

Volunteers

■ From Page 1

out by Happy Valley residents on behalf of the City, this appreciation event created an opportunity for volunteers to be highlighted more publicly. New this year, City Council also selected a group of Outstanding Volunteers. Persons identified for this designation were nominated by members of the Happy Valley community for their commitment to a variety of philanthropic endeavors that include volunteerism at local schools, in Happy Valley neighborhoods, and other special events.

By celebrating the service of our local residents, the City hoped to show its appreciation and encourage others in the community to take notice and get involved. These groups and individuals are helping shape Happy Valley's future and are a source of inspiration to us all.

Volunteers play a crucial role in helping the community thrive. *Want to learn more about City Committees and our 2023 Outstanding Volunteers? Use your smart device to scan the QR codes for more information.*



2023 City Volunteers

Adam Moorehead, Al Matecko, Alan King, Ana Sarish, Angela Ackerson, Ariya Andrews, Asher Chen, Ava Stahl, Avi Patel, Bill Taylor, Bjorn Clouten, Brett Sherman, Dale Guenther, Daria Fine, David Emami, David Golobay, David Sharyan, Dominic Pienovi, Donald Hanna, Doris Bedsole,

Erin Bell, Geri Naumcheff, Glen Sachet, Glenn Wachter, Grace Bach, Grant Roper, Janice Kiser, Jennifer Ellis, Jennifer Huang, Jerry Dukleth, John Rask, Joshua Callahan, Julie Auvil, Kierun Sarish, Kirk Clagstone, Larissa Bonn, Luke Stahl,

Marchelle Paholsky, Mardi Wing, Mark Aasland, Mark Montalbano, Marya Choudhry, Michael Morrow, Minh Matthews, Naomi Turrentine, Nate Hon, Nicole Blossse, Paige Hunt, Paul Rosenow, Ray Fager, Ray Kato, Riley Thames, Roland

▲ Lex Black (center right) talks with guests during the festivities. The evening included a hosted dinner and other fun surprises.

◀ Gordon Hubbard and Steven Sonk connected at the event.



2023 Outstanding Volunteers

- Ana Sarish
- Carol Bernhard
- Courtney Gelbrich
- Grant Roper
- Hanna Grishkevich
- Lex Black
- Mark Aasland
- Minh Matthews
- Owen Hunt
- Patty Ottaway
- Shelley McFarland
- Steven Sonk
- Tawnya Thomas



Derek and Hazel Sears.

Astronomy

■ From Page 1

working at the University of Arkansas, they left such an impact that they founded the Arkansas Center for Space and Planetary Science; they also have two asteroids named after them.

They moved to Happy Valley a few years later. As mentioned, Derek and Hazel have decided to collaborate with the city's Parks & Recreation to hold a class dedicated to the discussion of astronomy. In these classes, Derek not only has expertise on the various sub-topics in science but also his passion. This last year, saw the advertisement that the department posted and saw it as an opportunity to bring astronomy to the community to which he was able to. Kacy Cullen of Happy Valley Parks and Recreation saw Sears' inquiry and decided to pursue it. "We think Astronomy is a subject that all kinds of people might be intrigued to learn more about," Cullen said. "And Derek's enthusiasm for sharing his knowledge in an approachable format is ideal for beginners."

In the spring, they did a trial run of the class for eight weeks and it was proven to be very successful. "We received wonderful feedback from residents that took his condensed course this last spring," she said. "So, we are excited for folks to experience this more in-depth course this fall."

Derek and Hazel couldn't be more excited to share what they love with the city's residents and show them how fun astronomy can be. "I spent my entire career writing papers and grants and talking at conferences," he said. "With the evening classes, I'm not going to get into three pages of mathematics describing why specific things in space happen, but I am going to enjoy the material at a level that anybody has access to. No prior experience, just people who are curious about the Earth or the universe." For Sears, this class is meant to appeal to those who have a desire to learn about this type of science. "I think everybody appreciates it," Derek said. "And the appeal is there."

Derek and Hazel are very grateful to have this opportunity and thank the Parks & Recreation department for making it possible. "They do all of the legwork," he said. "They've provided the space, the registration, and everything we've needed."

The class begins in September and ends around March of 2024, with breaks in November and December. The two topics that will be discussed are Planets in the fall and Stars and Galaxies in the springtime. They will be held at the annex from 7 to 8 p.m. and are offered to anyone over the age of 18. "This is something I've been wanting to do for a while," he said. "So, I'm excited."

Oktoberfest

■ From Page 1

include such novelties as Wiener Dog races, a chicken dance contest, and a Paulaner Stein hoist competition (21+ only).

Want to be part of the fun? Join us at Happy Valley Park on Saturday, Oct. 7 for a fun day with the whole family as you experience the season at its best. Lots of vendors and community booths will be onsite as well. For more details and to sign up for competitions, head to www.happyvalleyor.gov/oktoberfest.



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MAYORS MESSAGE

REMEMBERING 9/11



New York City's Tribute in Light, which takes place each year on the night of Sept. 11, serves as a powerful reminder of the events that transpired in 2001 and celebrates the unbreakable spirit of the American people.

MAYOR
OF HAPPY
VALLEY



Tom Ellis

A special message
from the Mayor

City of Happy Valley

It has been 22 years since Sept. 11, 2001, and while time has passed, in many respects, it feels like just yesterday. The world was shocked as coordinated attacks in New York

City, Washington, DC, and Shanksville, PA claimed nearly 3000 lives on that fateful day. Understandably, the significance still weighs heavily on our nation, and we continue to remember those who experienced it firsthand or had loved ones affected directly by the event.

As we once again approach 9/11, I think it is important

to take pause and honor those who perished. I also believe we need to acknowledge the many good Samaritans and first responders who so heroically stepped in to help. The world has changed in many ways over the last 22 years, yet for those who were there or had loved ones involved, I can only imagine what this moment in history means for them as they

move forward.

I have said this before, but I think it is worth repeating. Despite the horror of that day's events, America remains a beacon of hope. Our nation is resilient, and people tend to come together when it counts. As we reflect once again on the anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, I urge you to keep this in mind. Together, we will never forget.

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



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, please head to hvbn@pamplinmedia.com and include as many details as possible, so our publication team can review your proposal. Our 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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HAPPY VALLEY CITY COUNCIL

Council Meetings are held 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall
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Sculpture Garden Tour

City of Happy Valley

Did you know that Happy Valley has a public sculpture garden? Every two years, artists from around the Pacific Northwest exhibit their work in several locations around City Hall. While on exhibit, artwork is on short-term loan to the City, allowing the program to exhibit many sculptures over time.

On Aug. 15, the Happy Valley City Council had the opportunity to meet with some artists participating in the 2023-2025 exhibit. During this time, we learned more about the story behind each sculpture, the tremendous amount of time required to make them, and the artistic process. We extend special thanks to MacRae Wylde, Mark Brody and Shelly Durica-Laiche for introducing their artwork to the Council.

Sculpture selection for the 2023-2025 exhibition cycle was highly competitive, with 41 applications submitted for five exhibition spots. Each artist accepted into the program was awarded an honorarium, and sculptures remain for sale during the exhibition. This cycle's featured sculptors include:

- MacRae Wylde, Hood River
- Milo White & Lin McJunkin, Conway, WA
- Mark Brody, Portland
- Travis Pond, Oregon City
- Shelly Durica-Laiche, Portland

The Sculpture Garden Program at City Hall was established in 2013 to enhance public land, enrich our cultural environment and encourage art appreciation within the community. The program is also a tool for preserving urban livability as the community grows. The City Council uses public art as one of many tools for developing welcoming outdoor spaces and reinforcing a strong community identity.

