 2025-26 academic year. Although it seems like a long time, April and May seem to fly by every year!

The events that mark the end of the year are very important to our students. When families and community members show up for school events, it sends a powerful message to students: you matter.

Whether it's sitting down for a conference, applauding at a spring concert, or celebrating at graduation, these moments tell students they are seen and valued beyond the classroom. When friends and family attend events it builds confidence and motivation and helps students take pride in their work. Students that know an adult is invested in their lives experience more academic success and emotional well-being.

When families, educators, and community members engage side by side, it creates a supportive network that enriches the educational experience and builds a culture where students feel encouraged and celebrated.

Please mark these events on your calendar now as we plan to support our students and celebrate their successes!

Spring Conferences: April 16 & 17

Kinder Round-up: May 1 (AM session 9-10:30 / PM session Noon-1:30)

Senior Awards Night: May 14 @ 6pm

FCS 2nd & 3rd Grade musical: May 21 @ 5pm

FCS Concert (Other grades): To be announced.

Sheridan FFA Banquet: To be announced.

SHS Band/Choir: May 27 @ 6:30

Graduation: June 6 @ 2pm 8th

Grade Promotion: June 8 @ 7pm

Sincerely,
Dorie Vickery Ed. D,
Superintendent

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

Eeeeeek!



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WEST VALLEY COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Join us in The Great Grandstand Make Over!

At West Valley Community Campus (WVCC), we know that this project starts with people like you. Every act of kindness, every dollar, and every moment of your time brings us closer to achieving our mission to get the Grandstands repaired for our community. We know how important these Grandstands are for the yearly Willamina 4th of July event and how much fun it is for people to watch the logging show and the fireworks! The Grandstands are crucial for continuing to have future events and sporting activities at WVCC. We need your help! We can't do it alone! Please consider donating to achieve our goal!



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At the Hurricane Coffee window a few days ago, the barista found herself eye-level with a horse that looked ready to order a hay-milk latte. In the saddle's shadow, two dogs in neon safety vests stood guard like a furry Secret Service detail (or a very short construction crew.) The rider casually leaned down, balancing reins and a hot Americano, while the four-legged entourage conducted a rigorous sniff-test of the ledge. It was the peak "Sheridan" moment of the afternoon, leaving the drive-thru smelling of fresh espresso and high-visibility livestock. (Photo by Marianne Thomson).



Quilt Raffle Tickets Available at Museum

The Sheridan Museum of History is selling raffle tickets for a beautifully handmade quilt created by longtime Sheridan resident and quilter Margie Gutbrod.

Proceeds will help finance museum programs and ongoing operating costs.

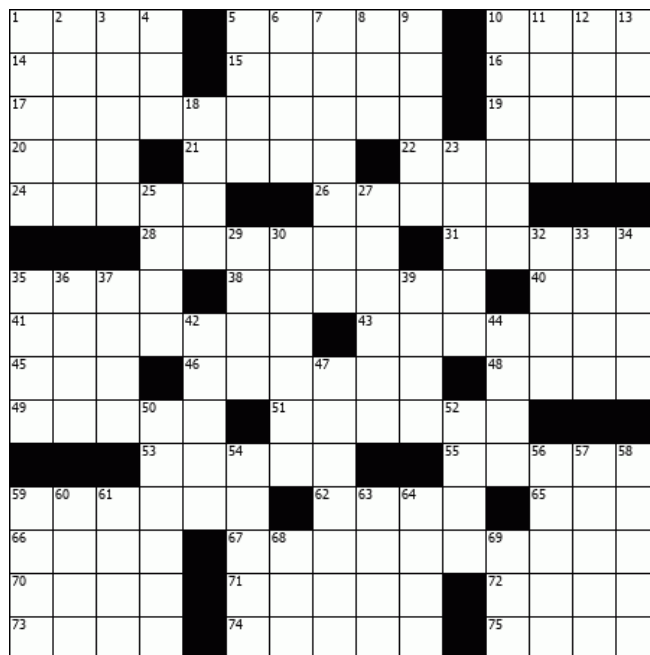
Tickets are priced at \$5 each or three for \$10. They are available for purchase at the museum, located at 142 S. Bridge St., which is open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturdays. The winning ticket will be drawn on June 20, during Sheridan's Hometown Days celebration.

