



Local Holiday Giving Opportunities

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Final Leaf Drop Saturday, Dec. 7th

Page 8



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Happy Valley NEWS

December 2024

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SHINING BRIGHT

Happy Valley's beloved event to kick off the holidays



City of Happy Valley

Celebrate the joy of the season and gather for the annual Happy Valley Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Organized by Happy Valley Parks and Recreation, this cherished community event promises to bring friends and neighbors together in festive spirit. Once again, the event will feature activities both indoors and outdoors.

Highlights of the event include:

- **City Tree Lighting:** Watch in awe as the City's tree comes to life with a cascade of lights with a countdown by Mayor Ellis. Estimated illumination time will be approximately 4:45 p.m.
- **Holiday Crafts:** Stay cozy inside City Hall while creating holiday-themed crafts with the team from Happy Valley Library, Venvino Art Studios, and the Public Art Committee.
- **Live Performances:** Enjoy festive music by local students from the Nelson High School Jazz Band, HV Middle School Choir, and the Rock Creek and HV Middle School Bands. Enjoy dance performance by Tippi Toes and Backroad Dance performers.
- **Meet Santa:** Don't miss the chance to capture a magical moment with Santa in a memorable photo opportunity.
- **Warm Beverages & Snacks:**



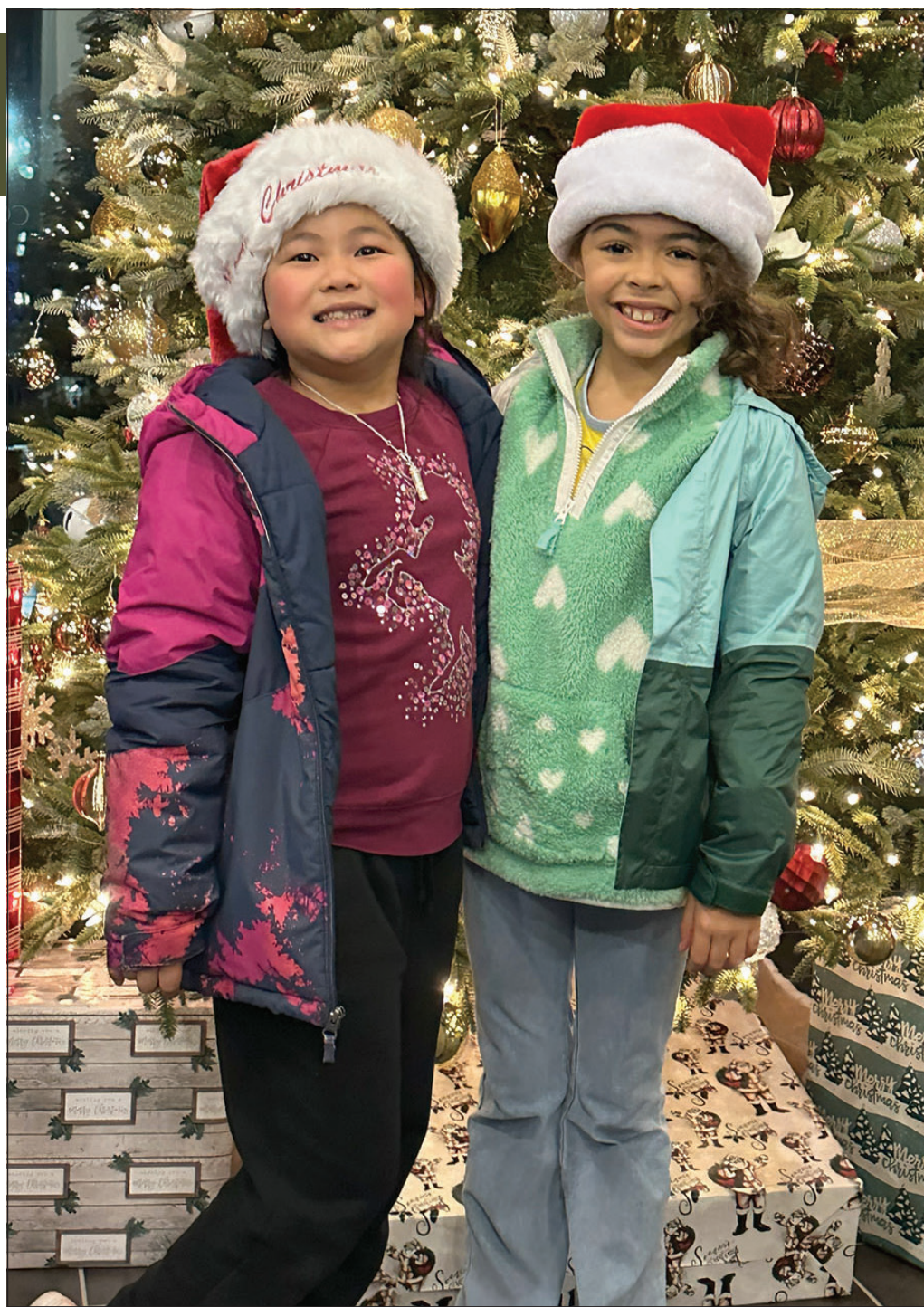
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY

Enjoy festive lights with some hot cocoa as you spend time with loved ones. The City tree will remain illuminated throughout the holiday season.

Sip on hot cocoa and coffee, and enjoy some light snacks, available for purchase. Vendors onsite will include SteamWerkz, Travelin' Tom's Coffee, and Moondrops Roasted Nuts.

can mail their letters to Santa, ensuring their wishes reach the North Pole. Download a letter template at the event website and don't forget to include a

See LIGHTING / A2



Join us Sunday, Dec. 8 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at City Hall for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Holiday Fun in the Valley

Bask in the magic of the holiday season within Happy Valley!

Take part in all of the fun holiday activities

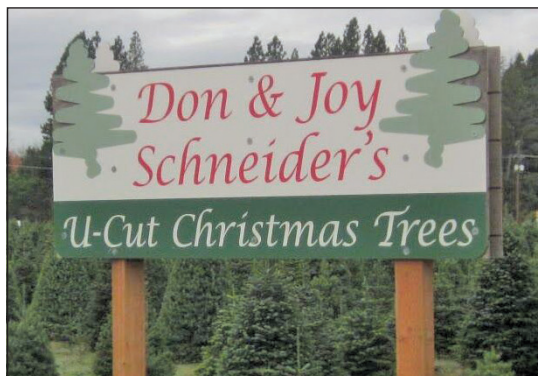
By EMMA DAVIS Staff Reporter

The holiday season in Happy Valley is bursting with festive events and activities to make this time of year truly magical. From selecting the perfect Christmas tree to browsing unique holiday markets and attending beloved community traditions, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Where to Get Your Christmas Tree

Finding the perfect Christmas tree is a holiday highlight for many families, and Happy Valley has some fantastic options for your tree-hunting adventures:

- **Don & Joy Schneider Christmas Tree U Cut:** A local gem, Don & Joy Schneider Christmas Tree U Cut offers a wide selection of U-cut noble, grand, and Douglas firs. This family-run farm provides all the tools you need for cutting your tree and even offers assistance if needed. The friendly atmosphere, coupled with the fresh pine scent, makes for a wonderful holiday experience for families and tree enthusiasts alike.
- **Happy Valley Tree Lot:** Located at 13231 SE Sunnyside Rd, the Happy Valley Tree Lot is run



Christmas Trees is a great place to find the perfect Christmas tree!

by Adult & Teen Challenge Pacific Northwest and is open during the holiday season. The lot offers a selection of pre-cut trees, making it a convenient stop for those looking to find the perfect tree to complete their holiday décor. Purchasing your tree from the lot also supports a good cause, as the proceeds go toward the nonprofit's work with local youth and families.

See FUN / A2

SHOP LOCAL this Holiday Season!

Support your local businesses during the holidays!

By EMMA DAVIS Staff Reporter

Santa visits, and so much more! www.sunnysidefarmersmarkets.com



The holiday season is here, and Happy Valley is brimming with local shops and unique businesses ready to make your holiday shopping a breeze. From sweets and thoughtful wellness gifts to stylish apparel and creative experiences, the community offers a little something for everyone. Here's a guide to some must-visit spots that will help you find the perfect gift while supporting local businesses.

Happy Valley Farmers Market - Procrastinator's Market

December 21st and 22nd
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Clackamas High School

Haven't had time to finish your holiday shopping yet? Don't worry—head over to the 13th Annual Procrastinators Holiday Market, where you'll find over 350 local vendors offering everything from fresh produce and handmade goods to specialty items, tasty baked treats, food vendors,

Shop Local in Happy Valley for the Holidays: Discover New Businesses and Hidden Gems

The holiday season is here, and there's no better way to support our community than by shopping local in Happy Valley. From sweet treats to stylish fashion finds and wellness experiences, Happy Valley has a variety of new and exciting businesses that will make your holiday shopping extra special. Here are a few must-visit spots:

Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory / Great American Cookies / Marble Slab Creamery

Looking for the ultimate holiday gift? The newly opened Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, which also features Great American Cookies and Marble Slab Creamery, is a one-stop shop for all your sweet gifting needs. From beautifully

See SHOP / 9

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Lighting

From Page 1

return address, so little ones can receive a letter back!

Operation Santa Donation Drop Off: Contribute to the community's efforts to support Clackamas Fire District #1's Operation Santa Claus donation drive. Bring non-perishable food and new toys to make the holiday season brighter for those in need.

Show Your City Pride: Visit the HV Store to find unique gifts for the Happy Valley enthusiast!

Festive Fun for Furry Friends: EarthWise Pet will be serving Dog Nog and treats for pups

Cookie Time: Grab a complimentary treat at the iQ Credit Union community booth.

Holiday Happy Zone: Kids can enjoy a few rounds of winter themed activities and games.

Some activities will take place in the main parking lot – please dress for the weather!
Parking is limited near City Hall, so please plan accordingly and be considerate of residents when parking in nearby neighborhoods.



Bring a new, unwrapped gift, or non-perishable food item to the Operation Santa donation drop off.

The Tree Lighting Ceremony is not only a festive tradition but also an opportunity to promote a community of peace, love, and hope. Join your fellow Happy Valley residents in celebrating the wonder of the season and creating special memories. For more information visit hv.city/tree-lighting or scan the QR code with your smart device.



Enjoy festive lights with some hot cocoa as you spend time with loved ones.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY



Make a holiday themed craft.

Can't make it to the event?

The holidays are a unique time of year and the City is committed to keeping the magic of the holidays alive throughout the season. The City Tree will be decorated with its traditional lights and available to view every evening through the beginning of the new year.

THE 2024 TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY IS ALSO SPONSORED BY:



Fun

From Page 1

Festive Events and Holiday Activities

Happy Valley Tree Lighting Ceremony: Join the community at Village Green Park for the annual tree lighting celebration. The park will glow with thousands of lights as the Christmas tree is lit, marking the start of the holiday season. The evening features live holiday music from local choirs, kids' crafts, and complimentary holiday treats like cookies and hot cocoa. Santa Claus will even be making an appearance!

Procrastinator's Holiday Market: Perfect for last-minute holiday shoppers, the Procrastinator's Holiday Market is more than just a marketplace, it's a festive



Enjoy driving around the Valley looking at all of the Christmas lights by friends, family and neighbors.

celebration. Taking place in the weekend before Christmas, it is packed with local vendors selling handcrafted gifts, delicious holiday treats, and unique stocking stuffers. But the fun doesn't stop with shopping. The market features activities and entertainment for all visitors,

making it a great outing for the whole family. From holiday-themed games and kids' crafts to live performances and seasonal music, there's something to keep everyone entertained. It's an ideal way to finish your holiday prep while soaking in the cheerful



A cozy night in watching beloved Christmas classics is a great way to spend time with family during the holidays.

atmosphere and supporting local artisans.

More Holiday Adventures in Happy Valley

Neighborhood Lights Tour: Hop in the car and tour some of Happy Valley's most dazzling holiday light displays. Cruise around the neighborhoods and see homes decked out with

dazzling lights, inflatables, and musical displays that will have everyone in awe. It's a fantastic way to enjoy the spirit of the season with the whole family.

Holiday Movie Night In: Sometimes, the best way to enjoy the holidays is from the comfort of home. Gather your loved ones, make some hot cocoa, and settle in for a cozy movie

night featuring holiday classics. Whether you prefer heartwarming tales like *It's a Wonderful Life* or family-friendly hits like *Home Alone*, a night in can be a great way to create lasting memories.


Giving Back to the Community


The holidays are a season of giving, and there are plenty of ways to give back to those in need. Local organizations and nonprofits in Happy Valley host toy drives, food collections, and volunteer opportunities. Participating in these efforts is a meaningful way to make the season brighter for everyone in the community.

Whether you're picking the perfect Christmas tree, exploring holiday markets, or enjoying a cozy night in, Happy Valley is full of holiday cheer. Celebrate the season, support local businesses, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

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'Tis the season of giving

Explore how you can give back through local charities, donation drives, and community events.

