



# HW Happy Valley NEWS

February 2026

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## STUDENTS!

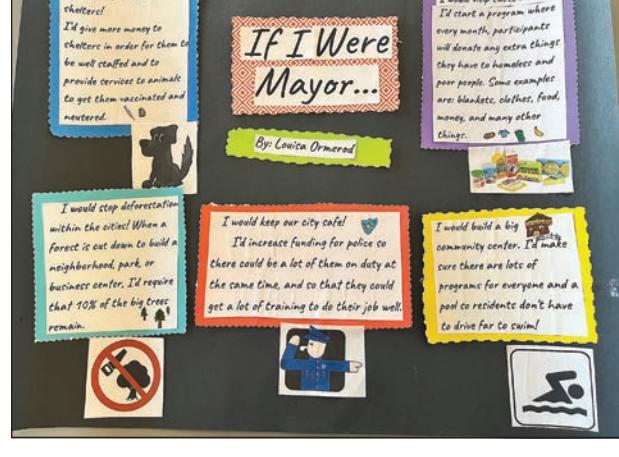
**What would you do  
if you were the mayor?**

*Annual contest for area  
4th-12th graders returns with \$100 prize*

*City of Happy Valley*

**D**o you know a student with big ideas, a compassionate heart, and an interest in making the community a better place? The City of Happy Valley is once again participating in the 'If I Were Mayor' contest, hosted by the Oregon Mayors Association.

See CONTEST / A2



2025 contest finalist Louisa Ormerod's poster.



2025 contest finalist Renzo Deroche's poster.

**Share your thoughts on the  
Community Center bond measure!**

*City of Happy Valley*

In 2025, the city council referred Measure 3-626, which would fund the construction of a community center, to the ballot, and the election was held in November.

The bond measure did not pass, and now the city council would like to hear directly from residents to understand why.

The survey, available on the City's website from Feb. 2 to Feb. 20, is open to all residents of the City of Happy Valley. Questions will focus on how residents learned about the ballot measure, reasons for voting for or against the measure, and general questions about services provided by the City of Happy Valley.

All residents are encouraged to participate. Community input on the bond measure is important to the city council, and understanding why it failed will help the councilmembers make future



decisions.

Following the community survey, residents will be invited to participate in a listening session with an external facilitator to

expand on any thoughts about the bond measure not covered in the survey. Details, including the date of that listening session, will be shared at a later time.

To participate in the survey and learn more about the listening session, visit [hv.city/community-center](http://hv.city/community-center) or reach out to Ashley Hagg, the City of Happy Valley's communication manager, at [ahagg@happyvalleyor.gov](mailto:ahagg@happyvalleyor.gov).



Ed Welter with his preferred means of transportation.

**The 'been everywhere' man**

*Ed Welter takes his two wheels nearly everywhere*

By JOSIAH PENSADO

For Happy Valley News

**Getting stopped by men with guns in Guadalajara, Mexico, is not everyone's idea of a typical bike ride, and for Happy Valley resident Ed Welter, it isn't either.**

That is, however, the price you have to pay to bike every road in Guadalajara. Cycling 7,000 miles across a city of 8 million people is no easy feat.

Biking on every road in

Portland, as well as 98% of the streets in Happy Valley, is no laughing matter either. Welter is the only user on Wandrer, a website where users can track and explore every nook and cranny in any given city, to have ridden all of Portland by bike.

Welter moved from Northeast Portland to the Bethany neighborhood in Beaverton in the 1990s, but was not familiar with the West side. So he decided to learn the

See BIKE / A2

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# Contest

## ■ From Page A1

The statewide contest is held every year to help educate students in grades 4-12 about the function of a city mayor. Each student is encouraged to propose a project or initiative they would lead if elected mayor of Happy Valley. The contest has three categories based on student grade, with different entry requirements for each:

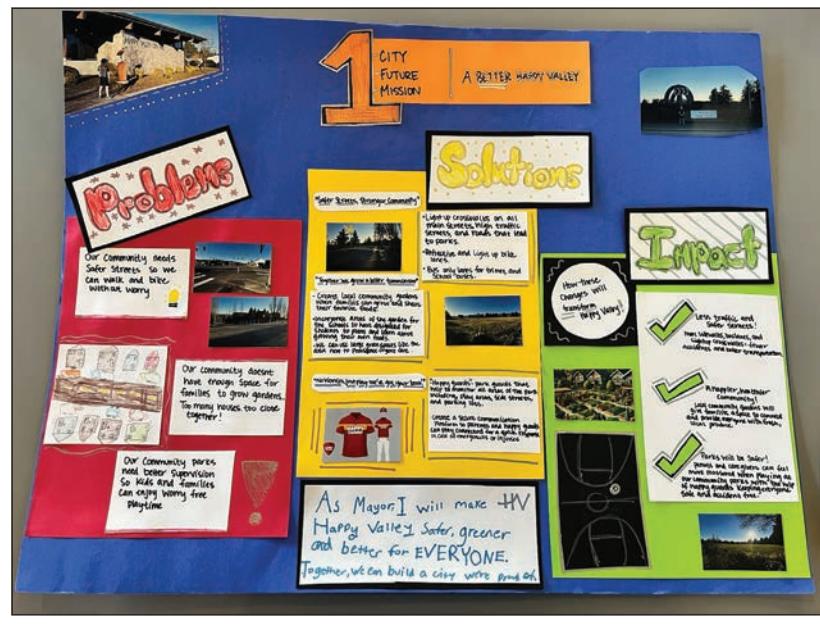
- Elementary School (grades 4-5) – Poster
- Middle School (grades 6-8) – Essay
- High School

(grades 9-12) – Digital Media Presentation

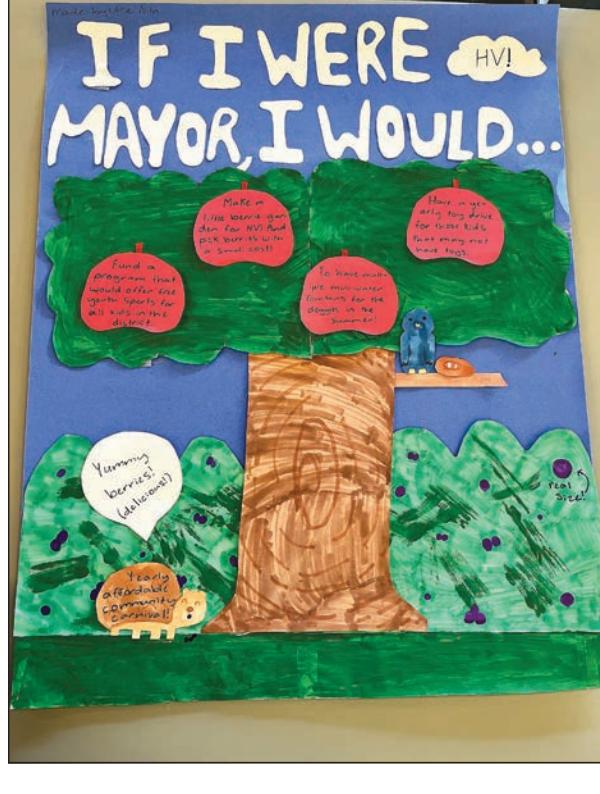
One winner will be selected for each category. Those winners will receive \$100 and be recognized by the Happy Valley City Council. They will also be entered into the statewide contest for a chance to win a \$500 prize.

This contest is open to students from the City of Happy Valley, students enrolled in schools that serve City of Happy Valley residents, and home-schooled students from the City of Happy Valley.

For additional information, including entry requirements, visit: [hv.city/student-contest](http://hv.city/student-contest)



2025 contest winner Jordan Aguilar's poster



2025 contest finalist Allie Nita's poster.



2025 contest finalist Shipian Hong's poster.

# Bike

## ■ From Page A1

neighborhood in the only way he knew how: on two wheels.

"There wasn't any internet or anything, so I took the Thomas maps and made copies of them and made a giant poster of all the roads," Welter says, "and then I started writing the roads down and highlighting them so that I could learn the West Side."

While cycling through Portland, Welter faced being stung by wasps several times while ascending Mt. Scott. He even had to bike through two feet of water to complete a trail that was completely submerged.