The sculptures are on exhibit through spring of 2025 as part of Happy Valley's rotating Sculpture Garden Program. As the entire City Council, we wish to thank the Public Art Committee, Suri Iron, Inc. and the Clackamas County Arts Alliance for their roles in the Sculpture Garden Program. For questions about the Rotating Sculpture Garden program, the Public Art Committee, or inquiries about sculpture purchasing, please contact staff liaison Jaimie Lorenzini, 503-886-8428, jaimiel@happyvalleyor.gov.



Flock, Shelly Durica-Laiche



Mi Paloma II (My Dove), Milo White & Lin McJunkin



Crane Study, Travis Pond





Lucky the Dog, Mark Brody



Inside Out 7, MacRae Wylde

COURTESY PHOTOS

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CELEBRATING COMMUNITY SAFETY

National Night Out celebrates community, first responders

City of Happy Valley

On Aug. 1, residents and friends gathered at Happy Valley Park to celebrate National Night Out, a nationwide event that serves to build relationships between neighbors and promote community partnerships with Happy Valley Police and other local first responders.

The event offered an evening of summer fun that included food and beverage vendors, educational and interactive safety booths, and live musical entertainment. Throughout the evening, popular cover band, Hit Machine, kept the crowd engaged as residents and visitors came together to pay tribute to their local safety heroes. Coordinated by Happy Valley Parks and Recreation and partnering sponsor, Emmert International, the event brought neighbors, friends, and emergency responders together for a night to remember.

A Strong Partnership: Clackamas County Sheriff's Office and the City

A special message from Public Safety Director, Steve Campbell

The success of National Night Out is often underpinned by the strong partnerships formed between law enforcement agencies and local communities. An exemplary case of such collaboration is seen in the enduring alliance between the City and the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office. This partnership has allowed the City to benefit from dedicated police services, highlighting the value of effective cooperation between law enforcement and the community.

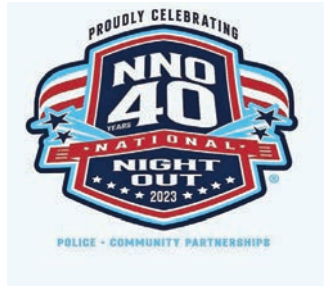
The evolving nature of this collaboration serves as a testament to the dedication of both parties in ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents. It's a relationship that continues to flourish with time, cementing



STEVE CAMPBELL



Deputies from the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office talk with residents.



The dynamic duo! Deputy Van Wormer (left) and Deputy Mazhnikov took a break from their traffic officer duties to talk to residents at the event.



A professional laser light show brought the event to an exciting close as colorful beams filled the sky in time with music and graphics.



Integral members of the Public Safety Team, Community Service Officers not only work with local law enforcement and first responders, but they are often a first connection to residents.



▲ Event goers had the chance to check out several safety rigs. Here, attendees explore a SWAT vehicle. Other experiences included climbing aboard a Clackamas Fire District fire engine.



◀ Deputy Moyr connects with an aspiring police officer.



▼ Informational safety booths provided educational experiences for all ages.

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Coffee with a Cop returns Oct. 4

City of Happy Valley

The Happy Valley Police Department would love to share a cup of coffee with you! Some of our HVPD deputies will be at Peet's Coffee on Wednesday, Oct. 4 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and we're hoping residents will stop by.

Join us for complimentary coffee and pastries during a midday break to meet local law enforcement. This is a great opportunity to ask questions about City safety, meet deputies that patrol the area, and learn about safety issues affecting our community. Conversation will be casual and community-centric. Families and kids are very much encouraged to attend.



Coffee with a Cop is perfect for families and kids. Hot cocoa will be available, too!



COURTESY PHOTOS

Last year, local enforcement hosted a similar Coffee with a Cop event. The gathering encouraged residents and deputies to connect and talk about City safety. Here, Chief Rich Sheldon talks with several residents.

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City of Happy Valley

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 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

**Community Calendar
September 2023**

September 9
■ **Under the Stars fundraiser, Starcycle Happy Valley:** 6 p.m.-9 p.m. see this page for details

September 18
■ **City facilities CLOSING at noon for all-staff event**

September 19
■ **City Council Work Session, City Hall:** 6 p.m.
■ **City Council Meeting, City Hall:** 7 p.m.

September 28
■ **Happy Valley Business Alliance Meeting, City Hall:** 7:30 a.m.

October 4
■ **Coffee with a Cop, Peet's Coffee:** 1 p.m.-2 p.m. see page 5 for details.

October 7
■ **Oktoberfest, Happy Valley Park:** 11 a.m.- 8 p.m. see cover page or the Fall Parks and Recreation insert for more details.

October 10
■ **Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall:** 7 p.m.



City of Happy Valley

In a heartwarming display of community spirit, Starcycle Happy Valley is gearing up to host a spectacular fundraiser in support of the Happy Valley Parks and Recreation Foundation and the Happy Valley Youth Council. Through a matching gift opportunity by a generous donor, funds raised at this year's event will be doubled and split evenly between the two non-profit organizations. This much-anticipated event not only reflects the studio's commitment to physical health, but also underscores its dedication to nurturing the health of the local community.

Starcycle has established itself as a hub for fitness enthusiasts seeking an exhilarating indoor cycling experience. For this event, the popular studio will bring their bikes outside where riders make a donation to participate in a class held Under the Stars. There are opportunities to purchase raffle tickets for various prizes, mingle with event participants, and connect with partnering vendors. Everyone is invited to be part of the fundraising efforts and festivities.

For those unfamiliar, the Happy Valley Parks and Recreation Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that parks and recreational programming are available for the enjoyment of all Happy Valley residents. The Foundation not only helps sustain City parks and natural areas, but it directly supports essential community programs like Meals on Wheels and recreational scholarships which benefit those who may otherwise not have access to programs, camps, and classes.

The Happy Valley Youth Council, which has become known throughout the State as the model for bringing the youth voice to the forefront, is responsible for several youth-focused initiatives including a Rx Drug Take Back event, Car Care safety event, and several community



forums. The group has taken the lead this year in championing an equally important cause: youth wellness and mental health. The Youth Council's work has been recognized nationally for its innovation and topical relevance, with youth councilors launching an annual Youth Summit that focuses on a variety of topics and traveling to Washington, D.C. to participate in important legislative conversations.

In a world that often places immense pressures on the younger generation, addressing mental health has become paramount. The Happy Valley Youth Council's dedication to this cause speaks volumes about its forward-thinking approach and its commitment to educating the community. With initiatives ranging from town halls that explore and bring awareness to the experiences of youth and teens, to open forums for discussing mental health concerns and even school safety, the Youth Council is making strides toward creating a supportive environment where young individuals can thrive emotionally. Later this year, the Happy Valley Youth Council will help coordinate two large-scale events focused on their youth wellness campaign.

