

Local girl Lily Bacon finds way to help other children with cancer

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Be Mine? Ways to celebrate in the valley

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February 2022  
happyvalleyor.gov

# Happy Valley NEWS

A city, community, a lifestyle — a place we proudly call home

Pamplin MediaGroup

ClackamasReview

## CHINESE NEW YEAR YEAR OF THE TIGER

### Lunar New Year celebrated around valley

By SHELLEY McFARLAND

Celebrated by numerous Asian ethnicities, Lunar New Year started Feb. 1, 2022, and will end Jan. 21, 2023. As year of the tiger, it ranks third in the 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle. Considered brave, cruel, forceful, and terrifying, tigers are symbolic of power in Chinese culture and considered a patron deity for children and parents. People born in this year are thought to be natural leaders, adventurous, ambitious, and maybe a bit impetuous.

Clackamas High School Asian Pacific Island-

See LUNAR / Page 2



A display case at Clackamas High School was decorated for Lunar New Year by the school's Asian Pacific Islander Student Union.



# Hungry much?

### A G Specialty Foods Inc. produces fresh grab-and-go foods for businesses

By SHELLEY McFARLAND

When she grew up in Eugene, Sonia Andrus's parents owned retail delis, so it wasn't a surprise when she opened her own eatery in 1980 in Gladstone called Napoleon's Deli.

"One day, a driver from a local catering truck stopped by and asked if I could make sandwiches for her. I made five of each of our top sellers and she came back the next day and asked for more," Andrus said. "Everyone she sold to loved my sandwiches. They were my mother's creations, and the Napoleon was a favorite."



"They deserve it, it's the right thing to do, taking care of our employees. We reward attendance and longevity working for us."

— President/Owner A G Specialty Foods Inc. Sonia Andrus

From there, Andrus would sell to other caterers and word was out that Andrus's sandwiches were delicious. Business started to explode with



Remarkably, A G Specialty Foods Inc. plans on manufacturing 200,000 food items weekly by spring 2022.

Andrus driving her car packed with sandwiches to Swan Island for delivery at 4 a.m. to catering trucks stopping by to pick up their orders.

**A G Specialty Foods Inc.**  
15025 S.E. 172nd Ave.  
Happy Valley, OR 97015  
503-305-6100

"I was supplying 53 catering truck routes and had to buy a truck because my station wagon wasn't cutting it," she laughed. "We called that truck



'Sherman' because it drove like a tank, and it had a refrigeration unit in it. By 1985 I had two babies at home and had to decide whether to continue with catering, retail or wholesale."

Andrus decided on whole-

sale calling it A G Specialty Foods Inc., but admits she still misses catering. She moved into a 1,200-square-foot building on McLoughlin and be-

See FOOD / Page 2

# Veteran survives two tours in the desert



Ben Skelton joined the U.S. Army in 2005 and became a Black Hawk maintainer. PHOTOS SUBMITTED

### Ben Skelton recounts his military career

By SHELLEY McFARLAND

When he was young, Ben Skelton told everyone that he was going to join the military. But after he graduated from Reynolds High School in 1999, he took a job with United Postal Service (UPS) and moved into an apartment.

"I flopped around in college for a while," Skelton explains. "I began working for UPS in 2002 and I realized I was one redneck away from becoming Al Bundy, ('Married With Children') that guy who peaks

in high school and who is bitter about everything and hasn't really done anything. So, something had to change, and I needed to make that change. I looked at the Army again and saw joining would give me money for school, training, and the opportunity to travel. If there's one thing to be said for serving in the United States' military, it's not boring."

Skelton tested in the top 2% on the Armed Services Vocational Ability Battery (ASV-AB) and had each branch of military wanting to sign him.

"I went to the Navy office, and they asked if I wanted to work on a nuclear sub. Um, no, I don't want to glow in the dark in a tin can filled with other guys. I went to the Air Force, and they said I could

choose one of five jobs, and they might let me do one of them. They told me no signing bonus and good luck getting anywhere fun," he laughed. "The Army told me they'd give me a little bit of money, I could have any job I want, and you can go anywhere in the world that job has. I said Army it is."

On Sept. 10, 2005, Skelton signed with the U.S. Army and completed basic training in the heat at Fort Jackson in South Carolina as one of six guys over the age of 25. For the eight weeks he spent at basic training, he made lifelong friendships with the "older guys."

After boot camp, Skelton was transferred to Fort Eustis in Newport News, Virginia for

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# Lunar

## From Page 1

er Student Union (APISU) is celebrating Lunar New Year in an all too familiar format: online. Because of current COVID protocols, the group kept last year's decorated hallway display box instead of new decorations, before moving to online meetings. During the meetings, APISU talked about Lunar New Year and what it means to the peoples it represents.

"Lunar New Year is the biggest holiday in many Asian cultures. Our Asian Pacific Islander Student Union at

Clackamas High School has always celebrated it every year. Our first year together we had a small party and students brought food in from their homes," Ethelyn Tumalad-Granados, APISU leader and Oregon Teacher of the Year said. "The second year, we decorated the glass case at school, along with the whole school in red and gold streamers. Interestingly, decorating the glass case has been an annual tradition since then. This year, before we pivoted online, we were going to update the glass case, decorate the school again, and

do a window mural of the year of the Tiger in the cafeteria. The students had plans to send Lunar New Year greetings at lunch to their friends for fundraising. Since the group celebrated Lunar New Year online only last year, they were disappointed to once again to miss the holiday festivities together but met in Google Classroom where they played games and discussed the cultural celebrations, the symbolism of the tiger and what it means to be together, even online.

**At home, students share similar stories of celebration.**

"Lunar New Year represents my culture's traditions



and customs; we keep doing these traditions each year so my generation can pass it on to the next generation for the next generations to come," sophomore Tylor Yee said. "We celebrate Lunar New Year by having a family gathering, children receive red envelopes that contains lucky money, we eat Chinese food together, and children wear new clothing to celebrate the new year."

"To me, Lunar New Year rep-

resents a time where I can reconnect with my culture and heritage. It signals a time to restart and reconnect with peace and love. I want to keep the tradition going because in all these hard times, we need to remember where we came from, and what our background is. It is part of us and



who we are," freshman Hayley Su shared. "My family normally celebrates Lunar New Year with a big family dinner. Someone either hosts at their house or invites everyone out to eat at one of our family-favorite Chinese restaurants. This year, we are going to do a small family dinner at my house, with homemade food, prayers, and red packets."

Whether in person or online, Tumalad-Granados, enjoys celebrating the Lunar New Year with her APISU students. "Every year I watch the students be excited, proud, and authentically themselves and it's always a joy," Tumalad-Granados said.

# Food

## From Page 1

cause of her success, ran out of space. Next, she moved her operation to a 6,000-square-foot site in Gladstone and eventually bought Chin's USDA Kitchen which became A G Specialty Food's USDA facility after applying – her business had only been FDA approved before. Garnering USDA approval increased their production from just sandwiches to other fresh food products, including entrees. (Today, the USDA has an office in A G Specialty Foods who performs inspections at A G Specialty Foods six days a week.)

"In 2015, we moved into Milwaukie to a building with 18,000 square feet and I thought that would be big enough to do whatever I wanted. It was going to be my forever business home. In 13 months, I decided it wasn't working, we were going to burst at the seams," Andrus said. "In 2017, I bought land in Happy Valley with plans to build. I signed the loan in March 2020, right as the world stopped and I initially lost 90% of my business. It was a leap of faith and we worked to get it built. But look what it brought us! We are now in a

52,000-square-foot building that we built."

Today, woman owned A G Specialty Foods supplies food to 11 distributors who in turn supply hundreds of businesses and organizations with A G Specialty Food's product. One company alone, Compass Foods, the largest food company in the world, distributes A G Specialty's foods to over 600 clients. Their packaged foods can be found in Safeway/Albertson's, Amazon, Costco, hospitals, schools and even jails.

Working out of their custom-built 52,000-square-foot plant, A G Specialty Foods produces over 200 different fresh dining options including sandwiches, burritos, parfaits, wraps, snacks, salads, entrees, and desserts. Some clients give A G Specialty Foods specific instruction of what they want including which brands of food to use, others rely on the array of options Andrus has created over the years. With business growing, Andrus expects the company to be manufacturing nearly 300,000 items weekly by spring. Though the company is cranking out food at an unprecedented rate, Andrus is proud of the quality of food she produces and her working relationships to keep food products interesting.

"We either have meetings with vendors or overnight 20

to 30 items for a client to try," Andrus explains. "From there, they will choose what they want and give us instructions how to tweak a recipe. Others will just tell us to build a 'green bowl' and we come up with different variations for them to try. I've been with some clients for so long, they allow me to make changes for them. We will then look at slow moving items and replace them with something new in the rotation."

From there, products are given vendor-specific labels and shipped out. The bulk of A G Specialty Food's product is distributed to Washington to various companies.

Andrus attributes her success to building partnerships with vendors, offering safe and delicious food (she eliminated processed cheeses and switched to Tillamook Cheese without cost increase to customers), acting ethically, and investing in employees. Many of her employees have been with A G Specialty Foods since 1980 and of the current employee pool of 166, Andrus estimates most have been with the company between five and 10 years. A G Specialty Foods offers competitive incentives including a generous bonus program, employee-paid healthcare, and matching 401k benefits. Currently, on-site daycare is being built for children of employees. Currently



**Sonia Andrus, President/Owner of A G Specialty Foods Inc. got her start working for her parents' delis in Eugene. She quickly made a name for herself and carved out opportunities to expand her business.**

the company is looking to hire more employees.

"They deserve it, it's the right thing to do, taking care of our employees," Andrus

said. "We reward attendance and longevity working for us."

A self-identified chaos manager, Andrus thrives on challenging situations calling them

"fun." Recently, with the icy conditions, A G Specialty Foods was down to 50% staff because some workers couldn't make it into work. With orders to fill, she rallied her staff to complete the tasks and rewarded them financially for their dedication in meeting the daily quota.

Today, Andrus is looking to retire and has learned to delegate to her long-time management staff who understand her mission and will continue to honor vendor relationships, product excellence and performance rewards. Notably, Brian Schkenyantz CFO, has been with A G Specialty Foods for six years and is indispensable to Andrus – he knows every detail of the business and intends to continue to grow it.