"I have tendencies to do big things," Welter says, "It is not easy, riding every road in Portland and Guadalajara is not easy."

According to Welter, Wandler would have a hard time registering some roads on his GPS, meaning he would have to ride across a road sometimes up to eight times to get it to register.

"I found that it was always these sketchy, really crowded freeway-type roads that allowed bikes, but you would never have a bike on that," Welter says, "You know, it's like the Portland airport. Imagine riding your bike all the way up to arrivals or departures, right on those roads."

"I said, 'You know what? I will never go back to those,'" he says.

It took about two years for Welter to complete his bicycle adventures in Portland, and now he aims to bike every other day and lift weights to maintain his health.

"So I bike one day and then I lift weights another day, back and forth. I don't have any grand goals anymore like I used to. I used to want to do all kinds of crazy stuff, but I don't have those grand goals anymore," says Welter.

# 2026 SUMMER CAMP EXPO



**March 7** **FREE!**

**11:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Happy Valley Library**

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# Happy Valley shines with 'Light up the Valley' holiday displays

## City of Happy Valley

This past holiday season, Happy Valley residents came together to brighten the city with festive décor as part of the annual Light Up the Valley celebration. This year, the community enthusiastically joined in by decorating homes, community spaces and sharing photos of their holiday lights for all to enjoy.

Throughout the holiday season, neighborhoods across Happy Valley came alive with glowing lights and festive displays, showcasing creativity, holiday traditions, and plenty of twinkle. From colorful homes and playful decorations to community partners joining in, including local police and fire stations, Light Up the Valley reflected the strong pride and connection shared throughout the city.

As the program continues to grow into a cherished seasonal tradition, it brings residents together to spread joy, celebrate the season, and share in the holiday magic. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make Happy Valley shine bright this year.



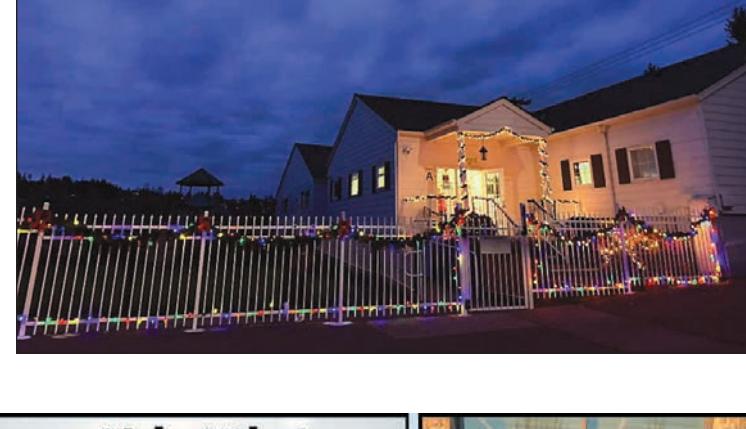
## Light up the Valley

Here are some of the brighter lights in Happy Valley's 2025 Light up the Valley event.

Right column, top to bottom:  
The homes or businesses of Denis Kraus, Eric Hern, De Leon Bautista, Maribel Nelson, and Happy Valley Preschool

Center column, top to bottom:  
The homes or businesses of Dan Houf, Curtis Stoecklin, Scott Christensen, Clackamas Fire Department, and Tracy Arntson.

Above: City of Happy Valley Police



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GLENN WACHTER

Councilor

## COUNCIL CORNER

# Welcome, new committee members!

This year, the City is welcoming 12 new volunteers to serve on one of seven committees that help shape the City.

These dedicated citizens will meet regularly to address current issues and explore ways to make Happy Valley an even better place to live and work.

The seven committees include:

- Planning Commission
- Design Review Board
- Traffic and Public Safety Committee
- Public Art Committee
- Parks Advisory Committee
- Library Board
- Budget Committee

While the current slate is full, the City accepts committee applications on a rolling basis. To apply for one of these appointed advisory positions, complete and submit the Public Involvement Application by visiting: [hv.city/city-committees](http://hv.city/city-committees).



The City of Happy Valley has 12 new volunteers serving on advisory committees.

## City of Happy Valley receives clean bill of health from independent financial auditor

### *City of Happy Valley*

#### **an independent accounting firm, to conduct the audit.**

Recently, representatives from SingerLewak and the City's director of finance, Travis Warneke, appeared before City Council to report that the City received a "clean" opinion on its financial statements.

The City also received two

financial awards from the Government Finance Officers Association, including a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the annual budgets from fiscal year 2023-2024.

The City takes its

responsibility to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely seriously, and the result of this audit demonstrates those efforts.

If you would like to view the City's annual budget, please visit [hv.city/budgets](http://hv.city/budgets). If you have any questions, reach out to Travis Warneke at: [TravisW@happyvalleyor.gov](mailto:TravisW@happyvalleyor.gov).

### **HAPPY VALLEY CITY COUNCIL**

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

### **HAPPY VALLEY BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEMBERS MEETING**

LEARN & GROW From Our February Keynote Speaker:

**Hear from a guest speaker and connect with industry leaders as they share information to help build your business.**

HVBA Business Spotlight:  
**Michelle McCandless**



#### **UPDATES FROM:**



**SAVE THE DATE**



Happy Valley City Hall  
Wed. - Feb. 25, 2026



Time:  
7:30 - 9:00 AM

### **INTRODUCE YOURSELF to our local business community**

#### **FEBRUARY 2026**

#### **AM BUSINESS CONNECTION**

**Fridays 7:30 - 9:00 AM**

Feb 6 - COUNTRY Financial

Feb 13 - Residence Inn Clackamas

Feb 20 - Carver Event Center

Feb 27 - HOST NEEDED

#### **Pickleball After Hours - RECS**

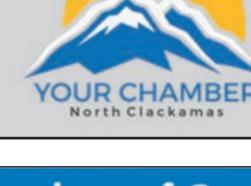
Feb 20, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

#### **Public Policy/Gov't Affairs**

Feb 3, Noon - 12:45PM

#### **Chamber 101**

Feb 4, Noon - 1:45PM



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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

# Local Cub Scouts learn what it means to be an engaged citizen

*Everyone, young and old, should strive to be engaged and informed*

**E**arlier this winter, I was lucky enough to visit with a group of fourth-grade students in Cub Scout Pack #191. These scouts are currently working on their "My Community" adventure, focusing on citizenship, voting, and elections.

I was invited to join their den and share my experience as an elected official. We discussed the differences between plurality and majority voting systems, term limits, and the results of the various elections I won to become a city councilor and mayor.

I also shared information about the upcoming "If I Were Mayor" contest. Every year, the City of Happy Valley hosts a competition for students in 4th-12th grade on behalf of the Oregon Mayors Association. Participants submit either a poster, an essay, or a multimedia presentation, depending on their age, sharing the projects or initiatives they would lead if elected mayor of Happy Valley.

Everyone, young and old, should strive to be engaged and informed citizens, and I appreciated seeing the effort these young people put in to understanding how local elections work.

## REACH OUT

If you're a Cub Scout or Girl Scout leader and would like the mayor to attend your event, reach out to Ashley Hagg at [ahagg@happyvalleyor.gov](mailto:ahagg@happyvalleyor.gov)



ABOVE: Happy Valley Mayor Tom Ellis with fourth-grade students in Cub Scout Pack no. 191.

LEFT: Happy Valley Mayor Tom Ellis talks with Cub Scouts about elections and voting systems.

## HAPPY VALLEY NEWS STAFF



City Writer  
Ashley Hagg  
[ahagg@happyvalleyor.gov](mailto:ahagg@happyvalleyor.gov)

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

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



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## CODE CORNER

# Owl in a day's work

## City of Happy Valley

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

## February 2

■ Parks Advisory Committee, City Hall: 6 p.m.

## February 3

■ City Council Work Session, City Hall: 6 p.m.

■ City Council Meeting, City Hall: 7 p.m.

## February 17

■ City Council Work Session, City Hall: 6 p.m.

■ City Council Meeting, City Hall: 7 p.m.

## February 24

■ Planning Commission, City Hall: 6 p.m.