The synergy between Starcycle Spin Studio, the Happy Valley Parks and Recreation Foundation, and the Happy Valley Youth Council couldn't be more apt. The spin studio, renowned for its high-energy workouts and motivating instructors, perfectly aligns with the enthusiasm and vigor that both programs bring to the table. Funds raised will support the recreational and wellness

Starcycle pedals for a purpose: Fundraising to boost recreational programs and youth wellness efforts



Let's ride! The popular studio takes class outdoors for a fun experience amongst community. Seats go fast at Starcycle's annual Under the Stars fundraiser slated to take place Saturday, Sept. 9 at 6 p.m.-9 p.m

needs of many in our community, and in turn, keep the positive momentum going strong.

At the time of print, the event's outdoor spin class was full, but the community is highly encouraged to attend to cheer on riders and support the cause. Attendees can make a tax-deductible donation or participate in any of the raffles.

For more information about this event, contact the Starcycle Happy Valley studio directly using the corresponding QR code. To learn more about the Happy Valley Parks and Recreation Foundation be sure to check out www.hvprf.org. To learn more about Happy Valley Youth Council, head to www.happyvalleyor.gov/youthcouncil.



Starcycle's annual Under the Stars charity ride is set to take place on Sat. Sept. 9. Starcycle Happy Valley is located at 13183 SE 172nd Ave, in the Crossroads complex next to Fred Meyer.

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SO LONG, SUMMER!

Concert series once again fills the Park with music

City of Happy Valley

Concerts in the Valley, the City’s multi-week concert series at Happy Valley Park, played its final show of the 2023 season on Aug. 24. A milestone event, the series celebrated 25 years of summer concerts at Happy Valley Park this time around. Once again, families and friends gathered each Thursday night throughout the summer as local bands took to the stage to provide live musical entertainment. With food and beverage vendors on site, the experience provided a comprehensive evening of music and fun. Genres ranging from country, pop, blues, classic rock, 80’s funk, and New Wave offered concert goers a variety of sounds to groove to. The series proved to be the perfect way to celebrate summer while helping neighbors and friends stay connected. Until next year, rock on, Happy Valley!

The 2023 Concerts in the Valley summer series was presented by Happy Valley Parks and Recreation and sponsored in partnership by:



Highly acclaimed blues musician, Norman “Boogie Cat” Sylvester, rocked the stage on Aug. 17.



Britnee Kellogg, brought some country flair in July.



Glass of Hearts performed Aug. 10 with a tribute to Blondie that had everyone singing along.



DJ Doc Rock returned, keeping the energy upbeat with music spinning throughout the performances.



Coordinated by Happy Valley Parks and Recreation, the Happy Zone kept youth busy with a variety of activities and crafts during each show. COURTESY PHOTOS



Daniel Blanks returns to coach boys basketball at Nelson

By JERRY ULMER
Pamplin Media Group

Last boys basketball season was a rough road for Daniel Blanks in his first varsity head coaching job at Aloha. With 10 freshmen and sophomores on the roster, the Warriors struggled to a 2-22 record, taking their lumps in the tough 6A Metro League. The way Blanks sees it, though, the experience will set him up for success as he takes over as the new coach at Nelson of Happy Valley this year. “It was probably the best thing to happen to my career, being there for the year,” Blanks said. “It gave me the head-coaching experience. I don’t think I would have got the opportunity at Nelson without it. It just prepared me.” Nelson represents a homecoming of sorts for Blanks. When the school opened in 2021, he was a finalist for the head coaching job. The school hired Alex Edwards, who brought Blanks aboard as a varsity assistant. Blanks is well acquainted with the players in the program. Not only does he know many varsity players, but during his year at Nelson, he



BLANKS

coached a seventh-grade team in the district. “It’s not like I’m coming into a brand-new situation,” Blanks said. “I know all the kids in the program, so I’m coming into a situation that’s literally family. It’s just like a home feeling to me.” Blanks, 30, grew up in Illinois and graduated from Belleville East High School and Southern Illinois University. He assisted for three seasons in the program at Belleville East, one of Illinois’ largest high schools. He worked for the Veterans Administration in St. Louis and transferred to Portland in 2019. He joined the coaching staff at Gresham in 2020, assisting the varsity and coaching the freshman boys team. The following year, he applied for head-coaching jobs at Nelson and Sandy. According to Blanks, he was passed over in part because he lacked head-coaching experience. After one season at Nelson, the Aloha job represented the next logical step in his coaching career. “When I got offered the Aloha job, I couldn’t turn it down,” he said. “It was the experience that everyone was saying that I was needing.”

Blanks said that facing some of the state’s best coaches and talent in the Metro helped him grow as a coach. “I know when I’m in situations with more talent or equal talent, I’ll be prepared to win and be successful,” he said. “I have the blueprint of the other coaches in the Metro League.” Edwards stepped down as Nelson’s coach after last season, when the Hawks went 12-15, 7-7 in the 6A Mt. Hood Conference. That opened the door for Blanks. “I left to get my head-coaching experience, and came back to continue building the program that I helped start,” Blanks said. “My goal, since I was in college, I wanted to have my own program. Everything I’ve done since then has led to this opportunity.” Nelson made strides in its second season, playing tough in losses to Mt. Hood contenders Barlow, Gresham and Central Catholic and holding a second-half lead against powerhouse West Linn in a nonleague game. The Hawks went on the road to stun Southwest Conference champion South Medford in a 6A first-round playoff game before falling at Central Catholic in the second round. Nelson graduated nine players from that team, but brings back its

leading scorer in 6-foot senior guard Sam Lewis (12.6 points per game), a two-year starter. In summer games, Lewis has reached the 30-point mark three times, according to Blanks. “He’s definitely going to have way more opportunities than he had last year,” Blanks said. “I expect him to be one of the top players in our conference.” The Hawks will be counting on several young newcomers next season. Blanks said he expects freshman guard Braylon Gaines and sophomore guard Chaz Katoanga, a transfer from Oregon City, to be starters. Gaines is considered among the state’s top players in his class. “He’s played a lot of high-level basketball,” Blanks said. “He’s my best leader now.” Lukas Jordan, a 6-4 junior forward, saw varsity action as a freshman but missed last season with an injury. “I’ll have a super young team,” Blanks said. “We’re going to struggle against the top-heavy teams that are supposed to beat us, but we’ll be in a lot of games. They’re sophomores and juniors, and when that changes, we’ll be the top team. I have everything I need to build a program, coming in and in-house.”

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 edavis@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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Are you prepared?

Planning now could make all the difference



Clackamas Fire

September is National Preparedness Month, which is a nationwide coordinated effort sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) each year to encourage people to prepare for emergencies in their homes, business, and schools. This year's theme is: **Preparing for Older Adults.** The campaign focuses on preparing older adults for disaster, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events, which continue to threaten the nation.

We know older adults can face greater risks when it comes to the multitude of extreme weather events and emergencies we now face, especially if they are living alone, are low-income, have a disability, or live in rural areas.



COURTESY PHOTO
Remember the water! You should have one gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation.

Use this information to assess your needs and take simple, low-cost steps that can help you be better prepared.

Know what disasters could affect your area, which could call for an evacuation, and when to shelter in place, and plan what you need to do in both areas.

Keep a weather radio tuned to your local emergency station and monitor TV and radio warnings about severe weather in your area.

Download the FEMA app and get weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.