"You can be a worker on the line, which I love, put me on the hot line and I'm good. Or you can be a manager, I was forced to do that. But I like being a part of the team. And lastly, you can be an entrepreneur, managing the business and I chose entrepreneur, but I had to learn to delegate. But when you have a closely held company, that's extremely difficult to do. Brian is my CFO plus, plus, plus and the goal is to eventually retire. We will continue to grow and in five years, we will be delivering sandwiches nationwide."

For more information, visit: [www.agsfinc.com](http://www.agsfinc.com).

# Skelton

## From Page 1

14 weeks to train as a Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk maintainer – he would eventually earn Crew Chief status and jokes that he was "a cross between a mechanic and a heavily-armed stewardess." In his first unit, he was part of the 45th Med Air Ambulance, a self-contained medical evacuation unit. Based out of Ansbach, Germany, his unit was quickly deployed to Multi-National Force – West (MNF-West) in 2006, Marine stomping grounds in Iraq containing the cities of Ar Ramadi, Fallujah, Al-Qa'im and Haditha. It was casually referred to as the "Triangle of Hell" by soldiers and an important stronghold for the coalition.

"People wonder how we can do our military work and how we are not broken. We come back and we are okay, despite the crazy stuff we've done and seen. The reality is we are not okay, we've never been okay, it's just not new breaks," he explained. "My wife Jackie is into self-wellness and healing, and she's opened my eyes to what goes on behind the brain. I was in the Army in the height of Iraq deployments, I knew I was going to be deployed, it was expected. One of the parts that comes with training is ego, it acts like a force shield."

Skelton's Iraq deployment would last 15 months at Al-Asad and admits it was long and at times lonely, but other soldiers were being deployed for longer. His platoon acted as medi-vac assets in support of 1st MEF, 2nd MAF and 3rd MAF with roughly 30 maintainers working on Black Hawks, including cleaning and repairing the helicopters returning from deadly missions or transporting wounded. The work level was grueling in the beginning of his first tour.

"Medi-vac is a different part of military aviation in general. We weren't pomp and ceremo-

**Ben Skelton**  
**Branch:** U.S. Army  
**Years:** 2005-2011  
**Rank:** Black Hawk Crew Chief Specialist  
**Theater:** Gulf War  
**Tours:** Two

**"If there's one thing to be said for serving in the United States' military, it's not boring."**  
— Ben Skelton

ny; we had a job to do that people live and die by. It's like frontline medical units' work times 10," he explained. "That first deployment was nothing but work then not work. I mean, the first three months were the worst, and we inherited a bunch of non-flyable equipment from the previous unit. On the maintenance side, we would work and have food brought to us to keep working. We would work late into the night, hop on a truck to the billets, shower and shave, change into clothes, put our boots nearby, sleep in our clothes, wake up, put our boots on and do it all over again."

Skelton was eventually moved to Wheeler Army Airfield in Oahu, Hawaii in April 2008 and from there, would serve a second tour in Iraq for 11 months with C Company 2-25th AVN as part of an air assault battalion. (At the time, Skelton said the Oregon National Guard was also deployed in Iraq who he calls "the best, most competent guard company in the county.")

"In my first deployment, I was fixing aircraft and wasn't shot at, well, I was mortared a few times – it's impersonal. But the second deployment, from Hawaii home base, I was part of an air assault battalion, and our job was to shoot people and help other shoot people. We did remarkably little of that because at the time we were tamping down and training Iraqi forces, but we were still shot at. A lot," he said. "When I was part of the medi-vac unit, I was brought in on a secondary position to fly with the aircraft and help provide security when they land and help pick up people who were



**Ben Skelton served two tours during the Gulf War. Today, he is a driver for UPS in Happy Valley.**

getting shot at. Those aircraft were shot at all the time. We didn't sit there and think about it, though."

Over his six-year enlistment, Skelton would be awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Army Achievement medals and awarded an Air Medal for 700 combat flight hours. He also met then-President George W. Bush, Drew Carey, professional wrestlers, and Chuck Norris who traveled with the USO tour. As serious as his enlistment was, Skelton managed to entertain himself and enjoy time with other soldiers. Upon returning home, he resumed his career (and seniority) with UPS and today drives the Happy Valley route. After a stint at Clark Community College in the mechanical engineering field, he realized his employment with UPS was financially advantageous and left college. He met his wife Jackie, a librarian, at a pirate festival and the two were married May 2020.

Looking back over his ser-

vice, Skelton admits his experiences were complex.

"It is like everything else, complicated. I didn't lose any friends while I was in, but I lost a lot while I was out," Skelton explained. "It's not from any failing of them, many died from a car wreck or committed suicide because they couldn't take it, for whatever reason. That's not something you can breed into or teach. Some people aren't wired to survive that kind of stuff. So, whether I'd recommend military service or not, that depends. I'd never recommend infantry to anyone. It's thankless, brutal and you pay for all the stories you come back with. The price of admission is blood. Would I go back in now? No, it's a different Army now. It's a peacetime Army, but I loved my job. For the right person, for the right reason, I'd recommend it. There's an old saying, 'The good old days were just around the corner, but unfortunately ended just the day after I signed.'"



**Ben married Jackie in a backyard ceremony. They met at a pirate festival.**



**While deployed, Skelton met actor Chuck Norris who he describes as a determined man evidenced after this photo when Norris quietly ventured into a restricted area and had the base looking for him.**





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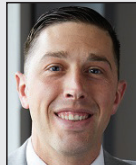


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**HAPPY VALLEY CITY COUNCIL**  
Council Meetings are held  
1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the  
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**MAYOR'S  
MESSAGE**



TOM ELLIS

# Welcome New Committee Members

One of my responsibilities as Mayor is to appoint community members to the City's advisory boards and committees. We had a near record number of residents apply for only a few vacant positions. I'm constantly amazed at the passion people have for our local community. Whether people have been here for decades or moved to Happy Valley more recently, many want to be part of shaping the City's future. After reviewing the excellent applications, I selected the following individuals to serve:



Planning for the future isn't just about what the City Council thinks is best. It takes a collective vision from the community and cohesive action from our volunteer committees. The City is fortunate to receive guidance and input from our community volunteers on these committees.

**Planning Commission**

**Reappointments:**  
Naomi Turrentine  
Avi Patel  
**New Appointments:**  
Roland Iparraguirre

**Design Review Board**

**Reappointments:**  
Mardi Wing  
Kirk Clagstone  
Sheila Ritz  
**New Appointments:**  
Jennifer Huang

**Traffic & Public Safety**

**Reappointments:**  
Grant Roper  
Ana Sarish  
**New Appointments:**  
Paul Rosenow

**Public Art Committee**

**Reappointments:**  
Daria Fine  
Doris Bedsole  
Janice Kiser  
**New Appointments:**  
No Vacancies to Fill

**Parks Advisory**

**Reappointments:**  
Erin Bell  
Glen Sachet  
Geri Naumcheff  
**New Appointments:**  
Ryan Rudge

**Library Board**

**Reappointments:**  
Al Matecko  
Jerry Dukleth  
**New Appointments:**  
No Vacancies to Fill

**Budget Committee**

**Reappointments:**  
None  
**New Appointments:**  
No Vacancies to Fill

Please join my excitement in welcoming the new committee members and thanking returning members for their service. I'm eager to see the work they do along with their new colleagues. The City Council and I couldn't do our work without the guidance we receive from these residents. **THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!**

## COUNCIL CORNER

# Community Center Steering Committee

As many of you have read in the last several issues of the HV News, the City Council established a Steering Committee to help guide the development of a future Community Center. To date, the Steering Committee has met twice. In addition, there have been numerous community focus group meetings and a resident survey. Last month, the City Council received an update on the feedback we've received on the size and scale of a future Community Center. Below are a few themes we've consistently heard:

**#1 Priority**

- A new community center should be one of the City's top priorities
- Locating the center next to a new community park with ballfields would be preferred

**Aquatics are Important**

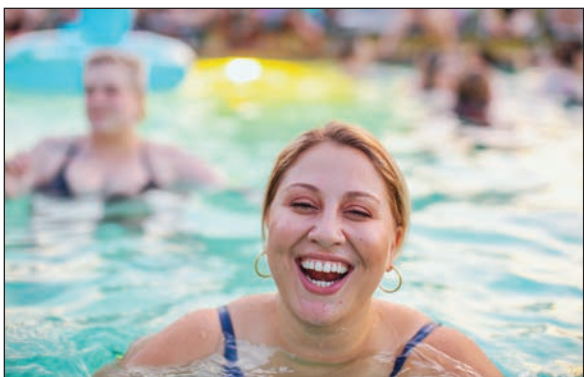
- There needs to be an aquatic component of some kind
- A pool indoors or covered would be preferred, cost permitting
- The most important programs for a pool are to support swim lessons, water safety classes, water aerobics, etc.
- A competitive lap pool would be nice, but should only be done in partnership with another organization (i.e. school district or private swim club)

**Gym Space is Needed**

- The second most important amenity is more gym space
- The gym should be multi-purpose to support basketball, volleyball, etc.

**Fiscally Responsible**

- The center needs to be large enough with high quality facilities to be supported by the community
- However, if the facility is too expensive, taxpayers may not support a large tax increase, even if only temporary



Discussions continue as the City's Community Center Steering Committee reviews everything from possible building amenities and budget expenses to long term facility maintenance requirements. As work continues, residents can expect an opportunity to participate in additional feedback surveys.

Over the course of the next few months, the Steering Committee will help guide the development of a few options all at different sizes and costs. From there, the City will explore funding options. Community members can expect to see more surveys and opportunities to participate in the process as this project develops. To stay informed, visit <https://www.happyvalleyor.gov/community-center-feasibility-study-2>.

**STEERING  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS**

Ana Sarish  
Al Matecko  
Diane Morrow  
Mark Aasland  
Janice Kiser  
Erin Bell  
Jen Anderson  
Doris (Dee) Bedsole  
Mardi Wing  
Josh Callahan  
LizBeth Hale  
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# IF I WERE MAYOR

2021-2022 CONTEST

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CATEGORIES BASED ON GRADE LEVEL  
POSTERS (GRADES 4-5)   ESSAYS (GRADES 6-8)  
DIGITAL MEDIA PRESENTATIONS (GRADES 9-12)

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY SUBMISSION IS MARCH 28TH

What would you do as Mayor? Students in Happy Valley are encouraged to enter the City's annual contest that gives them a chance to share their ideas. Entries are due next February, so make sure to head to [www.happyvalleyor.gov/if-i-were-mayor](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov/if-i-were-mayor) for all the details.