Scan QR code to sign up for notifications



PONO KAIMULOA

The City of Happy Valley has long been known as the City of No Call Too Small, and a recent call to City Hall proved exactly why that motto matters.

While out for a walk near Southeast Alta Vista Drive, two residents noticed something unusual in the middle of the roadway: an owl sitting in the street and appearing injured. Concerned for the bird's safety and the safety of passing vehicles, the residents did what Happy Valley residents do best. They picked up the phone and called City Hall, asking for help.

The call was routed to one of Happy Valley's Community Service Officers, whose responsibilities already range widely, from neighborhood livability concerns to animal-related calls. As it turns

out, owl rescue can now be added to that list.

Community Service Officer Pono Kaimuloa responded to the scene and found the owl unresponsive but without any obvious signs of trauma.

"Not having dealt with an injured owl before, there wasn't exactly a playbook," said Officer Kaimuloa. "I relied on my training with other animals, approached slowly, and placed one hand near the owl to check for a flight or fight response."

When the owl remained still, Officer Kaimuloa carefully lifted the bird using both hands and placed it into a transport cage. From there, the owl was taken to DoveLewis Animal Hospital in northwest Portland, which partners with the Bird Alliance of Oregon to ensure injured

- HV Code Enforcement
- Officer Helps an injured animal

wildlife receive proper care.

Happy Valley's Community Service Officers handle a wide variety of calls each day, most commonly involving dogs or neighborhood concerns. Encounters with injured wildlife are far less common, but when they happen, our officers are ready to step in, adapt, and help where they can.

The City encourages residents to use caution if they encounter an injured animal:

- Assess from a distance. Some animals may be temporarily stunned and can recover on their own.
- Protect yourself. Use gloves or barriers to avoid direct contact.
- Minimize stress. Keep noise and handling to a minimum.
- Call professionals. Contact the City or a wildlife rehabilitator for guidance.



Thanks to two Happy Valley residents and Happy Valley Code Enforcement, this owl will live to fly another day.

While the City of Happy Valley does not operate an animal shelter and cannot respond to every animal-related situation, our Community Service Officers are always willing to help connect residents with resources and provide assistance when possible.

Thanks to two caring residents and a responsive Community Service Officer, one injured owl received the help it needed. It was just another example of how small calls can make a big difference in Happy Valley.

## CLACKAMAS FIRE

## Winter safety at home: Simple steps to stay safe this season

## Clackamas Fire



As colder weather settles in, Clackamas Fire reminds residents that winter brings an increased risk of home fires and carbon monoxide exposure. Taking a few simple precautions can help keep you and your family safe throughout the season.

## Heating safety

Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months.

■ Keep space heaters at least three feet away from

anything that can burn, including furniture, blankets, and curtains.

■ Only use space heaters with automatic shut-off features and turn them off when leaving the room or going to sleep.

■ Have fireplaces, wood stoves, and chimneys inspected and cleaned regularly.

■ Never use ovens, grills,

or outdoor heaters to heat your home.

## Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

■ Working alarms save lives.

■ Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and in every sleeping area.

■ Install carbon monoxide alarms outside sleeping areas and on each level of your home.

■ Test alarms monthly and replace batteries as needed.

■ If a CO alarm sounds, get everyone outside to fresh air and call 911.

## Cooking safety

Cooking remains the leading cause of home fires year-round.

■ Stay in the kitchen while cooking, especially when using the stove.

■ Keep flammable items, such as towels and paper, away from burners.

■ If a small grease fire starts, turn off the heat and cover the pan — never use water.

## Be prepared

■ Keep a clear path to exits and ensure windows and doors open easily.

■ Create and practice a home escape plan with two exits from every room.

■ Choose a safe outdoor meeting place for your household.

Winter weather can be unpredictable, but preparation makes a difference. By taking these simple steps, residents can reduce fire risks and help keep their homes and families safe all season long.

Clackamas Fire is proud to serve our communities and encourages everyone to make safety a priority this winter.

## FINANCIAL FOCUS®

### New tax laws for 2026 that you should know

The new year brings more than resolutions and fresh starts; it also ushers in several tax changes that could affect your wallet. Whether you're saving for retirement, funding your child's education or supporting your favorite charity, here's a few things you need to know about the tax landscape in 2026.

**More room to save for retirement and healthcare.** There's good news for savers: Contribution limits for retirement accounts are going up. If you're under 50, you can now contribute up to \$7,500 to an IRA, which is up from \$7,000 in 2025. Those 50 and older can contribute an additional \$1,100, for a total of \$8,600.

The limits for 401(k), 403(b) and governmental 457(b) plans are also increasing, with workers younger than 50 able to defer up to \$24,500. Visit [IRS.gov](#) and search "401k limit increases" for an article outlining the details.

Health savings account limits are rising too. In 2026, individual coverage increased to \$4,400 and family coverage to \$8,750. If you are age 55 or older and are not enrolled in Medicare, you can contribute an additional \$1,000 as a catch-up contribution.

The start of the year is an ideal time to review your contributions and consider increasing them, even by small amounts which can add up over time.

**A catch-up rule for high earners.** If you're 50 or older and earned more than \$150,000 last year, there's a new wrinkle in your retirement planning. You can still make catch-up contributions to your workplace retirement plan, but they must now be Roth contributions rather than traditional pre-tax contributions. This includes 401(k), 403(b) and 457(b) plans.

While you won't get an immediate tax break, Roth contributions offer tax-free income in retirement and can provide a tax-free legacy for your heirs.

**Expanded benefits for 529 education plans.** Families using 529 plans to cover K-12 expenses will see the annual federal distribution limit double from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per student. The definition of qualifying expenses has also expanded to include curriculum, books, certain tutoring expenses and testing fees.

This change provides more flexibility for families with overfunded plans and increases options for managing education costs across multiple children or beneficiaries.

**New charitable giving provisions.** The rules around charitable deductions are shifting in two directions. Taxpayers who take the standard deduction can now deduct up to \$1,000 in cash donations (\$2,000 for joint filers) to qualified organizations.

However, those who itemize deductions face a new threshold: only charitable contributions exceeding 0.5% of adjusted gross income are now deductible. Donors may want to consider bunching strategies or using donor-advised funds to maximize their tax benefits.

**Getting help.** Navigating these tax changes can be challenging, but you don't have to go it them alone. A qualified financial advisor and tax professional can help you understand how these and other changes affect your specific situation. Together, you can develop strategies to make the most of new opportunities while minimizing your tax burden.

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## Senior Living

## Ways to Afford Long Term Care for Seniors

As life progresses often a point is reached where you or a loved one many need long term care. As you research the different care types and levels of care required the cost of these services can seem unaffordable.

Finances can affect your choice in finding the right care. Here are a few suggestions on options that may make finding the right care more affordable.

Choose the right community. Location can be a determining factor in finding care. If you live in a densely populated area, you will more likely have more options and price ranges to choose from.

Many communities come with various amenities and services.

Be honest about what is important to you. If having the finest amenities in your community is important then expect to pay for those

amenities. If amenities aren't a priority, you can find excellent care in smaller home-like communities that may be more budget friendly. You could opt for a shared apartment to reduce costs.

Financing care may require you to sell big ticket items such as a home, vehicles, or furniture. Selling assets can be challenging, start small and ease into selling the property.

The last resort may be researching the option of selling a life insurance policy or surrendering it for cash value.

Consult a financial expert before making this type of decision.

Finding the right care can be a challenge but we are here to help! Call River Terrace 503-855-0646 today for more information!



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# Honoring the Philly Cheesesteak here in Happy Valley

*Steakzilla makes cheesesteak sandwiches to feed monstrous appetites*

By JAMES KENNETH PRESLEY  
for Happy Valley News

Steakzilla, a new business neighboring Pete's Coffee at the Happy Valley Town Center, is welcoming guests from across the community to celebrate its soft opening as it prepares for its grand opening in Winter 2026.

Inspired by flavors from the "City of Broth-erly Love" with a few exciting twists, Steakzilla plans to both honor the cheesesteak while also making it its own, adding some crazy combinations like chicken tenders and mozzarella sticks.