Museum members are incredibly grateful to Margie for generously donating this beautiful quilt to support the ongoing efforts to keep Sheridan's history alive.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. Resound
5. Garden pest
10. Toe trauma
14. Leg part
15. Owned apartment
16. Pocket bread
17. Detachment
19. Poetic lament
20. Clairvoyant's letters
21. Lincoln, et al.
22. Our planet's
24. Portly
26. Coastal birds
28. Gasoline, in England
31. Sort
35. Furthermore
38. Retitle
40. Possessive pronoun
41. Early settler
43. Underwater weapon
45. Flightless bird
46. Required
48. Avails oneself of
49. ___ tax
51. Eager
53. Nappy leather
55. Small particles
59. Inferior
62. Thick carpet
65. Sheep's sound
66. Diva's specialty
67. Appraisal
70. Greasy
71. T-bone, e.g.
72. Largest continent
73. Solidifies
74. Noblemen
75. College official



Down

1. Curvy letters
2. Trunk
3. Large mammal, for short
4. ___ wing and a prayer (2 wds.)
5. Wound covering
6. Memo
7. Actress Jennifer ___
8. Bride's response (2 wds.)
9. Recluse
10. Scanty
11. Slant
12. Nevada neighbor
13. Game fish
18. Assess
23. Fury
25. On top of
27. Thrilled
29. Wood source
30. Enjoy a book again
32. Refusals
33. Impudent
34. Greek god
35. Primates
36. Peruvian capital
37. Inner being
39. Manner
42. Come afterward
44. Golf stroke
47. Bureau
50. Compositions
52. Pesters
54. Make disappear
56. Chubby
57. Craze
58. The Devil
59. Asian country
60. Buffalo's canal
61. River deposit
63. Cure
64. Questions
68. Amtrak depot (abbr.)
69. Irrate

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Fire Extinguisher Operation: Pull! Aim! Squeeze! Sweep!

The Sheridan Museum crew geared up for some excellent hands-on fire extinguisher training last Saturday afternoon at the museum. Many thanks to John Stanislaw of Air Safety Northwest for presenting such an informative and entertaining afternoon program, generously provided completely free for museum members. The group learned the basic operation of fire extinguishers and got a breakdown of the different types available and which specific ones to use for different classes of fires. Along with the hands-on practice, John shared some solid safety advice to take home, such as strategic placement - always place fire extinguishers in accessible locations in your home, making sure they are positioned so you have a clear escape route if a fire gets out of hand; and, always call the fire department, even if you think you have fully extinguished a fire. They have the tools to make sure there are no hidden embers smoldering in the walls, behind outlets, or in other unseen spaces. John advised everyone to watch out and stay vigilant for the two leading causes of house fires: cooking accidents in the kitchen and failure to clean the lint out of dryer vents and hoses.



Word Scramble

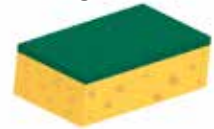
Use the letters and clues below to unscramble the words related to National cleaning week (March 22-28). Place the letters from the circles on the dashes at the bottom to solve the last remaining word.

□ □ □ □ □ ○ □ □

S T I N C F E D

□ □ □ □ □ ○

C U V M U A



Who cleans the ocean floor?

□ □ □ ○ □ □ □ □

Z A S E T I I N

□ □ □ □ ○

O B O M R

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

□ ○ □ □ ○ □ □

D U L A Y R N



□ □ ○ □ □

U B C R S

Last weeks answers

Groan - Tickle - Chuckle - Hilarious - Reaction

Horoscopes Mar. 25-April 1

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

A project you have been working on some time finally reaches a successful conclusion, Aries. Enjoy the benefits that comes from it and take a well-earned bow.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, sensory delights might fill your week. Good food, music and company are your rewards. Enjoy everything and savor each moment.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21

A long-awaited response brings a smile to your face, Gemini. It is just the news you were hoping for, and maybe even better than you expected. Now you can move forward with confidence.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, when you meet a new group of people in the days to come, you might feel a profound sense of belonging. Your heart will be full and you'll be encouraged to socialize more.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, the spotlight may find you this week. Enjoy the praise that is bestowed on you. You have earned it through your consistent effort. Someone with influence may come into your circle.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Clarity about your life's direction brings a sense of calm, Virgo. While you once were floundering, now you know exactly where you are going and the steps necessary to get there.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, your social life may be buzzing right now. It will prove to be a week of laughter, reunions and shared memories if this social energy manifests fully.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

A personal mystery that has been bugging you may be solved this week, Scorpio. The truth might bring you freedom and a sense of empowerment. It also will free up your mind.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

You don't have to travel too far from home to satisfy your wanderlust, Sagittarius. A weekend getaway or midweek escape might be all that's needed to bring refreshment.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

This week you likely will meet a professional or personal milestone that you've been working toward for some time, Capricorn. Celebrate the steady climb you have made.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Authenticity is the key to driving more people into your social circle, Aquarius. It also will attract new opportunities. Don't be afraid to be "you."

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, this week you will settle a debt of some kind, freeing you up for new opportunities. It will leave you feeling lighter and ready for any new chapters ahead.

Bulldogs Open Season Stumbling Out the Gate

The Willamina Bulldogs baseball and softball teams got off to a rocky start, opening their seasons with a combined three losses.

The Lady Dawgs began their season against a tough St. Helens team that lost only four seniors from last year's squad after they finished second in the OSAA Class 4A state bracket.