# What would you do as mayor?

Popular student contest returns

Now a student with big ideas, a compassionate heart, and interest in making the community a better place? The City of Happy Valley is again participating in the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) *If I Were Mayor*, I would... contest.

Here, students are invited to share their creative ideas about how they would govern the City of Happy Valley. Winning entries from local contests throughout Oregon are then submitted to a statewide competition. Last year, Harshil Gautam, Lilyana Oien, and McKenna Phifer were recognized for their winning submissions at the City level.

At its core, *If I Were Mayor* gives students the opportunity to take a closer look at their community and share their thoughts about safety, the environment, health, social services, youth programs and anything else they think is vital to the city.

For students, this is a great

way to stay connected to learning and spark some creativity. For all the details, including contest guidelines and how to submit an entry, simply head to [www.happyvalleyor.gov/if-i-were-mayor](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov/if-i-were-mayor). The deadline for submitting your finished product is 5 p.m. Monday, Mar. 28.

### GENERAL CONTEST FORMAT

There are three categories based on student grade:

- Elementary School (grades 4-5) – Poster
- Middle School (grades 6-8) – Essay
- High school (grades 9-12) – Digital Media Presentation

The winner of each age group in the Happy Valley contest will be awarded a \$100 gift card and recognized at an upcoming City Council Meeting.

The winning submissions will then be entered in the statewide contest where there will be a chance to win an additional prize of \$500.



City of Happy Valley

Social media is constantly changing and we're doing what we can to keep City messaging accessible and relevant.

For example, when it comes to Facebook, just because you like our City page, that doesn't automatically mean you are shown the content we share. As a result of Facebook's ever-changing algorithm, it's easy to miss out on important news and updates.

Here are some quick tips to help make engaging with us a little easier and ensuring we don't lose touch:

- On Facebook, make sure you not only "like" our page, but that you "follow" us as well. To select your follow settings, click on the three dots located on the top right-hand corner of our Facebook page to indicate

Like and follow the City of Happy Valley and stay on top of the latest happenings in our community

how often you want to hear from us.

- Interact with us! Whether it's Facebook, Instagram, or other social media platforms, the more you "like" and comment on our posts or pictures, the more likely you will see our messaging pop up in your newsfeed.
- Sign up for e-notifications from the City by heading to [www.happyvalleyor.gov](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov). Once there, scroll to the bottom of the page where it says **Take Action**. You will see **Sign Up for Notifications** listed on the menu. Click that and you will be prompted to enter your Email address. You will then be given the opportunity to choose the topics you are most interested in staying updated about. Receive information about upcoming events, Parks and Recreation news, and other pertinent information.

## Let's Connect

Like and follow us on social media, and be sure to sign up for notifications via the City website to follow topics you're most interested in.

Stay on top of the latest happenings and never skip a beat!

[www.happyvalleyor.gov](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov)

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[@HappyValleyParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/HappyValleyParksandRec)  
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[City of Happy Valley](https://twitter.com/CityofHv)  
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The City is often posting information on its website and social media platforms. Be sure you're staying in-the-know by signing up for e-notifications and following us on Facebook, Instagram, and more.

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This publication is a partnership between Pamplin Media Group and the City of Happy Valley.




**Publisher's Note:** Happy Valley News is always on the lookout for story ideas and suggestions from our readership. If you know of an interesting local story or a person deserving of community recognition, please forward tips to [hvn@pamplinmedia.com](mailto:hvn@pamplinmedia.com) and include your name and phone number for contact information.



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9283 SE Hamilton Ln	3	2	Sold	4	\$495,000	\$556,000	5/3/21
9068 SE Hamilton Ln	5	3.1	Sold	80	\$629,000	\$625,000	3/12/21
9434 SE Grace Cir	4	2.1	Sold	4	\$625,000	\$625,000	11/5/21

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At the time of print, the following events were scheduled. Most meetings have options to attend in-person or virtually. Please check [www.happyvalleyor.gov](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov) to confirm timing of events and instructions to participate virtually. You can also opt in to receive notifications about upcoming meetings by visiting [www.happyvalleyor.gov/signup-for-notifications](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov/signup-for-notifications)

CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY

**February 7**  
**Parks Advisory Committee Meeting:**  
6-7 p.m.

**February 15**  
**City Council Work Session:**  
6:00 p.m.

**City Council Meeting:** 7 p.m.

**February 21**  
**President's Day:**  
City Hall and Happy Valley Library **CLOSED**

**February 23**  
**Happy Valley Business Alliance Meeting:**  
7:30-9 a.m.

**Design Review Board Meeting:**  
7-8 p.m.

**March 1**  
**City Council Work Session:**  
6 p.m.

**City Council Meeting:**  
7 p.m.

# Simply *the Best*

City thanks Winter Storm Response Team for recent efforts

City of Happy Valley

Winter weather visited Happy Valley during the holidays and while the cold, snowy precipitation didn't stick around for long, City staff did spend several days monitoring the roads and working proactively around the clock to ensure community safety. We would like to thank our entire Winter Storm Response Team for being at the ready. These individuals are comprised of a group of dedicated public servants that include Public Works, Community Services, and the Police and Public Safety Departments. As winter continues, it is always possible another storm will touch ground. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and head to [www.happyvalleyor.gov/inclementweather](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov/inclementweather) for more information about how you can prepare and what to expect from the City's response team.



The City's Public Works team was prepped and ready to head out before the inclement weather descended. As the storm continued, crews worked around the clock to keep main roads clear and accessible. Pictured left to right: Public Works crew members Ryan, Bill, Adam and Jose.



Pictured left to right: Public Works crew members Greg, Chris, Mike, Kent, Andrew and Titus.

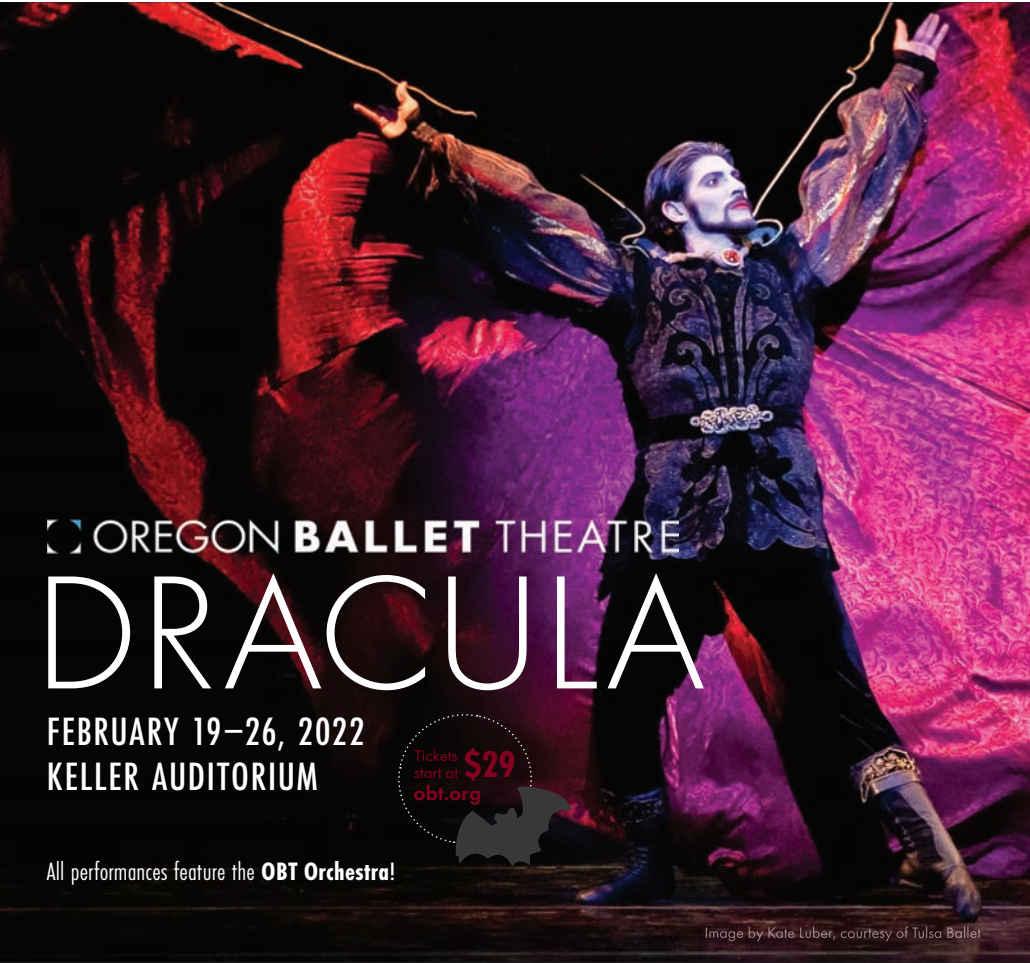
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**HAPPY VALLEY BUSINESS ALLIANCE**

Join the Happy Valley Business Alliance! Diverse businesses and leaders make a significant difference in the local and regional economy. If you would like to learn more about the benefits of membership, check out [www.hvba.biz](http://www.hvba.biz) or attend a general meeting.

[www.facebook.com/HappyValleyBusinessAlliance](https://www.facebook.com/HappyValleyBusinessAlliance)

[www.instagram.com/hvba.oregon](https://www.instagram.com/hvba.oregon)

[@hvba\\_oregon](https://twitter.com/hvba_oregon)

[linkedin.com/in/happy-valley-business-alliance-88b5b4223](https://linkedin.com/in/happy-valley-business-alliance-88b5b4223)

# Make sure your business is current

*City of Happy Valley*

Did you know that all businesses in Happy Valley must be licensed to operate and that the underlying reason for this is to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Happy Valley and those who visit?

In support of the City's rules and regulations, Community Service Officer Michael Barnes has specifically been tasked with proactively ensuring businesses within city limits are license compliant. His efforts include cross checking renewal records maintained at the City and reaching out to businesses that need to update their license status or begin the process.

When it comes to working with businesses, the City seeks voluntary compliance and is motivated to use enforcement only as a last resort. For Community Service Officer Barnes, his goal is to work in partnership with business owners and management to ensure information is obtained and up to date. This is because he views businesses in Happy Valley as integral to the local economy and a highlight of the City's livability.

While the City is interested in working with businesses to promote license compliance, there are repercussions for those that neglect to formally register with the City. Ultimately, operating without a business license could result in fines of up to \$500 per day, so it is worth it in the long run for businesses to stay on top of this requirement. This includes home-based businesses and those that manage operations from a residence.