City of Happy Valley

For many, the holidays are some of the best times of the year, yet for some in our community, these celebrations are a reminder of serious financial hardship. Here are four meaningful ways residents can give back this holiday season and bring hope and cheer to those in need.



Winter Blitz

Winter Blitz is a popular donation drive that serves local families in need. Key Club students from Clackamas High School and Adrienne C. Nelson High School are once again combining efforts to help local families struggling this season by ensuring essential items are available and accessible.

Financial gifts by way of monetary donations and gift cards to places like Amazon and Target

are the most helpful, as they allow for the purchase of necessities and essentials needed most, and ensure that more families in need can be included. Other things desired are new or lightly used household items, clothing, and toys. An upcoming donation collection event is anticipated for Saturday, Dec. 7, so be sure to check the official site for more details. For information about items needed and how to donate, head to hvcity/winter-blitz.

Meals on Wheels People

Through the Meals on Wheels People program, Happy Valley Parks and Recreation provides warm, nutritious meals to some of our community's most vulnerable seniors while offering friendly visits to those who may otherwise feel isolated or have difficulty getting out and about.

Please consider donating to the City's local Meals on Wheels People program by visiting hvcity/mowp. From there, you can submit a tax-deductible donation in the amount of your choice. Your gift will support homebound seniors right here in Happy Valley who would otherwise not have consistent access to wholesome, nutritious meals.



Happy Valley Parks and Recreation Foundation

The Foundation works collaboratively with the City's Parks and Recreation Department to help bolster park amenities and vital programming. Its mission is dedicated to ensuring that parks and recreational programming are available for the enjoyment of all Happy Valley residents and visitors.



Donations to the Foundation not only help sustain City parks and natural areas, but they also support community programs, such as Meals on Wheels, and recreational scholarships which directly benefit those who may otherwise not have access to these services.

Be sure to check out hvprf.org for more information and follow @HVPRF on Facebook!

Operation Santa Claus

Celebrating 50 years of giving back to community! A beloved annual toy and food drive, Operation Santa is coordinated through the efforts of fire-fighters at Clackamas Fire District #1 and benefits individuals and families throughout the communities served by the district. Once again, the crew will be collecting new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items at this year's City Tree Lighting event, making it even easier to give if you plan to attend. Specifically, you may drop off items for Operation Santa from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at City Hall on Sunday, Dec. 8.



For those who can't make the big event, but would like to participate, there will be additional drop-off locations coordinated by the district throughout December.

Save the date for the annual Operation Santa parade! Clackamas Fire will also conduct a non-collection holiday themed parade in the Happy Valley area on the evening of Friday, Dec. 6. Again, no donations will be collected during this event.

Head to www.clackamasfire.com for parade route information and all donation opportunity details.

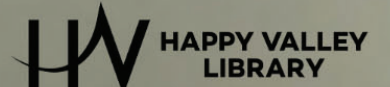


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HAPPY VALLEY CITY COUNCIL

Council Meetings are held 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall 16000 SE Misty Drive Happy Valley, OR 97086 (503) 783-3800 www.happyvalleyor.gov

Celebrating Council President Emami's Service

City of Happy Valley

This month, we bid farewell to Council President David Emami. David has been an invaluable member of the City Council for the past six years, initially appointed to fill a vacancy in 2019 and subsequently elected for another term. He most recently served as Council President, a role selected by the Mayor and City Council, for the past two years.

During his tenure, David served as the liaison to the Happy Valley Library, Public Art Committee, Parks Advisory Committee, Clackamas County Business Alliance, DEI Task Force, and Budget Committee. He also represented the City on the Board of Directors for the League of Oregon Cities and served as Vice Chair for the Western Municipal Association. Before joining the City



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY

David Emami, far left, will finish his term at the end of the month. He has been a dedicated and impactful leader, contributing significantly to the community.

Council, David was an active member of the Planning Commission, Parks Advisory Committee, Clackamas County Street Light Budget Committee, and served as President of the

Jackson Hills HOA. His volunteer work extended to local schools, state educational programs, charities, and various non-profit organizations.

Born and raised in Oregon,

David earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics with a minor in Chemistry from Oregon State University. Professionally, he is an Account Manager at Ferguson Enterprises, where he

has worked for nearly 20 years. Since 2013, David, his wife Susie, and their two daughters, Soheila and Nova, have called Happy Valley home.

In 2019, David became the first Iranian-American city councillor in state history, marking a milestone in representation. As a nonpartisan leader, he has focused on finding solutions that benefit people from all walks of life, uniting individuals toward shared goals. With a strong belief that diverse perspectives strengthen our community, David has consistently brought this outlook to his work on the council.

At the Dec. 3 City Council meeting, David will be honored with a commemorative plaque for his dedicated service to our City. Together with the City, we extend our deepest gratitude to David Emami for his commitment to Happy Valley and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Help shape future Community Center PARK design

Consider participating in the online open house, available now

City of Happy Valley

The two most requested investments in Happy Valley call for a future Community Center and Community Park. Last year, the City purchased 40 acres east of 172nd Avenue to accommodate both desires in one location. While significant outreach has already influenced the Community Center design, the City is now looking for input on what to include in the surrounding community park. To this end, an online open house is currently open to gather residents' opinions on potential designs. Residents and City community partners are highly encouraged to participate in this virtual exercise to share their thoughts on the project.

Your participation in the online open house will greatly contribute to shaping the future of Happy Valley's future parks and recreational programs. Results from the exercise will be made available on the City's website once completed.

To participate, head to hv.city/park-survey. Residents can also sign up for updates at the end of the survey to stay informed about the project's progress.

COMMUNITY CENTER PARK DESIGN
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
TAKE THE SURVEY
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CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY PARKS & RECREATION

*GRAPHIC IS AN ARTIST RENDERING AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE FINAL PROJECT.

Share your opinions on the design of the new community park adjacent to the future Community Center.

Clear Storm Drains to Protect Your Property and Our Water

Regularly clearing your storm drains of leaves and debris helps reduce flooding and property damage while protecting watershed health and the quality of our drinking water.

Follow these tips:

- Find the storm drain grates in the street by your home or business and clear them of leaves and debris.
- Use a rake or pitchfork to clear leaves, limbs, and debris from the storm drain. Do not try to remove the grate, only the debris on top of it.
- When leaves fall into the street, rake them at least one foot away from the curb so they won't block the path of rainwater. Please do not rake or blow leaves from your yard into the street.
- Never dump anything into a storm drain.



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Learn more at clackamas.us/wes/education



CLACKAMAS WATER ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Thank You, Happy Valley Residents

By City of Happy Valley

Thank you to everyone who supported the Happy Valley Police Department through your votes. The Public Safety Levy will ensure that police services in Happy Valley are funded for the next five years. I am extremely proud of our local law enforcement deputies for their excellent work in maintaining the safety of our community.

MAYOR OF HAPPY VALLEY



Tom Ellis

I would also like to express my gratitude to every HOA, PTO/PTA, City Committee, group, and individual who gave

us the opportunity to discuss this important matter. The open dialogues were highly valuable, and we appreciated the chance to answer your questions about our city's police services. Hearing about your positive experiences with our Director of Public Safety, Police Chief, deputies, and Community Service Officers, and your willingness to support their ongoing work in our city, was truly heartening. The strong support for our police in the recent election is a testament to our community's commitment to safety.

As we move forward with renewing our law enforcement contract, the City pledges to continue working closely with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office to deliver high-quality safety services to all our residents. Thank you once again for your unwavering support.



In November, voters approved the renewal of the Happy Valley Public Safety Levy. Dedicated police services in will continue to be funded for another five years.

HAPPY VALLEY NEWS STAFF



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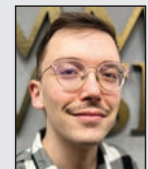
Community Writer
Emma Davis
edavis@pamplinmedia.com

Publisher's Note: Have an idea for a story? We are always on the search for new people, places, and things to write about. If you have an idea for an uplifting story that would benefit the community, then we want to hear from you!

To submit your idea, send an email to hvn@pamplinmedia.com and include as many details as possible, so our publication team can review your story idea. The best stories highlight the spirit and values of the Happy Valley community and showcase meaningful happenings in the lives of residents and local businesses. We invite you to include anecdotes in your story proposal that are funny, astonishing, heartwarming, and inspiring. If we think your story idea is a good fit, our community writer will get in contact with you to discuss the possibility of it being featured in an upcoming issue.



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Get a jump start.

IF I WERE MAYOR

STUDENT CONTEST
FOR 4TH -12TH GRADERS

LEARN MORE

What would you do as Mayor? Get a head start and plan to participate in the 2025 If I Were Mayor contest.

What would you do as mayor?

Make a plan: Student contest returns in 2025

By City of Happy Valley

Do you know a student with big ideas, a compassionate heart, and an interest in making the community a better place? The City of Happy Valley is once again participating in the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) If I were Mayor contest, so tell students to mark their calendars and prepare to submit their entries by Thursday, Mar. 6.

Extra credit!

If you are employed in one of the Happy Valley schools and teach students in grades 4 through 12, please consider encouraging your students to partake in this activity. It is a great way to supplement concepts being discussed in the classroom.

The winner of each age group in the Happy Valley contest will be awarded a \$100 cash and recognized at an upcoming City Council Meeting. More information and official entry forms can be found at hv.city/student-contest.

Hap-Bee-Honey

By City of Happy Valley

The Hap-Bee Honey Program is a collaboration between the City of Happy Valley and the Bee-Lieve Education Foundation to support local ecosystems and veterans. Partnering with OSU's Master Beekeeping Program, Bee-Lieve provides education in sustainable

beekeeping and the importance of pollinators, equipping veterans with skills in hive management and pollinator-friendly practices.

Through this partnership, Happy Valley proudly introduces Hap-Bee-Honey, a sustainably harvested honey product. By purchasing Hap-Bee-Honey, the community not only supports local ecosystems but also

New eco-friendly program is the bees knees!

honors and uplifts veterans, with every sale of the honey going to local veteran-focused programs. This initiative highlights Happy Valley's commitment to environmental education, veteran empowerment, and community wellness.

Stop by City Hall and pick up a bottle of the one-of-a-kind honey for purchase — While supplies last!

Learn more about our one of a kind honey!

The Hap-Bee Honey Program brings sustainable beekeeping to Happy Valley, while empowering veterans and enhancing local ecosystems.



VICTORIA WRIGLESWORTH
REAL ESTATE TEAM

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED NEIGHBORHOOD: MCKENNA RIDGE

Address	Sq Ft	Beds	Baths	Status	List Date	List Price	Sold Price
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11074 Southeast Westchester Ave.	2667	4	2.5	ACT	9/5/2024	\$865,000	N/A
13658 Southeast Snowfire Dr.	3445	3	3.5	ACT	9/19/2024	\$995,999	N/A
11123 Southeast Alexander Ave.	2883	4	2.5	SOLD	6/17/2024	\$699,500	\$705,000
11294 Southeast Westchester Ave.	2679	3	2.5	SOLD	6/28/2024	\$875,000	\$860,000

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City of Happy Valley



At the time of print, the following events were scheduled. Please check www.happyvalleyor.gov to confirm timing of events and instructions on how to participate virtually. You can also opt in to receive notifications about upcoming meetings by visiting www.hv.city/notifications.

December 3

- **City Council Work Session:** City Hall, 6 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting:** City Hall, 7 p.m.

December 6

- **Operation Santa Happy Valley parade:** please check www.clackamasfire.com for parade route and start time. This is a non-collection event. Please, no donations.

December 7

- **Les Schwab Tire Check and Chain Up Clinic:** Les Schwab Happy Valley, 9 a.m.-noon (See page 13 for details)
- **Leaf Drop:** 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Public Works Building: 13910 SE Ridgcrest Road, adjacent to Happy Valley Park

December 8

- **Operation Santa Collection:** City Hall Parking Lot, 2 p.m.-6 p.m. (See page 3 for details)
- **Tree Lighting Ceremony:** City Hall Parking Lot, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. (See cover page for details)

December 24, 25, 26, & 27

- **City Hall and Happy Valley Library** **CLOSED**

January 1

- **City Hall and Happy Valley Library** **CLOSED**

January 6

- **Parks Advisory Committee Meeting:** City Hall, 6 p.m.

January 7

- **City Council Work Session:** City Hall, 6 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting:** City Hall, 7 p.m.



PREVENTING HOLIDAY THEFT: What You Need to Know

Top tips for protecting your home and family

During the holiday season, it's important to focus on the safety and security of your home, vehicle, and loved ones. Happy Valley is a safe community, but staying vigilant is key. Here are some tips to keep in mind as you prepare for the celebrations.

Protecting Your Package Deliveries and Mail

- Ship your package to a location where someone you know will be available to receive it. This might be your house, a neighbor's house, or your place of employment.
- Track your packages online and request a text or other alert about delivery status.

