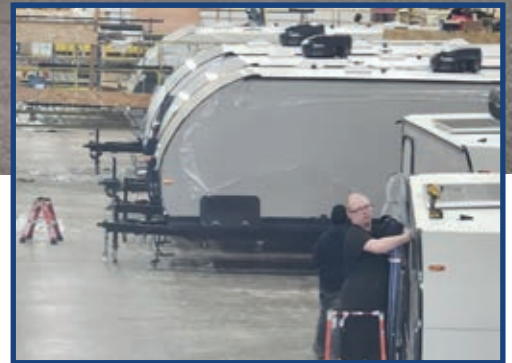


EXPLORE POCONO COUNTY 2023

Check out The
Zen Master

Pg. 40



Forest River Inc., a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, is one of Polk County's largest employers. Forest River operates manufacturing facilities throughout the United States and produces a wide variety of recreational vehicles. Our mission is to help all of our owners enjoy their RV experience to the fullest!

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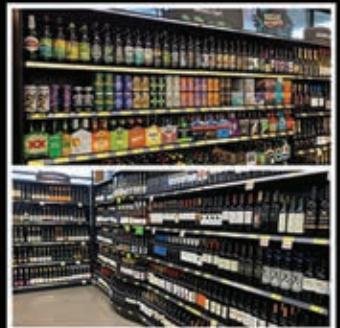
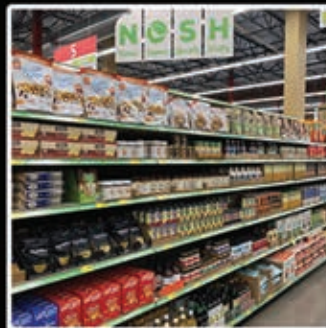
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From the Editor

Welcome to the I-O's Explore 2023.

With the pandemic now firmly in the rear view mirror, the great wonders of Polk County await to be rediscovered by residents and visitors alike.

The mayors of the county's biggest cities are jostling within these pages to convince you to explore their communities, including Dallas, Independence, Monmouth, Falls City and Willamina. Each community boasts activities that swell the population during the summer months. Be sure to make time for each city's celebrations revolving around Independence Day.

Outside city limits, Polk County boasts some of the most attractive natural landscapes awaiting exploration, including the 2,492-acre Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge, the 187-mile Willamette River Water Trail or the Luckiamute State Natural Area, nestled on the border of Polk and Benton Counties.

The Willamette Valley is renowned for its ideal climate for the wine industry. Explorepolkcounty.org lists 25 vineyards. We take a look the newest - Andante. To help explore the many wine options throughout the county, let Crush Wine Tours be your guide. Or, let West Salem's new Old Zen Wine Bar introduce you to the hundreds of wines available throughout the state.

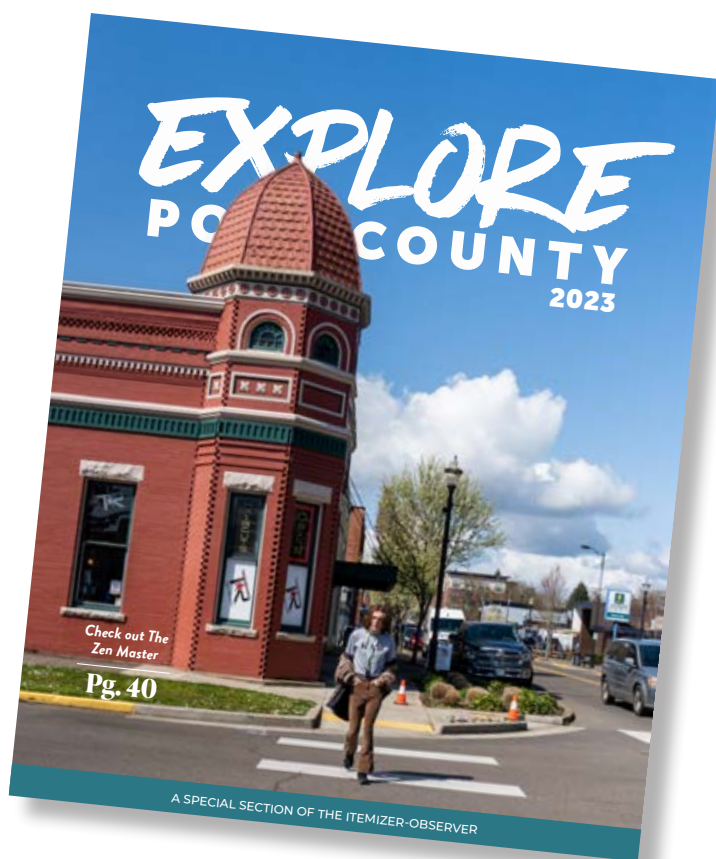
For those looking to get reacquainted with the region's past, options abound. Independence's Heritage Museum just celebrated its second year at its new location. The Brunk Farmstead features one of the county's oldest standing two-story homes built by pioneers Harrison and Emily Waller Brunk in 1861. Then there's the Polk County Museum that features memorabilia from more than 170 years of historical contribution to the region's development.