### Questions?

Contact Community Service Officer Barnes at 503-783-3800.



In Happy Valley, all businesses, whether home based or brick and mortar, must be licensed to operate.

#### Do you own a business in Happy Valley?

The City of Happy Valley requires a license for all businesses located within city limits or conducting business within city limits. For more information about business licenses in Happy Valley, licensure fees, or to submit an official business license application online, simply head to [www.happyvalleyor.gov/business-licenses/](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov/business-licenses/).

#### How can a business license can benefit you?

Having a business license ensures the City can begin or continue a relationship with you, the business owner. This allows the City to better support your efforts and keeps you connected to important information. One example of this was the City's ability to award nearly \$1M in business grants during the COVID pandemic.

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# Calling all Homeowners' Associations

City of Happy Valley

Most residences in Happy Valley are located within a private development and governed by a Homeowners' Association (HOA). Each HOA in Happy Valley is an independent, autonomous organization that enforces its own rules and manages common areas within its boundary. Membership is typically mandatory for the corresponding property owners.

HOA's play an important role in safeguarding the interests of their property owners. If there's communal property damage, if a wildfire occurs in a greenspace, or if someone is injured and sues while using a shared space, the HOA's insurance policy often saves the day. It not only protects the HOA's finances, but also the personal finances of everyone who lives within the boundary. Otherwise, it is the property owners that must cover the costs for any damages.

In Happy Valley, many HOA's are already compliant with such safety requirements, but there are a fair amount that are not. The City is hoping to help such HOA's get back on track.

With so many HOA's in Happy Valley, the City is looking to work more closely to improve outreach and involvement. From sharing information on City happenings to helping connect HOA's to grant opportunities and topical educational resources, local HOA's can get the inside scoop on how to prevent problems and stay in-the-know. To do this, the City is encouraging HOA's to step forward and confirm we have the most up-to-date contact information.

The City is hoping to reconnect with Homeowners' Associations in efforts to update our records and ensure we can get pertinent information to the right contacts. Encourage your HOA leads to register online and if your HOA has dissolved, please consider making efforts to regroup.



## Not sure if your neighborhood has an HOA or perhaps your HOA fell by the wayside?

Given the safety and legal ramifications of neglected communal spaces and the potential for issues, it is important for neighborhoods to make sure they have what they need. The City is eager to help connect residents to the right supports. When filling out the online form, just be sure to indicate this situation, so we can follow up.

## Questions about the City's outreach efforts when it comes to HOA's?

Contact Community Service Officer, Jason Thompson at [jthompson@happyvalleyor.gov](mailto:jthompson@happyvalleyor.gov) or Administrative Supervisor, Beth Evans at [bethe@happyvalleyor.gov](mailto:bethe@happyvalleyor.gov). You may also call City Hall at 503-783-3800 and ask to speak to them directly.

## UPDATE

City of Happy Valley

The Pleasant Valley/North Carver (PV/NC) Comprehensive Plan provides guidance regarding such things as land use, transportation, parks, and environmental issues that will be instrumental to ensuring planning is successful in the Pleasant Valley and North Carver areas.

In September, the community was invited to participate in



## Pleasant Valley North Carver COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

an in-person Open House and provide feedback on items related to land use, transportation, parks, and environmental issues.

The Open House was also offered as an online activity, which allowed residents to review information at their leisure. City staff from the Economic and Community Development

Department have been working diligently and have utilized community feedback throughout the process to help shape the direction of the Plan. Priorities from review committees, property owners, the general public, neighboring cities and counties, and other stakeholders have also been included.

### Benefits to having a Comprehensive Plan include:

- Housing options and livable neighborhoods
- A well-planned parks and trails system
- Strategies for addressing congestion and road safety
- Local employment opportunities

Benefits like these often mean more marketable homes and properties. For ongoing updates about the Plan, visit <https://hv.city/pvnc>.

## Curious about what's in store for the Plan?

Check out these upcoming events.

**FEBRUARY 8, 2022:** Planning Commission Hearing 1\*

**MARCH 8, 2022:** Planning Commission Hearing 2\*

**APRIL 2022:** City Council Hearing 1\*

**MAY 2022:** City Council Hearing 2\*

*\*These dates are not confirmed and susceptible to change*

A new interactive Draft Zoning Map associated with the PV/NC Plan is now on the City's website. Head to [www.hv.city/pvnc](http://www.hv.city/pvnc).

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# More than Code Enforcement

Community Service Officers create positive impact in Happy Valley

City of Happy Valley

On any given day, Community Service Officers might be addressing construction site concerns, ensuring citizens are following park rules, tending to animal control situations, or responding to general resident inquiries or complaints.

They are also integral members of the City's Emergency Response team, working in partnership Public Works during winter storms, and Happy Valley Police and other first responders in the event of traffic accidents or crime prevention. When difficult situations

arise or differing viewpoints are evident, they are tasked with communicating tactfully and helping the public understand expectations.

This is not always easy, and Community Service Officers often take the brunt of frustrations when an infraction is identified. Notably, they have also taken on the role of facilitator between property owners, businesses, and populations experiencing homelessness when there is a public health concern.

With empathy, Community Services Officers always aim to help citizens make the best of situations and strive to work collaboratively whenever possible to ensure everyone's goals are met.

Ultimately, Community Service Officers work together with community to promote a vibrant, healthy, and beautiful city that everyone can enjoy.

Comprised of Community Service Officers, the Code Enforcement team is dedicated to enriching the lives of citizens through fair and impartial enforcement of the Happy Valley Municipal Code. While this description gets right to the point, it merely scratches the surface of what this team does. In actuality, the work of Community Service Officers is far more robust than simply upholding City rules and ordinances. These officers play a central role in problem-solving challenges and are often tasked with mediating competing perspectives. Their efforts undeniably improve and help sustain a high quality of life for all City residents, and their efforts play an important part in helping keep Happy Valley a sought-after place to live, work, and play.

## GET TO KNOW HAPPY VALLEY'S COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

Each month, learn about one of the four Community Service Officers on staff and how they are impacting Happy Valley's livability.

## Meet Officer Todd Kennedy

Officer Kennedy grew up in the Portland area and has worked in the public safety field for most of his career. He's even held positions as both a reserve deputy in Washington County and a Child Abuse Investigator for DHS.

With a passion for helping others, Officer Kennedy has been with the City of Happy Valley for over five years. When asked what he enjoys most, he says it's working with people and helping them solve problems.

"I enjoy working for the City of Happy Valley due to its close-knit nature of both the community and its employees. It allows me to work with residents on a first name basis to help address community problems and develop solutions." His impact extends far beyond that, however. Officer Kennedy is quick to help anyone in need and has even been awarded two lifesaving awards for his heroic efforts during life threatening medical emergencies.

In addition to his general duties of Code Enforcement, Officer Kennedy is affiliated with several safety programs. He is the liaison to the Happy Valley Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Clackamas County Dog Services, and is a First Aid and CPR instructor.

He also has a ham radio license to help support City communications during a disaster or emergency and serves as a SKYWARN volunteer for the National Weather Service, which helps assess incoming storm probability. Most notably, he is the training officer for the Oregon Code Enforcement Association (OCEA). He arranges all the training and conferences for affiliated members in the state of Oregon.



KENNEDY

In his free time, Officer Kennedy enjoys hiking and exploring Oregon's wilderness.

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# Be Mine?

Ways to say “I love you” in the valley

By SHELLEY McFARLAND  
COVID’s not the only thing in the air! Love is all around us and this St. Valentine’s Day, celebrate close to home by supporting Happy Valley’s local businesses.



## Whiskey Barrel Lounge

Happy Valley’s premier restaurant, Whiskey Barrel Lounge is celebrating lovers with a Valentine’s Day Dinner 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14 by reservation. Dinner will include a four-course dinner for two with a bottle of Rosé.  
To reserve, visit: [www.whiskey-barrellounge.com](http://www.whiskey-barrellounge.com).



## Benny’s Donuts

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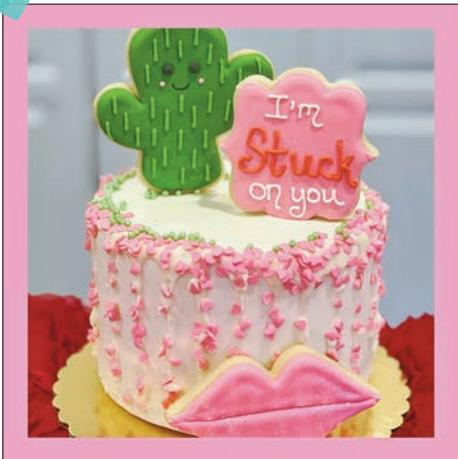
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For more infor-mation, visit: [www.ter-racasa.com](http://www.ter-racasa.com).



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Join us for the next meeting, Wednesday February 23rd at 7:30AM. Go to [Hvba.biz](http://Hvba.biz) to stay updated on whether the meeting will be via Zoom or in person at Happy Valley City Hall.

### Welcoming New Members:

Premiere Property Group, LLC Real Estate - Wendi Mueller  
Stewart Title- Monte Pershall  
Arrow Home Loans- Clint Ehlers  
Root Mortgage- Rene Canler

### Welcoming Renewing Members:

Grocery Outlet  
Rivermark Credit Union  
Wronski Electric  
Onpoint Community Credit Union  
Chapman Smiles  
V2 Properties  
JLA Health Stop  
Sunrise Mortgage- Ana Sarish  
Rivermark Community Credit Union  
Bartlett Tree Experts  
Jarrard, Seibert, Pollard & Co  
CPA's V2 Properties  
Confluence Law Center  
Columbia Bank  
Better Homes and Gardens- Patrick Sheehan



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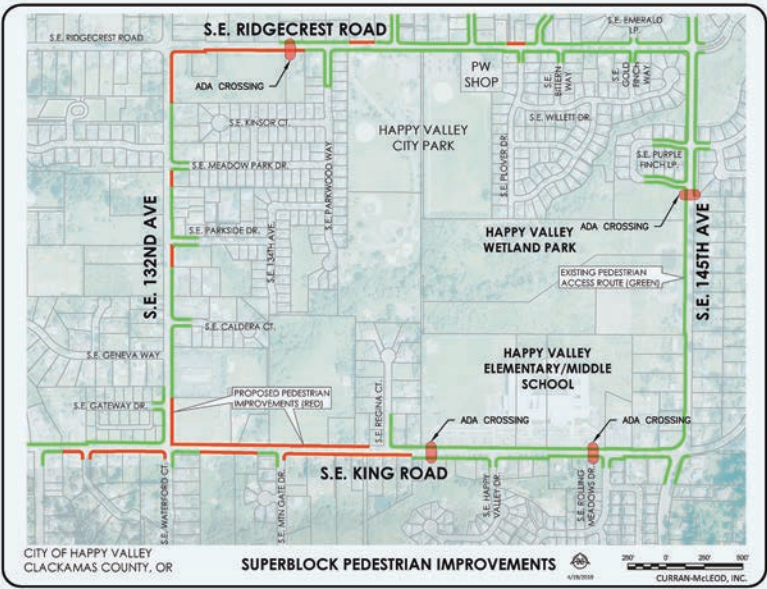
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Once completed, the Superblock project will offer fully connected sidewalks that will allow for safer and more efficient travel around one of the most popular areas of Happy Valley.