■ **PRO TIP!** Sign up for Informed Delivery via www.usps.com. With this free service, you can opt in to receive digital previews of all your general mail that is scheduled to arrive that day.

■ Invest in a doorbell camera or other security camera. These give you a real-time view of your porch, driveway, side door, or any other area on property that you might want to monitor. Many have two-way audio, so you can talk with the delivery person (or thief), even if you aren't home. Camera footage could be helpful if a thief targets your home or car, or it could even be helpful to another resident. Perhaps your camera caught a view as the thief passed by your home. You can share your surveillance footage with the Happy Valley Police Department and we may be able to use it to help identify suspects that have been targeting neighborhoods.

If You Are Traveling

■ Lock your doors and windows. This seems like a no brainer, but you would be surprised how often thieves take advantage of an entryway that simply was not secured.

■ Set your home alarm, if you have one, and make sure your alarm permit is up to date with the City and displayed in a visible location. If your alarm sounds, deputies will respond to the call and having your permit up to date helps ensure we have the right information should we need to get a hold of you.



Keep vehicles locked and remember to keep garage door openers out of view. If a thief does get a hold of your garage door opener, be sure to disable the opener and reprogram your system.



With more online shopping, residents are encouraged to be mindful of package theft. Be vigilant about tracking packages and bring them inside as soon as possible.

■ Get an automatic timer for your indoor lights. With it completely dark by early evening, this is an easy way to detour thieves by giving the appearance that someone is inside.

■ Let your neighbors know you'll be gone and make sure they have your contact information. If they are aware of your absence, it's more likely they will notice something amiss and take the next steps to report it.

■ Be mindful of what you share on social media. Posting travel plans or pictures from your vacation can inform potential thieves that your home is empty.

■ Have mail and any deliveries stopped. If items pile up, it's a sure sign you're not home. Just go to www.usps.com and create a Hold Mail service request for the duration you will be gone.

■ **PRO TIP: Take advantage of the City's Vacation Check service.** Did you know a Community Service Officer from the City's Code Enforcement team will gladly swing by your property and do a perimeter check? Check out hv.city/vacation-checks for all the details about how to submit a request.

If You Are Out for the Evening

■ Turn on some lights and a radio or TV, so it looks (and sounds) like someone is home. If thieves think you are home or at the very least are unsure if the home is empty, they will be more likely to move along to another location.

■ Lock doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.

HAPPY VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief Rich Sheldon

■ Don't display valuables or gifts where they can be seen from outside. Put items away or make sure blinds and window coverings conceal views.

■ Illuminate your property with outdoor lights, especially in dark areas, to deter potential intruders. Motion-activated lights and cameras are excellent additions any time of year.

Protect Your Vehicle

■ **ALWAYS lock your vehicle.** I cannot emphasize this enough. Most car break-ins reported in Happy Valley have been from cars being unlocked. This means all the thief must do is lift the car door handle and then they have complete access to your belongings, including your garage door opener, if you use one. Thieves are much more likely to give up and move on to another car if they can't open yours within one attempt.

■ Do not pin your automatic garage door opener to your sun visor or leave it out in the open. Should a thief get a hold of your garage door opener, disable it from the main keypad and follow your unit's steps for reprogramming the system.

■ Park in areas that are well lit. This not only enhances your personal safety by reducing the risk of theft or vandalism, but also ensures that you can more easily keep tabs on your surroundings.

■ Store all items out of sight. Anything left in plain view—from your holiday gifts to spare change, sunglasses, cell phones or tools – could motivate a break-in or a thief's willingness to take

their efforts to the next level by breaking a window. Make it a habit to unload your items every time you get home from an outing and conceal items if you have more stops BEFORE heading out.

After You've Opened the Gifts

■ Thieves know that after the holidays, many households will have new and desirable items in their homes. Dispose of boxes and packaging discreetly. Break down boxes and place them inside trash bins to prevent advertising valuables inside your home or consider placing it with your recycling the morning of collection.

Of course, even the best safety practices may still lead to an unwanted break-in. Be a good neighbor and remain alert as you look out for one another. Getting to know your neighbors is often the best way to help prevent crime and a sense of community in a neighborhood is an invaluable resource to police. Neighbors are much more likely to recognize when something is amiss, and suspicious activity will be thwarted faster if neighbors feel confident in approaching one another. **As always, call 9-1-1 anytime you see suspicious activity or a crime in progress. You can also call the non-emergency number at 503-655-8211 to provide information or make a report.**

On behalf of the Happy Valley Police Department, I would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season. We are honored to serve you and look forward to the year ahead.



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Oregon Army National Guard “Boss Lift” offers meaningful insight

Special event explores the vital role of employers in supporting military personnel

City of Happy Valley

On Oct. 19, Mayor Tom Ellis experienced a day he will never forget as he participated in the Oregon Army National Guard’s “Boss Lift” event. This unique occasion is designed to recognize and honor employers and organizational leaders who support their employees serving in the military. Mayor Ellis, nominated by Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Chris Markesino—who has served several overseas tours and is married to the City’s Human Resources Director, Ivy Markesino—was among those invited to see firsthand the dedication and skillset of our National Guard members. Also attending the Boss Lift were several other public and private sector employers and representatives.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY

The event began at the Salem Army Aviation Facility where participants heard from Col Russ Gibson, the Commander of the 82 Troop Command Brigade, the State Director for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), and several other military members about the various roles of the National Guard. The remarks emphasized the significance and necessity of the National Guard while also acknowledging the crucial role employers play in supporting military personnel to excel both in their military duties and in their workplace responsibilities.

The group was given a safety briefing about the Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopters, which are frequently used for transporting heavy cargo and

troops, conducting search and rescue operations, and providing disaster relief. The experience quickly became more interactive as the group then boarded the helicopters and flew to the Raymond Rees National Guard Training Center in Hermiston, Oregon. This flight offered participants a visceral understanding of the power and capacity of these mighty aircraft, and a bird’s eye view of the magnificent Oregon landscape below. At Raymond Rees, Mayor Ellis witnessed training exercises showcasing soldiers’ medical skills, vehicle recovery techniques, and weapons qualification drills.

While a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the participants, regular training drills are nothing new to members of the National Guard. In addition

to regular deployments, members of the National Guard are required to attend training exercises once a month over the course of a long weekend.

Participating in the event provided Mayor Ellis with an opportunity to share his own military experiences. As veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, he understands the vital role these soldiers play.

Mayor Ellis shared, “It was an immense honor to spend the day with the dedicated men and women of the Oregon National Guard. Their commitment and sacrifice are truly inspiring, and it was a privilege to witness their exceptional skills firsthand.”

More importantly, Mayor Ellis’ participation reinforced the City’s commitment to our community’s veterans, active



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY

“It was an immense honor to spend the day with the dedicated men and women of the Oregon National Guard. Their commitment and sacrifice are truly inspiring, and it was a privilege to witness their exceptional skills firsthand.”

— Mayor Ellis

military personnel, and City employees who either serve directly or support military members within their families.

To all those in our community who serve, thank you for your unwavering sacrifice. Please visit our designated veteran’s webpage at hv.city/veterans to learn more about how the City recognizes and honors our local heroes.

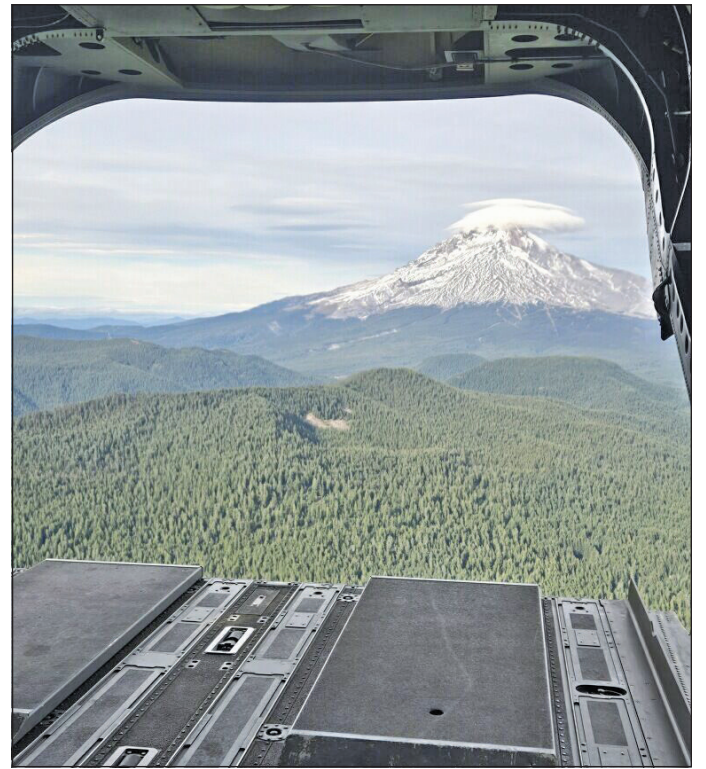


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December 20 • Member Showcase at Camp Withycombe
December 27 • Simply Cy Solutions

Public Policy & GA Meeting Noon - 1:00 PM

December 3 • Chamber office

Ambassador Meeting

December 10 • 7:30 - 8:30 AM

Chamber 101

December 11 • Noon - 1 PM (virtual)

Special Chamber Events

December 6 • Christmas Giving Breakfast

Closure Dates

December 24 Christmas Eve
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CODE CORNER

Keep Your Home Secure with a Happy Valley Alarm Permit

By City of Happy Valley

Home security systems are essential for protecting your family, property, and peace of mind, whether you're home or away. With advanced features available, you can choose an alarm system that fits your lifestyle and security needs. Here in Happy Valley, we're dedicated to ensuring your safety, and as part of that commitment, we require an alarm permit for all home and business alarm systems. This permit is an essential step in helping the Happy Valley Police Department respond swiftly and effectively whenever your alarm is triggered.

Why an Alarm Permit Matters

In the event of an emergency or alarm activation, having a valid permit on file allows our police to respond quickly and reach you if they need additional information.



Your emergency contacts are kept on record, which can make all the difference when every second counts. By completing the permit process, you're partnering with us to keep your home and community safer.

Applying for Your Permit

Applying for an alarm permit is easy. Visit hv.city/hv-works, the City's online portal for permits and licensing, and submit your

application along with the permit fee (\$60 for residential, \$100 for business). The permit is valid for two years from the issue date and must be displayed on the premises. And as a special benefit, residents aged 65 and older, as well as military veterans, can receive this permit at no cost!

Did You Know?

Fast Response: With a valid permit, your alarm ensures that emergency responders have the information needed to act fast in a real emergency.

Cost of Non-Compliance: If your alarm system triggers and you don't have a permit, you could face a fine of up to \$500. Stay protected and avoid unnecessary fees by getting your permit today!

We're Here to Help!

To learn more about the alarm permitting process, visit hv.city/alarm-systems or reach out to Code



Do you utilize a home alarm system? Make sure you have an up-to-date permit on file with the City by heading to hv.city/hv-works or scanning the QR code to learn more.

Enforcement Administrative Assistant, Christine Beltz, at cbeltz@happyvalleyor.gov or 503-783-3800. We're here to support you in safeguarding your property—partner with us by keeping your alarm permit up to date.

FINAL Leaf Drop event of the year!

Happy Valley Parks and Recreation is again offering the opportunity for you to drop off your yard debris at no cost

By City of Happy Valley

City residents will have one more opportunity to drop off seasonal yard debris (leaves, woody debris, and grass clippings) at the Public Works building for free recycling.

Saturday, Dec. 7
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Public Works building is located at 13910 SE Ridgcrest Road, adjacent to Happy Valley Park. Residents are responsible for unloading

and de-bagging their drop-off materials on-site.

This is a residential service only which means no commercial landscaping or contractor loads will be accepted. Remember to bring proof of residency with you.

Here are some tips for managing leaves effectively to prevent them from becoming overwhelming:

■ **DO** collect fallen leaves and dispose of them regularly in your yard debris bin or save them for the upcoming FREE leaf drop event.

■ **DO** keep an eye on your street's storm drains and clear accumulated leaves and debris. If you see a clogged drain in front of your home, please rake it clear.

■ **DO** keep parked cars off the roadway as much as possible. This helps ensure the City street sweeper can get as close

to the curb as possible.

■ **DO** make sure the branches of your parking strip trees have been trimmed and not at risk of hitting the street sweeper or emergency vehicles. Per City Municipal Code, tree limbs over a residential street must have 11 feet clearance above the surface.

■ **NEVER** blow, place, or rake leaves into the street or pile them next to the curb. This creates road hazards and can damage the street sweeper.

While there is not a formal street sweeping schedule, Public Works keeps tabs on areas most impacted by fallen leaves and prioritizes cleanup efforts accordingly.

► The City's FREE Leaf Drop days are an easy way to dispose of yard debris. Take advantage of this opportunity on Dec. 7.

Your tax dollars at work!