Willamina got off to a great start, as leadoff hitter Bridget Manley singled to open the game. After a strikeout, Cicily McKenna followed with a single, allowing Manley to round the bases and score the Bulldogs' first run. However, those would be the only two hits St. Helens allowed for the remainder of the game. St. Helens went on to score 18 unanswered runs before the game was called in the fourth inning, handing the Bulldogs an 18-1 loss in their season opener. Pitching was a bit rusty for the Lady Dawgs, who issued 11 walks while allowing eight hits. Bridget Manley started in the circle, giving up six hits, walking seven, and striking out three over just more than two innings. Freshman Keylee Manley relieved her, allowing seven runs on two hits, striking out one, and walking three in limited action.

The Bulldogs baseball team experienced a similar start to its season.

Willamina's assistant coach said the team is focused on development this year.

"We're a young team," he said, noting that five freshmen are in the starting lineup. "There's going to be a lot of growth, and we're going to be a different team by the end of the year. They've got the talent, they're coachable, and they have a lot of pride."

In their season opener, the Bulldogs traveled to Neah-Kah-Nie and returned home with a 17-1 loss to the Pirates before

the Bulldogs looked to host the Amity Warriors in their home opener.

Amity scored quickly, putting up two runs in the top of the first inning. The Bulldogs answered when Bob Larsen singled home Carter Felton, cutting the deficit to 2-1 by the end of the first inning.

The Warriors broke the game open in the second inning, recording four singles, one double, and two additional baserunners via walk or hit by pitch, scoring six runs to take an 8-1 lead.

Willamina attempted to rally in the third, when Dominico Zito and Cole recorded back-to-back singles with one out. Both runners advanced on a wild pitch, and Carter Felton drew a walk to load the bases. Larsen followed with a fielder's choice to shortstop, allowing Zito to score before Amity retired the side.

That was the only fuel in the tank for the Bulldogs, Amity adding four more runs in the top of the fifth to end the game, Willamina walking away with a 12-2 loss.

Willamina was limited to four hits and struck out six times.

Larsen led the team with two hits, while Zito and Cole each added one.

Felton started on the mound, pitching two innings and allowing eight runs on seven hits while striking out two. Olivia Mecham pitched in relief, giving up four runs on three hits and striking out two.



Bulldogs' Dominico Zito makes contact with the ball, unfortunately ending up in foul territory, in Willamina's home opener last Thursday.



Carter Felton (20) beats that tag at home to score Willamina's first run during their home opener against the Amity Warriors. Willamina would lose the contest 12-2, dropping to 0-2 for the season.



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



They are hiding somewhere inside every edition

Delphian, Willamina Athletes Post Strong Finishes at Grizzly Bear Open

The Willamina Bulldogs and Delphian Dragons track and field teams competed in the Jim Barks Grizzly Bear Open at McMinnville High School last Thursday.

On the boys' side, Delphian's Oli Beaugard led the way, winning the 110-meter hurdles in 15.15 seconds and placing second in the 100 meters in 11.28. Teammate Nathan Cloutier finished third in the 800 meters in 2:02.48, while Vladimir Bunchuk took fifth in the 400 meters in 53.93 and fifth in the 300-meter hurdles in 45.04.

The 4x400-meter relay team of Beaugard, Cloutier, Bunchuk, and Mark DeVries finished second in 3:34.53. In the 4x100 relay, Bunchuk and DeVries teamed with Nico Barram and Dylan Lederer to place third in 45.24.

In field events, DeVries was one of two athletes to clear 20 feet in the long jump, hitting the mark exactly to place second. He followed with a third-place finish in the triple jump at 39 feet, 8 inches.

Willamina's Matthew Atherton cleared 5 feet, 10 inches in the high jump to take second place. Delphian's Henry Gullo placed second in the javelin with a throw of 152 feet, 4 inches.

On the girls' side, Delphian's Amy Guy, Liv Curry, and Amelia Peterson turned in top performances. Guy won the triple jump with a mark of 31 feet, 2.75 inches, Curry placed second in the high jump by clearing 5 feet, and Peterson finished third in the javelin at 99 feet, 3 inches.

Other notable boys finishes included: Ronald Menard (Delphian), 10th in the 200 meters in 24.64; Boston Brown (Delphian), ninth in the 800 in 2:10.38; Dylan Lederer (Delphian), ninth in the 300-meter hurdles in

47.24; Danny Swanberg (Delphian), 10th in the 300-meter hurdles in 47.46; Shane Mathers (Willamina), ninth in the javelin at 130 feet, 11 inches; Mathers, seventh in the long jump at 19 feet, 7 inches; Beaugard, eighth at 19 feet, 6.75 inches; Atherton, ninth at 19 feet, 4.5 inches; Devon Wright (Willamina), 10th at 19 feet, 2 inches; and Mathers, sixth in the triple jump at 37 feet, 4.5 inches.