**"We want to have a solid menu in the next few months but for now it's about finding what people want and like while still carving out an identity of our own."**

— STEAKZILLA MANAGER ABANOUB GIRGIS

"Right now, Happy Valley is our first location, and we're still going through a soft opening phase while we play around with our menu," said Steakzilla manager Abanoub Girgis. "We have another location in Hillsboro that we hope to open soon."

Girgis, a seasoned pro with many years of experience in the service industry, notes that Happy Valley was an ideal location for Steakzilla to launch its brand, given the area's growing popularity and the need for classic cheesesteak sandwiches that were thought outside the box.

"We try to make tweaks to make our menu items a little different," Girgis said. "We have items like loaded onion rings as well as a goat cheese and jam cheesesteak. Really different flavors that work really well

with each other. We're all about being different and exciting."

For side dishes, Girgis says that Steakzilla is still experimenting with its offerings, noting that, as of now, they offer fries, mozzarella sticks, chicken tenders, and onion rings, with possibilities like wings and other fun, complimentary items and entrees on the horizon.

"We plan to have a solid menu in the next few months, but for now it's about finding what people want and like while still carving out an identity of our own," Girgis said.

Of course, this is what a soft opening represents: allowing word-of-mouth to serve as the primary marketing strategy for a new business, while not overwhelming the restaurant and allowing time to learn and strategize on topics such as the menu, operations, and identity.

"We were extremely busy when we first opened," notes Girgis. "Right now we're a little more steady but not as busy as we first were. It's been a good learning curve and I think people are really liking our food."

Girgis noted that Happy Valley's market will help determine the menu for their Hillsboro location, which will feature a bar. However, while that location is still in the permitting stage, Happy Valley has already ramped up support for these cheesesteaks.

"We know that there are a couple of high schools in the area, and we wanted to keep things affordable for the kids," Girgis said. "A lot of our menu sort of caters to them, and we



LOW: Steakzilla is located in Happy Valley Town Center. (COURTESY: STEAKZILLA)

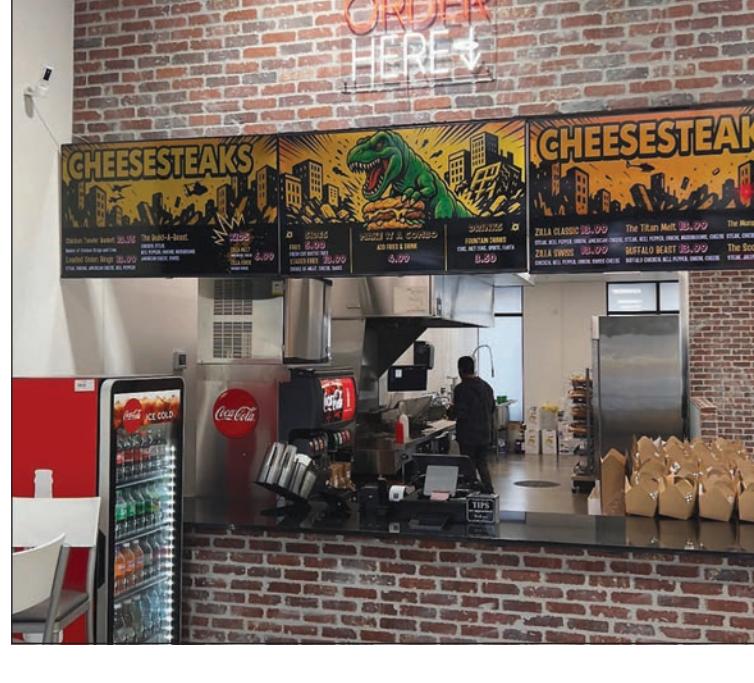
BELOW: There are a variety of cheesesteak options for patrons of Steakzilla. (COURTESY: STEAKZILLA)

wanted to help support that notion by not outpricing those with big appetites."

Of course, when it comes to pleasing everyone, Girgis said you can't beat the classic Philly cheesesteak, prepared on a soft roll, filled with steak, grilled onions and peppers, and smothered in your choice of cheese, including the Philly classic cheese sauce, American cheese, or Swiss.

"A lot of people who have been checking us out have also been enjoying the 'buffalo beast', which is our sandwich made with our buffalo chicken," says Girgis. "It's amazing."

Steakzilla is currently open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.



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# Raising awareness while having fun on the slopes

**Oregon Cancer Ski Out raises funds for several non-profit organizations**

By JAMES KENNETH PRESLEY  
for Happy Valley News

**Skiers and snowboarders alike will be hitting the slopes next month as part of a fundraising event that provides a competitive yet fun atmosphere.**

The 37th annual Oregon Cancer Ski Out takes place March 8-9, at Mt. Hood Meadows. The event, which stemmed from founder Larry (Chad) Chadwick's determination to conquer grief and raise awareness regarding those affected by cancer, seeks to help others positively channel their frustration and generate both funds and awareness for cancer research, hospice care, and overall prevention programs.

"I've always been passionate about involvement, and this community atmosphere as well as the outdoor industry, is a big reason I got involved over 30 years ago," said Ed Ariniello, president of the Oregon Cancer Ski Out.

The event started with 12 teams of five, and its largest year was 32 teams of five, showing just how significant and valuable many mountain goers view this event.

"Based on our location at Mt. Hood Meadows, 26 to 28 teams of five a year was kind of our sweet spot right up until the 2020 pandemic," says Ariniello. "We ran about eight teams during the pandemic, and should be at around 22 teams this year."

Participants will ski or snowboard two runs on each of two adjacent courses. Each of the two courses will be skied by a pacesetter before racing begins for the day. The pacesetter establishes the course time on each course.

The difference between your time and the pacesetter's time is your handicap.

The handicaps of the five members of each team will be added together for each run, then the sums of each run will be added together to establish your total team handicap for the day.

So, who wins? The team whose handicap comes closest to their two-run total team handicap.

"It all seems a bit complicated, but it really is an easy format once you do it for the first time," says Ariniello.

Although it started as a skiing event, it now incorporates snowboarding and other fund-raising activities.

"My team from G.I. Joe's was made up of mostly skiers, but a few of us snowboarded," says Ariniello. "The addition of snowboarding happened pretty quickly in the event's history, as many of the skiers were beginning to age out. Now it's a strong mix and match of the two sports."

However, the event goes beyond skiing or snowboarding, as there's a two-day silent auction that runs alongside all the activities.

"Our big banquet is on Sunday evening, easy for people who want to just drive up for the day," says Ariniello. "Some of the prizes involve getaways, vacations, art, and ski and snowboard supplies. That part of the event is our biggest fundraiser. Monday night,



**"What's raised here stays here."**

— ED ARINIELLO

when the races are over, is our awards ceremony."

Ariniello also underscored that the entry fee for teams covers all expenses, so every dollar raised goes to one of the beneficiaries, such as the Knight Cancer Institute, Candlelighters for Children with Cancer, Pink Sistas, Breast Friends, Providence Hospice, Camp Erin, and others.

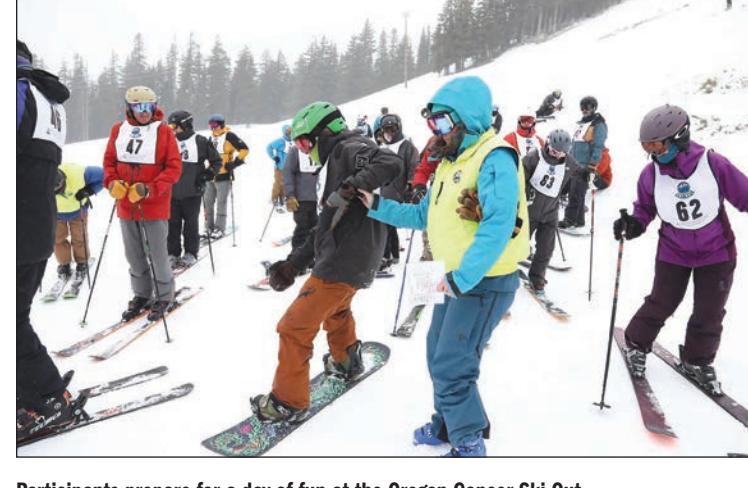
"What's raised here stays here," says Ariniello. "The money raised here goes back into their community and could touch somebody they know tomorrow. It's in our backyard."