LEAF DROP

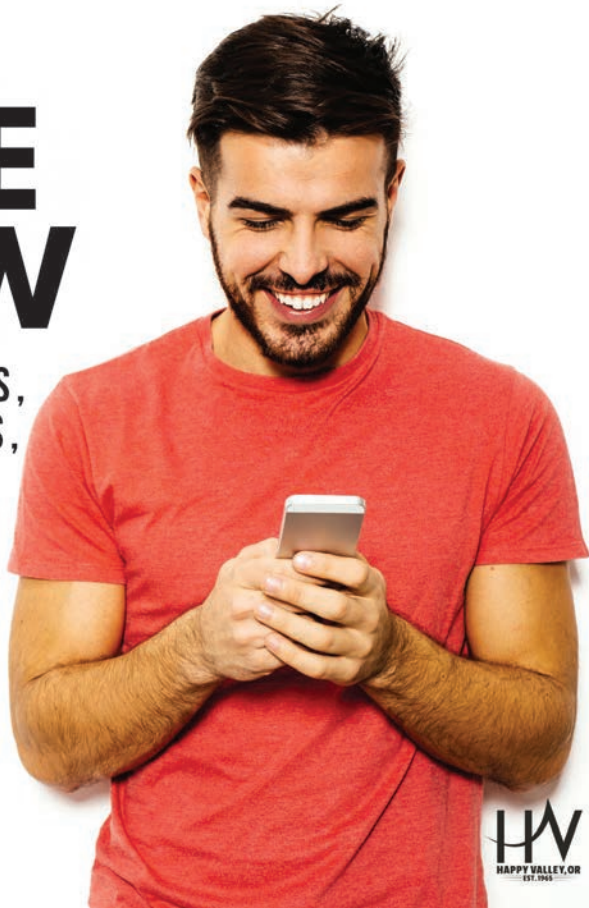
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Operation Decoration

Happy Valley resident's holiday traditions illuminate the neighborhood, creating a family-focused winter wonderland

By JAMES KENNETH PRESLEY
For Happy Valley News

As you drive up Sunnyside Road on your way into Damascus, you'd be hard-pressed to miss one specific home during the holiday season that's as committed to spreading Christmas cheer as the North Pole itself. From yard inflatables to blow molds to thousands of lights, this family has one mission when it comes to the holidays — to celebrate both family and the season.

For the last twenty years, local resident Gary Espeland and his wife, Robin, have been determined to create an array of holiday traditions that would maximize both holiday fun and celebration of family. Of these traditions, perhaps none is more well noted than their home holiday decor, and while we cannot see what the inside of their home might look like, the outside of the Espeland residence is lit up for all to enjoy.

"It's always been a family effort," says Espeland in regards to the setup and take down process. "I have my brother helping me this year as well as his son. I'll have some of my own helping me out too. It takes a big effort so I'm grateful I get the help."

Espeland, who moved into the home around 2003, noted how the very first thing he did when they moved in during the fall was to put up Halloween decor, noting how his collection wasn't quite as big as it is today.

"Lowe's and Home Depot, as well as Costco, do so many big yard decorations now that it's hard for me to say 'no'," jokes Espeland. "There was a lady who was selling a ton of those plastic retro blow molds so I bought a bunch and we had about 120 of

them by the time we moved out here."

Espeland admitted that for the inside of their home alone they have roughly 45 totes of decor. However, what about the outside?

"Outside is different," says Espeland. "Along the blow molds we also have about 25 large inflatables along with the lights and other pieces."

In terms of how he stores all of this, Espeland told the story of how his nephew's aunt was selling her property and had a 24x24 double-car garage that they were planning on tearing down. Luckily, Espeland jumped in with his family, tore it down, and eventually rebuilt it in his backyard. Along with this space, Espeland also has several 10x10 sheds where he stores all of these decorations for both Christmas and Halloween.

"As long as I'm physically able I see myself doing this for the rest of my life."

— Gary Espeland

"I had criteria when we were looking for a new house all those years ago," says Espeland in relation to his decorations. "A one-story house, a shop, room for decorating, and a backyard. I told my wife that if you find that then we'll move, so here we are."

So, why put in all this work year after year? Espeland seemingly has not just one answer but many.

"I have grandkids and even a great-grandkid now so it's fun for that part of it," says Espeland. "It's really about family and the season. As long as I'm physically able I see myself doing this for the rest of my life. I'm just somebody who likes to stay busy plus it's kind of like therapy."

So, aside from drive-by traffic, is there a way to view Espeland's yard without needing to knock for permission?

"It depends on the person," says Espeland. "A lot of people like to drive by and take a video



A winter wonderland — This home is best enjoyed at night, especially with a bit of snow!

at 45 miles per hour. Some people want to park along the street but get spooked when they see us working. The truth is that 99% of the people who come by both enjoy and respect our space, so anyone is welcome to park and take a look behind the fence. They should also feel free to say 'hi' if they see me working."

Espeland notes how the setup process usually takes about two weeks, incorporating time to repair lights, test inflatables, and make sure everything works. This typically happens right around Thanksgiving weekend when Espeland has help on hand.

"I like to try and have it all done by Thanksgiving but that's not always the case," says Espeland. "Christmas doesn't take as long as Halloween so that's always nice."

From a large Nativity scene to 10-foot candy canes to a variety of Santas to penguins to snowmen, Espeland's yard is truly a winter wonderland that is, per his recommendation, best enjoyed during the night.

Espeland, also known for handing out generous candy bars during the Halloween season, talked about his affection for the



More decor — You can't mimic this kind of holiday passion.

community and how many families make it a tradition to drive by their home during the holiday season. In fact, Espeland also disclosed how several senior living homes bring spectators by bus for a festive drive-by, doubling down on how all are welcome to enjoy his decorations.

"People travel to come out here," says Espeland before sliding in this joke. "I don't know what this year is going to bring with all the new housing but I am very fortunate to be located where we are... especially during traffic hour."



A local north pole — Gary Espeland and family sure know how to make the most out of the holiday season.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JAMES KENNETH PRESLEY

Shop

From Page A1

packaged chocolates and decadent truffles to festive caramel apples and customized cookie gifts, you'll find something special for everyone on your list. Their gift baskets and signature chocolate boxes make thoughtful and indulgent presents, while you can also treat your loved ones to a gift card for a custom ice cream creation or fresh-baked cookies.

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Treat your loved one for an appointment at Desmadre Body Spa.

EMMA DAVIS

season. Plus, if you want to get a gift to take home, Desmadre has body products and candles for sale too.

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Mapel Boutique

13100 SE 172nd Ave suite 102
Happy Valley, OR 97086

Maple Boutique is the perfect place to find fashionable clothing, accessories, and unique gifts that will make this holiday season extra special. Whether you're looking to update your wardrobe with stylish winter

essentials or searching for a standout gift for a loved one, this boutique has something for everyone. From cozy sweaters and elegant scarves to trendy jewelry and chic handbags, their curated selection blends timeless pieces with the latest fashion trends. With a focus on both comfort and style, it's the perfect destination for the fashion-forward shopper looking to add a little flair to their holiday season.

Venvino Art Studios

Venvino Art Studios provides a variety of creative



Grab some decadent sweets at Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory/Great American Cookies/Marble Slab Creamery.

experiences, from wine and painting nights to team-building activities, art classes, and camps. They offer fun, kid-friendly projects such as canvas painting, ceramic crafting, and even painting on glass and wood. You can visit their Misty Drive location to explore these activities in person, or shop online for classes, gift certificates, and other creative gifts perfect for the holiday season. Throughout this month, Venvino is also hosting a range of winter and holiday-themed events to inspire your festive spirit!

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Various Stores at Clackamas Town Center

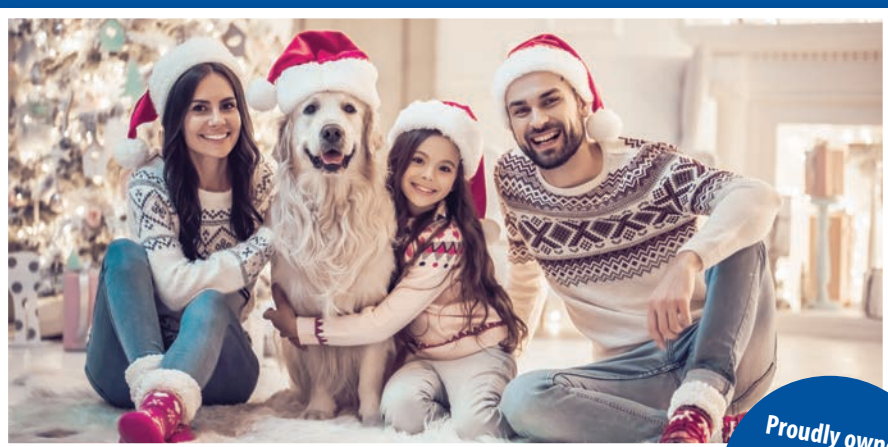
While not located directly in Happy Valley, the Clackamas Town Center is a nearby shopping destination that offers something for everyone, making it a top choice for holiday shopping. With a wide range of stores, it caters to all kinds of shoppers—from fashionistas and tech enthusiasts



Mapel Boutique has plenty of fun clothes and accessories to shop for.

to book lovers, home decor aficionados, and foodies. The mall provides the perfect opportunity to support both local businesses and well-known retailers, offering everything from handcrafted local goods at boutique shops like Made in Oregon, to the latest trends at major retailers. Whether you're searching for unique gifts or great deals, the Clackamas Town Center has everything you need to make this holiday season special.

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Happy Valley City Hall

Doors open for networking at 7:15am
No Meeting in December



Fostering Growth and Belonging

Katrina Edwards brings enthusiasm and excitement to her new role at Verne Duncan Elementary

By EMMA DAVIS
Staff Reporter

Katrina Edwards, the new principal at Verne Duncan Elementary, brings a wealth of experience in both teaching and leadership. Passionate about creating an inclusive environment, she is committed to ensuring every student feels seen, valued, and represented. She believes in empowering students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally, while fostering a culture of resilience and gratitude. As principal, she aims to close achievement gaps by focusing on student outcomes, promoting growth, and celebrating each student's journey.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATRINA EDWARDS
New Verne Duncan Elementary principal, Katrina Edwards.

to Oregon in 2002. "I taught theatre, arts and social studies and then transitioned when I had my own children to early childhood literacy," she said. "And teaching kindergarten, preschool, kindergarten, and then first grade, becoming a literacy specialist and literacy instructional coach and that sort of became a bridge into administration."

Prior to her current role, she served in an administrative role with a focus on enhancing early education opportunities. "For the past three years, I've been working for Portland Public School District where I served as program administrator for early learners and I supported the preschool classrooms across the district," she said. "It was a great opportunity for me to shift back into a building and I really wanted to be building focused and student focused and work with kids and families. And that's what brought me here."

Edwards is deeply committed to supporting students, staff and families at Verne Duncan Elementary by fostering an inclusive and collaborative environment, derived from what she experienced as a student



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATRINA EDWARDS
The 2024-2025 Verne Duncan Elementary staff.

herself. "I found people who were working together collectively to make something bigger than they could do individually, and that power of community collaboration and that ability to be a part of something almost magical together," she said. "I deeply value that as a learner, so as an educator I find myself wanting to create that magic with teachers and with kids."

Edwards believes the success of students is rooted in strong partnerships between parents, community members, and school staff. "Something we're really focused on as a school team at Duncan this year is building belonging for kids and for families," she said.

Understanding the diverse backgrounds and unique needs of each student is at the core of her approach, ensuring every child feels seen, heard, and valued. "One of the ways that we do that is we have a students of color union that meets on Tuesday mornings after the buses arrive and they have time and an affinity space to come together" she said. "Other ways that we're doing that is inviting kids across our school to participate in heritage months where they share their own personal identity in the classrooms

themselves."

Additionally, Edwards and staff use caring school communities, where teachers and kids start every single day with a morning meeting that invites kids into learning and into community with one another. "I just sat in a fourth-grade community meeting the other day that melted my heart because students were truly listening to each other share who they are as learners and what they were hopeful for that day," she shared. "It was so authentic and sincere and was just beautiful evidence of the ways in which our educators are creating safe learning spaces for children."

She also aims to foster the same sense of community for families. "We have parent coffees for kindergarten families, for example, and coffees with Spanish speaking families, and we also have an affinity space that we're just starting for families who have students with disabilities and learning differences," she said. "New, diverse families can come together and build community with one another, so all the different identities and ways in which we want to build connection for our families and for our students feel that this is their school, because it is."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATRINA EDWARDS
Edwards (purple dress) at a family coffee meeting with Duncan families.

To Edwards, being part of the Verne Duncan Elementary team and witnessing the day-to-day lives of teachers and students is an absolute privilege. "We have the greatest children! It is absolutely rewarding every day to be in relationship with the kids and the educators in this building and the families in our community," she said. "I just get to listen in on the great thinking of educators and I get to listen in on the learning of kids and support it, so kids and teachers can do that great work together. It's really a privilege to get to be part of that."