And while Polk County has built its reputation on ways to wet your whistle from wineries to breweries, we spent time with local brewers growing their niche in Latin lagers.

Polk County has plenty of attractions, whether enjoyed with the family and friends or absorbed solo in nature's majesty. Let Explore Polk County be your guide to take it all in.

DAVID HAYES

Editor



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Explore Polk County is an annual publication. For more information about Explore Polk County please visit us online at polkio.com. All photos used in this issue are from contributors or Derek Bratton or from Polk IO photo file. Stop by or give us a call to advertise in our next issue!

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COMMUNITIES





Dallas

Everyone's Hometown

KEN WOODS

Mayor of Dallas

Dallas is a remarkable small-town community.

Dallas boasts a high quality of life while being close to a variety amenities. Dallas is within an hour of some of Oregon's most sought-after destinations, all while being a quiet and relaxed town where you can spend time with your loved ones on a summer evening. Some people vacation to places like this. We have the benefit of living here.

We are lucky to be able to have a wide variety of local, independently-owned restaurants serving almost every culinary taste imaginable and plenty of options. You can have a yummy breakfast at Tater's Cafe, or some coffee and pastries at New Morning Bakery in the morning. A cold brew at West Valley Taphouse, a sandwich at North Dallas Bar and Grill, or burgers at Two Wolves Taproom for lunch. A steak dinner at Washington Street Steakhouse, or a burrito from La Herradura for Dinner. You can even finish your night off with ice cream from Dreamies Creamery. There is no need to travel the world as we have the taste of the world here in Dallas!

During the summer days, Dallas offers many activities for families such as our Sounds of Summer event. Here, you can enjoy live performances by talented musicians and bands in the evenings. Another option is Krazy Dayz, where we transform six blocks of our charming

historic downtown into an outdoor marketplace. This event includes food, music and a whole host of activities suitable for persons of all ages and abilities. On Sunday, we wind down the weekend by moving the party to our City Park where the Dallas Rotary Club will serve you breakfast, the Dallas Arts Association will host an outdoor art show, and a Car Show & Shine event will take place!

Dallas is a fantastic destination for sports and outdoor enthusiasts, with excellent parks and recreation facilities that offer many opportunities for year-round fun. Whether you're looking to make a splash in our Aquatic Center, show off your skills on our top-notch pickle ball and tennis courts, or swing for the fences on our well-maintained baseball and softball fields, Dallas has something for everyone. Come and explore our city's recreational offerings and experience the thrill of an active lifestyle!

Dallas is renowned for its strong sense of family and community, where people genuinely care for one another and strive to foster positive relationships. Whether you're looking to settle down, relocate, or simply pay a visit, Dallas is a great choice for plenty of reasons. So if you haven't had the chance to experience all that Dallas has to offer, we invite you to come and see for yourself. We would be happy to welcome you into our community.

info.

Population: 16,979.

Elevation: 325 feet above sea level.

City Hall: 187 SE Court St.,

Visitor Services: Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce/Dallas Area Visitors Center, 119 SW Court St., 503-623-2564.