City of Happy Valley

Happy Valley's Animal Control Services support people and animals in a variety of ways. With animal control one of our many responsibilities, we aim to protect pets and wild animals while simultaneously protecting people and property from challenges that can arise when animals are uncontrolled. Whether assisting an animal in distress, reuniting lost pets and their owners, or responding to animal nuisance concerns, our team is responsible for the daily happenings related to animal services. We enforce City laws and ordinances and help ensure the City remains a safe place for people and animals alike.

Whether lost or abandoned, when a dog is seen roaming City streets, Community Service Officers can be called to help. We will attempt to contain the dog and reduce its chance of running into traffic or getting further away from home should it have accidentally escaped. If identifying information can be obtained, we will then proceed to help reunify the dog with its owner. This is a primary reason the City of Happy Valley requires dog licensing. It could mean a world of difference, especially if your dog were to become lost.

When dogs get lost

More times than not, a dog gets out when a door is left open, or a gate latch or section of fencing becomes loose. When this happens, your pup escapes and off they go on an unplanned adventure. Our team has found dogs wandering neighborhoods and thankfully no harm is done, but most concerning is when they get near busy streets like Sunnyside and 172nd Ave. To report dogs running at-large please contact us at 503-783-3800.

How we can help

Should a lost dog be found, we can easily reference the City's licensing database to locate you for reunification if

CODE CORNER

Is your dog's license up to date?



COURTESY PHOTO
If you have not yet obtained a license for your dog or your license has lapsed, head to www.happyvalleor.gov/animal-control or use your smartphone to scan the QR code. From there, you can complete an application. Fee amounts are determined by several factors, so be sure to select the option that matches your needs. If you have questions, give us a call at 503-783-3800.



Complete the application online!

CODE CORNER

OFFICER DAVID COAN

OFFICER JASON THOMPSON

OFFICER MICHAEL BARNES

it has a collar. We also have the needed equipment on hand to scan for microchips. But these efforts only go so far in helping reunite dogs with their owners if the information is up to date. That is why it is so important to keep your dog's licensure in compliance. Additionally, we can't emphasize enough just how important it is to microchip your pet. We often find

dogs without an identifying collar and it can take a long time to sift through the database if we have to search by breed alone. So, if you haven't already, be sure to talk to your vet ASAP about microchipping your dog and keep in mind you will need to separately update the microchip company with any changes to your contact information if you move or get a new phone number. Dogs that cannot be reunited with their owner are placed for shelter with our community partner, Clackamas Dog Services. The City's partnership with Clackamas Dog Services allows us the ability to access shelter for lost or abandoned dogs 24/7, ensuring safety, basic needs, and medical care are provided.

Health and wellness

Another reason it is required for dog owners to complete the licensure process is to ensure

your pup has received a current rabies vaccination. This is absolutely imperative to the health and safety of anyone, including other animals, who may encounter your dog.

Do I have the correct license?

If you reside in the City of Happy Valley and you own a dog, you must have a current dog license on file with the City. In most cases, a Community Service Officer will first talk with you about a concern related to dog licensing before it reaches the level of receiving a citation. Ultimately, it is your responsibility as a dog owner to comply. If you possess a Clackamas County dog license or dog license from another jurisdiction in the state, please contact City Hall at 503-783-3800.

HAPPY VALLEY BUSINESS ALLIANCE
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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

René is an educator at heart. As a public servant for 18 years, most recently as a North Clackamas School Principal, his



desire to work with Root Mortgage was as clear as its mission: cultivate relationships, educate clients, and offer exceptional service. These attributes resonated with his determination as a public school educator and continue to this day, *now shifting his advocacy in finding you the loan to buy your home.*

As a Latino, raised in the city of Chicago by a single mom, René learned several things from the world around him. Access is as integral as competence; Strength comes from advocacy and support; Love and patience are the only true combatants to hate and ignorance. These three ideas define *how he sees his role as your mortgage advisor.*

- **Provide access.** Whether it's into your dream home, investment, or refinance, one

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of his goals is to brainstorm options, offer financial insight, and provide you access with the loan to buy your home.

- **Support you throughout the loan process.** Partnering with you to thoughtfully strategize on securing your desired goal.
- **Being available.** René will show that patience and love will be how he functions and will be available to support you throughout your home-buying process.



René is fluent in Spanish and English and loves the opportunity to serve in either language. René finds it a privilege to partner with Root Mortgage and work for you to help you reach your goals of homeownership.

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Cheers to PICKATHON 2023!

First-time festival-goer experiences all-around good vibes

By EMMA DAVIS
Pamplin Media Group

Nestled in the trees of Pendarvis Farm, surrounded by the lush beauty of nature, a transformative musical journey awaited. Pickathon 2023, the latest installment of the iconic music festival, proved to be more than just a gathering of artists and music enthusiasts; it was a celebration of sound, camaraderie, and an immersion into a world where melodies, art pieces, and positivity intertwine with the natural world.

The enchantment of Pickathon lies not only in its diverse lineup of artists spanning genres from folk and indie rock to electronic and more but also in its commitment to creating an environment that fosters a sense of unity and belonging from the moment attendees arrive. “The vibe is top-notch at this place,” said Nikki, a photographer at Pickathon. The familiar hum of conversations, the aroma of local cuisine wafting through the air, and the shared anticipation for the upcoming performances formed an unspoken connection between fans. Both locals and people from neighboring cities and states took part in the festival, and some even from across the globe.

One individual I met was a teenager who traveled from Manchester, England with his family on a quest to explore the PNW. Although they did not anticipate landing at Pickathon, they decided to stop by anyway. “We came to visit Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver,” he said. “My parents enjoy things like this and these music genres, and while I typically don’t, I have been having a lot of fun seeing everything and enjoying the atmosphere.”

This year’s lineup was nothing short of impressive and they were that much more amazing in the new and revamped “neighborhoods” where they performed. I was lucky enough to attend the festival and witness them in their full glory. Some of the neighborhoods I stopped by were the Windmill Stage, Grove Stage, Cherry Hill Stage, and The Galaxy Barn.

Each neighborhood offered its own unique experiences with varying artists and crowds alike. At the Windmill Stage, attendees were watching the bands from all parts of the venue. Some were hanging from the trees, lying in hammocks, sitting in chairs and on blankets, and of course dancing; it was very lowkey. It was clad with whimsical decorations such as giant, colorful mushrooms and cloud-like “chandeliers” hanging from strings of twinkling lights. It took attendees to a place where imaginations could run wild while enjoying the sounds of great music. I was able to see two acts, both differing in genres: Brittany Davis and her band (R&B) and The Shivas (alternative rock).

The experience at The Grove was like that of Windmill being lowkey and “chill,” but the visuals differed greatly. It was dawned with neon strings,



Let's Dance: Pachyman lights up the crowd with his electronic music at the Grove Stage.

PHOTOS: EMMA DAVIS



An all ages event: Pickathon attendees from all different age groups gather around the Windmill Stage.



Yum!: Attendees venture around to many of Pickathon's food booths.



Live it up!: Enthusiastic audience members dance and shout to Brittany Davis.