Edwards' excitement and commitment to the Verne Duncan community is evident in every aspect of what

she does, and she couldn't be more thankful for the opportunity to serve and guide its students, families, and staff. "I am really excited to be here and to be a part of what's happening in Happy Valley and to be in a community that is so supportive and invested in strong schools," she said. "And I'm really excited to think about what's possible with our collaboration together and even stronger academic and social emotional outcomes for all of our kids."

She is looking forward to the work ahead, grateful for the opportunity to make a difference, and eager to help create a community where every student knows they matter.

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A spectacular shot of the comet taken by Virginia Getz.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA GETZ

A Spectacular Sight

Local resident gets rare sighting of a comet while on a trip to Crater Lake

By EMMA DAVIS
Staff Reporter

On October 14, 2024, a rare and impressive sight lit up the Oregon sky over Klamath County as Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) became visible to the naked eye. An extraordinary occurrence such as this does not happen often in Oregon, so being able to see it, especially with no telescope or anything to help magnify it, was a “can’t miss opportunity.” “It is tricky to see from Oregon because it is close to the Sun and sets soon afterward,” Happy Valley Astronomer, Derek Sears said.

However, one Happy Valley resident was able to see it in real time and snapped some photos of the experience.

Virginia Getz was in Chiloquin, Oregon, visiting a friend when they decided to make the most of the day with a day trip to Crater Lake. Later that evening, they headed to a high spot near the Williamson River, hoping to see the comet. “The sky was beautiful,” Getz recalled. “We didn’t know what to expect.”

They arrived at their lookout about 30 minutes after sunset and faced west, watching as the sky got darker. “We kept looking at the horizon and about 20 minutes later the comet just appeared in the sky,” she said. “It was amazing to see.”

“We stayed about 30 minutes, and I had read that the comet would be visible for 1.5 hours,” she said.

The appearance of Comet C/2023 A3 was a special event for skywatchers and astronomy enthusiasts alike, and for Getz, seeing it in such a beautiful setting made it even that much more memorable. The clear skies and stunning scenery added to the magic of the moment, making it a night to remember.



Virginia Getz (left) and her friend on their day hike at Crater Lake before seeing the comet later in the evening.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA GETZ

13th Annual

Procrastinators Holiday Market

Venture to the Procrastinators Holiday Market for all the Christmastime fun!

By EMMA DAVIS
Staff Reporter

If you’re a last-minute holiday shopper or just love the festive spirit, mark your calendars for the Procrastinators Holiday Market at Clackamas High School. Celebrating its 13th season, this local gem, founded and operated by Jamie El-Khal and her family, has become a beloved tradition. With more than 350 Vendors to shop from and many hot food vendors, visitors can enjoy the magic of Christmas as they stroll through this Magical Marketplace.

This community market showcases several kinds of vendors, each offering something unique and different. The market boasts a wide array of goods, from specialty items to locally sourced produce. “Customers will be very familiar with most all of our vendors, and we will welcome several new vendors to our Market,” El-Khal said. “Bringing more amazing products, foods and unique finds. You will not be disappointed; this event gets better each year.”

The Procrastinators Holiday Market is not just about shopping; it’s a festive celebration for the entire family. Visitors can enjoy live Christmas music, meet Santa Claus, and indulge in a variety of delicious treats from local food vendors. The market’s atmosphere creates a joyful holiday mood, making it a must-visit destination to find that perfect, unique gift. “This year Santa has his own Station, we have a face painter for the kids along with a live band and Christmas carolers to stroll the Market throughout the day,” she said. “We also have story time with Mrs. Claus.”

This holiday season, you won’t want to miss out on a fun and welcoming experience at the Procrastinator’s



Patrons perusing the market for special gifts for the holidays!

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE EL-KHAL

Holiday Market. “It’s the last big event for our market season, it’s a great way to end in a very magical way. The joy of Christmas brings out so much happiness and excitement and we love seeing our customers excited with their finds as they wave thank you,” she said. “All of us at The Happy Valley Farmers Market are so thankful for all the support we get; we want to continue to run a great Market and provide our community with a wonderful Farmers Market that everyone can now enjoy all year round.”

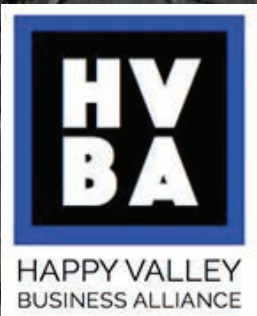
In addition to the Procrastinators Market, one new thing that El-Khal and the Happy Valley Farmer’s Market crew are bringing to town is the indoor and outdoor Winter Market, beginning in January of 2025 to kick off the market’s 14th season. “We will host from January-March Two Markets each Month. This will be in the Gym of the Sunnyside Church, where the Summer Farmers Market is held,” she said. “Customers can find 100 weekly vendors, the joy of being able to operate year-round is to ensure our customers have access to healthy and local products throughout the year and the added bonus is we get to help our vendors have a home to sell their products year-round.”



The bustling hall of the Procrastinators Holiday Market.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE EL-KHAL

So be sure to mark your calendars for Dec. 21-22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and join the holiday festivities at Clackamas High School. Whether you’re a seasoned procrastinator or an early bird, this market guarantees a delightful and memorable shopping experience that captures the true spirit of the season. Don’t miss the chance to support local businesses, find unique treasures, and immerse yourself in the joyful ambiance of the Procrastinators Holiday Market!



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- Willamette Valley Vineyards Happy Valley
- Windermere Happy Valley - Real Estate
- Wronski Electric
- Yolot! Traditional Mexican Cuisine
- Young Kidz Dental

Join us in person for our next meeting, at Happy Valley City Hall (16000 SE Misty Drive) Wednesday, January 22nd, 7:30 am

Visit www.hvba.biz for more businesses serving your community or to join the HVBA.

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Roundabouts permit traffic to flow efficiently in one direction by allowing drivers to follow a gentle curve.

Roundabout safety

Essential tips for safely navigating roundabouts

City of Happy Valley

Roundabouts can be tricky, but they don't have to be. They efficiently facilitate traffic flow, increase road capacity, and studies show they are safer than a traditional stop sign or traffic-signal-controlled intersection. Happy Valley currently has four roundabouts in the City, the newest at SE 129th Ave. and King Rd. Each helps alleviate high traffic areas that are more prone to congestion. Oregon law is straightforward about how to utilize a roundabout, but sometimes it's worth

repeating some quick tips.

When approaching a roundabout

- Slow down and stay on the designated path. Going too fast may cause you to drive onto the truck apron, the raised concrete area designed for larger vehicles.

- Be prepared to stop if a vehicle is already in the roundabout and headed toward you. YOU must yield to circulating traffic on the left.

- Scan for vehicles/pedestrians/hazards to the left and to the right of your entry point.

- At night, never outdrive your headlights. Maintain a speed that allows you time to

react to any roadway changes within the span of your headlights.

- Watch for pedestrians and bicyclists.

When using a roundabout

- Do not stop once you are in the roundabout, except to avoid a collision or allow a pedestrian to cross.

- Always keep to the right of the central island and travel in a counterclockwise direction.

Exiting a roundabout

- Maintain a cautious speed upon exiting the roundabout.

- ALWAYS indicate your exit using your right turn signal.



REPORT IT BEFORE YOU POST IT

Posting to social media is not a reliable way to alert law enforcement about safety issues.

To report a general safety concern, call non-emergency dispatch at 503-655-8211. Call 9-1-1 if there is immediate life-threatening activity.

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Is your vehicle ready for winter weather?

Fifth annual tire check and chain up clinic returns Dec. 7

City of Happy Valley

You can't always predict just how severe winter weather will be in the Pacific Northwest. That's why it's always recommended to be prepared and have plans in place should something happen. To help support these efforts, the Happy Valley Parks and Recreation team is once again partnering with the local Les Schwab to ensure residents' vehicles are ready and that residents feel competent and confident in their winter preparedness.

Offered annually, the Les Schwab Tire Check and Chain Up Clinic is a free community event that offers residents a chance to learn how to select and apply tire chains, and check for tire readiness. The event returns Saturday, Dec. 7 and interested residents must register ahead of time to secure an appointment. At the time of print, only a limited number of openings remain. To inquire about availability, email Katie Coffey at kcoffey@happyvalleyor.gov.

Participants are not required to make any purchases, as the primary goal is to educate residents on how to evaluate their tires and properly install chains. While participants can purchase chains and/or new tires, attendees are welcome to bring their own chains so that Les Schwab representatives can demonstrate the correct



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SATURDAY, DEC. 7
9AM - NOON

SIGN UP FOR A 30 MINUTE TIME SLOT.
Pre-registration REQUIRED

TO REGISTER, EMAIL:
kcoffey@happyvalleyor.gov

CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY
PARKS & RECREATION

HV.CITY/LES-SCHWAB-CLINIC **Les Schwab is located at 13254 SE 169th Ave.

Only a few appointments remain at the upcoming Les Schwab Tire Check and Chain Up Clinic. This free event aims to help drivers prepare for winter weather.

Light Up the Valley!

December 1st - December 20th

ENTER HERE

Join the fun and transform your home into a winter wonderland! Submit your holiday displays by Dec. 20 for a chance to win.

Light up the Valley

Contest encourages residents to get into the holiday spirit

City of Happy Valley

Happy Valley Parks and Recreation is asking residents to deck the halls and join in on some festive fun. Transform the outside of your home or even your apartment balcony into a winter wonderland with dazzling lights and all things merry. To participate, simply decorate, snap a photo, and submit it online by heading to hv.city/light-up-the-valley and uploading your entry.

Residents can submit their photos anytime between now and 5 p.m. on Dec. 20. All submissions will automatically be entered for a chance to win with the community casting their votes for their favorites online from Dec. 23 through Dec. 27.

One winner will be announced on Dec. 30 and earn bragging rights as the best-decorated home in the City of Happy Valley along with swag from the HV City Store. What are you waiting for? Hang up the twinkling lights and let your creativity shine!



21

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UNIQUE TEA COMES TO HV

Zack Bradcovich brings one-of-a-kind teas to Happy Valley

By EMMA DAVIS
Staff Reporter

Zack Bradcovich, an Ohio native with a passion for tea, recently launched the Happy Valley Tea Company in August of 2023, on his grandmother's birthday. Inspired by a cross-country trip, a mentor, and his love for unique teas, Bradcovich has created a line of teas that creatively replicate popular cocktail flavors with traditional teas' health benefits. Happy Valley Tea Company offers teas that can be enjoyed hot, iced, or as mocktails.

Rooted in the Happy Valley community, his vision is to share his flavorful teas with both local and national audiences, providing a creative, customizable, and community-focused tea experience.

Bradcovich's journey into the tea world began unexpectedly during a three-week cross-country trip post-graduation in 2016. "On one of my stops, I met a guy that became like a mentor, now a second father to me, who introduced me to tea," Bradcovich said. "Ever since then, I've started trying different teas and I'd go to different places, and I just collect a huge collection of different teas."

Three years ago, on a trip to Alaska, he tasted a unique tea that reminded him of Fireball whiskey. "What I liked about it was I didn't have to add anything to it... any honey or sugar or anything. So I bought some more and I was looking for an idea for another business," he said.

The start of Happy Valley Tea Company marked the turning point where Bradcovich transformed his passion for tea into a formal business in addition to his day job. He had always been a fan of cocktails, with lemon drops being his favorite. As he began drinking more tea, the idea came to him on a January day in 2023 while overlooking the beautiful view of Happy Valley. The picturesque sight, with its mountains and trees, inspired the logo for the brand.

Motivated by his love for both tea and cocktails, he began crafting unique blends that mimicked the flavors of popular drinks, like tea versions of lemon drops, mojitos, sangrias, and other classic cocktails. "I love tea, I've been drinking tea for years. I have a huge



"You can drink it solo, you can drink it while reading a book or you can drink it with friends."

— Zack Bradcovich, Owner/founder

collection of it, and I was drinking this tea that tastes like fireball and I was like, man, they should really come up with a tea that tastes like cocktails," he said. "I researched and no one was really doing it, so then I set out to make my own flavors." He realized he wasn't going to breakthrough on his own, so he joined a partnership where he was able to create his own flavors.

The first months of Happy Valley Tea Company were met with great success, with its unique tea blends selling out quickly. The initial batches gained strong local support, and the demand for his creative cocktail-inspired teas continued to grow. Flavors include Lemon Drop, Citrus Mint Mojito, Pina Colada, Sangria and its most recent, Old Fashioned. "[In August of last year] I launched the first four flavors and then sold out seven months later and that was a surreal feeling," he said.

As demand for his unique tea blends grew, Bradcovich transitioned from local sales to reaching a broader audience by launching his products online, including most recently on Amazon. However, keeping it local is important to him. "I've sold to 38 states now, and I'm trying to do more local stuff," he said. "I want to do more local pop-ups in Happy Valley and do more local community things." Since launching, Happy Valley Tea Company is sold in local businesses such as Bob's Red Mill among others.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACK BRADCOVICH
Berry Sangria is just one of the unique flavors of tea Happy Valley Tea Company has in its arsenal.