# Superblock nearing phase III design completion

City of Happy Valley

Once completed, the Superblock project will create a safe and efficient walkable area within Happy Valley. The endeavor will ultimately offer contiguous sidewalks that link sections of Ridgecrest and SE 132nd, and King Road and SE 147th. A major undertaking, the Superblock project has been a multi-year effort consisting of several stages. The third and final phase of Superblock efforts are slated to go to bid this spring with the design almost complete. Tasks for this phase will include the addition of curb, sidewalks, and half-street improvements, which will consist of underground power and utilities installed between SE Regina Ct. and SE 132nd. Construction timeline for phase III has yet to be fi-



Fun fact! The interior perimeter of the Superblock measures approximately 2.25 miles.

nalized. Project commencement will depend largely on availability of supplies and materials.

To learn more about this project, check out <https://www.happyvalleyor.gov/superblock-project>

# Compassion for children

Local girl Lily Bacon finds way to help other children with cancer

By SHELLEY McFARLAND

With a heart of gold, 14-year-old Lily Bacon has done the incredible-she collected more than 1,800 toys in December to give to children with cancer. The amazing part is Lily herself is fighting the disease.

In 2020, Lily was camping with her mother, stepfather Nick, sisters Peyton and Harper, and neighbors when she felt a lump in her throat. Her mother Kristen Sabrowski could see a small growth and when they returned home, she took Lily to the doctor who biopsied the growth. The next day, the family learned Lily had Rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare childhood cancer. With a treatment plan organized by Randall Children's Hospital oncology staff, she started chemotherapy.

"The most challenging aspect was the unknown. Not knowing how she would respond to treatment, if the cancer would ever go away? How would affect her in the short term and long term?" Sabrowski wondered. "The other challenging part was when Lily underwent radiation and her and I moved to Seattle for five weeks. We had to leave behind our family, friends, pets and home during radiation treatment. It was very isolating and scary to be away from everything we knew."

Through her ordeal, Lily and her father Jimmy Bacon thought about other children enduring the same treatments with the same fears. They wondered if there was a way to help them and started an annual toy drive with a lofty goal of collecting 1,000 toys to donate to kids through the Children's Cancer Association. Remarkably, Lily's story aired on KATU News and her dream be-



Lily's mom calls her fun, outgoing and hilarious with a contagious laugh.



Though fighting cancer herself, Lily Bacon collected stuffed animals to comfort other children undergoing cancer treatment. PHOTOS SUBMITTED



came a reality. Toys started pouring in and more than 1,800 were collected in December alone.

"It makes me happy knowing that I am able to make another kid smile, knowing that they are going through a hard time, and I am able to help," Lily said. "Some of the toys were hand delivered to local families that were experiencing childhood illness. We wanted to make their Christmas just a little brighter and more special."

With the hopes of becoming a Special Education teacher in the future, Lily is looking forward to holding another toy drive in the fall. For now, she is just focused on growing up, family, school and friends.

"Lily is energetic, fun, outgoing and hilarious," Sabrowski said. "She makes everyone smile and laugh when she is around. Her personality is contagious, and so is her laugh. As a freshman in high school she made the dance team and enjoys sleepovers with friends and dancing. Plus, she has a beautiful singing voice."

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February 2022 Library Events

Happy Valley Library closed Feb. 21. Please check our website for the most up-to-date hours and services

ADULT PROGRAMS

All programs are online. Email library@happyvalleyor.gov for login information, or with questions.

Genealogy Club Meeting

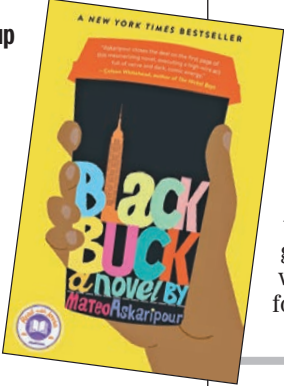
Monday, Feb. 14, 3-5 p.m.

Searching for family roots? All are welcome to come and share questions, strategies, and organizing tips. Insights are discovered and pathways revealed as we attempt to solve the mysteries of our ancestors' elusive stories!

HV Library Book Group

Thursday, Mar. 3, 6:30-8 p.m.

Read or listen to the book *Black Buck* by Mateo Askaripour and meet to discuss it with other readers. Contact the library for help with getting the book or to be added to our book group mailing list.



Blind date with a book

If you're looking for love this Valentine's Day — look no further than the library. We've got you covered with books that will warm your heart. And who knows? You might just find the perfect literary companion.

So, if you're not planning some elaborate romantic dinner at home with your significant other...may we suggest a fun alternative? *Blind Date with a Book* is a February favorite in libraries across the world. It's a great way to discover new genres, authors, or series that you'll love. Stop by the library and pick up a "date," or use the book bundle request form at <https://go.lincc.org/hvbundles> and give us some hints to let us know what you're in the mood for and we'll set some books aside, just for you!



Who says Valentine's Day must be a fancy affair? Discover a new book and fall in love with words as the library celebrates *Blind Date with a Book*.



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YOUTH PROGRAM

All programs are online. Email youthlibrary@happyvalleyor.gov for login information for youth programs or with questions.

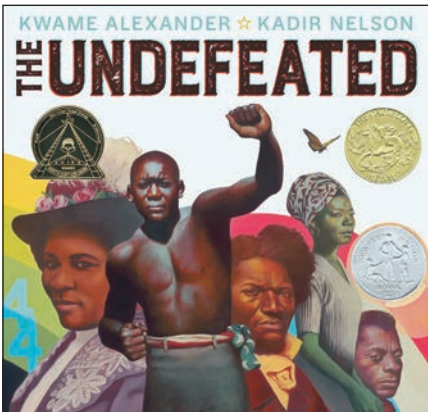
Family Storytime

Wednesdays, 10-10:30 a.m.

Enjoy stories, songs, puppets, and fun in this interactive, virtual storytime.

Take a stroll, share a story

Each month the Happy Valley Library shares a different book in the windows of the Community Room. Families can walk along the outside of the building to read along with the story. Look for this month's story *Undefeated* written by Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Kadir Nelson.



*Undefeated* written by Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Kadir Nelson will be on display in the windows of Happy Valley Library for the month of January.

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.

Winter reading 2022

Are you a book lover, or do you have an occasional book fling? The Happy Valley Library is having a Winter Reading program to encourage adults and teens to keep reading this winter. Let us know what you are reading, and you may win a prize! This is the final month to submit your entries.

Visit [happyvalleyor.gov/](http://happyvalleyor.gov/) winter-reading to submit an entry for every book you finish reading between now and Feb. 28. Prize drawings will be held at the end of each month, with final drawings on Feb. 28. Area residents ages



You've only got a few more weeks to submit your entries in this year's Winter Reading program. Deadline to turn in your entries is Feb. 28.

13 and up are eligible to participate. No internet access? Stop by the Library to submit your entry.

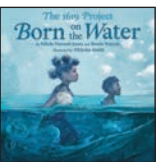
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Take a look at some recent notable books by African American authors that reflect upon and celebrate Black culture and history.

KIDS NONFICTION

Born on the Water

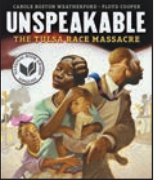
By Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson; illustrated by Nikkolas Smith.



Stymied by her unfinished family tree assignment for school, a young girl seeks Grandma's counsel and learns about her ancestors, the consequences of slavery, and the history of Black resistance in the United States.

Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre

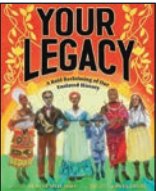
By Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by Floyd Cooper



Author and artist present a sensitive and powerful look at the 1921 Tulsa race massacre, one of the worst incidents of racial violence in our nation's history.

Your Legacy: A Bold Reclaiming of our Enslaved History

By Schele Williams; illustrated by Tonya Engel



Beginning in Africa before 1619, this title presents an empowering, and proud introduction to African American history for children.

KIDS FICTION

Black Boy Joy: 17 Stories Celebrating Black Boyhood

By Kwame Mbalia



This celebration of Black boyhood, told through a brilliant collection of stories, comics, and poems, features contributions from acclaimed authors such as Jason Reynolds and Jerry Craft.

Playing the Cards You're Dealt

By Varian Johnson



Hoping to measure up to his father's expectations at the card table, ten-year-old Anthony Joplin keeps his strategy a secret until he discovers his father has been hiding one that could tear their family apart.

Root Magic

By Eden Royce

In 1963 in South Carolina, eleven-year-old twins Jez and Jay Turner begin lessons in rootwork, and their uncle's training offers them healing, protection, and a connection to their heritage even as they face threats from the local police deputy, school bullies, and others.

TEEN NONFICTION

Call and Response: The Story of Black Lives Matter

By Veronica Chambers and Jennifer Harlan

Explore the history of the Black Lives Matter movement through in-depth reporting, striking photographs, timelines and quotations.

Revolution in our Time: The Black Panther Party's Promise to the People

By Kekla Magoon.

A comprehensive and inspiring account of the Panthers' human rights and community activism, grounded in the concept of self-defense.

Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box

By Evette Dionne

Tells the overlooked story of Black women as a force in the suffrage movement when fellow suffragists did not accept them as equal partners in the struggle.

TEEN FICTION

The Awakening of Malcolm X

By Ilyasah Shabazz with Tiffany D. Jackson.

While in Charlestown Prison in the 1940s, young Malcolm Little reads all the books in the library, joins the debate team and the Nation of Islam, and emerges as Malcolm X.



Blackout

By Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon

Six critically acclaimed authors intertwine tales of romance over the course of a New York City blackout.