Other notable girls finishes included: Piper Gibson (Delphian), sixth in the 200 meters in 28.26; Avery Ott (Delphian), ninth in 28.38; Emilee Turner (Willamina), seventh in the 400 in 1:09.19; Libby Warnicke (Willamina), 10th in 1:13.51; Lily Olivares (Delphian), seventh in the 100-meter hurdles in 18.12; Curry, eighth in 18.19; the Delphian 4x100 relay team of Gibson, Ott, Curry, and Olivares, fifth in 52.09; the 4x400 relay team of Curry, Brunella Plascencia, Olivares, and Ott, fourth in 4:29.63; Mila Marvin (Delphian), sixth in the high jump at 4 feet, 8 inches; and Amy Ke (Delphian), ninth in the triple jump at 26 feet, 8 inches.

Last issue's crossword solution

E	C	R	U		A	S	I	A		I	D	E	A	S
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A	S	C	O	T		D	A	T	E		L	O	I	N
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Sheridan Revitalization Announces First Winner for 2026 Yard of the Month

Spring has arrived, and with it, the Sheridan Revitalization Movement's Yard of the Month contest has kicked off. Ron Hodge was named the March winner, becoming the first honoree of the 2026 season.

Hodge, who grew up helping his mother garden flowers, vegetables, and other foods for their family, developing a fondness for gardening early in life.

Much of Hodge's current garden was inherited from the previous resident of his home. Now, after 11 years at the property, he has added his own touches. He removed a blue spruce that was threatening the home's foundation and introduced his favorite flower, gardenias, to

complement the daffodils and other blooms that brighten the

landscape.

Towering above the colorful



The yard of Ron Hodge, winner of March Yard of the Month 2026.

arrangement are a Mexican orange blossom, a flowering pear tree, and viburnum, which provide habitat and comfort for local wildlife.

Hodge said he regularly sees finches, sparrows, blue jays, bluebirds, robins, juncos, and squirrels in his yard, including what he described as "the big one," spotted darting through the garden during the interview.

He also helps feed the animals. "I was just about ready to head down to the feed store (West Valley Mercantile) and buy some bird food," he said, adding that he also puts out peanuts. "I think I've got peanuts spread out from here to the feed store," he said with a laugh.

While he has stepped away from growing food, Hodge continues to spend time tending to his flowers and trees, creating a fragrant outdoor space and an opportunity to enjoy time outside. When he takes a break from gardening, Hodge can often be found along the river, casting a line in hopes of catching trout or steelhead, though he noted the latter have been rather elusive this year.

Does your neighbor, friend, or relative in Sheridan deserve to have their time, love, and effort they have put into their yard honored? Nominations can be submitted through the Sheridan Revitalization Movement website at www.revitalizesherdan.com/yard or by emailing revitalizesherdan@gmail.com

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Sheridan Revitalization Movement's Yard of the Month sign that sits in the winning yard. The stay until a new winner is announced next month.

Sheridan High School Music Program Showcase Talent at Spring Concert

The Sheridan High School music program performed its spring concert on Tuesday, March 17. The concert featured 28 students across five ensembles, showcasing their musical studies and the work they have put in over the past year.

Opening the evening was the handbell choir, composed of Eamon Lewis, Rowan Mansfield, and Haleigh Wilson, with Sheridan High School music teacher Derek Tripp stepping in for Lewis, who also plays drums for the band, and was unable to make it to the night's entertainment. The group performed "Londonderry Air," "Steal Away," and "Like a River Glorious."

Next to take the stage was the five-member Concert Choir, consisting of Rylee Adams, Riley Ellis, Harper Gilbert-Neel, Trinity Rose, and Jerika Stepp. The ensemble performed "Everybody," "A Cool Breeze," and "Notes From Emily."

The Symphonic Choir followed, performing "Let the River Run," "Actus," "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel," "Sing We and Chant It," "Dewdrops," and "Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe," which translates to "There is no God like you."

Following the choral performances, the instrumental portion of the program began with the concert band. The group performed "A New Light" and "Thunderchase," the latter really grabbing the attention of the crowd as multiple members took turns striking a large gong, some with notable enthusiasm. The Combined Band performed "On Broadway," featuring several soloists, including Rowan Mansfield on baritone, Tristan Owen on trumpet, Cayden Adams and Lorika Knight on flute, and Gabe Thomas on guitar. The evening concluded with a performance by the Symphonic Band. The group played "Fresh Cut Fries," featuring a trumpet solo by Hunter Klingler; "Back to Havana," with Ryan Jenne on tuba and Ben Major on trombone; "EKG," featuring Angel Dryer on trumpet; and "Chameleon," which included another trumpet solo by Klingler, as well as a flute feature by Lillian Eichler.

ams and Lorika Knight on flute, and Gabe Thomas on guitar.

The evening concluded with a performance by the Symphonic Band. The group played "Fresh Cut Fries," featuring a trumpet solo by Hunter Klingler; "Back to Havana," with Ryan Jenne on tuba and Ben Major on trombone; "EKG," featuring Angel Dryer on trumpet; and "Chameleon," which included another trumpet solo by Klingler, as well as a flute feature by Lillian Eichler.