GET SOME TEA!

You can shop for Happy Valley Tea Company online at www.hvtea.com. Use discount code HVN15 for 15% off.

What Bradcovich enjoys most about his company is that it allows him to combine his passion for creativity with his deep connection to the community. "I love that it gets me out of my introversion... it forces me to go places I would not necessarily go and meet a lot more people locally," he said. "I really enjoy having a reason to get out and connect with people and I really like the local aspect that it brings me."

It also gives him the opportunity to experiment with flavors and offers something new and unexpected that caters to all kinds of people. "Tea is kind of like a community drink," he said. "You can drink it solo, you can drink it while reading a book or you can drink it with friends." People can enjoy them in so many ways, from hot tea on a chilly morning to refreshing iced tea during warm afternoons, or even as the base for a unique mocktail or cocktail. This flexibility makes his teas stand out, offering something for every taste and occasion.

For Bradcovich, creating something so unique and loved by others, while supporting local events and building relationships, makes every part of running his business incredibly rewarding. Looking ahead, he's excited about the future of Happy Valley Tea Company, eager to continue expanding his offerings through different flavors and local locations, reaching new audiences, building profits and strengthening his ties to the community.

"I want to make a Fireball [whiskey] flavor for sure and potentially a strawberry daquiri," he said. "Long term, I'd like to be in stores and be recognized as the name brand of giving people



a healthier alternative to drinking choices."

His passion for both tea and the Happy Valley area shows in every step of his business, from crafting inventive blends to connecting with customers

and fellow local businesses. His journey is just beginning, and we can't wait to see where it takes him. You can shop for Happy Valley Tea online at www.hvtea.com and Amazon. Use discount code HVN15 for 15% off.

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Serving up Flavors with a Cajun Twist

Montage Ala Cart brings comfort food and community spirit to Happy Valley

By JAMES KENNETH PRESLEY
For The Happy Valley News

With over 18 different food carts, the Happy Valley Food Station offers visitors a collection of culinary options from all around the world, almost as if you were standing on a map yourself. However, while a trip around the world can be nice, sometimes that homestyle feel is what we crave the most, and Montage Ala Cart offers guests just that.

"Happy Valley has been so awesome and has supported us well."

— Owner Derek Ingwood

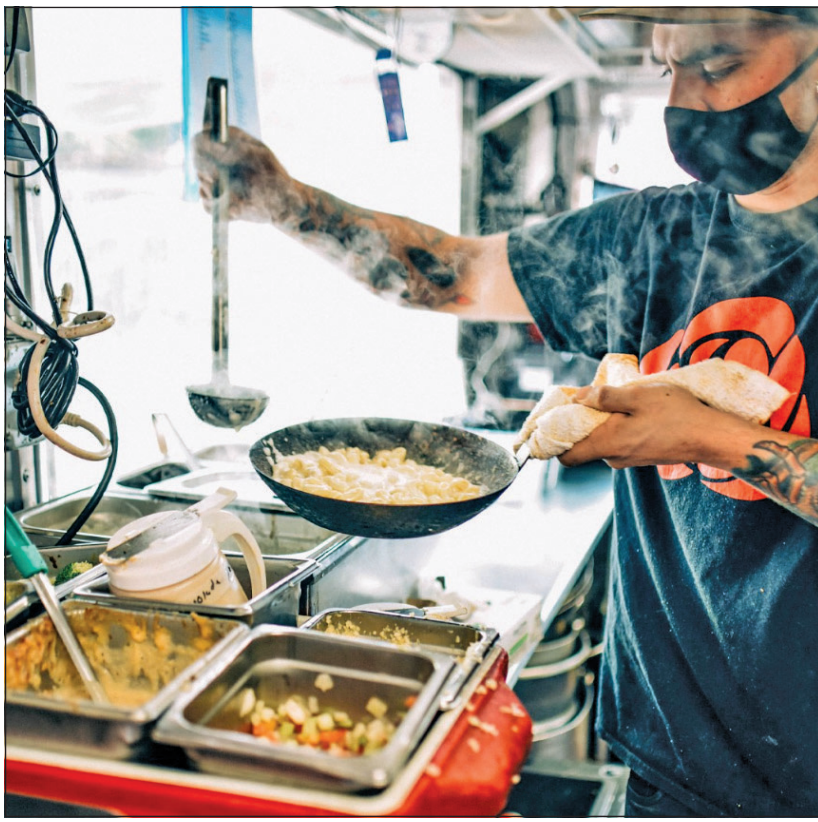
Le Bistro Montage has a storied history in Portland, as this once quirky yet exceptional establishment offered late-night crowds a variety of comfort food options, most notably its macaroni menu. Located underneath the Morrison Bridge, Montage was a watering hole where all were welcome, building its reputation over the years as the go-to spot for a bite after a late night with friends.

However, after the restaurant closed in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, its executive chef, Derek Ingwood, came up with a new idea to keep the spirit of this once beloved establishment alive.

"I've only ever worked in the restaurant industry and started at the Montage back in 2015 making salads," says Ingwood. "I worked my way up the line and moved on to the macaroni station to the saute station. The old guard all sort of moved out at once and there was a sous chef role to fill and even though I was twenty-one they gave me a shot. I eventually became the executive chef."

Ingwood led the Montage team to several key victories, including lowering food costs and upping business, all just before the pandemic hit in 2020.

"We had no real plans and I didn't know what I was going to do," says Ingwood. "The only game in town was food carts so I drew up a business plan and presented it to the owner. We set the first one up real fast at the Hawthorne



Prepared fresh daily: Your palette won't know what to do after tasting some SPOLD Macaroni.



Montage Ala Cart at the Happy Valley Food Station: The food here is worth the wait.



Montage's famous macaroni dishes: There are flavors for all to enjoy!

Asylum in August 2020."

After its booming success, Ingwood set his sights on a new location in Happy Valley.

"We settled into a more realistic flow of business around this time because restaurants were starting to reopen again," says Ingwood. "Luckily we were doing enough business that we were able to open up a couple of more carts, hence the name change to 'Montage Ala Cart'." So, sales aside, we were curious how

Ingwood and his team were planning on matching the spirit and vibe of the original restaurant, a prime draw of the Montage. Were they still wrapping to-go orders in foil origami?

"That was our biggest concern from day one, as the Montage experience was the oyster shooters, the artwork, community seating, foil origami, and small water glasses," says Ingwood. "Coming out of a food cart this was going to be hard to mimic, and even though we

handed out tin foil florals at first it really didn't work so we had to lean on our food and our iconic dishes."

So, speaking of the Montage's iconic menu... just what is featured and how is it prepared?

"Everything is scratch-made," says Ingwood. "Nothing comes from a bag. We offer creole-comfort food which features, of course, our famous macaroni dishes. SPOLD of course remains our number one seller."

SPOLD, a creamy spiced cajun blend, is Montage's dominant macaroni item, with 60% of everything coming out of its windows being this popular dish. Of course, you can bulk up your macaroni, whether it be SPOLD, pesto, cheddar, vegan, or garlic, with a protein like bacon, chicken, or even alligator!

With that said, their menu isn't limited to just their famous macaroni, as Ingwood was able to add on some new items that have proven to be equally as popular.

"Our cajun shrimp po boy is killer," says Ingwood. "It has awesome pickles, shredded lettuce, a remoulade, and a 'tiger sauce' on a toasted bun. There's people who will come and get it three times a week."

Ingwood also talked about a newer edition, once only meant to be a special at the original restaurant, called

"Nachoronis", featuring house-made tortilla chips with cajun pulled chicken, a nacho cheese macaroni, garnished with fresh pico de gallo, and cilantro.

"They were featured on KGW and they had so much hype," says Ingwood. "There were lines out the door but it was just a limited-time thing. However, we entered into a competition and ended up winning first place with the Nachoronis. It was a no-brainer to bring it back full-time."

Finally, when talking about the Happy Valley community, Ingwood offered this anecdote on why Montage is able to succeed in such a special area.

"Happy Valley has been so awesome and has supported us well," says Ingwood. "What I see in that area that varies from the other locations is how family-oriented it is. It's got that suburban feel with a lot of military presence, actually."

So, instead of hitting up a drive-thru where once cheap prices have only escalated, consider visiting the Happy Valley Food Station where the flavors of these tenants are as delicious as they are diverse. They will need our support during the harsh winter months and deserve a visit from your family, where everyone is sure to find a dish they'll love.

The Springs Living Employee Awarded

The Springs Living employee Lilly Hillyer and founder and CEA Fee Stubblefield honored by the OCHA



The Springs Living founder and CEO Fee Stubblefield (right) and Lilly Hillyer, the assistant life enrichment director at The Springs at Happy Valley (left) were awarded at by the OHCA on September 18, 2024 its annual convention

By EMMA DAVIS
Staff Reporter

The Oregon Health Care Association (OHCA) recently honored Lilly Hillyer, the Assistant Life Enrichment Director at The Springs at Happy Valley, and Fee Stubblefield, the founder and CEO of The Springs Living, during its annual convention held in Portland in September.

Each year, the OHCA acknowledges long-term care professionals throughout the state who exhibit unwavering dedication to quality care for residents and staff in the long-term care and community-based care sectors. Hillyer received the Enrichment of Life Award, while Stubblefield was presented with the Special Services Award. This year marks the second consecutive occasion that The Springs at Happy Valley has earned the Enrichment of Life Award.

Hillyer's nomination detailed her innovative programs and genuine involvement, which have greatly enhanced the lives of community members. Since the community's opening in January 2023, she has introduced a monthly cooking demonstration that quickly became a resident favorite. In addition, she has developed numerous thoughtful initiatives, including a Give Back Club focused on charitable projects and entertaining game show happy hour events, along with a special Valentine's Day celebration known as Share the Love Awards. Hillyer's commitment to service began in her high school years, when she volunteered at a community for older adults with her mother, who also worked in life enrichment.

Stubblefield received the Special Service Award from the OHCA committee for his

efforts to advance the profession and for sharing his passion for care through his 2024 best-selling book, "A Culture of Promise."

"Fee serves as a mentor and thought leader to many in attendance today, including the OHCA staff," said the OHCA committee. "We honor him with the OHCA Special Service Award for his dedication to improving the sector and sharing his passion for care."

Stubblefield is also a member of the executive committee and inaugural Vice Chair of Strategy for the Board of Directors of the National Investment Center for Seniors Housing and Care (NIC). He has previously served as chair of the Providence Milwaukie Hospital Foundation and as chair of the OHCA.

The Springs Living Communications Specialist Lindsay Keefer contributed to this article.



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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Clackamas High School

Adrienne C. Nelson HS



Hope Cenicerros, Senior Cheer

Hope Cenicerros, a dedicated senior and captain of the Clackamas Cheer team, is the Cavs SunGlow Athlete of the Week. Hope has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to her team. Her positive attitude and unwavering dedication have inspired her teammates to strive for excellence. Hope's strong work ethic and leadership skills have been recognized by the Mt. Hood Conference, earning her First Team honors for all four years. Her involvement in various school extracurricular activities further highlights her well-rounded nature. Congratulations, Hope, on your well-deserved recognition as Athlete of the Week!

Congrats, Hope! Go Cavs!

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Madi Andrews, Junior Varsity Volleyball

Post season stats 80 kills, 57 Digs, 8 Aces, 6 total blocks. Madi led the Hawks to a 3rd place finish in the State final. Her outstanding leadership and calmness under pressure were impressive. Madi was voted first team all league, and a unanimous first all tournament team.

Way to go, Madi! Go Hawks!

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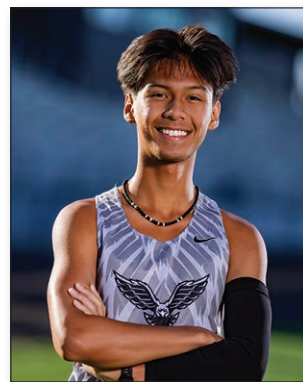


Dylan Brower, Junior Varsity Football

Dylan Brower is a Junior quarterback and two-year varsity starter for the Clackamas Cavaliers Football Team. Last Friday he completed 18 of 20 passes for 370 yards and 6 touchdowns in a win against the Gresham Gophers. Dylan has thrown for over 1,900 yards and 25 TD's in the 2024 season. Congrats to Dylan on being named the SunGlow Athlete of the Week!

Congrats, Dylan! Go Cavs!

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Aidan Medina, Senior Varsity Boys Cross Country

Aidan Medina- Senior and team captain for Nelson Boys Cross Country. Season best time of 16:45 in the 5k. He pushed through an injury at the MHC district race and finished 12th overall to help take the boys team to their second state appearance in 2 years. He is heavily involved in our school's athletic leadership team, is a hard worker, and is a good role model for our athletes. Between his first race as a freshman, and his last race as a senior, he has dropped over 10 minutes off of his 5k time.