All smiles: Brittany Davis flashes a big smile toward the crowd as she performs at the Windmill Stage.

beginning at the entrance, all the way to the stage and around the trees. There wasn't as much natural sunlight as there was light coming from the stage, making it more of a darker envionment, but it was very fitting for the music that was being played, including electronic synth played by Pachyman and a punk/alternative band called Wine Lips; the ones I witnessed. When people wanted to beat the heat, they went to The Galaxy Barn. Located near the front entrance, the neighborhood is popular at Pickathon. Inside, there are long benches on either side of the room for people to sit down as well as stand up. Of course, there's a dance floor too. In the barn, there are colored tube lights on the ceiling that flash in varying schemes with every song. The band that played, Room for

Three, played songs reminiscent of the rock genre. While each scene at Pickathon contained differences, some similarities tied it all together and showed the true essence of what Pickathon truly is. It is about community, art, love, and all-around good vibrations. It is about people from all walks of life coming together to enjoy music and camaraderie and make lasting memories they won't ever forget. This special and beloved festival is a place of belonging and carefree energy that radiates from all corners of the grounds. However, the future of Pickathon is up in the air due to permit expirations, but the city of Happy Valley is doing what it can to help out. “The City’s Planning Commission has approved the festival twice previously, though the current

approval has recently expired,” Laura Terway of Happy Valley Parks & Recreation said. “As in years past the Planning Commission will consider the application including the site layout and operating conditions, public testimony, and government agency recommendations to determine if the festival is appropriate and identify opportunities to address concerns.” Though next year is uncertain, there is no question that this year’s reimagined and revamped Pickathon will go down in Happy Valley history as one of the best ones yet. “That was the best Pickathon ever!” says founder, Zale Schoenborn. “Festivals like Pickathon are rare in the world and to see so many people joined together in harmony – dancing, singing, wandering, rebuilding, exploring, was truly a marvelous thing.”

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A Brief History of Happy Valley Oregon

with Mark Hurlburt

Mark Hurlburt discusses his new book in three-part local history series

By EMMA DAVIS
Pamplin Media Group

Born and raised amidst the tight-knit community of Happy Valley, Oregon, Mark Hurlburt, a proud native of this idyllic town, has unveiled a captivating treasure trove of memories in his third book in his Clackamas County history trilogy. With a deep-rooted love for his hometown and a keen passion for preserving its rich history, he has graciously crafted a book that transports readers through the history of Happy Valley titled “Happy Valley Oregon: A Brief History.”

Through his eloquent prose and articles he had crafted over the years about this beloved city, Hurlburt not only captures the essence of a town nestled southeast of Portland but also encapsulates the spirit of its residents, past and present. His book stands as a testament to the power of community and a testament to the profound connections that Happy Valley has always had.

Mark Hurlburt was born in Portland, but he grew up in Happy Valley. However, when he was born, the city was nowhere near what it is today. “My dad moved here in 1970 and bought a vacant lot for pretty cheap and he built his house,” he said. “He planted every tree and bush on his property where he raised his family.” Hurlburt attended Happy Valley Elementary School and graduated from Clackamas High School. Afterwards, he attended Portland State University where he graduated with a degree in history then went to work at the Clackamas County Historical Society.

While working, he came across a History of Happy Valley book that was written by Happy Valley Grade School students in 1969 which gave him motivation to read more about his hometown. “The book gave me a little spark to want to learn more about my hometown, do some research, and collect some artifacts,” he said.

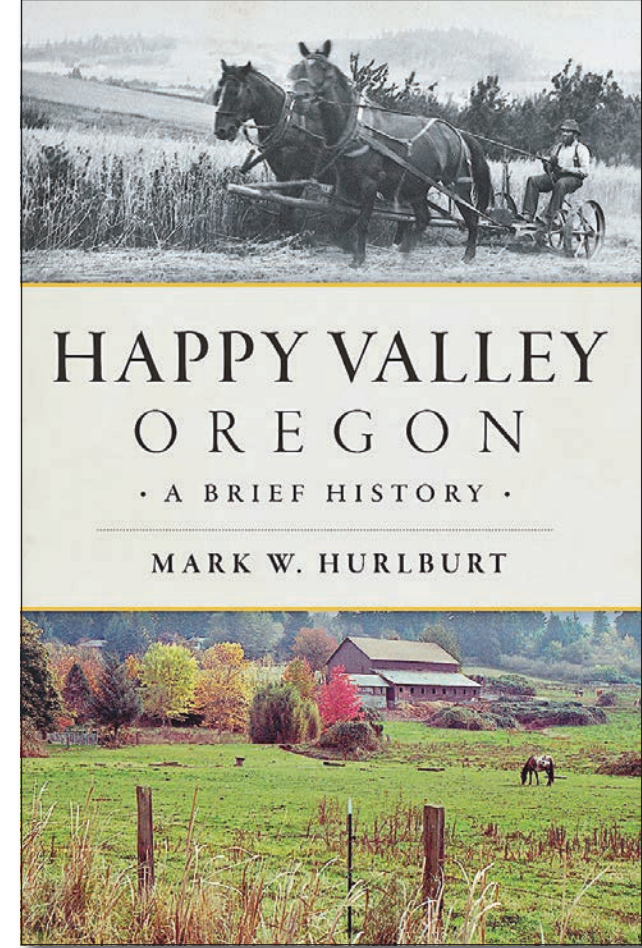
However, Hurlburt’s

motivation was not to write a book, but to learn more. He then started writing articles, some of which were published in the Happy Valley Newsletter and Clackamas Review. “I just kept writing articles, just by themselves about Talbert’s and other people in the town’s history,” he said. “And then in 2019 my friend Karin, who passed away last year, and I started working on my first book This Day in Clackamas County, documenting the different events in Happy Valley from January 1st to December 31st.” Following that, Arcadia Publishing contacted him interested in a more photo-centric Happy Valley history book, which he did soon after.

Amidst this process, he was already working on this third and final book in the series that he calls his “local history trilogy.” This book is different than the other two in the series as it is more informative. Its chapters consist of articles that he had written before, such as the ones about the Deardorffs, the Talberts and how the city got its name, “I just took what I had already written and wanted to explain upon them a little bit and put them in an order that would best tell the story of Happy Valley from the beginnings up to the 21st century,” he said. “If I’m a storyteller, this is how I’m going to tell the story of the city; that was my thought process on that.” He started focusing more on the book summer of last year and got the final editions this last March.

The book’s content ranges from the city’s founding families who established the city and how much it has grown since then to his memories growing up. “If you’re at chapter 16, I talked about how Happy Valley became the fastest-growing city in Oregon,” he said. “Like back in 1990 the population was 1519 people and in 2020 the population is almost 24,000 people.”

For Hurlburt, the History of Happy Valley was an important project for him because of how much he cherishes his hometown and wants to spread that love to its residents. “Most of the people who live in Happy Valley have no idea what the story of it is and I think it’s important to know about



Mark Hurlburt.

COURTESY PHOTO

where you come from and it’s important to tell that story,” he said. “I’m just one of the lifelong residents and I don’t know if people are interested, but I’m hoping that they are interested in wanting to know more about where they live and answer questions about the city too.”

Hurlburt hopes that his book sparks curiosity among readers to become familiar with their local history, not just of Happy Valley, but other cities as well, and perhaps to learn about their family history. “Regardless of what it is, history is important, and it is something that we should continue to learn and not forget,” he said.

His book is available online on Amazon, for order, and in-store at the Clackamas Town Center Barnes & Noble, and the Happy Valley City Hall gift shop.

Mark will also be having a book signing at this year’s Oktoberfest, so pick up your copy and stop by his booth for a chance to meet the author and get your book signed!