This year, the Oregon Cancer Ski out has a variety of sponsors that are helping support the event, including Chalice Farms, Jubitz, Food Services of America, the Rotary Club of both Milwaukie and Kruse Way, Yakima, Olson Bros., Best Western Plus, Primal Screen Printing, Equity Advantage, Columbia Rubber Mills, Nokian Tyres, and host Mt. Hood Meadows.

To learn more about this incredible and storied annual



Team costumes are encouraged, but not required to participate.



Participants prepare for a day of fun at the Oregon Cancer Ski Out.

event, feel free to visit [CancerSkitout.org](http://CancerSkitout.org) to register a team

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# A truly special team

By JONATHAN DYER  
For the Happy Valley News

There are a lot of lessons about growing up woven into the fabric of team sports.

From the dynamics of working with teammates to handling the stress of competition, the Unified Basketball team at Nelson High School teaches students with disabilities lessons in teamwork, resilience, and more.

"It is so different than competitive sports. Most people in the stands are wiping their eyes they are so touched by what is going on," explained Kristin Jones, Nelson High School Special Education Instructional Assistant and head coach of the team.

This is the second year for the team, which consists of students with disabilities and a few "partners" who act as on-court assistant coaches and mentors. Coach Jones came from Milwaukie and Putnam High Schools, where she was "everything, team mom, cheer leader, whatever they needed" for their unified teams. When she got to Nelson last year, "I decided I wanted to put something together," Jones said.

Last year was Nelson's first year in the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program

"We just trudged through. I kind of knew what it was supposed to look like, but our athletic director, Dana Capelucci, was just so great at figuring out from other schools what we could do, and if there was anything we needed. She was great," Jones said.

This year, with the help of two assistant coaches, Jones'



The Nelson Unified Basketball team consists of students with disabilities and on court mentors, and competes with other teams in the region for fun and growth. As a member of the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® program, they create an inclusive community for students with disabilities to enhance their high school experience.

son, Harley Quarton, and his friend, Tanner Stephens, Coach Jones has high hopes for the squad's success. But success looks a little different than normal sports.

"To be out there with kids who are just cheering each other on they don't care who wins or loses, it's really a different feeling to be out there," said Jones. "We have our players handing the ball to the other team so they can shoot a basket, and they do that for us."

The Special Olympics Unified Champion School program is a national movement built on the idea of inclusion. From their website ([specialolympics.org/what-we-do/youth-and-schools/unified-champion-schools](http://specialolympics.org/what-we-do/youth-and-schools/unified-champion-schools))

their intention is to promote "social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities affecting systems-wide change."

The Nelson team embodies this on and off the court.

"These kids struggle on a daily basis because of a physical, mental, or learning disability that make them feel different. They know they are a little bit different, and to make them feel part of the school is just something that is very rewarding to see, and you can see it in their faces," Jones said.

Senior Dustin Guerrero, a player on the team, described the feeling. "I feel confident about playing with my friends. I also like dropping threes."

The inclusiveness extends

beyond the court, however. "It has been remarkable how the student body has embraced the team. They make signs, the mascot has come, even the cheerleaders show up," beamed Jones. "I think it has been really good for the school culture, too."

Coach Jones, too, takes it very personally. "It is really rewarding to see the kids so happy and just so grateful. They talk about winning state. They are on such a different high."

"To see them so excited and so fulfilled is just amazing. I don't even know the word for it," Jones said. "These are just kids. They can do it. They just want to be a part of everybody else's experience too."

On Jan. 24, the team

competed in its first-ever basketball tournament in Forest Grove. From there, they will start practicing once a week, with at least one game a week, until mid-March. Coach Jones would love to see the community come out and support them.

What can they expect from a Unified Basketball game? "They will get a lot of good feels. Seeing a different side of sports and competition, a different way of looking at sports. They will be able to watch kids that just try so hard. They truly give 100%," described Jones.

The players have big expectations, too. Big dreams. Freshman Lata Worku knows what he wants. "My favorite thing is dribbling. I play like Steph Curry, and I dunk the ball."

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# Making wishes come true

By JONATHAN DYER  
For the Happy Valley News

Service before self is a foundational value of a strong community.

Two students at Adrienne C. Nelson High School don't just speak these words. Brook Brown and Kibri Zekarias, juniors at Nelson High School, founders and co-presidents of the Make-a-Wish Club, are learning to put those words into action.

Founded in the winter of 2025, the club focuses on fundraising and raising awareness and is affiliated with Make-A-Wish Oregon.

"We started this as a way to give back and make our time at Adrienne C. Nelson more productive, but over time, we have grown more emotionally attached to the club. In our creation of this club I hope to continue spreading awareness and raising money for wish kids," Zekarias said.

To date, they have raised more than \$3,000 for Make-A-Wish Oregon.

"Right now, in Oregon and Southwest Washington, more than 290 children with critical illnesses are waiting for a life-changing wish. These aren't last wishes, they're lasting ones," said Kaitlyn Bolduc, VP of Marketing and Communications at Make-A-Wish Oregon.

"We know that hope is a powerful medicine. We rely solely on community support to move this mission forward, and it's especially meaningful when that support comes from student changemakers."

There is much more to this club, however, than just the



LEFT: During a fundraising event last April for the Make-A-Wish Club of Adrienne C. Nelson High School, wish recipient Roslyn threw out the first pitch at a baseball game. The Make-A-Wish Club was founded by juniors Brook Brown and Kibri Zekarias, and to date has raised over \$3000 for Make-A-Wish Oregon. Pictured are catcher Cal Gradwahl, principal and club advisor Greg Harris, Roslyn, Kibri Zekarias, and Brook Brown.

BELOW: Wish recipient Roslyn receives the baseball from catcher Cal Gradwahl at a baseball game last April during an event for the Make-A-Wish Club of Adrienne C. Nelson High School. The club, founded by juniors Kibri Zekarias and Brook Brown, is dedicated to fundraising and raising awareness and to date has raised over \$3000 for Make-A-Wish Oregon.



money and information. The club itself represents the "idea of 'beyond self,'" explained Greg Harris, principal of the high school and club advisor. "It's the idea that, I'm a kid, but there is something that I have that can make somebody else's life better."

From Dining Out at a local restaurant to informational promotions, the club is incredibly active. Meeting every other week, they fill the room with students eager to give back.

"A moment that my co-president and I will never forget was our first official meeting. We were so worried no one would show up or that people didn't care. We were shocked to see the room fill up with people there to support and work with

us to create events and spread our club around the school," Zekarias said. "That first meeting started it all and gave us the confidence to continue. We wouldn't be much without our members. We are forever appreciative of every single one of them."

The impact is already being felt. Last April, as a fundraiser, the club filled the stands during a baseball game with students and brought out a young wish recipient to throw the first pitch. "They made a big deal, had photo ops, and it was a huge success," said Harris.

"A spark to make a difference was clearly ignited last year," Bolduc said, "and their energy and excitement carried through every part of their fundraising

efforts. We're grateful for every dollar they raised and excited to see how they continue to lead with generosity."

Changemakers, hope givers, leaders. This club is not just for the students, not just for college applications, not just for education enrichment. They are giving back.

"This club is a group of kids who are actually making a difference in the community," said Harris.

Looking ahead, there isn't anything immediately on the calendar, but as April is World

Wish Month, the promotion month for the larger parent organization, several events will be scheduled. Anybody interested in attending an event or learning more about this club can check out their Instagram @anhsmakeawishclub.

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# Empowering storytellers of all kinds

**Nelson High School's Literary Arts Club embraces the art of storytelling**

by JAMES KENNETH PRESLEY  
for Happy Valley News

Whether it's the stories we fell asleep to as our parents read to us, the core memories we share as adults over evening dinner, or even the personal anecdotes of the world we write down and share amongst classmates during our years as students, storytelling plays an important role in not only empowering one's imagination but also in building our communication skills.

Creating an environment that not only plants this seed but nurtures it and allows it to grow is vital for the next generation of storytellers, which is why we have to tip our cap to Nelson educator and head of the Literary Arts Club, Allison Alston, whose background in literature and experience in writing has opened many doors for students who wish to seek out the inner storyteller within themselves.