Derek Tripp, Sheridan High School music director, extended special thanks to Maria Yin, who provided piano accompaniment for the evening, the custodial staff who helped set up and clean up, and the support of school administrators. He also stated special acknowledgments to all of the soloists and the duet performers, Cayden Adams and Lorika Knight, the two flutists who courageously played improvised solos.



Hunter Klingler plays a trumpet solo during the Symphonic Band's playing of "Chameleon."



Sheridan High School's Concert performs on stage at the Sheridan High School Spring Concert, held on Tuesday, March 17.

Never Trust a Missing Blinker: A Survival Guide for Traffic Circles

The residents of the West Valley have lived by a simple, geometric truth: roads meet at 90-degree angles, you stop, you look, and you go. But a new shape is haunting the dreams of some local commuters—the circle.

While Sheridan, Willamina and Grand Ronde remain bastions of the four-way stop, our neighbors in Monmouth have already succumbed to the "Roundabout Revolution." It's only a matter of time before these paved donuts of destiny roll into our backyard.

To ensure we don't end up like Clark Griswold circling the Big Ben for eternity, here is your field guide to mastering the curve.

According to the Oregon Driver's Manual, here are the rules of the ring: a roundabout is not a suggestion, it is a mandatory counter-clockwise carousel.

Here are the "Big Three" rules to keep your bumper intact:

- Yield to the "In-Crowd":

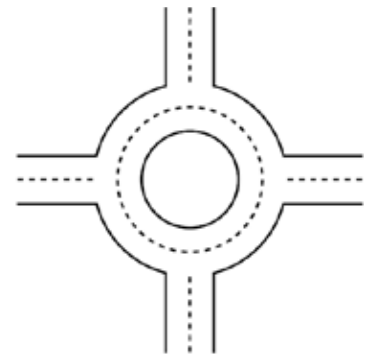
The most important rule of the roundabout club is that those inside the circle have the right of way. If you are entering, you must yield to the traffic already spinning. It's like jumping into a moving jump rope; timing is everything, and hesitation leads to tangled feet (or fenders).

Slow Your Roll: Roundabouts are designed for speeds between 15 and 25 mph. If you're going fast enough to feel centrifugal force pulling your coffee toward the window, you're doing it wrong.

The Exit Signal: Oregon law (specifically ORS 811.400) actually requires you to use your right turn signal to exit the roundabout. This tells the person waiting to get in, "Hey, I'm leaving now, it's your turn to play."

The "Blinker Leap of Faith":

Perhaps the greatest test of human character in a roundabout is the blinker paradox. You are waiting to enter, and a car is approaching from your left. They don't have a blinker on. Does this mean:



A) They are continuing around the circle, and you should stay put?

B) They are exiting at your street but have forgotten that blinkers exist?

C) They have reached a state of Zen where "direction" is merely a social construct?

The Factual Truth: Never trust a missing blinker. A driver may signal to turn right and instead go straight, or, more likely, just forget to signal their exit entirely. Wait for the vehicle to actually start its physical exit maneuver before you commit. It's better to wait three seconds than to meet a stranger's insurance agent.

Pro-Tips for the Circularly Challenged:

- Missed your exit? Don't panic and don't stop. Just keep going around! It's the only place in life where "going in circles" is considered a successful recovery strategy.

- Pedestrians and bikes: They still have the right of way at the crosswalks before you enter and after you exit. Think of them as the "speed bumps" of social etiquette.

- Emergency Vehicles: If a siren blares while you're in the circle, do not stop. Proceed to your exit, clear the roundabout, and then pull over. Stopping inside the circle creates a "traffic pretzel" that no one can untangle.

The West Valley might be "square" for now, but with the Monmouth circle looming nearby, it's time to start practicing your arcs.

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Sheridan City Council Discuss City Hall Landscaping, Budget, and Repairs

The Sheridan City Council held a regular session on March 16. The following are key takeaways from the meeting.

During public comment, Joe Neeley of West Valley Transparency presented the results of a poll he conducted with 53 participants. Respondents were asked, "What is the biggest reason you would not consider running for the Sheridan City Council?" Of those surveyed, 26 participants (49%) cited a lack of time, while 18 (34%) stated they do not live within city limits despite having a Sheridan mailing address. Additionally, three respondents (5.6%) said they are not ready for the responsibility, two (3.7%) said they might consider it, two (3.7%) stated the position does not pay well, one (1.8%) felt they

had not lived in the area long enough, and one expressed discomfort with being on camera. Neeley suggested that the 34% of respondents with Sheridan addresses who are unable to run due to city boundary requirements represent a potential pool of candidates. He proposed that expanding those boundaries in the city charter could increase participation.