A Sitting in St. James

By Rita Garcia-Williams

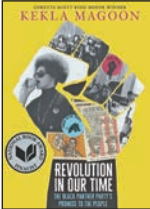
In 1860 Louisiana, eighty-year-old Madame Sylvie decides to sit for a portrait, as horrific stories that span generations from the big house and the fields are revealed.

ADULT FICTION

The Sweetness of Water

By Nathan Harris

With candor and sympathy, Harris creates an unforgettable cast of characters, depicting Georgia in the violent crucible of Reconstruction. Equal parts beauty and terror, as gripping as it is moving, this is an epic whose grandeur locates humanity and love amid the most harrowing circumstances.



The Love Songs of W. E. B. Du Bois

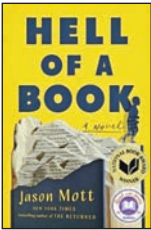
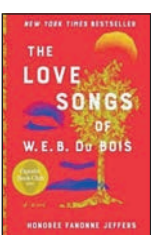
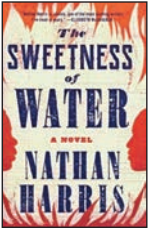
By Honorée Fanonne Jeffers

To come to terms with who she is and what she wants, Ailey, the daughter of an accomplished doctor and a strict schoolteacher, embarks on a journey through her family's past, helping her embrace her full heritage, which is the story of the Black experience in itself.

Hell of a Book

By Jason Mott

Winner of the 2021 National Book Award, this is an astounding work, always deeply honest, at times electrically funny, that goes to the heart of racism, police violence, and the hidden costs exacted upon Black Americans, and America as a whole.



Seven Days in June

By Tia Williams

Running into reclusive author Shane Hall at a literary event, bestselling erotica writer Eva Mercy, over the next seven days, reconnects with this man who broke her heart 20 years earlier until he disappears again, leaving more questions than answers.

ADULT NON-FICTION

On Juneteenth

By Annette Gordon-Reed

In this intricately woven tapestry of American history, dramatic family chronicle, and searing episodes of memoir, the descendant of enslaved people brought to Texas in the 1850s, recounts the origins of Juneteenth and explores the legacies of the holiday that remain with us.

All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake

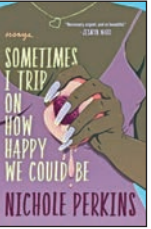
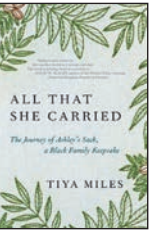
by Tiya Miles

The story of how three generations of Black women have passed down a family treasure—a sack filled with a few precious items given from an enslaved woman to her daughter in 1850s South Carolina.

Sometimes I Trip on How Happy We Could Be

By Nichole Perkins

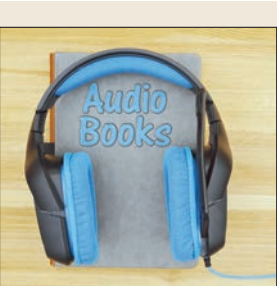
Combining her sharp wit, stellar pop culture sensibility and trademark spirited storytelling, the writer and podcast host takes readers on a rollicking ride through the last 20 years of music, media and the internet from the perspective of a Southern black woman.



Black Food: Stories, Art, and Recipes from Across the African Diaspora

By Bryant Terry

A James Beard Award-winning chef, educator and author presents a joyful celebration of Black culture by interweaving food, experiences and community through poetry, essays and recipes including Crispy Cassava Skillet Cakes, Meatballs with Egusi, and Squash and Jerk Chicken Ramen.



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ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR

Modern romance novels are expanding the ideas of what a love interest can look like in a story. It is easier than ever to find characters of different races, sexual orientations, body types, neuroabilities, and cultures. Check out the following books for a few examples.

The People We Meet on Vacation

by Emily Henry

Best friends Alex and Poppy try to repair their relationship two years after a disastrous vacation together by planning another vacation together.



Act Your Age, Eve Brown

by Talia Hibbert

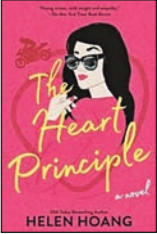
When his life is taken over by a purple-haired tornado of a woman named Eve Brown, B&B owner Jacob Wayne tries to fight his attraction to this sunny, chaotic woman who is his natural-born enemy.



The Heart Principle

by Helen Hoang

When she suddenly loses her ability to play the violin, Anna Sun must learn to listen to her heart and falls in love with a man her parents disapprove of, forcing her to choose between meeting expectations and finding happiness in who she really is.



One Last Stop

by Casel McQuiston

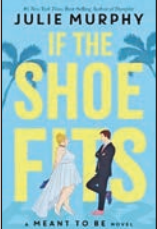
Cynical August starts to believe in the impossible when meets Jane on the subway, a mysterious punk rocker she forms a crush on, who is literally displaced in time from the 1970s and is trying to find her way back.



If the Shoe Fits

by Julie Murphy

A fashion-obsessed plus-size woman fills in for a no-show contestant on her executive producer stepmother's popular dating reality show and becomes a body-positivity viral sensation overnight and could actually picture herself falling for the eligible suitor.





# Old Shadows group seek answers to the unexplained

New nonprofit investigates haunted sites, paranormal activity in the area

By SHELLEY McFARLAND

It all started with a book. Unbeknown to each other, when they were kids, David Abney and Dan Barton each checked out a library book about paranormal phenomena. The two would meet years later in 2021 when they were introduced by David’s wife, Laura, and realized their similar roots in paranormal curiosity.

The Abneys and Barton each had numerous unexplained experiences in their lives, so by the time they met, it seemed predestined they would join forces to investigate the paranormal. This past August, the Abneys founded Old Shadows Paranormal Group, a nonprofit to formed investigate hauntings, and brought Barton into the fold.

“I’ve been doing this a long while,” Barton said. “I recently connected with David and Laura Abney because they started Old Shadows. It’s better to go to some of these places as a group rather than alone. I respected them because they weren’t faking their experiences or embellishing them, they were just recording what they observed. The thing you run up against in Oregon is people are reluctant to talk about hauntings. In the Midwest, it’s talked about more.”

Undaunted by many local folks’ reluctance to talk about ghosts, Abney and Barton found that most people have stories of experiences they cannot explain.

“After nearly dying from an asthma attack at 17 and experiencing an encounter during it, I’ve had abilities I never knew I had,” Abney said. “I’ve been able to tell what will happen in the future or I’ll have a dream or see something in my head and a few months down the road I will have déjà vu. I met Laura and learned she also had paranormal experiences.”

Barton worked for a popular chain of brewpubs that often renovates dilapidated buildings to turn into neighborhood pubs. He said while working at a well-known pub in Troutdale, he had several occurrences of ghostly interactions. Long known to locals as a haunted site, the property was once a poor farm, sanatorium and home for emotionally disturbed children. The chain even offers customers a “Ghost



Old Shadows Paranormal Group is a local nonprofit looking for hauntings. The group wants to quantify paranormal activity while recording their experiences.

“Our purpose isn’t to stir up any spirits, but to identify if there is a presence and possibly find out why they haven’t moved on.

— David Abney

Log” to record eerie encounters at several of their pubs.

But what are ghosts? Barton will tell you even he can’t really quantify what people experience when talking about hauntings, spirits or one of the other many words used to describe a paranormal experience.

“There are all different kinds of hauntings and schools of thought of what manifestations are; even I don’t understand what everything is,” Barton said. “I’ve been doing this a long time and have had objects thrown at me, I’ve been touched, pushed, heard disembodied voices, faucets turn on in a room when I wasn’t in there. Maybe they are manifestations re-playing a set of actions over and over.”

Although Barton and Abney can’t explain it, they can record it. Ghost hunting equipment doesn’t have to be complicated or expensive. Old Shad-



Laura and Dave Abney formed Old Shadows Paranormal Group and joined with Dan Barton to further their online reach. Currently they are looking for hauntings to investigate.

ows use a light-up cat ball to sense unseen movement, an electromagnetic field (EMF) meter, which measures magnetic energy, and an Ovilus, an electronic speech-synthesis device that utters words depending upon electromagnetic waves.

Though armed with ghost detection devices, Barton and Abney stress that everyone has the ability to be aware of the paranormal through their senses and intuition, and finding spirits uses “information gathering across the board.”

“Our purpose isn’t to stir up any spirits, but to identify if there is a presence and possibly find out why they haven’t moved on,” Abney said. “Our goal is to observe and report what we find. We try to communicate with the entities to find out who they are and listen to their stories. With other ghost hunters, especially ones on TV, they aggressively antagonize the spirits in hopes to get them to respond with observable actions. Our approach is to listen and observe and

give the spirits an opportunity to share with us.”

Currently, Barton posts his experiences on YouTube and cautions that most ghost hunters wouldn’t “fake” their involvements because they would lose credibility and, ultimately, for both him and Abney, they want to continue their work and have more ghostly experiences.

It’s important to note, Old Shadows isn’t a “Ghostbusters” organization and if people are concerned about a haunting, Old Shadows can connect them to others who can help “clear” a presence.

“If people are having an experience and contact us, we will go in and try to determine what is happening. Maybe it’s the electrical system in the home going haywire. We want to find out, but is it a spirit trying to communicate? That’s where we come in. We will just try to communicate and observe,” Barton said. “I’m not there to get rid of spirits. If they are malevolent, we can call in help. Most spirits

I’ve experienced haven’t been malevolent, they have been mischievous, but not harmful.”

Old Shadows recently investigated Oregon City’s Ermatinger House, the oldest home in Clackamas County; Wolf Creek Inn near Grants Pass; and The Rock in Estacada. They hope to be given access to investigate two business locations in Happy Valley. Soon, they will explore the Scouters Mountain area, which Barton suggests might have been a First People’s trading site.

In the future, principals with Old Shadows hope their experiences can reach a broader audience either through YouTube or on cable TV where they can show others how to hunt for ghosts. But for now, they are happy to hear from residents who want to share their experiences.

For more information, visit Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OSParanormalGroup](https://www.facebook.com/OSParanormalGroup); YouTube: Old Shadows Paranormal Investigation Group; or email [oldshadows21@gmail.com](mailto:oldshadows21@gmail.com).