Way to go, Aidan! Go Hawks!

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Dylan Bush, Junior Dance

Congrats to Dylan Bush for being named a SunGlow Athlete of the Week for Clackamas High School! Dylan is a team player, always has a smile on his face, and is extremely dedicated. Dylan is always working hard to help his teammates and is someone everyone looks up to. This past weekend, Dylan helped the Cavalettes secure two first place wins and a second place win.

Congrats, Dylan! Go Cavs!

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Noah Boris, Senior Varsity Football

Noah Boria: Led the Hawks in receiving with 33 catches for 624 yards and 9 TD receptions. He also had 3 interceptions which he returned two for Touchdowns. Boria was named 1st team all MHC Wide Receiver, 1st Team Defensive Back, and was the MHC Defensive Player of the Year.

Way to go, Noah! Go Hawks!

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Redefining First Responder Health

First Due Wellness providing first responder teams access to wellness education and job relative resources.

By JAMES KENNETH PRESLEY
For The Happy Valley News

First Due Wellness, located in West Linn, first set off on a mission earlier this year to increase access to total firefighter and first responder wellness by enacting educational materials as well as supportive program management. At the helm of this game-changing program is owner Brandon Paxton, a motivated and compassionate individual who set his sights on both joining and helping the firefighter community ever since a ride-along experience during his school's career day.

"I knew right then and there that I wanted to be a part of this brotherhood and sisterhood," says Paxton. "There was nothing like it."

With an education background in Fire Suppression from Chemeketa Community College, Paxton set his sights on paramedic school at OHSU in 2003 before finally getting hired on by Clackamas Fire in 2005 as a firefighter-paramedic at the age of twenty-one.

"I was actually a volunteer when I was in school with Clackamas Fire and was an explorer," says Paxton. "I was fifteen years old so it was cool to see my story come full circle."

After spending some time on the technical rescue team, Paxton worked his way through the ranks only to eventually earn the role of Battalion Chief, managing Public Information and Government Affairs for Oregon's second-largest fire district. However, even after accumulating all of these impressive and important titles, Paxton had his sights set on new goals that would help evolve the first response community which he had grown to love and respect so much.



"The idea of total wellness touches on all things like nutrition, physical, cancer prevention, finances, and spirituality."

— Brandon Paxton, Founder of First Due Wellness.

But how would he help them? Through "wellness."

"Early on I just thought that wellness meant your physical wellness," says Paxton. "For me today, wellness has become so much bigger. The idea of total wellness touches on all things like nutrition, physical, cancer prevention, finances, and spirituality. I look at wellness from a broad view with all these components and figure out how I can put it together."

Paxton then went on to discuss some of the needs that these professions require, noting how individuals such as firefighters, paramedics, and police officers are all athletes in disguise. Much like an athlete, there is a certain level of both training and education to your overall wellness that requires attention to perform at the highest possible capacity.

"Translating wellness to



Building a Foundation – Working to improve incident performance and reducing firefighter injuries is central to the First Due Wellness mission of achieving total wellness.

the firefighting community is a big portion of what we do," says Paxton. "The job of a firefighter is demanding. Luckily at Clackamas Fire we had a wellness program, where we worked on fitness and had a nutrition staff and we even had a peer support program for mental health. It's important to have people who understand the circumstances you are in. I was very fortunate as many don't have the means to take care of firefighters to that capacity."

Today, continually evolving in its infancy, First Due Wellness is building a list of resources and partners that will continue to assist in key areas under the

umbrella of Paxton's "total wellness", including bringing on contractors such as a dietician, financial advisor, physical therapist, and even a sleep doctor.

"When you look at the requirements of first responders, functional fitness and being good at all the disciplines is important," says Paxton. "Firefighting requires things like strength, power, endurance, flexibility, mobility. Knowing how to prevent injury and being able to perform on scene at any point during the day are also key areas that can be focused on. We study movement patterns and create programs so we can help them handle any instance that is

thrown at these first responders. We're willing to adapt, but our vision and goal is clear."

To continue in building and connecting its communities, First Due Wellness joined the Happy Valley Business Alliance last Spring, doubling down on their goals to broaden out within the Pacific Northwest and emphasize just how important total wellness is in communities all across the professional plain.

"I think there are opportunities as we grow to offer wellness services that match what we're already doing to small and mid-size businesses," says Paxton. "There's some really cool overlaps and lessons learned from the

fire service that can be applied elsewhere. From contractors to electricians to general staff, functional fitness is important so taking those fundamentals we've built up and applying it there based on their needs is something we're going to want to look into further. Wellness can be intimidating and it doesn't have to be."

To learn more about First Due Wellness, currently partnered with a slew of companies such as 24 Hour Fitness, Mudslinger Events and My Fit Foods, visit firstduewellness.com or email Brandon@firstduewellness.com if you're curious about how to get involved.

Addressing speeding concerns in Happy Valley

A comprehensive approach to enhance road safety

City of Happy Valley

Safety is a top priority for the City of Happy Valley, and addressing road safety concerns is paramount. As speeding remains the most vocalized concern among residents, the City has taken a multifaceted approach to address this issue. While adjusting speed limits is a significant step, it is just one of many measures being implemented to ensure the safety of everyone who uses City roads.

For example, through collaboration with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office and the support of the Public Safety Levy, the Happy Valley Police Department has been able to assign two deputies specifically focused on traffic safety within the City. This type of intervention plays a crucial role in deterring speeding and supports in-the-moment opportunities for public



Residents will soon notice updated street signage reflecting new speed limits at several locations throughout the City.

education. Technology also aids in supporting safe streets. The installation of new speed driver feedback signs, which have a proven track record of reducing speeds in residential areas, is just one example. The City has also introduced a speed trailer and a state-of-the-art speed tracker system, providing precise data to identify streets with frequent speeding issues. Each of these aids

in encouraging drivers to slow down.

Additionally, the City's engineering team actively collaborates with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to evaluate speed limits where necessary. ODOT, which is the entity responsible for setting and regulating speed limits, conducts thorough speed studies and has the authority to implement changes based on their findings.

Following studies conducted in Happy Valley just this past summer, ODOT proposed changes to speed limits at the following locations:

- **Vogel Rd.:** change in posted speed from 35 mph to 30 mph
- **Rock Creek Blvd.:** change in posted speed from 35 mph to 30 mph
- **Misty Dr.:** 30 mph (from Sunnyside Rd. to 152nd Ave, reduced from 35 mph to 30 mph. The section from 152nd Ave. to 162nd Ave. remains at 30 mph.)
- **162nd Ave.:** Change in posted speed from 40 mph to 30 mph from Sunnyside Rd. to Pleasant Valley Parkway.
- **162nd Ave.:** Change in posted speed from Pleasant Valley Parkway to Monner Rd. from 40 mph to 25 mph.

Soon, residents will see new street signage in the areas listed above, reflecting these updated speed limits.

Altogether, these interventions enhance road safety for both residents and visitors of the City. The City will continue to regularly reassess and improve road safety measures, ensuring Happy Valley remains committed to the well-being of the community.

Stay safe this winter when using candles

By Clackamas Fire District #1

Candles are the leading cause of fires, especially during winter weather months and the holidays. Statistics show that most candle fires start when candles are left unattended in the home.

Here are some helpful tips to keep your family safe when using candles:

- Never leave candles unattended.
- Make sure a grown-up is always in the room when a candle is burning.
- If a grown-up leaves the room, make sure he or she puts out the candle first.
- Set up a "kid-free" zone around burning candles – no playing with or near candles, with candle wax, or with items that could catch fire near candles.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that could catch on fire.
- Don't put candles in



Always remember to keep an eye on candles and make sure your home's smoke alarms are in working order.

windows or doorways where the wind could knock them over.

- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Make sure to use candles and candle holders that are sturdy and won't tip over easily.
- Consider using flameless candles to replace real flame candles.
- Develop and practice your home escape plan.
- Make sure your home is equipped with working smoke alarms.



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Festive Holiday COCKTAILS



Holiday Punch Bowl – This holiday party centerpiece is as festive as it is delicious.

Tips and Tricks to Help Turn You From Holiday Host to Mixologist

By JAMES KENNETH PRESLEY
For The Happy Valley News

The perfect winter cocktail could make or break a great holiday party, as it can not only provides a social assist for some but also serve as a great conversation piece if executed well. However, don't just take our word for it, but rather listen to Happy Valley bartender Evan Anderson who has years of experience at a variety of local restaurants and lounges.

"A good drink can make the party even more memorable for your guests," says Anderson. "For not only did your guests enjoy a gathering with friends but they also found a new themed drink that they enjoyed!"

So, before we delve into a few specific holiday cocktail recipes that you might want to consider, we first asked Anderson for some inside bartending tips that all party hosts can utilize to make their festive libations even more special.

"Anything that can help immerse your guests in the party theme is always a plus," says Anderson. "You can do this by having special glasses, cocktail napkins, and fun garnishes."

Without wasting any more time let's delve into our first suggestion that is as easy as it is delicious, and that's a simple spiked eggnog.

Spiked Eggnog

One thing that makes spiked eggnog so easy is that it's not only a two-ingredient beverage, but it's also versatile to multiple kinds of liquor. From a spiced rum to a warm brandy to a sweet vodka, eggnog can take on a variety of different flavors without losing its integrity as that rich, delicious holiday classic we all know and love.

For this drink, simply fill a festive glass with about 5-7 ounces of chilled eggnog, followed by 1 ½ ounces of your liquor of choice. Stir it in and garnish



Hot Buttered Rum – A hot libation to warm the body and gift good vibes.

with a dusting of nutmeg, a cinnamon stick, or both! You can even add some whipped cream to make it extra sweet per the recommendation of Anderson. "Whipped cream is a very common topping around the holiday season," says Anderson. "It goes good on any hot drink but is actually delicious on a spiked eggnog cocktail, too. Plus, the cinnamon and nutmeg look pretty on top of it."

Spiked Hot Chocolate

A second drink that will warm up your guests after a cold drive to your party would be a spiked hot chocolate,

another easy cocktail that's just about as festive as it gets.

For this cocktail, prepare a saucepan or coffee-to-go container with your favorite hot chocolate recipe... this way the kids at your party are taken care of, too! However, to make it fun for adults, add 1-1 ½ ounces of Rumpel Minze peppermint Schnapps to 8 ounces of hot chocolate, then top it with some whipped cream and a candy cane stick.

Hot Buttered Rum

Keeping with the theme of warm cocktails, a hot buttered rum is always a party favorite. Equally, you can buy a



Spiked Eggnog – A delicious twist on a holiday classic.

large container of hot buttered rum mix at the store and keep it in your freezer all holiday season and even well into the winter, making it extremely accessible in a pinch.

For a hot buttered rum, heat up about ¾ of a cup of hot water in a microwave-safe glass till the water just begins to bubble. Once hot, add 1-2 ounces of either spiced rum or brandy, followed by a tablespoon of hot buttered rum mix (two if you like your drink sweet). Stir it until the mix dissolves and heat once until the glass is warm. To garnish, sprinkle some ground nutmeg and gently hand it to your guest. Don't forget to remind them that it's hot!

Now, for one final consideration, we present to you a less time-dependent option that won't keep you in the kitchen or bar as a short-order bartender. Yes, we understand that while individual drinks can be fun, it sometimes is too time-consuming and takes away from the moments you have to talk with your guests. So, much like a watering hole, we present a Christmas punch recipe that you can set in a large bowl

on the table, allowing guests to fill up their own cups as you enjoy the fruits of your labor... pun intended.

Christmas Punch

For a Christmas punch, combine equal parts of cranberry juice, orange juice, pomegranate juice, and lemon-lime soda. With this recipe alone you already have an amazing non-alcoholic punch, but to make it even more special for your adult guests, add your favorite vodka to taste, which will likely require several cups. To garnish, add to the punchbowl a rosemary sprig, orange slices, and cranberries.

Pro-tip by Anderson: "Do not add ice directly into the punch bowl as it will dilute the punch as the party hours pass by. Simply offer your guests ice on the side."

This punch bowl will serve as an elegant and festive centerpiece to what will likely already be a great party with even greater people.

Remember to drink responsibly this holiday season!

Feliz Navidad!

BE SAFE!

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DECEMBER 2024 LIBRARY EVENTS

Please note the library will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 24 through Friday, Dec. 27, and Wednesday, Jan. 1. Visit go.lincc.org/hvupdates for any additional impacts.

Nature Nerd Aaron Campbell

From a childhood exploring forests, swimming in lakes, and reading all the non-fiction he could grab, it seemed only logical that Aaron Campbell became a grown-up nature nerd. As Instructor/Director at Tualatin Hills Nature Center in Beaverton, Aaron brings his insight as an educator creating, teaching, and implementing nature programs on a wide range of topics, from birding to fungi, rocks and trees, and even native edible/medicinal plants.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY

"Nature is where we make amazing discoveries and learn more about ourselves and our place in the universe," shared Aaron. "We evolved in nature, we live off nature, we have our cars, our money, our clothes, our fancy foods, all because of nature."