"I am the teacher-librarian at Nelson High School," said Alston, who's been in her role since the school first opened in 2021. "I stumbled into the English literature world in college and sort of stumbled into it in teaching as well. It was originally a way to get back into the community back in my home in Virginia."

Nelson High School's relationship with Portland Literary Arts helped in the early days of the Literary Arts Club.

"When the school opened, our principal was very

**"I'm a writer myself, so giving these kids a safe space to write feels like such a gift, especially with the connection we've made to the outside literary world."**

— ALLISON ALSTON, TEACHER/LIBRARIAN AND HEAD OF THE LITERARY ARTS CLUB AT NELSON HIGH SCHOOL



intentional about connecting various staff members with different organizations, " says Alston. "Portland Literary Arts was one of those organizations and, with the help of their youth liaison, we have been able to partner for a variety of events, including building a poetry club that would help bring back the Eastside Poetry Slam."

Luckily for Alston, three students answered the call and joined the club when it first launched, with the intention of learning and developing their own skills in poetry.

Today, having evolved beyond poetry into a wide variety of storytelling, the Literary Arts Club sees an estimated 15-20 students per weekly session.

"We want these kids to explore themselves through writing while also talking and sharing about what they're excited about in the world of literature," says Alston. "We also do quite a few field trips throughout the year. A large part of what we do is participate in events held by Portland Literary Arts, including the 'Students to the Schnitz' program. It's an arts and lecture series with different authors



The founding members of the Literary Arts Club with their poetry coach after Student Nick Ritter Took 4th place at Verselandia! From left to right : Coach Julia Gaskill, Lucy Dobson, Nick Ritter, and Kaycee Higginson.



Nelson's Literary Arts Club members showcasing the club's honorary shrimp mascot, crocheted by club co-leader Emma Massey.

that also provides free pieces of literature."

Perhaps the most encouraging part of this club? There's no hidden agenda for students, such as extra credit or other secret motives.

"Most of them join because they want connection and writing is such a vulnerable activity," says Alston.

"Although there are some students who love the poetry slam season and we do get coaches who come in to help us before competitions."

Outside of these amazing events, there are organized activities during the club's weekly meetings, such as when the club leaders select a prompt, and everybody

participates in expressing their own interpretations.

"The prompts vary from being silly to helping students deep dive into their own internal world," says Alston. "One funny prompt we've done in the past was a prompt called 'Shrimp'. One of the students came up with it after thinking about shrimp cocktails all day."

Alston noted that while formating can be important in writing, it's not the primary focus of this club. From screenplay writing to longform writing, it's about the content and the story, not the mechanics of them.

"The only real exception to that would be for our poetry during slam season," says Alston.

Lastly, we talked about the students themselves and what makes Alston feel so strongly about this club's outcomes.

"I'm a writer myself, so giving these kids a safe space to write feels like such a gift, especially with the connection we've made to the outside literary world," says Alston. "Watching these really human moments between the students gives me so much faith in the world. We have actually sent a student every year to Verselandia and one of our poets took fourth place overall, an impressive feat for a club that's not even five years old."

To get involved with Nelson's Literary Arts Club as a community member, Alston notes how they're always looking for judges for the Eastside Poetry Slam, which takes place in the early Spring.

To get involved, email Alston at: alston@nclack.k12.or.us

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The Happy Valley Parks & Recreation Foundation is a local nonprofit dedicated to supporting parks, programs, and recreational experiences throughout the community. A key part of their work includes collaborating on events and providing volunteers for popular offerings, such as Drive-In

Movie nights and the annual Car Show, during Parks & Recreation's Summer Concert Series. Their volunteers play an essential role in helping these events run smoothly while strengthening connections with community members.

The Foundation also helps remove financial barriers through its scholarship program, which assists families who need support to participate in Parks & Recreation classes, camps, and activities. These scholarships help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of recreation, regardless of financial circumstances.

This year, the Foundation is focusing on fundraising to continue supporting scholarships and community programs. Residents can support these efforts by visiting us at Dumpster Day on June 13, where the Foundation will be collecting donations and sharing more about their work. Together, the Parks & Recreation Department and the Happy Valley



Members of the Happy Valley Parks & Recreation Department and the HVPR Foundation met at City Hall recently.

Parks & Recreation Foundation remain committed to

creating welcoming spaces, expanding access, and building a stronger, more connected community.

## Supporting PGE customers through the Income-Qualified Bill Discount program

### Portland General Electric

**Portland General believes that access to safe, reliable energy should never be out of reach.**

To help ease the financial burden for customers who need it most, the utility created the Income-Qualified Bill Discount (IQBD)

program. Since launching in 2022, IQBD has grown into one of PGE's most impactful customer support initiatives, offering meaningful monthly discounts to income-qualified households across its service area.

The program is designed to support customers whose household income falls below a

certain threshold, based on family size. As of this summer 2025, eligible customers can receive up to 80% off their monthly electric bills. This expanded discount — approved by the Oregon Public Utility Commission — reflects

PGE's ongoing commitment to affordability and equity.

The IQBD is just one way that PGE works closely with customers who may need support paying their bills. PGE can also help by setting up a payment

plan, extending payment due dates, or connecting customers with community resources, such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP), or the Oregon Energy Fund.

Customers can apply for the IQBD program and learn about other

resources online or by phone. PGE offers support in 200+ languages to ensure that language is never a barrier to participation. Customer service advisors are available to assist at 503-228-6322, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or visit: portlandgeneral.com/secure/iqbd/form



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Happy Valley, OR 97015  
[www.confluencelawcenter.com](http://www.confluencelawcenter.com)

## SHARE YOUR STORY: THE HEART OF HAPPY VALLEY NEEDS YOU!

Do you have a story to tell? The pulse of our community beats through the voices of its residents, and the Happy Valley News wants to hear yours.



Help us capture the vibrant spirit of our community. We are looking for local stories on:

- Upcoming events • Local heroes
- Unique businesses that give back • Happy Valley resident achievements
- Student excellence • Amazing kids

Your insights are what make our newspaper a true reflection of Happy Valley. Send us an email with "Story Idea" in the subject line. Please include the relevant information on your idea for a story that's within the city limits of Happy Valley to [ahagg@happyvalleyor.gov](mailto:ahagg@happyvalleyor.gov)

**Happy Valley NEWS**  
A city, community, a lifestyle — a place we proudly call home | Visit the city at [happyvalleyor.gov](http://happyvalleyor.gov)



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**Think  
that's  
scary?**

Sharks can be terrifying.

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deadly, is distracted driving.



**Eyes forward.  
Don't drive distracted.**

 **NHTSA**

 **ad  
COUNCIL**

# Clear Storm Drains to Protect Your Property and Our Water

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

Follow these tips:

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

Clackamas Water Environment Services produces clean water, protects water quality and recovers renewable resources. We do this by providing wastewater services, stormwater management, and environmental education. It's our job to protect public health and support the vitality of our communities, natural environment, and economy.

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



**CLACKAMAS  
WATER  
ENVIRONMENT  
SERVICES**



## FEBRUARY 2026 HAPPY VALLEY PARKS AND RECREATION

To register for any of these featured programs, check out [hv.city/parks](http://hv.city/parks), or scan the QR code.



### EXCURSIONS

#### Field Trip Fridays

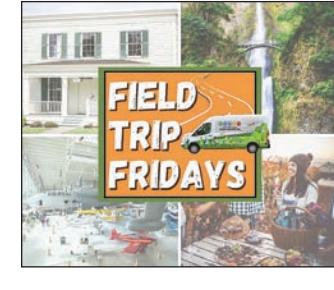
- Field trips depart from Happy Valley City Hall.