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By JAMES KENNETH PRESLEY
for Pamplin Media Group

"We knew that we wanted to make her (Roslyn's) end of treatment special," says Colleen, a teacher at Christ the



"The city really wanted to support the efforts that Roslyn is doing," says Stephanie Warneke, Communication and Public Relations Coordinator at City of Happy Valley. "We recognize that she's come a long way and we're so happy that she's doing well. We want to support kids in our community



After signing their honorary business license and taking a photo with the kids, Mayor Ellis chimed in on the impact



comment. Luckily for her and her family, Roslyn was able to finally use her Make-A-Wish trip in June and take her family

– Colleen Creech

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Kelsey Nisbett’s Hero’s Journey: From Happy Valley to HOLLYWOOD

By JAMES KENNETH PRESLEY
For Pamplin Media Group

The concept of a “hero’s journey” is often crafted for narrative purposes, as it presents a hero who goes on an adventure, learning lessons along the way, conquering in heroic victory, and discovering a newfound knowledge. For us, this very idea is oftentimes presented in the everyday triumphs of those who take on an adventure of their own where the journey leads to a dream fulfilled. Enter Kelsey Nisbett, a ‘09 graduate of Clackamas High School whose journey began years before she ever donned a cap and gown.

Kelsey Nisbett, a Happy Valley native, has deceptively made her career achievements look effortless, even though she’s easily one of the most motivated people you’ll even come across. If you don’t recognize the name, then you might know some of the movies she has helped produce over the years, specifically a slew of feel-good Christmas movies, including Netflix’s *Falling for Christmas* with Lindsay Lohan, *The Princess Switch* movies with Vanessa Hudgens, and a collection of other holiday films on the Great American Family network, including *A Brush with Christmas*, written by her husband Brendan McNerney.

However, before Nisbett was helping develop scripts and stories, she was a student at Clackamas High School, leaning into her love for theater and dance.

“I’ve always loved musical theater,” says Nisbett. “There’s funny old footage of me performing in my grandmother’s basement insisting that everybody call me ‘Princess Ballerina!’”

As soon as Nisbett’s freshman year of high school started in the Fall of ‘05, she would immediately join both drama



“Smile for the camera!”: Kelsey Nisbett strikes a pose with writer and husband, Brendan McNerney



2009 Sabin-Schellenberg award's ceremony: Kelsey Nisbett being honored by her teacher and friend, Deborah Barnes

and choir, performing in the school musicals during her four years at Clackamas. That being noted, Nisbett’s big personality would find other intrigues when it came to performing, especially thanks to the Sabin-Schellenberg program and the introduction to different career opportunities it presents to students.

“I signed up for Media and Broadcasting courses at Sabin-Schellenberg as soon

as I was able; my theater-loving self thought ‘I could be a news anchor’,” says Nisbett. “A whole campus dedicated to specialized skill was an incredibly privileged opportunity for me, getting to learn with students from multiple campuses.”

However, Nisbett would soon get an itch to learn behind the camera operations thanks to this exposure as well as the belief by one specific teacher.

“My teacher, Deborah

“I didn’t immediately see the vision my teacher had for me, but once I started taking classes I realized that I had come in with a sweeping advantage as I had all of the technical skills down pat thanks to Sabin-Schellenberg”



Falling for Christmas: Netflix’s 2022 romantic comedy starring Lindsay Lohan

Barnes, was the greatest inspiration to me and such a major influence on the trajectory of my life,” says Nisbett. “I literally would not be here if it weren’t for her class.”

Barnes later recommended that Nisbett pursue film school, which, thanks to a scholarship by Sabin-Schellenberg, helped Nisbett land her a spot at Loyola Marymount University, where she attended from 2009 to 2013.

“I definitely went into film

school with more of an exploratory mindset,” says Nisbett. “I didn’t immediately see the vision my teacher had for me, but once I started taking classes I realized that I had come in with a sweeping advantage as I had all of the technical skills down pat thanks to Sabin-Schellenberg. That leg up allowed me to use my time actually falling in love with cinema.”

After graduating with a degree in Film and TV Production, Nisbett would

intern and eventually work for Larry Levinson Productions thanks to a college connection, Amanda Phillips, where Nisbett discovered her passion for creative development. Afterwards, Nisbett landed at CBS Television Studios as a Development Coordinator and eventually HBO in the Business Affairs department.

Unfortunately, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nisbett would be laid off like many.

“It was of great importance to maintain the connections that I did,” says Nisbett as she would find her way back to her mentor Amanda Phillips who was now with Motion Picture Corporation of America. It is there where she presented Nisbett with an opportunity in creative development, coming full circle.

Today, Nisbett is a Manager of Development, with tasks including discovering new material to develop into feature length films and managing current projects from pre-production through post production.

“We make films with the goal to sell to a buyer who is the best fit,” says Nisbett. “Some of our most regular buyers are Amazon, Netflix, and Great American Family.”

Today, Hollywood is on hiatus at the moment due to both writers and actors being on two simultaneous strikes. Currently, Nisbett’s focus is on finishing post production on the completed projects that were turned in before the strikes began, giving her enough to do until hopefully the strikes resolve amicably for everyone.

“It’s a super challenging time for our business,” says Nisbett. “I’m just eager to get back to working on all these great projects we have on the horizon!”

ON THE ROAD AGAIN: Back to school safety tips

September is synonymous with back to school and that means students are headed back to class. Many families

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Steve Campbell

some helpful tips to keep in mind to encourage a safe and successful school year.

The bus stops here

Be alert. Buses mean bus stops and bus stops are likely filled with children waiting to catch their ride or be let off. Be mindful of kids on the sidewalks or crossing the street.

Go slowly. When buses are present, that means children are present. Whether bus lights are flashing or not, it’s always best to slow down in case kids dart out into the street or the bus

makes a sudden stop or turn.

Leave plenty of space. The 10 ft area surrounding a school bus is the most dangerous for children. Help bus drivers by giving them a wide berth and clear view of the area around them when driving or stopped behind them.

Prepare to stop. Yellow or red flashing lights and a stop sign arm extended indicate children are preparing to load or unload from the bus and this is a signal for you to prepare to stop. FACT: It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.

Students should always remain visible. Instruct students utilizing the bus to refrain from horseplay and to remain at the designated meeting place while waiting for pick up. Remind students to look both ways before crossing the street and to NEVER walk behind the bus.

Walk this way

Embrace crosswalks. Encourage students to only cross the road at marked crosswalks as this significantly increases visibility for drivers.

If a crossing guard is present, please also ensure your child knows to obey their directions when it comes to waiting and crossing.

Use the buddy system. It’s always a good idea to have students walk together. There is safety in numbers and an additional person to navigate street crossing and make judgments in situations.

Keep distractions at bay. Remind students to stow away smart phones and other devices that could keep their attention off the task at hand.

Look both ways. Encourage your student to always be alert and to check and then double check that the coast is clear before entering the street to cross.

Let’s roll

ALWAYS wear a helmet. If your student bikes to school, ensure they have a properly fitting helmet and emphasize the importance of wearing it consistently.

Know the rules of the road. Students who ride their bike to school should know basic traffic rules and heed to stop signs, stop lights and



COURTESY PHOTO
Crosswalks help students safely cross the street.

crosswalks. Generally, it is best to have your student walk their bike through an intersection as an added safety protection.

Driving responsibly

Eyes on the road: Don’t let distractions or a time crunch endanger your child or someone else. Pay attention to school zones and ALWAYS obey the speed limits. There is often a lot happening during drop off and pick up times, and it is easy to become complacent if you aren’t paying attention. Avoid using your cell phone while driving and keep other distractions, like the radio and conversations with passengers, to a minimum.