The Sheridan City Charter sets the requirements to be a member of the City Council. Current requirements of the charter state that a person must be a qualified voter of the State of Oregon and live in the City of Sheridan for one year preceding the election. During the Sheriff's Report, Council President Jim Buckles noted no significant concerns but

highlighted a new category in the report. "I looked back two years, and we haven't had this category," Buckles said. "This appears to be an arrest for prostitution, which is a first for Sheridan as far as I can tell."

No additional comments were made regarding the report; however, City Manager Preston Polasek reported that Deputy Alex Grant received the Medal of Valor Award from the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association for actions taken at River's Edge RV Park. Grant responded to a call involving an individual threatening residents with a knife, which resulted in him making the difficult decision to use lethal force to protect others.

Polasek also reported that Yamhill County deputies serving the Sheridan area are interested in implementing an electronic ticketing system to improve efficiency and clarity in court documentation. The system would be funded by the sheriff's office. Deputies also expressed interest in obtaining a LiDAR device for traffic enforcement, estimated at \$1,500. Polasek recommended that the city fund the purchase as a show of support and appreciation for the deputies' work in the area.

During the expense report, Polasek emphasized the importance of completing work on the fiscal year 2025 budget so it can be audited and used to establish accurate beginning fund balances. "You're not out of the hole until you have beginning fund balances based on actuals," he said. He added that once the budget is finalized, the city will be in a better position to replace its current Tyler Technologies software system, citing ongoing errors, lack of support, and associated costs. "We have to get away from the burden," Polasek said.

The City Council voted to approve the fiscal year 2026–2027 budget calendar.

Council members also approved Resolution 2026-B, which allows the Sheridan Chamber of Commerce to pursue the closure of Southside Park for its annual gala. The resolution does not grant final approval but allows the organization to proceed with the application process.

The council approved a City Hall landscaping proposal submitted by Treedemption Gardens. Polasek described the project as part of a broader environmental initiative that began with per-

mitting of backyard beekeeping and restricting certain pesticides, such as forever chemicals and neonicotinoid pesticides. The proposal aims to create a pollinator-friendly space at City Hall, a project that has gained enthusiastic support from the Parks and Recreation Committee.

David Stearns, owner of Treedemption Gardens, presented the plan, emphasizing its potential to enhance the city's appearance and provide educational opportunities related to native plants and pollinators. The project, estimated at \$4,760, includes one year of maintenance. Council members approved the proposal after confirming the total cost would remain under \$5,000.

Polasek reported that the city has acquired a new sewer utility truck to replace the old sewer maintenance vehicle that is currently in Salem to be auctioned off. This vehicle completes the City's fleet for water, sewer, and street operations, and improves the Public Works Department's ability to perform essential functions.

In the City Manager's report, Polasek noted that vacancies on the City Budget Committee are currently being advertised. He also provided an update on the Yamhill Street sewer line replacement project, stating that efforts to repurpose grant funding have progressed and received favorable feedback from Business Oregon. Engineering costs associated with revising the project scope, administering the grant, and conducting an environmental review are estimated at \$46,000.

Polasek also informed the council of needed repairs at the water treatment plant. While Public Works staff have completed preliminary efforts, outside contractors will be required to complete the work. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$20,000, and the city is currently seeking three bids.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Councilor Dennis McElroy noted strong community use at Southside Park during a recent visit, with approximately 30 people present. Discussion followed regarding ongoing improvements and grant funding. Polasek estimated that approximately \$200,000 remains available for future project work, including the installation of a bridge and other planned features. He added that tracking has been difficult due to issues with the city's current software system.



National Joe Day

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 D E P V J O F P E Y T Y I J L O M A Q U
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Virginia Garcia Presents at Sheridan Chamber Meeting

Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center hosted the Sheridan Chamber of Commerce meeting on Friday, where Jarrod Sherwood, the Director of Facilities and a native of the area, spoke about the organization and its impact on the West Valley. The health center, which opened its Sheridan clinic last year, is a nonprofit organization that provides medical, dental, and behavioral health services to low-income individuals and families. Its mission is to deliver

high-quality, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate primary health care to communities in Washington County and Yamhill County, with a focus on migrant and seasonal farmworkers, as well as others who face barriers to accessing care. The Sheridan location marks the westernmost expansion for Virginia Garcia Community Health Centers. Following the departure of Adventist Health from its Jefferson Street office, the organization identified the site as an opportunity to serve an area

with limited healthcare access. "I've seen what kind of health care desert this is, as I'm sure many people will echo, and we lobbied very, very hard to come out here," Sherwood said. From a business standpoint, Sherwood estimated the organization invested approximately \$500,000 to establish the Sheridan clinic, with about \$250,000 coming from government sources, including the Yamhill Community Care Organization. "The support has not just been people like us saying yes," Sherwood said. "Support has been echoed by the local government community, so kudos to them for that."