Dallas City Park — Dallas City Park is the largest park in the city at 35 acres. The "new" entrance is located on Levens Street near Lyle Elementary. The "old" entrance near the Delbert Hunter Arboretum is on Academy Street. The park has facilities for gatherings large and small, including two shelters, two fireplaces, numerous barbecue pits, horseshoe pits, basketball hoops, a disc golf course and paved trails.

Roger Jordan Community Park — Located next to the Dallas Aquatic Center on Southeast LaCreole Drive. It consists of soccer fields, a baseball field, a skate park, two tennis courts and a picnic area.

Birch Park — Intersection of Birch and Stump streets. New playground equipment recently was added, and the park also has two basketball hoops.

Gala Park — Intersection of Uglow Avenue and Hankel Street. It features a basketball court, playground and a grassy area with a gazebo.

Kingsborough Park — 101 SW Wyatt St. It features lots of wide-open spaces as well as two basketball hoops, walking paths and a playground. Restrooms are open during the summer.

Rotary Park — 300 NE Fern Ave. The city has joined forces with the Dallas Rotary Club to upgrade the park with new playground equipment, walking paths and a basketball court.

Walnut Park — 501 SE Walnut Ave. It is a small wooded area with a shaded creek and a bench.

Central Bark — 920 SE Juniper St. behind the aquatic center. It is the city's newest park and the only off-leash park for dogs. It has an enclosed area with a picnic table, water and mutt-mitt stations.

Rickreall Creek Trail — The Rickreall Creek Trail will eventually run the length of the city east to west following the course of its namesake creek



'23 Summer IN DALLAS



July 27 & 28 - Outdoor Market

July 29 - Krazy Dayz Parade

July 30 - Breakfast in the Park,
Art in the Park,
Car Show & Shine



July 6 - To Be Announced

July 13 - Big Red Band

July 20 - Ty Curtis

Aug. 3 - Great American Trainwreck

Aug. 10 - Johnny Limbo and the Lugnuts



Sounds of Summer 2022



Krazy Dayz Parade 2022

Falls City

"End of the road, start of your adventure."

TJ BAILY

Mayor of Falls City

Hidden away in the Coast Range forest, Falls City provides many opportunities to those seeking a new adventure. Falls City is famous for its namesake falls on the Little Luckiamute River that provides an opportunity for people to cool off during the hot summer months. People from around the state come to the falls to swim, relax, and even jump off the cliffs into the awaiting chilling, yet refreshing, water below.

Falls City is also the gateway to Valley of the Giants, an old growth forest preserve with multiple hiking paths through towering 450-year-old Douglas fir trees. It is easy to lose track of time admiring this hidden gem, so be sure to bring a hearty supply of food and water. Just a few miles to the west of Falls City is Black Rock Mountain Bike Area.

Local mountain bikers have created this world-class network of free-ride trails for beginners to experienced mountain riders using the natural landscape and timber from fallen fir trees. Black Rock Mountain Bike Area provides hand-built berms, gap jumps and other features for those looking for adventure. For the non-mountain bike riders, the logging road loops around the mountain, providing a well-groomed steady uphill hike in the majestic forest. Those who make it to the top will be treated to a breathtaking view of the valley below.

For those looking to extend the July 4th holiday, Falls City residents and owners of The Boondocks - Lori Sickles and Laura Britton - sponsor the Fourth

of July Summer Celebration. Watch our community social media pages for the date, which changes year to year. You will not want to miss the festivities, which have included a local parade, concerts in the local park, free barbecue lunch, and fun fair treats like face painting and cotton candy. There is nothing like the 4th of July party in a small, historic town like Falls City.

August is Pride month in Falls City. Local volunteers work with the city to host an all-inclusive, community weekend event celebrating all members of the LGBTQ+ community, advocates and friends. Falls City Pride is celebrated during the month of August, in part to extend celebrations throughout the summer.