## Clean Up After Your Pet for Healthier Water

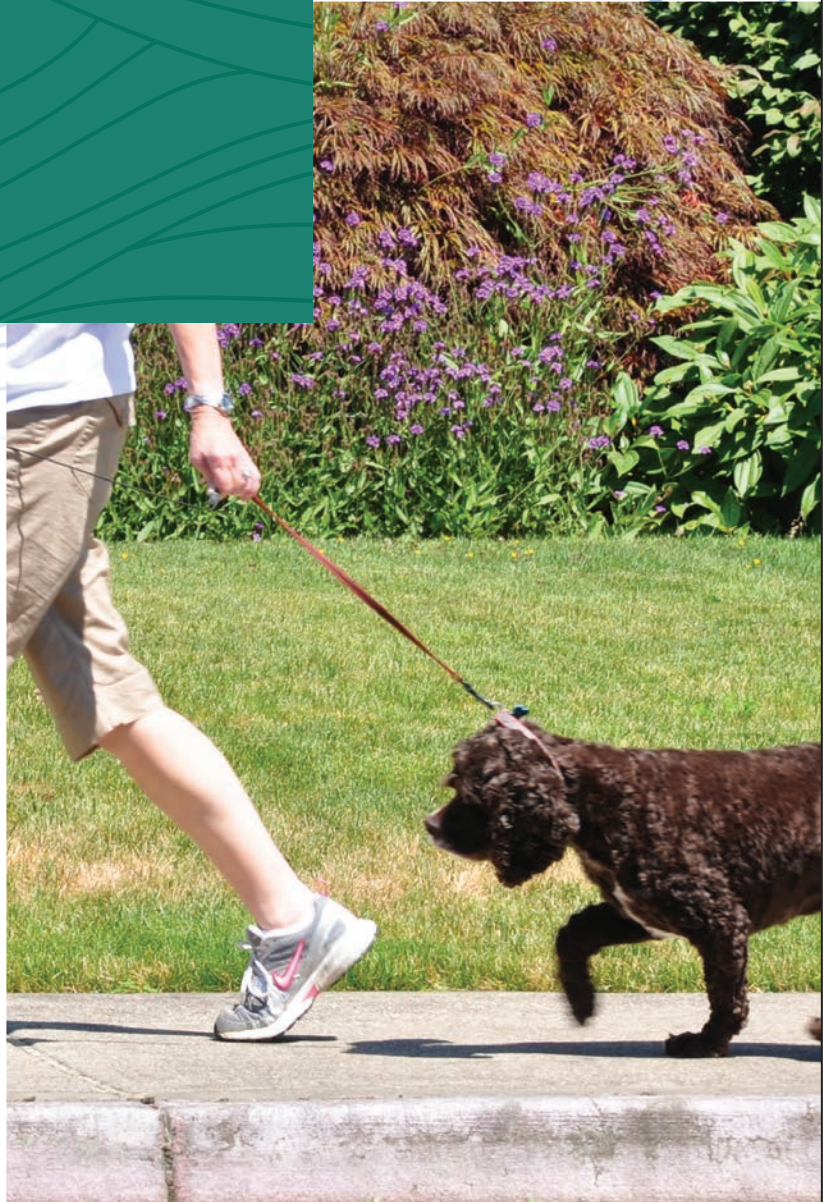
Clackamas County has almost 100,000 dogs of all shapes and sizes. The Food and Drug Administration estimates that the average dog produces approximately three quarters of a pound of waste per day. That adds up to over 13,000 tons of pet waste in our county per year!

### Reasons to Scoop:

- When it rains, storm runoff carries pet waste and other pollutants directly into waterways.
- Animal waste adds nitrogen to the water. Excess nitrogen depletes the oxygen in water necessary for beneficial aquatic vegetation, wildlife and fish.
- Animal waste may contain harmful organisms such as Giardia, Salmonella and E. coli that can be transmitted by ingesting contaminated water.
- Roundworms and hookworms deposited by infected animals can live in the soil for long periods of time and be transmitted to other animals and humans.
- Cleaning up after your pet is always the right thing to do.

Clackamas Water Environment Services produces clean water and protects water quality. It’s our job to ensure that residents and visitors enjoy the benefits of safe, healthy water for generations to come.

Learn more at [clackamas.us/wes/education](https://clackamas.us/wes/education)



CLACKAMAS  
WATER  
ENVIRONMENT  
SERVICES





HAPPY VALLEY PARKS AND RECREATION

To register, check out [www.happyvalleyor.gov/parks](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov/parks)



CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY  
PARKS & RECREATION

February 2022 Programs and Events

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders, participants in all Parks and Recreation programs will be asked to practice physical distancing and stay home when they are sick. Participants ages 5 and older must also wear a face mask when 6-foot distancing cannot be maintained.



To register for one of these featured programs, be sure to check out [www.happyvalleyor.gov/parks](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov/parks)

ENGINEERING FOR KIDS

After School Program

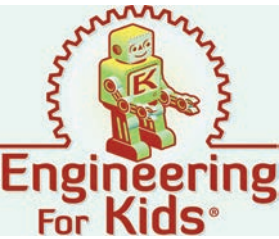
Classes held indoors at Happy Valley Annex 12915 SE King Rd.

3D Game Design: Kodu Kart Racing

Feb. 02 – Mar. 09, 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. • Wednesday • Ages 7-12 • \$189  
Race to the finish and create your own racing game in Microsoft's Kodu gaming environment. From terrain design to enemy selection, students are placed at

the wheel and given full control to design their own video game while exploring the foundations of coding. Kick your creativity in gear with Kodu Kart Racing!

Students need to have basic knowledge of using a laptop, such as using a keyboard and mouse.



SELF-GUIDED ART TOURS

[www.happyvalleyor.gov/parks](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov/parks)

Experience Art in the Valley! Whether you visit the Park Hop Art Walk, Fairytale Trail, Drive-In Museum, or Civic Exhibit, these self-guided tours will bring a little magic to your day. Scan the QR Code within each self-guided tour for more information about the attractions.



TO REGISTER, VISIT:  
[www.happyvalleyor.gov/services/parks](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov/services/parks)



NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM LAUNCHED!

Have you checked out ACTIVENet? Happy Valley's facility reservation and activity registration process received a facelift. Go online, build your profile and register for winter programs today!

ACTIVENet's online and in-person registration portal will allow community members to conveniently access Happy Valley Parks and Recreation facility rentals, programs, activities, classes, and more from anywhere, anytime.

For more info visit: [www.happyvalleyor.gov/parks](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov/parks)

VENVINO ART STUDIOS

Art Camps

All art classes will be held at Venvino Art Studios located at 13329 SE Misty Drive.

Weekly Art Enrichment Program

Feb. 05 – Feb. 26, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. • Saturday • Ages 4-8 • \$25/2-hour session

Kids aged 4-8yrs can be dropped off at the studio on Saturday between the hours of 9:00am and 11:00am for some fun structured crafts and art play! We'll have several projects for them to create plus coloring, games, stories, sensory play, and more! Give them some time to socialize and play while you take some time for yourself! Your kiddos will learn important skills such as following directions, working together, thinking outside the box, and being creative. Plus, this is a great way for them to build self-confidence and fine motor skills!

Create and Learn Series – Paper Flowers

Feb. 4, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. • Friday • Ages 16+ • \$25/1.5-hour session

Open to ages 16+. Join us for a night of learning and creating! In this session you will learn to create paper flowers! We'll show you a couple of different styles. Each registration comes with one large flower and two smaller flowers. Wine, beer, hard cider, and lots of non-alcoholic beverages are available for purchase. Bring a friend and make an evening out of it!



MAD SCIENCE

Winter Programs

Classes held indoors at Happy Valley Annex – 12915 SE King Rd.

Mechanical Engineers

Feb. 21, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. • Monday – No school day • Ages 5-12 • \$39

Flex your engineering muscles while learning about levers, screws, and other simple machines. Experiment with rubber band powered cars using the scientific method as your guide, and build your own Mad Science Drag Racer!

Ocean Life

Feb. 21, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. • Monday • No school day • Ages 5-12 • \$39

Swim through the warm sunlit zones of the ocean, meander into deeper waters and finally dive deep into the abyss. Explore the technologies that can take us there! The ocean is full of wonders, and we want to keep it that way. Sticky, oil can make quite the mess when it ends up where it shouldn't. Discover what damage it causes and devise a way to clean it up!

Scene of the Crime

Jan. 29 – Feb. 26, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. • Saturday • Ages 5-12 • \$154

Blood spatter and brain matter, oh my! Not for the weak-hearted, this camp will let your scientist's inner CSI scream! Enter the crime scene and see if your team can solve the crime by observing, interrogating, and analyzing the evidence that you collect. Children experience how science is used to understand what the clues are telling us about a crime scene.

Imagination Academy

Jan. 29 – Feb. 26, 9 a.m.-noon • Saturday • Ages 5-7 • \$154

Discover, create & play! All aboard the imagination train as your young scientist takes a journey around the world of science. Join in the fun as we make our own inventions while exploring the world of inventors, learn to cast fossils in the domain of dinosaurs, explore the vastness of space and create a comet, watch the pull of gravity with parachutes and feel the heaviness of the air pressure all around us.



SNAP FITNESS

Active Aging Senior Fitness Classes

Classes held at Snap Fitness Sunnyside located at 14800 SE Sunnyside Rd.

Active Aging – Full Body Strength

Feb. 9, Feb. 23 10 a.m.-10:45 a.m. • Wednesdays • \$10/per class or \$32 series package. Drop-ins welcome.

Snap Fitness membership NOT required to participate. Challenge your balance and build strength as you are guided through movements that will help your muscles from your hips to shoulders! Snap Fitness instructor, Sarah, will guide you through arm raises, hip and leg strengthening exercises and gentle movements with the support of a chair if needed. This class is for anyone looking to improve their posture and stability.



SKYHAWKS

Skyhawks Sports Classes

Classes held at Camp Withycombe's Gymnasium: 15300 SE Industrial Way, Clackamas, OR 97015

Hoopster Tots Basketball

Jan. 15 – Feb. 19 1 p.m.-1:30 p.m. • No class Feb. 5 • Ages 3-4 • \$69

Learning basketball has never been more fun! These classes focus on dribbling, shot technique, passing and teamwork. Adjustable hoops and appropriately sized basketballs are used to always provide just the right amount of challenge.

Basketball

Jan. 15 – Feb. 19 1:45 p.m.-2:30 p.m. • No class Feb. 5 • Ages 5-8 • \$79

This fun, skill-intensive program is designed with the beginning to intermediate player in mind. Using our progression curriculum, our basketball staff focus on the whole player, teaching your child the skills needed both on and off the court to be a better athlete. Each day will start with a "skill of the day" and progress into drills and games. After a week of passing, shooting, dribbling, and rebounding, your child will show you why this is one of our most popular programs.