Before opening the clinic, Virginia Garcia conducted extensive research to ensure its presence would not negatively impact existing local services, including Sheridan Pharmacy. The organization operates a pharmacy through the 340B Drug Pricing Program, which provides discounted medications to eligible low-income patients and is limited to federally qualified health centers. Local pharmacies are not eligible to participate in the program, though a private pharmacy can partner with a 340B entity and participate, a practice that is not commonly used. "We specifically don't do anything to be competitive with local businesses," Sherwood said. "You won't be able to buy a Band-Aid, thermometer, or anything retail. It's strictly services for patients." Sherwood concluded by noting that Virginia Garcia is exploring opportunities to expand services at the Sheridan location.



Virginia Garcia Facilities Director Jerrod talks to the Sheridan Chamber of Commerce about the organizations role in the West Valley.

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Children to Search City Park in Hunt For Eggs, Equalizing Divisions Set

Colored Easter eggs by the dozens – plus many premium eggs worth \$1 – will have scores of area youngsters searching Sheridan's city park Saturday, March 28, according to Lois Krauthoefer and Lotsel Barbie, co-chairmen of the promotion event. Egg hunting is slated to get underway at 2 p.m.

Children will participate in the hunting of eggs in four separate age brackets, the chairmen pointed out. Youngsters in the 1 through 3 age group will be permitted on the field with their parents, but children in the other three sections will have no assistance from adults. Other age groups for the hunt are 4 through 5, 6 through 9, and 10 through 12. The premium eggs will be redeemable in \$1 worth of merchandise or the cash.

Guides for the event will be Boy Scouts from Don Stuck's Troop 284 and Don Cooley's Troop 262. The Scouts will hide eggs in the park prior to the hunt and will be in charge of controlling the crowd at the park.

Members of Sheridan Girl Scout Troops will assist in hiding eggs and are assigned the task of aiding youngsters, as well as other general assistance duties. Preparing eggs for the hunt will be Senior Girl Scouts and adults.

Adding gaiety to the day will be Easter Bunnies Patty Thompson and Donna Evans, who will circulate throughout the downtown area passing out candy Easter eggs.

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the following business firms are cooperating in the big event: The Mere, Ted's Shell Station, Ellingsworth's Su-

Rainbow Girls Chili and Chowder Dinner Slated

Annual Sheridan Rainbow Girls Chili and Chowder feed will be held Saturday night at the high school cafeteria, according to Mrs. Dean Holmes, mother advisor to the girls. The event will be held from 5:30 to 8 pm.

Tickets are selling at 75 cents for adults and 35 cents for youngsters 6 through 12. Salad and pie also will be served.

Purpose of the dinner is to raise funds for Rainbow projects throughout the year.

per Market, the U. S. National bank, Sheridan Grain company, Sheridan Bakery, Western Auto Hardware, Nice Furniture, Chat & Chew cafe, Sheridan Drag, Murphy's Midway market, Valley Cleaners, Agee's Marketaria, the Sheridan Sun, Oregon Washington Telephone company, Tuggle Chevrolet company, Copeland Lumber, Daniels Feed and Seed, Davison Auto Parts and Ken Graham, Standard Oil distributor.

According to Ron Hendricks, chairman of retail promotions, any business wishing to participate financially in supporting the Easter Egg event should contact him at 843-4722.

Ballston Serviceman Now on Tender In Spain

Serving aboard the U.S. Submarine Tender Proteus out of Rota, Spain, is 2/C torpedoman Ivan Whitlow, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Whitlow of Ballston. The ship, formerly based at Dunoon, Scotland, is servicing Polaris-firing submarines at the new naval base in Spain.

Young Whitlow, who entered the Navy in October 1960, received his schooling in Key West, Fla. He has since seen duty in England, Italy, Holland, Germany, Greece, and France, as well as Scotland and Spain. His ship is "mother" vessel to eight Polaris-equipped submarines.

Holy Week Plans Told

Daily worship services during Holy Week in Sheridan have been announced by the Sheridan Ministerial Association.

All services will be held at the Church of the Nazarene in Sheridan. Speakers for the 10 a.m. services, Monday through Thursday, will be: Monday: Rev. Lawrence Monk, First Methodist church; Tuesday: Rev. Elwin Moore, Church of the Nazarene; Wednesday: Rev. Walter G. Sloan of the free Methodist church in Willamina; Thursday: Rev. RA. Bullock, Sheridan Assembly of God.

The Good Friday service March 27 will be held at 11 a.m., with Rev. Ralph Perry of the Sheridan First Christian Church as speaker.

Washington Couple Buys Hiway Market

Sale of Hammons Hiway Market at 836 E. Main Street in Sheridan to Mr. and Mrs. Walt H. Wegener, formerly of Vashon, Wash., has been announced by long-time owners Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hammons.

The new owners will assume operation of the grocery store-meat market operation next week.

The Wegeners, Walt and Peggy, began moving their furnishings into the living facilities at the store Wednesday.

Self-employed for several years, Wegener worked in the missile cone industry in Washington prior to his operation, with a partner, of their own plastics company.