After you have completed your adventures, Falls City provides two establishments for nourishment. The Boondocks is a small town bar and grill with a rustic atmosphere. Their extensive menu includes award winning steaks and nightly specials. The Boondocks is family friendly providing delicious food for all ages. The Bread Board has reopened and is once again serving delicious European style breads baked in a wood-fired oven, pastries, thin crust pizzas, beer and wine. Indoor and outdoor seating is available for friends and families to come and enjoy the amazing menu.

Falls City welcomes all Polk County residents and families to enjoy the many amenities in our amazing town.

Info.

Population: 1,065.

Elevation: 370 feet above sea level.

City Hall: 299 Mill St.,

503-787-3631,

www.fallscityoregon.gov.

Michael Harding Memorial

Park — Michael Harding Memorial Park is on the south side of the Little Luckiamute River falls. It is named for a city clerk who was killed in an accident in 1976.

George Kitchen Memorial

Park — George Kitchen Memorial Park, also known as Upper Park, is located just off Park Street. It has a large gazebo and access to electricity.

Fay Wilson Memorial

Park — Fay Wilson Memorial Park runs alongside the Little Luckiamute River opposite City Hall. It is also known as Riverside Park and Lower Park.

Did you know Falls City puts out a monthly newsletter every month? It is packed with a lot of information regarding the community, events, and all sorts of stuff. Visit <https://www.fallscityoregon.gov/newsletters>.



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West Valley Hospital

525 SE Washington St., Dallas
503-623-8301



Medical Clinics

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Primary care

1000 SE Uglow Ave.
503-623-8376

Monmouth

Primary care/same-day care*

512 Main St. E, Suite 300
503-838-1182

* Contact clinic for same-day availability.

Independence

Primary care

1430 Monmouth St.
503-917-2255

Central Health and Wellness Center

1601 Monmouth St., Suite 100
503-838-0045

salemhealth.org/westvalley





Grand Ronde

Grand Ronde offers entertainment, cultural experiences

While traveling Highway 18 on your way to the Oregon Coast, it's hard to miss the Spirit Mountain Casino and be lured by its myriad entertaining opportunities. However, the casino is but one attraction the Grand Ronde tribe would like visitors seek out while in the region.

Grand Ronde has a long and storied history. Tribal ancestors lived throughout the Willamette Valley, southern Oregon and the Oregon coast since time immemorial. They were moved to the Grand Ronde Reservation beginning in the 1850s after ceding most of what is now western Oregon to the federal government in seven ratified treaties. Remnants of the U.S. Army post that controlled access to and from the Grand Ronde Reservation now overlook the Tribe's picturesque Uyxat Powwow Grounds off Highway 22 (Hebo Road) at Fort Yamhill State Park.

Federal recognition was stripped from the Tribe and it was terminated in 1954, but the Grand Ronde Tribe, through the hard work of Tribal members, friends and community allies, saw the Tribe restored to federal recognition on Nov. 22, 1983.

Today, the tribe's reservation and land holdings total more than 12,000 acres and range from Rattlesnake Butte near Junction City to Kilchis Point on Tillamook Bay. However, the main reservation is situated in forestland just north of the Grand Ronde area.

The tribe's story is on display in the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center, 8720 Grand Ronde Road, which opened in 2014. The center features an exhibit detailing the Tribe's history and created a place to archive cultural artifacts.

A second phase of construction created

a large, permanent exhibition display space, work rooms for curating public exhibits, artifact processing, long-term storage for cultural archives and work rooms for Tribal research.

The name Chachalu means "the place of burnt timber," in honor of what members of the Tualatin-Kalapuya Tribe named part of the Grand Ronde area that had been destroyed by a wildfire.

The museum's logo features a camas lily, a plant known for regenerating after forest fires — a symbol for the Tribe's restoration after being "burnt" through placement on the reservation and termination.

The Tribe also hosts a number of unforgettable cultural events that are open to the public. Those include the annual powwows, arts and crafts fairs at the casino and more.

In addition, more than 18 miles of



public hiking trails open to the public on the Grand Ronde Reservation and the popular Big Buck campground make the area perfect for those looking for an outdoor adventure. To use the campground, members of the public must obtain a pass at (503) 879-2424.