#### A Broadway Night Out: The Wiz

- Feb. 6, 5 p.m.-10:30 p.m.
- Friday
- Ages 18+
- \$50- Resident / \$75- Non-Resident

#### Japanese Garden & World Forestry Center

- Mar. 20, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Friday
- Ages 18+
- \$35- Resident / \$52.50- Non-Resident



#### ADVENTURES WITHOUT LIMITS

##### Mt Hood Forest Snowshoe

- Mar. 15, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Sunday
- Ages 6+ (youth under 18 must be accompanied by adult)
- \$95 / \$10 additional charge for AWL transportation

#### GUIDED SNOWSHOE TOUR

##### Trillium Lake Snowshoe Tour

- Feb. 13, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Friday
- Ages 18+
- \$65

### SPORTS

#### Soccer Shots

- All classes are held at Valley View Church Gymnasium



#### Soccer-Mini

- Saturday, Jan. 3 - Feb. 21
- 4:45 p.m.-5:15 p.m.
- Ages 2-3, \$172

#### Soccer-Classic

- Saturday, Jan. 3 - Feb. 21
- 3:55 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Ages 3-4, \$180
- Saturday, Jan. 3 - Feb. 21
- 3:00 p.m.-3:40 p.m.
- Ages 4-5, \$180

#### Soccer-Premier

- Saturday, Jan. 3 - Feb. 21
- 2:00 p.m.-2:45 p.m.
- Ages 5-6, \$188



## Kidokinetics

Movement for fun. Skills for life.

### KIDOKINETICS

#### President's Day Hoops, Scoops and Shots

- Monday, Feb. 16
- 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Ages 5-10
- \$50
- All winter classes are held at Happy Valley Elementary School



### HEALTH & WELLNESS

#### Parks & Recreation

##### First Aid/CPR/AED Training

- Classes are held at Happy Valley City Hall
- Friday, Mar. 6,
- 9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
- Ages 15+
- Resident \$70 /
- Non-Resident \$105



##### Babysitter Training Course

- Classes are held at Happy Valley City Hall
- Monday, Feb. 23rd,
- 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Ages 10 - 16
- Resident \$50 /
- Non-Resident \$75



##### Chair Yoga (8-Class Series)

- Classes will be held at Happy Valley Library
- Jan. 8 - Feb. 26
- 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- Thursday
- Ages 18+
- \$40



#### Providence's Basecamp Prevention + Wellness

- Classes are held virtually.

#### PROVIDENCE Heart Institute

- Location: Providence's Basecamp Prevention + Wellness

#### Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance (Beginners)

- Tuesday/Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
- Tuesdays/Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

#### Chair Yoga

- Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

#### Gentle Yoga

- Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

#### HealthyU Nutrition

- Location: New Seasons Market

#### Grocery Store Tour: Shop Smart, Eat Well

- Tuesday, Mar. 10,
- 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- All Ages
- FREE
- Registration required



#### Astronomy: Planets, Stars, and Galaxies

- Location: Happy Valley Parks and Recreation Annex
- Feb. 2 - Mar. 23, 7 p.m.-8 p.m.
- Monday
- Ages 18+
- \$100

#### CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY PARKS & RECREATION

#### Journey to STEAM

- Classes will be held at Happy Valley Library

#### LEGO Mechanical Engineers

- Jan. 20 - Mar. 10, 4:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.
- Tuesdays / Ages 6 - 10
- \$275
- VIP Full-Year STEAM Enrollment: \$235



### CLASS LOCATIONS

#### Happy Valley Park

13770 SE Ridgecrest Rd  
Happy Valley, OR

#### Happy Valley Parks and Recreation Annex

12915 SE King Rd.  
Happy Valley, OR

#### Happy Valley Library

13793 SE Sieben Park Way  
Happy Valley, OR

#### Happy Valley City Hall

16000 SE Misty Dr.  
Happy Valley, OR

#### Sunnyside Grange

13130 SE Sunnyside Rd.  
Happy Valley, OR

#### Pleasant Valley Villages Park

12254 SE Falling Rain Wy,  
Happy Valley, OR

#### Venvino Art Studios

13329 SE Misty Drive.  
Happy Valley, OR

#### Spring Mountain Elementary School

11645 SE Masa Ln,  
Happy Valley, OR 97086

#### Happy Valley Elementary School

13865 SE King Rd A,  
Happy Valley, OR 97086

#### Valley View Church Gymnasium

11501 SE Sunnyside Rd.,  
Clackamas OR

#### Rock Haven Climbing Gym

355 NE 223rd Ave.,  
Gresham OR

#### New Seasons Market

15861 SE Happy Valley Town Center Dr.



## HAPPY VALLEY LIBRARY

13793 S.E. SIEBEN PARK WAY, HAPPY VALLEY, OR 97015 | 503-783-3456 | [WWW.HAPPYVALLEYOR.GOV/LIBRARY](http://WWW.HAPPYVALLEYOR.GOV/LIBRARY)



## FEBRUARY 2026 LIBRARY EVENTS

Please note the library will be closed Monday, February 16. Bookdrops will be open. Visit [go.lincc.org/hvupdates](http://go.lincc.org/hvupdates) for any additional impacts.

# Celebrate Lunar New Year

While we have just finished celebrating the solar new year (all about the sun's rotations!), the Lunar New Year follows the cycles of the moon. Lunar cycles don't follow a calendar pattern, so the exact date of the Lunar New Year can fall anywhere between mid-January to mid-February. The Lunar New Year is an important holiday (actually holidays – since it encompasses 15 days of celebrating) in many cultures.

Celebrate with your library at our featured programs!

### Library Lounge: Lunar New Year

- Saturday, Feb. 7, 1:00-2:30 pm
- Community Room A & B

For all ages. Celebrate the Year of the Horse with crafts, games, and a scavenger hunt!

### Lunar New Year Celebration

- Saturday, Feb. 21, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Community Room A & B

For all ages. We're welcoming in the Year of the Horse with performances of Korean dance, Vietnamese dances and songs, and a lion dance!



Along with programs, the popular Wishing Tree returns to capture hopes for the Year of the Horse.



Local high school senior Jaynell Lee balances school, her library internship, and her musical talents.

## Intern Spotlight: JAYNELL LEE

Life is already busy as a senior, but for Happy Valley Library intern Jaynell Lee it's all part of the plan. A senior at Adrienne C. Nelson High School, Jaynell balances her job along with school work and performing with the Metropolitan Youth Symphony.

She began by volunteering at the Library and loved helping out with crafts during the annual Lunar New Year Celebration. That enthusiasm carried over to her role as Event Coordinator for the Portland Chinese School. As an Event Coordinator, Jaynell connected with students and introduced them to Chinese culture through events like speech contests and celebrations. This experience encouraged her to apply as an intern for the school year at the Library.

"Jaynell has been such a welcome addition to our Library crew," noted Program Coordinator Anna Bruce. "She has fantastic ideas, a fun outlook, and a collaborative spirit." At the upcoming Library Lounge celebrating the Lunar New Year, Jaynell took the lead in planning the crafts and

activities.

In her internship, she continues assisting at events, often seen helping Kenny Chen at his craft time sessions and supporting Librarian Lisa Taylor with the Manga and Anime Club. Recently, during the Library's Winter Solstice craft and walk, she invited some of her classmates from the Nelson Chamber Orchestra to play as a quintet.

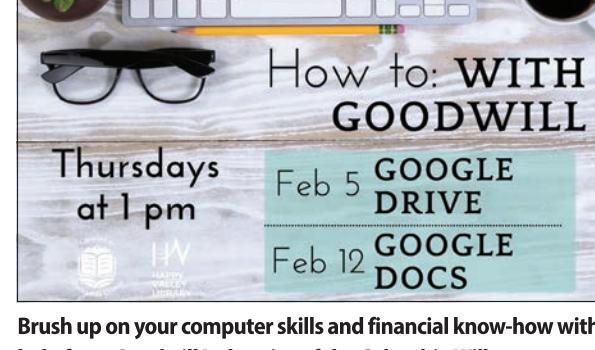
"The internship has opened my mind to communicate with a greater diversity of people beyond my age," shared Jaynell, "and the respect and kindness from my supervisors and librarians have given me confidence to lead in many events." Jaynell hopes to take her talents to college this fall, pursuing a degree in Actuarial Science. In the meantime, the Library will continue to benefit from her thoughtful and creative insight.

**ASIDE:** Know a high school junior or senior who might make a great Library intern? Look for the job announcement for the Summer Internship posting in early April.