Crosswalks are important: Cross walks are busy places as kids



COURTESY PHOTO
With school buses taking students to and from school, prepare to stop as kids are picked up or dropped off at their stops.

make their way to school or head home, so it is vital that you approach these areas with caution and come to a full stop when students are present. Crossing guards are often helping during these times, so please support their efforts by following their lead.

Hold up!: If you utilize the school parking lot, please make sure you triple check your surroundings before backing up or charging ahead. Students don’t always think before darting

out and younger students may be harder to see due to their shorter height.

Together, let’s help students, parents, and school staff get to and from school with ease. For more information, be sure to check out www.happyvalleyor.gov/school-zone-safety where you can learn about how the City is making a concerted effort through a partnership with Happy Valley Police and local PTO’s to promote safety when it comes to school zones.

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Multi-Sensory Education: Tomorrow's Teaching Strategies, Today!

By JAMES KENNETH PRESLEY
for Pamplin Media Group

As many parts of our country continue to struggle with low literacy rates, there is a growing initiative by many to advance the standard teaching methods we all grew up with and evolving it to what is considered “multi-sensory education”. However, just what does that entail? You’ll be fascinated to uncover just what we experienced.

As we walked through doors of the Clackamas Education Services Department and strolled down the building’s stairs on a warm Tuesday morning, one couldn’t help but to feel like a parent dropping off their young child on the first day of school, as each table featured an arrangement of sand, crayons, colorful tiles, and more. There was an excitement in the air that was magnetic, leaving this interviewer as well as an observer to feel like a participant. However, just what was it we experienced?

Clackamas ESD recently partnered with the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE) to host a collection of training seminars that offer courses rooted in the Orton-Gillingham methodology, where a wide assemblage from educators to superintendents could observe and participate in these practices that cater to all levels of learning.

“The feedback we’re receiving from participants and observers is overwhelmingly positive,” says Charlotte Gant, Clackamas ESD’s K-2 early literacy consultant. “The training is sensory driven. The IMSE-Orton-Gillingham training is an opportunity for teachers to learn how to deliver direct, sequential, systematic, and explicit instruction to students based on the data in their classrooms. Each participant is walking away with a new skill set, an understanding of structured literacy, and a ‘toolkit’ with



Early morning gathering: Teachers from across multiple school districts gather to experience this methodology.

materials that will support and lift students as they strive to access core curriculum.”

This training is specifically designed for grades K-2, but it is also effective for students with special learning needs as well, as this type of instruction incorporates the use of visual, auditory, and kinesthetic-tactile modalities simultaneously in the components of learning to read. For example, the tools like the sand are to encourage the use of those very modalities.

“The overall goal is to provide educators with a bag full of teaching strategies,” says Gant. “You always want the appropriate curriculums so what we do is provide tools to help teachers support and lift their students to access those curriculums.”

Now, one thing that is important to remember is that this type of learning is not a curriculum itself, but rather a methodology, which actually qualifies for the

Dyslexia Senate Bill, an important consideration given that every school must have a teacher that has been trained in dyslexia awareness.

“A woman at my school had been using this and I was so impressed with the results she was getting,” says Sarah Stiegeler, an educator and instructional support specialist. “My own son has dyslexia so I wanted to dig deeper and learn how to teach to help accommodate. It’s safe to say I have been blown away with the resources I have been getting. I’m already messaging teachers I work with because I am so

excited!”

Stiegeler also suggests that this might very well be the missing piece within today’s curriculums and, quite frankly, we can understand why. We all grew up understanding the power of visual learning, but it never really honed in on all available senses back when we were in school.

Admittedly, it was impressive to see just how helpful things like touch and feel could be... even singing.

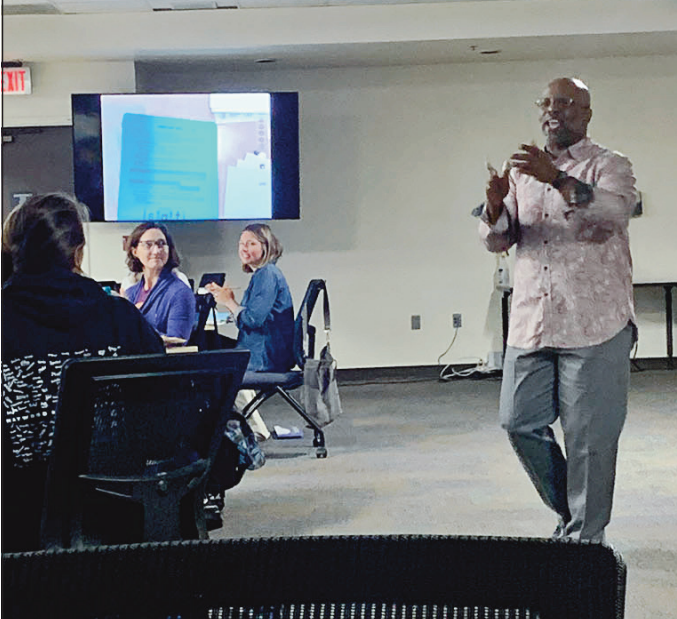
So, if multi-sensory training is the key, then that must make Aaron Franklin Jr. the key master, an instructor for IMSE who dedicated an entire week to help these educators sharpen their communication tools and adapt to this methodology.

“The opportunity to impact other lives means so much to me,” says Franklin Jr. “Reading and writing is the key to unlocking the future and if I have been given this natural skillset to transform other lives then that’s what makes it exciting for me.”

We must say, witnessing Franklin Jr. communicate with these educators in person was very inspirational to experience, giving us an immense confidence that future data will reflect the positive outcome of this methodology. Equally, this evolving gateway to learning can only open further so long as there remains determined and passionate educators as we saw during this training session.



Making it fun! Teachers team up to try out these techniques for themselves.



Commanding the room: Aaron Franklin Jr holds court as he demonstrates these teaching strategies.

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LIBRARY CARD CHALLENGE

Your library card gives you access to so much more than books! In addition to checking out books, movies, magazines, and video games, this September take the challenge to explore all that your library card can do. To sweeten the deal, the Library will draw twenty winners to receive a library tote bag.

There are two ways to enter the drawing. All entries are due by Sept. 30, 2023.

Don't have a card?
Get a library card to enter the drawing.

Library cards are available to all residents of the Clackamas County Library District, and Washington, Multnomah, Hood River, and Clark (WA) counties. Cards are for those ages 5 and up. A person under 13 must have parental/guardian permission to get a library card. Stop by the library with your ID and proof of current address.

Already have a card?
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A new chapter begins: City welcomes SARAH ROLLER as new Library Director

Happy Valley’s Library Director, Sarah Roller, is taking on her new role with enthusiasm. She joined the team in August just before former Director, Doris Grolbert, retired after 42 years of service. Doris very much helped shape Happy Valley Library to what it is today, so with big shoes to fill, Sarah truly hit the ground running and has been eager to immerse herself in City life.

No stranger to the area, Sarah is very familiar with greater Clackamas County. Between living, learning, working, and volunteering in the community for over 30 years, Sarah’s connection to the community is extensive.