In March of 2020 though, Aaron realized he wanted to do more. "I saw a need for safe outdoor activities that were accessible to all, free of cost." That seed of an idea grew into his free weekly guided nature walks at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge in SE Portland.

These programs aren't just about connecting people to nature. "I love to ask and answer questions and create more open conversations during my programs that get people talking and bring them closer together," reflected Aaron. "Nature is a powerful connector."

For Aaron, learning and exploring doesn't stop. This winter the avid bird watcher will fulfill a 30-year dream of visiting a tropical rainforest with a visit to Costa Rica. "I have the potential to add almost 300 or more species to my list," Aaron shared.

For those wanting to explore the great outdoors with a little help, there are several options for catching Aaron in action with Nature Nerd Expeditions.

■ First Sunday of each month at 10 a.m.

Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge
SE 7th Ave. and Sellwood Blvd.
Portland, OR 97202
Topics vary

■ Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2:30 p.m.

Happy Valley Library
Topic: Birding for All Ages

Year in Review

From cultural celebrations to interactive story times and creative programs, these images highlight the library's dedication to bringing people together and fostering a love for learning throughout 2024

JANUARY

The expansion started to take shape with concrete and gravel.

FEBRUARY

The library hosts three new storytimes, each providing songs, stories, and crafts in languages other than English: Vietnamese, Spanish, and Chinese.

The annual Lunar New Year festivities included a "wish tree" for all ages to add their hopes for the new year.

MARCH

For the third year, library staff reviewed over 400 entries to select their favorites to be turned into bookmarks. Look for entry forms in March.

APRIL

Grownups like dress-up too, especially to celebrate the fan-favorite Bridgerton series with tea and trivia.

MAY

The Library partnered with Clackamas County's sustainability services to offer repairs on small appliances, clothing, and more from trained volunteers.

JULY

Library fun left the building with trips to Damascus Centennial Park for crafts, games, and science.

AUGUST

Concerts in the park drew crowds of all ages to enjoy live music and dancing at Village Green.

SEPTEMBER

In partnership with Friends of the Happy Valley Library and Happy Valley Parks and Recreation, the Library now has a permanent display featuring different picture books each month to enjoy at Happy Valley Park.

OCTOBER

Construction of the expansion was celebrated with over 400 visitors exploring the new space.

One of the library's most popular programs, storytimes, returned after a summer break to our new, bigger community space.

More space means craft programs can accommodate more people, like decorating Talavera Tiles in celebration of Latiné Heritage Month.



FEBRUARY



APRIL



MAY



SEPTEMBER



AUGUST



OCTOBER

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

All Ages Programs

All Together Now programs are designed as inter-generational programs, with people of all ages coming together to create and play.

Birding

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2:30 p.m.-4 p.m.
Community Room A

Learn about differences in birds and how important they are to our home. We'll learn basic I.D. techniques, how to start a bird list, where and when to spot birds, how to attract them to your outdoor space, and more! The last half of the class will be a guided bird walk where you can test your newfound skills. RSVP recommended.

Solstice Lantern Walk

Saturday, Dec. 21, 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.
Community Room A

Bring a clean, empty jar to turn into a solstice lantern! We'll take our lanterns for a night-time walk-through Village Green Park.

Family Movie: The Wild Robot

Monday, Dec. 30, 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.
Community Room A

Watch the beloved chapter book by Peter Brown come to life in this new release.



New Year's at Noon Party

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Community Rooms A&B

We're counting down to the new year a little early! Celebrate with crafts, games, and a mini dance party.

Library Lounge

Thursday, Jan. 2, 10:30 a.m.-noon
Community Rooms A&B

Everyone's invited for puzzles, crafts, and other fun!

Let's Build

Friday, Jan. 3, 10:30 a.m.-noon
Community Room A

Drop in for some free building fun with LEGO and Duplo blocks.

Adult Programs

RSVP for programs at <https://go.lincc.org/hvRSVP>

Chinese Mah Jongg

Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Meeting Room

Those who enjoy playing Chinese Mah Jongg are invited to join our fun and friendly group! Contact the library if you would like to learn to play.

American Mah Jongg

Fridays, 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Meeting Room

Those who enjoy playing American Mah Jongg are invited to join our fun and friendly group! Be sure to bring your current National Mah Jongg League cards. Contact the library if you would like to learn to play.

ESL Classes

Mondays, Meeting Room
10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Intermediate
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Advanced

All are welcome to drop in to this weekly class. Each student will receive a free textbook to use in the classes. RSVP available.



Quiet Book Club

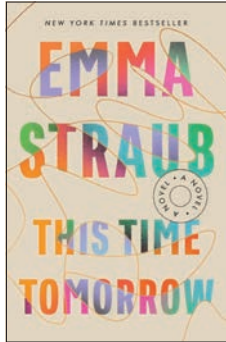
Wednesday, Dec. 4, 6:15 p.m.-7:45 p.m.

Shhhh! Want an hour of quiet reading time? We'll provide a (pretend) roaring fire and warm water for tea. You bring your reading material and cozy stuff (think a blanket, soft pillow, or scarf). Quiet time is followed by an optional 30-minute social time to share reading recommendations and other book tips! RSVP available.

Happy Valley Book Group

Thursday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.

Read *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner, a magical journey spanning secrets and history, and discuss it with other readers. New members are always welcome. Place your hold for December's book *This Time Tomorrow* by Emma Straub. Find out more about the group, including future reads at go.lincc.org/hvbg.



Memories of a Czech Christmas

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Community Room A

Join Helena and Mark as they present traditional Czech Christmas music and dance. Hear stories that reveal the surprising differences between Czech and American customs.

Youth Programs

Storytimes

To see our full listing of storytimes and playtimes for ages birth to five, visit our website or go.lincc.org/hvbirthto5.

Storywalk: Fungi Grows

Happy Valley Park

Each month you can enjoy a story along the path in Happy Valley Park. Walk along and read the story *Fungi Grow* by Maria Gianferrari starting at the all-abilities playground now through Dec. 31.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.



Fungi in the Park!

Monday, Dec. 2, 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Happy Valley Park, Shelter A

Learn how amazing fungi really are with nature nerd Aaron Campbell! We'll learn cool facts about their natural history, anatomy, etiquette, how important they are to life on earth and how to identify mushrooms in the field. For the last half of the class we'll go on a fungi walk to discover our amazing diversity and practice our I.D. techniques. We'll meet at Shelter A, by the big playground, and then explore together.

Stretch, Dance, Play

Thursday, Dec. 5 & Jan. 9, 10:15 a.m.
Community Room A

For 2-5-year-olds and their caregivers. Join Iris Nason for dance, yoga, singing, sign language and play!

Giờ Kể Chuyện/Vietnamese Storytime

Saturday, Dec. 7 & Jan. 4, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Community Room A

Hãy đến thư viện vui hát, kể chuyện, làm quen với văn điệu thơ tiếng Việt và cùng làm thủ công với nhau nhé.

Enjoy Vietnamese stories, songs, rhymes and make a craft together as a family.

Homeschool Club

Thursday, Dec. 12, 10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Community Room A

Hey homeschool families! Bring the whole family for a morning of fun with crafts and games. Families are welcome to bring curriculum or other support materials to swap.

Sign & Sing

Friday, Dec. 13, 10:15 a.m.
Community Room A

For 2-5-year-olds and their caregivers. Sing, dance, and sign with Shira Fogel of Tiny Talkers.

Cuentos, música y manualidades / Spanish Storytime

Saturday, Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Community Room A

¡Los invitamos a la Biblioteca de Happy Valley a disfrutar de una hora de cuentos, música y manualidades en Español!

We invite you to Happy Valley library to enjoy stories, music and crafts in Spanish!

Chinese Storytime / 中文故事时间

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.-3 p.m.
Community Room A

欢迎加入我们特别为孩子们举办的中文故事时间，用普通话呈现适合所有年龄层的故事、歌曲和活动。Join us for a special Chinese Storytime presented in Mandarin with stories, songs and activities for ages 0-10.

On the Move!

Thursday, Dec. 19, 10:15 a.m.
Community Room A

For 3-5-year-olds and their caregivers. Join Maria Fe Pizar for a special story, songs and games that encourage creative movement.

Crafting with Kenny

Saturday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m.-3 p.m.

发挥创意，放飞我们的想像力！跟着Kenny叔叔一起，利用手边可以拿到的材料，做出各式各样好玩有趣的手工。这次我们用扭扭棒，做出可爱的龙，并感谢它为我们带来平安顺利的龙年。

發揮創意，放飛我們的想像力！跟著Kenny叔叔一起，利用手邊可以拿到的材料，做出各式各樣好玩有趣的手工。這次我們用扭扭棒，做出可愛的龍，並感謝它為我們帶來平安順利的龍年。

Let's get creative, let our imagination run free with Kenny. This time we'll use pipe cleaners to make a cute dragon and send it off for bringing us peace and success year of the Loong.

Tweens & Teens

For teens in grades 6-12.

Manga and Anime Club

Thursday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Community Room A

Hang out with fellow manga and anime fans. December we'll enjoy hot cocoa! Chat about favorites, browse new number ones, eat snacks, and watch anime. For teens in grades 6 through 12.

Teen Library Group

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Meeting Room

Support the library while earning volunteer hours. Hang out with new friends, share ideas, and make stuff. A safe space for all to be themselves.

Volunteer Party

Thursday, Jan. 2, 3 p.m.-5 p.m.
Meeting Room

We need help making a lot of Care Card kits! Drop by to lend a hand putting together craft kits for community members to make cards for local senior living facilities. Provided in partnership with Happy Valley Parks and Recreation.

Super Smash Bros. Tournament

Friday, Jan. 3, 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Community Room A

Ages 10-18. Hey gamers, join us for an afternoon of Super Smash Bros.

Scan here to register for Library Programs



HAPPY VALLEY LIBRARY

WINTER READING



Teens and adults can cozy up and read for a chance to win prizes during the Winter Reading program.

Wintertime is here once again. Fortunately, cold, dark evenings are perfect for spending time with a good book! The Happy Valley Library is having a Winter Reading program to encourage adults and teens to keep reading this winter. There will even be prizes for some lucky participants! Submit an entry for every book you finish reading between now and Jan. 31. Enter at least once a month to get that month's special button. Prize drawings will be held at the end of each month, with final drawings on Jan. 31. Area residents ages 13 and up are eligible to participate. Visit go.lincc.org/hvwr to submit your entries.

Friends of the Library



The Friends Book Sale proceeds benefit library programs and services.

The Friends of Happy Valley Library are accepting donations again! Money raised by the Friends goes to support numerous Library events and services. You can bring up to two bags or boxes of donations to the Library front desk per day. They can take:

- Books
- Magazines
- CDs/DVDs

Tax receipts are available. Note the Friends do not accept VHS, items with severe wear and tear, exam prep, and textbooks.



COURTESY CLACKAMAS HIGH SCHOOL

Five CHS girls basketball players sign letters of intent | Accomplishments lead many to signing

City of Happy Valley

Five Clackamas High School Seniors signed letters of intent last month to play college basketball.

As a team, the group qualified for the state tournament the past three years — taking third in 2022, winning the 6A state title in 2023 and taking third again in 2024. Each of them have won numerous individual awards over the years. Jazzy Davidson is the three time Oregon Gatorade Player of the Year and the top recruit in the nation.

Signings included

- Jazzy Davidson: University of Southern California
- Sarah Barhoum: University of Oregon
- Allie Roden: Colorado State University
- Dylan Mogel: Seattle University
- Reyce Mogel: Southern Oregon University

"This is a pretty special group of girls we have here in our girls basketball program. I don't think

I have ever heard of a basketball program having five players sign athletic scholarships before," said John Arntson, Clackamas High Athletic Director. "The crazy thing is, we have one more senior, Avery Peterson, who will also sign to play. Avery has a few offers, but has not decided yet."

"We are so proud of all of the girls and are really excited to see what they can do their last year together playing for the Lady Cavs!"

Highlighting our HEROES

City of Happy Valley

The City of Happy Valley would like to recognize our community's veterans and active military. To do this, Happy Valley News aims to share the story of people in our community who have served or are currently serving in one of our country's armed forces each month. Stories might focus on your military experience, what you've learned from your travels, or anything interesting or inspiring.

The City is encouraging you to reach out to us directly if interested and we additionally welcome nominations from family and friends. Please contact the City's Communication Specialist, Stephanie Warneke, at swarneke@happyvalleyor.gov or our Community Writer, Emma Davis at hvn@pamplinmedia.com.



The service and sacrifice our military community members make is important. With the support of Mayor Tom Ellis and City Council, the City of Happy Valley would like to share the stories of those who have served or are actively serving. Please contact us so we can highlight our local heroes.

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