## Goodwill Computer Classes at the Library

Thanks to a partnership with Goodwill Industries of the Columbia Willamette, the Happy Valley Library is offering computer and finance classes for free, Thursdays at 1 pm. From Google docs to budgeting, each weekly class is designed to help build skills and confidence. No registration is necessary. Computers are provided when needed for the class. This month drop in for the following:

- Google Drive:** February 5 at 1 pm
- Google Docs:** February 12 at 1 pm
- Financial Literacy Basics:** February 19 at 1 pm
- Personal Budgeting:** February 26 at 1 pm



Brush up on your computer skills and financial know-how with help from Goodwill Industries of the Columbia Willamette.

## Black History Booklists

In honor of Black History Month, we're highlighting recent notable books by Black and African American authors that reflect upon and celebrate Black culture, heritage, and history. We've also gathered titles on the 2026 theme "A Century of Black History Commemorations," marking 100 years of national observances dedicated to honoring the lives, struggles, and achievements of African Americans. Find booklists for all ages at [go.lincc.org/hvblackstories](http://go.lincc.org/hvblackstories)



Find booklists for all ages that celebrate the rich history and African Americans.

## PROGRAMS

### All Ages Programs

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

#### Chess Meet Up

Saturday, Feb. 7 & Mar. 7, 10:15-11:45 am

Meeting Room

Calling chess enthusiasts of all ages and levels, it's a morning of chess playing fun at this friendly meet up! Some boards available.

#### Let's Build

Monday, Feb. 23, 1:00-2:30 pm

Community Room A

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

#### Adult Programs

RSVP for programs at [go.lincc.org/hvRSVP](http://go.lincc.org/hvRSVP)



#### English Classes

Community Room B

Intermediate: Mondays, 10:15 am

Advanced: Mondays, 1:00 pm

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

#### Mah Jongg

Fridays, 12:30-3:30 pm

Community Room A

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

#### York of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 6:00 pm

Community Room B

York was an enslaved man who took part in the Lewis and Clark Expedition from 1803-1806. But what is known about York besides



#### Opera Preview: Fellow Travelers

Thursday, Feb. 26, 6:00-7:00 pm

Community Rooms A & B

The Portland Opera brings a preview of the upcoming production Fellow Travelers to the Library. A powerful and deeply moving historic snapshot, Fellow Travelers is set amidst the Lavender Scare of midcentury McCarthyism, when persecution of LGBTQ+ people within the Federal government was rampant. This modern lyric opera is about the bravery it takes to be one's authentic self, even when society demands secrecy and silence. RSVP available.

his participation in this journey? Oregon Black Pioneers will present a detailed biography of York, which reveals his experiences during the Expedition, his life before and after, and his place within national African American history. RSVP available.

#### Puzzle Exchange

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2:00-4:00 pm

Community Room A & B

Do you love jigsaw puzzles? Come to our puzzle exchange to get some new-to-you puzzles! Bring and take as many puzzles as you like. You'll find a wide variety of puzzles on the tables -- all sizes, piece counts, shapes, styles, and degrees of difficulty. No puzzles with missing pieces please!

#### Crochet Club

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 6:00-7:00 pm

Community Room A

All levels are invited to bring your crochet project for a social sit and stitch! This friendly group offers an opportunity to share ideas, get help with tricky projects, and hang out with other crochet fans. You

bring your supplies and the Library will provide hot water, tea, and a cozy atmosphere. RSVP available.

#### Happy Valley Book Group

Thursday, Mar. 5, 6:00-7:30 pm

Community Room B

Read *Crow Talk* by Eileen Garvin and discuss it with other readers. Did you like it or not? Did something surprise you or make you think twice? Come share your thoughts!



#### Youth Programs

##### Storytimes

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

##### Giờ Sinh hoạt Gia đình / Family Time

Sunday, Feb. 1 and Mar. 1, 2:30-3:30 pm

Community Room A

Giờ gia đình vui chơi tại thư viện! Hãy đến cùng vui chơi, ca hát, đọc sách và làm thủ công với các gia đình khác.

It's family time at the library! Come and enjoy songs, games, reading and crafting with other families.

##### Stretch, Dance, Play

Thursday, Feb. 5, 10:15-11:00 am

Community Room A

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

##### Library Lounge: Lunar New Year

Saturday, Feb. 7, 1:00-2:30 pm

Community Rooms A & B

Celebrate the Year of the Horse with crafts, games, and a scavenger hunt!

##### Homeschool Club: Meet Up!

Thursday, Feb. 12, 10:15-11:30 am

Community Room A

Hey homeschool families! Bring the whole family for a morning of fun with crafts and games.

##### Sign & Sing

Friday, Feb. 13, 10:15-11:00 am

Community Room A

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

##### Craft Time with Kenny / Kenny 雙語手工時間

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2:00-3:00 pm

Community Room A & B

Join Kenny on the second Saturday of every month to learn about and integrate the creativity of various cultures into our daily lives through crafts.

Through crafts, we can make our lives more joyful, fulfilling, and beautiful.

歡迎在每個月的第二個星期六，跟着 Kenny一起，透過不同文化的手工，了解並將各種文化的創意融入日常，讓我們透過手工，讓生活更加地歡樂、充實、美好。

欢迎在每个月的第二个星期六，跟着 Kenny一起，透过不同文化的手工，了解并将各种文化的创意融入日常，让我们透过手工，让生活更加地欢乐、充实、美好。

##### On the Move!

Saturday, Feb. 21, 10:30-11:30 am

Community Room A

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

##### Tweens & Teens

For teens in grades 6-12.

##### Manga and Anime Club

Thursday, Feb. 12, 6:00-7:00 pm

Community Room A

Hang out with fellow manga and anime fans! Chat about favorites, eat snacks, make crafts, and play games. Drop-ins welcome. For teens in grades 6 - 12.



# ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



**Clackamas  
High School**



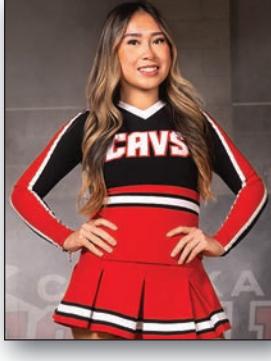
**Meeka St. John  
Senior  
Girls Wrestling**

Meeka has stepped as captain and done a great job balancing school, work and wrestling. Meeka was our only women's placer at the Pac Coast tournament with 90 teams present. She placed 8th.

Meeka has placed in almost all varsity tournaments and continues to improve. Congrats to Meeka on being an athlete of the week!

**Congrats, Meeka! Go Cavs!**

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**Christina Zhang  
Senior  
Cheer**

Christina Zhang is a senior captain and point flyer for the Clackamas Cheer squad. Christina leads Clackamas Cheer team with confidence, consistency, and heart. Her work ethic and positivity make her an incredible leader and teammate. We're proud of you Christina! Congrats!

**Congrats, Christina! Go Cavs!**

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**Lily Oien  
Junior  
Girls Basketball**

In the conference opener Lily had a double double with 18 points and 11 rebounds and 4 assists. Lily has been a consistent scorer and rebounder for the Cavaliers and it was evident in their overtime win against Barlow Tuesday 1/13. Lily also made the two free throws to tie the game with 2 seconds left to play to send the Cavs into overtime. The week before, Lily had 14 points 4 rebounds and 5 assists in the Cavs Win over Rex Putnam. Congrats Lily!

**Congrats, Lily! Go Cavs!**

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**Adrienne C.  
Nelson HS**



**Chaz Katoanga  
Senior  
Varsity Basketball**

Chaz had 15 points 9 assists 6 rebounds vs Gresham and 2 points 9 rebounds and 6 assists in a win against Sandy. Helping the Nelson Boys go 2-0 last week in Mt. Hood Conference play.

**Way to go, Chaz! Go Hawks!**

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**Tanna Johnson  
Senior  
Varsity Swim**

Tanna Johnson is the athlete of the week for swim for winning the 400 Free relay with an anchor leg of 0:56, catching up to and passing two teams in the process.

**Way to go, Tanna! Go Hawks!**

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**Aubrey Pentecost  
Freshman  
Varsity Basketball**

Aubrey had a great week to start Mt. Hood Conference Play. She finished with 18 points 11 rebounds 2 steals and 2 blocks against Gresham and had 15 points 6 rebounds 2 steals against Sandy.

**Way to go, Aubrey! Go Hawks!**

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