She actually began her library career at the Ledding Library in Milwaukie in 2003. There, she served as an adult reference librarian, wrote the library newsletter, managed the library social media and website presence, oversaw the Spanish & Russian collection development for adult readers, piloted programs such as trivia night with the Librarian, developed a seed library and oversaw the Milwaukie Poetry Series. Her experience there led her to the Wilsonville Public Library, where she served as the Library Services Manager until coming to Happy Valley. While at Wilsonville Public Library she oversaw collection moves, scheduling, employee recruitments, strategic plan

implementation, established another seed library, started a library community garden plot, and conducted community outreach.

Her background prior to working in libraries and becoming a Librarian includes working with at-risk youth in AmeriCorps, working as an English Language Learners Assistant for North Clackamas School District, and a Code Enforcement Officer in Milwaukie. Throughout her career, Sarah has always made it a priority to get to know her fellow team members and residents from the area.

“Being the Library Director of the Happy Valley Library is a dream come true”, says Sarah. “Early in my career I decided

that becoming a director was the right path for me. To prepare, I have put effort into being involved in all levels of public libraries, so that I could be open to the many viewpoints and experiences of staff and the community.” Sarah adds, “Something that is especially exciting is being part of making the library expansion a reality. I get to combine my love for building and architecture, and my professional passion and work. I feel so grateful to have been selected as Happy Valley’s next library director! Doris and the entire Happy Valley team welcomed me with so much support that I feel confident in my ability to continue Doris’ legacy.”

When Sarah isn’t working,



Sarah with her family on a recent hike. When she's not at work, Sarah enjoys being active outdoors and spending time with her husband and two children.

you can find her hiking, gardening, working on home renovation projects, reading to her kids, and hatching travel plans. She also loves soccer and most of all, spending time with her family.

Most importantly, Sarah believes in the power of community and freedom to learn and grow through public library access. She holds a Master's degree in library science from Emporia State University and a Bachelors of Arts degree in International Studies from Portland State University.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Next time you visit the library, you might notice some changes are happening! Construction is beginning on the library's expansion project. While measures are being taken to minimize disruption to library services, there may be some construction noises and equipment while work takes place.



HAPPY VALLEY LIBRARY EXPANSION
EXPECTED PROJECT COMPLETION FALL 2024
Enhancements include additional space for community gatherings and shared learning areas





At the Library expansion groundbreaking ceremony, Mayor Tom Ellis, pictured center, acknowledged the major project about to unfold. With golden shovels, the group closest to the project ceremoniously moved the first pieces of earth to commemorate the new beginning.

Library celebrates groundbreaking event

On Aug. 15, the Happy Valley Library celebrated the groundbreaking of a major expansion project in the works. At the ceremony, Mayor Tom Ellis thanked everyone who has helped make this effort possible including staff, volunteers, elected officials, architects, and the contractor. Representative Janelle Bynum also joined the festivities after playing a critical role in securing \$2 million in funding for the project from the State.

Located in the bustling Portland-Metropolitan region, Happy Valley Library is a regional hub for a variety of community programming. A well-loved amenity, the Library makes available information and resources on everything from mental health, diversity, financial wellness, and so much more. It serves over 60,000 people, many of whom are residents in unincorporated Clackamas County.

To meet the growing needs of the area, the Library’s 7,000 square-foot



A rendering of the new space, the library expansion aims to bring additional gathering areas for those who utilize the Library.

expansion will create additional space for the community to gather. Improvements will enable the City to potentially provide a 300-person community room, kitchen, and quiet study rooms, creating a welcoming place for all to use, gather, and

celebrate our unique and shared cultural experiences.

For more information about this exciting project, head to www.happyvalley.gov/library-expansion or scan the corresponding QR code with your smartphone.

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Returning to Happy Valley Middle School

Tricia Halonen discusses the things she loves about her job and how important the community is to her

By EMMA DAVIS
Pamplin Media Group

In the world of education, few roles hold as much significance as that of a principal, serving as a beacon of leadership and inspiration for both students and educators. Enter Tricia Halonen, an accomplished educator from Minnesota whose journey has taken her from various corners of the country, from New York to our beloved state of Oregon. With just a year under her belt as the principal of a local school, Halonen’s impact has already been nothing short of remarkable. With an unwavering understanding of the North Clackamas School District dynamics and a tapestry of teaching experiences, her passion for creating a welcoming environment filled with safe spaces in the school’s community is not just a duty—it’s a heartfelt commitment that fuels her every endeavor.

She got her start after attending St. Mary’s College in Winona, Minnesota, originally wanting to pursue a career in sports medicine. However, after moving to New York and finishing up a program working (kind of in Americorp) after completing her undergrad, she started teaching middle school science; and that is when she fell in love with teaching and never looked back. “quote” Halonen stayed there for six years until moving to Oregon 16 years ago where she got a job teaching science at a charter school in Beaverton for eight years.

During that time, she started being more involved with STEM (Science Technology Engineering, and Math) work. “I was doing some of that work



The Happy Valley Middle School faculty.

helping our schools in the district and actually some of them became STEM schools,” she said. “I was helping train new science teachers and doing a lot of professional development supporting them. That evolved into doing some coaching and writing the next-generation science standards doing STEM coaching and I fell in love with that work.” It was when she was in this part of her career that she decided that being in administration was her next phase.

In 2014, after teaching eighth grade at HVMS, she went to work in a Dean position for student management at Raol Middle School in the district. Following, she got her first assistant principal position at Rock Creek Middle School where she was for four years. In 2022, she moved up to lead administrator at Happy Valley Middle School, where her career in the district first began.

Learning the new job was a challenge but being back at HVMS made it easier. “One thing that I knew walking in the door was Happy Valley, because

I had taught there before, felt almost like I was going back full circle,” she said.

Since beginning, she has found such a love for the job, that there are too many favorites to just pick one. “It sounds silly, but I love lunch duty and recess. I love being outside with them and seeing them in a different space where they are more relaxed with their friends,” she said. “I feel like I get to know them better. I also love being in the hallways with my team, sitting and being around and visible, building relationships with students and the teachers.”

The school community is incredibly important to Halonen, and she works very hard to build a strong one; it is one of her absolute favorite things about what she does. “My priority is to build a strong community and let them know that we’re all in this together,” she said. “We are all very supportive of each other; our students, staff parents, and families. I don’t feel alone in what I do.”

For the middle school age group, she believes that they

deserve to feel part of the community more than anything, which also contributes to their academic success. “The more they feel heard, important, and valued, the more successful they’re going to be,” she said. “Creating spaces where students feel empowered and safe was a big focus last year and we’re going to keep doing that for these kids as well as families.” Halonen’s ambition to provide students with an environment such as that is crucial to her success as a principal as well.

One thing that Halonen loves about being principal at HVMS is how all of the school community comes together: like assemblies and school projects. “Our leadership class put together an organized day of service where our entire school did service projects for our community and that was amazing,” she said. “I was completely in awe of everyone. The teachers, community members, and students just take the whole day to do projects for other people.”

As the leader of Happy Valley Middle, her goal is to prepare all



She’s home!: Principal Tricia Halonen proudly smiles in front of a HVMS sign.

of the students for high school as best as she and her staff can, hoping that they leave feeling strong, inspired, and confident for the future. “I want them to feel like they can take on the world and be proud that they went through Happy Valley [Middle School],” she said. “I want them to reflect on their time knowing that they were the best they can be from learning how to be kind, selfless, and empowered human beings.”

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