Grand Ronde is also where you can find the aforementioned 108-acre Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area, operated by Oregon State Parks. Fort Yamhill was a military outpost that was in operation from 1856-66 and established to protect and control Native Americans on the Grand Ronde Reservation.

Nearby is achaf-hammi, a traditional Pacific Northwest plankhouse built by the tribe in 2010. It hosts numerous cultural events throughout the year.

Also located in Grand Ronde is the stunning West Valley Veterans Memorial

dedicated to those from the West Valley area who have served their country in the military. The four black granite pillars represent the major branches of the U.S. armed forces and have more than 2,360 names etched into them. The tribe holds an annual ceremony to honor West Valley veterans every Memorial Day.

Whether you're looking for a Las Vegas-style gaming experience, a trip to learn more about the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Native American history in Oregon, or to check out one of the many colorful cultural events, Grand Ronde offers a compelling mix of history and fun.

And when you're done, you're only 25 miles from the Pacific Ocean or Willamette Valley wine country, depending on which way you head.

Info.

Population: 2,000 (estimated).

Elevation: 344 feet above sea level.

Government Center:

9615 Grand Ronde Rd

Visitor Services: Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, 1-800-422-0232. Hiking trail maps are available at the Tribe's Natural Resources Office, 47010 SW Hebo Road. Camping is permitted, but permits are required. Call 1-503-879-2424 for more information.

For more information about the area:

Visit www.grandronde.org

Must-do activities

1 — Spirit Mountain Casino: Safety measures are in place, but you can still make a trip to Spirit Mountain for the evening or an overnight stay.

2 — Competition Powwow: Check out some of the best dancers from the Pacific Northwest and across North America in this three-day event hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

3 — Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center: Explore the history the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde at the museum's historical exhibit.

Independence

Oregon's story begins here!

Independence, is a vibrant welcoming city full of energy, optimism, and opportunity, combining history, inclusivity, and creativity to make it a wonderful place to visit and live. Nestled on the West bank of the Willamette River just 12 miles southwest of Salem, this thriving river city was known as the "Hop Capital of the World" from the late 1890s to the 1940s. Now, it is the third-largest city in Polk County and the fourth-fastest growing city in the state of Oregon.

Over the last several decades, Independence has revitalized its downtown, created a beautiful riverfront park, and invested in a spirited local economy. Through forward-thinking projects like the creation of our own local high-speed broadband service MINET, the construction of a community sports park, business assistance programs during the height of the COVID pandemic, and many more, Independence has its sights set on the future without losing sight of its past.

Recently, Independence collaborated with the city of Monmouth to inaugurate an accessible public transit option in the form of the MI Trolley transit system. Running every 15 minutes from 21 designated stops every single day, this service is FREE for all riders. The trolley seats 14 seated passengers, one wheelchair passenger, and a fold-down seat for two more passengers if no wheelchair is present. Additionally, a downloadable mobile application shows the trolley's location in real-time, allowing passengers to find the trolley's current route. Travel between Independence and Monmouth has never been more accessible and stylish!

Alongside the beautiful Willamette River rests the centerpiece of our city's most recent redevelopment: Independ-

dence Landing. This destination hosts multi-unit apartments and townhouses, outdoor movies and concerts in the park, and a beautiful hotel. Travelers and residents alike can book a stay at the Independence Hotel and enjoy a multitude of intriguing amenities such as a bike maintenance room, conference center, and rooftop deck with a prime view of the river (keep an eye out for our local bald eagles and osprey that nest along the river.) The development of Independence Landing brings people, visitors, families, and friends to enjoy food, drink, local art, and the classic small-town experience all within walking distance.

Among Independence's greatest accomplishments is its ongoing support of its local businesses. Every year, a Love Local campaign is held to promote local spending in the downtown area. Residents can make a purchase from a local business and get rewarded for it by receiving a "scratch-it." This scratch-it represents a specific amount of money and can be redeemed at any of the participating business locations. This helps generate financial, cultural, and community support in our city. Moreover, the city has partnered with a local non-profit named Indy Idea Hub to help foster and support programs that aid entrepreneurs in our region.