HAPPY VALLEY PARKS AND RECREATION

ADULT OPEN GYM BASKETBALL NIGHTS

Adult Open Gym Basketball Nights

Open Gym held at Camp Withycombe's Gymnasium: 15300 SE Industrial Way, Clackamas, OR 97015

Adult Open Gym Basketball

Feb. 14 & Feb. 28 6 p.m.-8 p.m. • Monday • Ages 18+

Happy Valley Parks and Recreation is excited to offer adult open gym nights! Bring your own basketball and water bottle. Open to adults ages 18+, available on a first-come, first-served basis. A liability waiver must be completed for each participant. All participants must sign in and wear a mask or face covering at all times. Open gym is welcome to all Happy Valley residents.



HV HIKERS

Get out and Move!!

<http://www.hvhikers.com/>  
HV Hikers are back in action! Their goal is to encourage you to experience the beauty of the area, to get a little exercise, and to make new friends. All hikes are free, no RSVP required. If it's on the calendar, they'll be there. Groups walk frequently in the area bordered by Sunnyside (on the south), Valley View Terrace (on the west), Clatsop (on the north) and 172nd (on the east). This is a varied group, and since all are welcome to show up without RSVP, we see new faces all the time. Interested in join a group hike around the valley? Be sure to visit the HV Hikers newly updated webpage for a calendar view of all upcoming group hikes.

CROSSTOWN TRAIL SNOWSHOE TOUR

Meeting location: HV City Hall – 16000 SE Misty Dr. March 02, 9 p.m.-2 p.m. • Wednesday • Ages 18+ • \$10 – Tagalong Package- You want to drive yourself and you DO NOT need rental gear

■ \$20 – One or the Other Package- You need rental gear and want to drive yourself OR you do not need rental gear and want to ride on the bus

■ \$40 – Full Package- You need rental gear and want to ride on the bus

Escape the valley for the day and join the City of Happy Valley Parks and Recreation on Mt. Hood for a snowshoeing experience on the Crosstown Trail! With a handful of connecting trails into Government Camp, snowshoers will get a chance to explore local businesses while rewarding themselves with great food & beverages. Our group will meet at Happy Valley City Hall by 9 a.m. to reach Government Camp by 10 a.m. Our bus will drop us off at the Summit Sno-Park, where staff will then check participants in along with any rental gear reserved. The group will head out on the roughly 2.7-mile journey along the Crosstown Trail #755.

Participants will get a chance to explore the beautiful alpine village of Government Camp along the way! The base camp for a wide range of outdoor activities and adventures, participants can dine at local eateries such as Mt. Hood Brewing or the Huckleberry Inn, take a look inside the Govy General Store, or soak up some mountain culture at the Mt. Hood Cultural Center & Museum. Transportation will be provided. No prior snowshoe experience needed!

Register online at: [www.happyvalleyor.gov/parks](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov/parks)

HAPPY VALLEY LIBRARY

Valentine's Day Care Cards

Card kits can be picked up from the Happy Valley Library: 13793 SE Sieben Park Way & Happy Valley City Hall: 16000 SE Misty Dr.

Card kits available for pick-up • All ages

Show a senior you care this Valentine's Day by making a Valentine's Care Card! Pick up your supplies at the Happy Valley Library or Happy Valley City Hall and return your cards back to either place. All cards will be delivered to local senior living facilities and homebound seniors to show them some extra love this season! Write them a kind message like "I hope you have a nice Valentine's Day!" or "I'm sending you love and happiness." All completed cards must be returned to either the Library or City Hall by Wednesday, Feb. 9.

What's inside: TWO blank cards, heart stickers, heart shaped doilies, crayons, construction paper

Want to make your own card? Great! A kit is not needed to drop off a Valentine card. Just make sure to turn it in by Feb. 9.

10% OFF RENTALS AT NEXT ADVENTURE!

The City of Happy Valley Parks and Recreation is excited to partner up with Next Adventure to offer residents 10% off their next rental! Whatever your needs might be as we head into winter, as you plan your next trip up the mountain make sure to scan the QR Code shown here to take 10% off one rental item and secure them for pick-up. Discount offer available at the Next Adventure Sandy store location at: 38454 Pioneer Blvd. Sandy, OR 97055. This store is open 7 days a week, Mon-Fri: 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. & Sat-Sun: 6:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

VIRTUAL RECREATION CENTER & RESOURCES

Happy Valley Parks and Recreation Website

Make sure to check out the City of Happy Valley Parks and Recreation's Virtual Recreation Center & Resource section of their webpage! Here you will be able to scour through handfuls of virtual recreation activities for youth, teens, adults, and seniors.

SOCCER SHOTS

Soccer Sports Camps

All classes held at Happy Valley Park.

Soccer-Mini

Feb. 6 – Mar. 6, 4:40 p.m.-5:10 p.m. • Sunday • Ages 2-3 • \$199

Soccer Shots Mini is a high-energy program introducing children to fundamental soccer principals, such as using your feet, dribbling and the basic rule of the game. Through fun games, songs and positive reinforcement, children will begin to experience the joy of playing soccer and being active.

Soccer-Classic

Feb. 6 – Mar. 27, 3:50 p.m.-4:25 p.m. • Sunday • Ages 3-4 • \$199

Soccer Shots Classic utilizes creative and imaginative games to focus on basic soccer skills like dribbling, passing, and shooting. We also highlight a positive character trait each session such as respect, teamwork, and appreciation.



ter trait each session such as respect, teamwork, and appreciation.

Soccer-Premier

Feb. 6 – Mar. 27, 2 p.m.-2:45 p.m. • Sunday • Ages 5-8 • \$199

Soccer Shots Premier focuses on individual skill, fitness, and sportsmanship, providing an opportunity for children to be challenged through fun games and team interaction. Children will also be introduced to competition in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Soccer-Classic

Feb. 6 – Mar. 27, 3 p.m.-3:35 p.m. • Sunday • Ages 4-5 • \$199

Soccer Shots Classic utilizes creative and imaginative games to focus on basic soccer skills like dribbling, passing, and shooting. We also highlight a positive character

PARKS & RECREATION

Babysitter Training Course

Classes held at Happy Valley City Hall

Babysitter Training

Feb. 4 & Feb. 12 9 a.m.-4 p.m. • Ages 10 - 16 • Resident - \$50 / Non-resident - \$75

Our in-person babysitter classes give you access to the latest information on childcare, offer tips, and can answer all of your questions so that you're ready to start your own babysitting business. With lecture and class activities, these courses are engaging, informative and fun. Although every situation is unique, there are some universal skills and techniques that every babysitter should have. Our courses were designed with this principle in mind and can help you deliver the care that families need. Just a few of the things our babysitting classes cover include: Basic Care for Infants and Children, Basic First Aid, Child Behavior, Age-Appropriate Activities, Emergency Protocols, Professionalism, Leadership, Growing Your Business. \*Scholarships available through the Happy Valley Parks Foundation: <https://www.hvprf.org/>

Field Trip Fridays

Meeting location: HV City Hall 16000 S.E. Misty Dr.

Come enjoy a new experience and leave the driving to us! The group will meet at Happy Valley City Hall where participants can hop on the RecMobile to enjoy an afternoon exploring a handful of Oregon's social, educational, and inspiring gathering spots, all while getting to know members of your community! Spots will be limited. To check out featured field trips, visit: [www.happyvalleyor.gov/parks](http://www.happyvalleyor.gov/parks)



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# Oregon’s famed telescope builder dies of cancer

## Steve Swayze’s fabrications among largest astronomical equipment outside of NASA

Pamplin Media Group

Steve Swayze of Happy Valley recently left behind a legacy of accomplishments for Oregon astronomers as a famed telescope builder.

Swayze, 62, died in November after an ongoing battle with cancer. His telescope at Clackamas Community College’s Environmental Learning Center Haggart Observatory in Oregon City remains the second largest in the state, with the University of Oregon’s Pine Mountain Observatory near Bend being the biggest.

“Steve was determined to make the best optics to serve people in looking at the creation.”

—Bruce Swayze, Steve Swayze’s brother

Swayze was known as one of the few people worldwide capable of grinding optical mirrors to build large telescopes. In his early 30s, he became excited about optical devices after looking at the night sky through high-quality telescopes at a “star party” he visited.

Swayze’s telescope creations began with mirrors 6 inches in diameter, then 10-inch and ultimately 40-inch creations, some of the biggest ever fabricated outside of government-funded agencies such as NASA. His work included the creation of a beautiful “furniture like” telescope at CCC.

“We fabricated a beautiful tower that overlooks our manmade nature center to house this incredible instrument,” said Jerry Herrmann, founding director of CCC’s Environmental Learning Center.

Haggart Observatory’s original telescope was damaged and not available for use when Herrmann met Swayze.

Herrmann said that Swayze told him, “I’ll make an even better scope for that facility.”

More than a dozen volunteers worked countless hours to make sure Haggart Observatory was open at least half the year on Friday and Saturday nights, reaching thousands of families and their children.

Carl Zambuto, of Northern Washington, came to know Swayze and



Steve Swayze shows off an approximately 800-pound telescope he built with a 40-inch mirror near Mount Hood.

COURTESY PHOTO: SWAYZE FAMILY

was amazed at the cooperation they had as two of the five professional mirror grinders and telescope makers in America.

“Even though Steve and I were competitors, the ability to fabricate special optics was a gift from God to both of us, and we always wanted to help make each other better,” Zambuto said.

Bruce Swayze, long-term resident of Clackamas County, expressed the

respect he had for his younger brother and willingness to take on any challenge, including creating the right instrument for Haggart Observatory.

“If I struggled to build an 8-inch (mirror), Steve would go to a 16-inch. If I tried to do something bigger, Steve was determined to make the best optics to serve people in looking at the creation. No one in America ever created a 40-inch or bigger mirror, as Steve Swayze did,” Bruce

Swayze said.

Ken Cameron, a retired geologist and instructor, ran the observatory with Herrmann for many years and their cadre of nearly a dozen volunteers.

“Swayze not only built a beautiful instrument made to look like the finest piano verniers, but made this piece of art, with our help, able to track objects and give young and old a chance to see the amazing night

sky, even from the observatory’s urban location in Oregon City,” Cameron said.

“We hope to see the observatory back in service and vital like it was when we and our volunteer corps sought to educate and bring awe to everyone we could.”

Both CCC and the University of Oregon have closed their observatories to the public since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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