Tired of the plastics business, Wegener said he sold out his interests and began working outside again, harvesting evergreens for decorations business. Wegener said the Hammons, who plan to move to their ranch between Sheridan and Willamina, will assist them in becoming oriented in the grocery business for a short time.

The Wegeners said they had been looking for a new area in which to live for several years and had been in contact with Charlie Jordan of Strout Realty for some time.

Jordan handled negotiations for the purchase after "completely selling" the Washington couple on Sheridan.

Wegener, who had lived at Vashon, on an island in Puget Sound near Seattle, for 37 years, said Sheridan's fine schools, nearness to numerous colleges, and tremendous opportunities for family living sold him on the Phil Sheridan Country as a place to live.

The couple has three children: Jenny, 16, a high school junior, Kathy, 15, a high school sophomore, and Walter Jr., 13, an eighth grader.

They said the girls will complete the school year in Washington, while young Walt will start school shortly at Chapman Grade School.

Store policies established over the years by the Hammons will be unchanged, Wegener said, and the same top-quality meats and other lines of groceries will be continued. A knowledge of beef is possessed by Wegener, who used to raise registered Hereford cattle.

Sale of Condemned Masonic Structure Due

Preparation of papers and transfer of title is all that remains to complete sale of the condemned Masonic lodge building on South Bridge Street to Norm and Mel Agee, according to Masonic officials.

Condemnation of the building came after the building's footings, not down to bedrock, began to eat away due to years of ammonia-water running down them.

The building has developed several large cracks over the years and has a sizable "bow" along the north wall. The Agees have expressed intention of having the building removed.

New lodge facilities for the Masons, who have been using the Oddfellow's quarters since they were forced to move, are under construction across Bridge Street from their old building.

The new quarters, purchased from Mrs. Cooley, will feature a new front, to be completed in the near future, along with a kitchen, dining room, and lounge area, as well as a new lodge room.

Lodge officials feel they will be into their new facilities by fall after finishing their stay at the Oddfellow lodge when the summer vacation break comes.

Already occupying the new Masonic building is Attorney Harold Fuller, who is leasing his new office space from the lodge. He formerly occupied office space on the second floor of the condemned structure.

Extensive work remains in the new facilities, including plastering of walls and lowering of ceilings. Lodge equipment will be moved from the old quarters.

Brother, Sister 'Reintroduced'

A long separation of brother and sister lasting 52 years was ended last week when the brother arrived and "reintroduced" himself at his sister's home in Fort Hill.

Now a guest of the L. E. Hamiltons at Fort Hill is Mrs. Hamilton's brother, Albert Johnson, of Yankton, S. D. Upon his arrival in Sheridan last week, it took Johnson numerous inquiries to locate the Hamilton home, where he was reunited with his sister after the 52-year separation.



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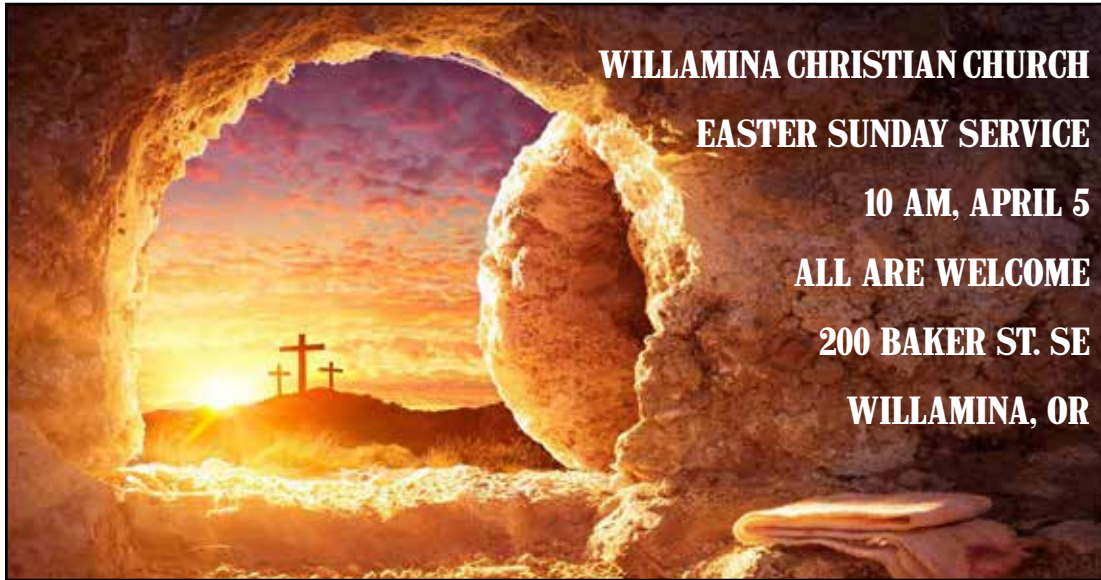
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