The city of Independence takes pride in its history and is an inclusive community for newer Oregonians looking to write the next chapters of our city's story. To celebrate our rich diversity, resident groups host an annual Community Fiesta where every part of the community is invited to celebrate Hispanic culture through a vibrant two-day celebration. This event harbors delicious food, live music, cultural dances, a soccer tournament, and the crowning of a fiesta queen.



Our flagship festivity, however, is our annual Independence Days celebration, a three-day birthday party for our great nation. What better place to celebrate Independence Day than in Independence, Oregon?! When you visit you will be able to enjoy concerts in the park, bike events of all shapes and sizes, kayak rentals, delectable baked goods, chocolate treats made in the heart of downtown, deserts to die for, and the Willamette Valley's premier fireworks display. Thirsty? Be sure to visit our local pubs such as Parallel 45 Brewing, Gilgamesh: The River, and the Golden Hop Saloon to taste the reason Independence was once called the hop capital of the world. If wine is more your flavor, check out our local wineries just up the road.

While our city's rich history contains all the hallmarks of a traditional pioneer story, we truly believe that the best days are ahead for Independence. Another kind of pioneering story is being written. We believe that the city of Independence wholeheartedly embodies our motto: "Oregon's story begins here!"

Visit, enjoy, and see why we believe Independence's best days are yet to come.

To find more things to explore in the city of Independence, visit our Experience Indy Oregon website: www.experienceindyoregon.com.





iinfo.

Population: 10,272

Elevation: 180 feet above sea level.

City Hall: 555 S. Main St., 503-838-1212,
www.ci.independence.or.us.

Visitor Services: Monmouth-Independence
Chamber of Commerce
355 Pacific Ave. N., Monmouth
503-838-4268.

Library: 175 Monmouth St.,
503-838-1811.

Riverview Park — Riverview Park is located downtown between B and C streets alongside the Willamette River. It is the city's largest park and features the Riverview Park Amphitheater, which hosts a summer movie and concert series. It also has a boat ramp, fountain and a large playground.

John Pfaff Park — John Pfaff Park originally was known as Northgate Park and is located at the intersection of Hoffman and Gun Club roads. It has a playground, basketball court and picnic tables.

Mountain Fir Park — Mountain Fir Park is located off F Street between Seventh and Ninth streets. The land was formerly part of the Mountain Fir Lumber Mill but was donated to the city when the mill downsized in the early 1990s. It has picnic tables and lots of open spaces. The city has partnered with the Luckiamute Watershed Council to restore the South Fork of Ash Creek, home to salmon and trout. Polk County OSU Master Gardeners maintain a demonstration garden here, called Inspiration Garden.

Pioneer Park — Pioneer Park is located at the corner of Seventh and C streets. It has picnic tables, a playground and lots of tall, mature trees.

Dog Park — Located on Grand Street, east of Highway 51, about a quarter mile north of downtown. It is the only off-leash park in Independence, and was built through volunteer efforts.

Bicycle Boater Campground — This basic camping area has five sites, each with a picnic table and bike rack.

Monmouth

Honoring our past, moving to the future

CECELIA KOONTZ

Mayor of Monmouth

The city of Monmouth has a storied history as the home of the oldest public university in the state. Monmouth University was founded in 1853 by Christian missionaries from Monmouth, Illinois, six years before Oregon was granted statehood. Today's Western Oregon University is still the city's largest employer and center of much of the cultural vibrancy of the community.

But, oh, how things have changed! What would the forefathers and foremothers think if they walked away from campus down Main Street? Monmouth's other claim to fame – as Oregon's last town to allow the sale of alcohol – is a distant memory. In a winking nod to the history, Dry Town Tap Station is a former gas station turned pub with fun food trucks and an outdoor entertainment stage. Crush Wine Bar offers cocktails and local and regional wines to complement its tasty bistro menu. For a personal tour of the wineries located in the Eola/Amity Hills, or VanDuser Corridor AVAs, all within 15 miles of Monmouth, parties can even rent the Crush Wine Limo!

Opening in October 2023, Monmouth's beautiful, functional, accessible city hall is constructed of mass timber – thick layers of compressed wood creating structural panels and beams – sourced here in Oregon. Across the street, the mixed-use building, Monmouth Commons features 27 apartments, adding to the cozy living options already in the downtown core. Another multi-family complex just north of WOU is under construction, even as single-family housing growth remains strong. The presence of MINET, which brings gig-speed internet to every home and business, means

work-from-home options are limitless.

Monmouth has a thriving small business scene. A vibrant downtown hosts fun and festivals – including 2023's inaugural Peacock Festival, in homage to the wild peafowl that have made a home in Monmouth's Gentlewoods Neighborhood for decades. This year, the annual 4th of July celebration marks the 50th anniversary of the Monmouth Olympics, which will feature several events not to be missed! October will see the return of MANIT Day – celebrating Marshallese American culture. And, for the first time in 70 years, residents and visitors are able to take a trolley from WOU to the Independence riverfront – fare free!

The city's values set the strong foundation for its future work:

Sustainability: Monmouth Power & Light, the city-owned electric utility sourced from water and wind power, has long been a leader in energy conservation education and efforts and the new City Hall will be solar-powered.

Communication & Engagement: Public meetings and town halls are held both in-person and virtually. Resident-led groups provide input, policy development, and oversight to many city activities.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: From banners and city-wide events celebrating diverse peoples, histories and accomplishments, Monmouth is engaging its residents, visitors, students, and businesses in recognizing its rich culture. Partnering with WOU as it seeks to gain status as an Hispanic Serving Institution will create an even more vibrant future for this once sleepy town.

Monmouth – live, learn, love it!

Info.

Population: 11,110.

Elevation: 214 feet above sea level.

City Hall: 151 Main St. W., 503-838-0722, www.ci.monmouth.or.us.

Visitor Services: Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce,

355 Pacific Ave. N.

503-838-4268.

Library: 168 Ecols St. S., 503-838-1932.

Cherry Lane Park — Cherry Lane Park is at Cherry Lane, Ackerman Street and Whiteman Street. It has a playground with benches.

Gentle Woods Park — Gentle Woods Park is at the intersection of Myrtle Drive, Olive Way and High Street. It is mostly wooded with a large picnic shelter, horseshoe pits, playground equipment and restrooms.

Madrona Park — Madrona Park is located along Madrona Street and Edwards Road. A half-mile paved walking trail was built in 2015, along with a network of graveled trails in the interior. The park has been the recipient of many new trees to create a young arboretum. It has a picnic shelter, basketball court, playground equipment and a large paved gathering area.

Main Street Park — Main Street Park is located in downtown Monmouth. It is one full city block and features a permanent amphitheater, gazebo, playground, picnic tables, pathways and a water fountain.

Monmouth Recreational Park — Monmouth Recreational Park is located off Hogan Road and west of the City Public Works Department headquarters. It has fields for softball and baseball, two tennis courts and restrooms.

Winegar Park — Winegar Park is located at Ecols Street and Suzanna Avenue. It has a basketball court, playground, benches and pathways.

"Pocket Parks" — Monmouth has four mini parks that are .67 acres or smaller. Southgate Park at Southgate Drive and Josephine Street has a basketball court, benches and a playground. La Mesa Park is east of Heffley Street and south of Bentley Street. It has a basketball court, benches and a playground. Whitesell Park is at the western end of Catherine Court. It has a basketball court, benches and a playground. Marr Park is at Jackson Street and Marr Court. It has a playground, horseshoe pits and a small, landscaped garden.

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM MAIN ST. PARK AMPHITHEATER

MONMOUTH

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JULY 12TH BON BON VIVANT (NEW ORLEANS SYLE)

JULY 19TH RESOELECTRICS (ROCK AND SOUL)

JULY 26TH RIVER DIVIDE (COUNTY/CLASSIC ROCK)

AUGUST 2ND MARK SEYMOUR AND FRIENDS
(AMERICANA/FOLK/ROCK BLUES)

AUGUST 9TH SHINKLE BAND (COUNTRY)

AUGUST 16TH SOUL VACATION (SOUL FUNK)

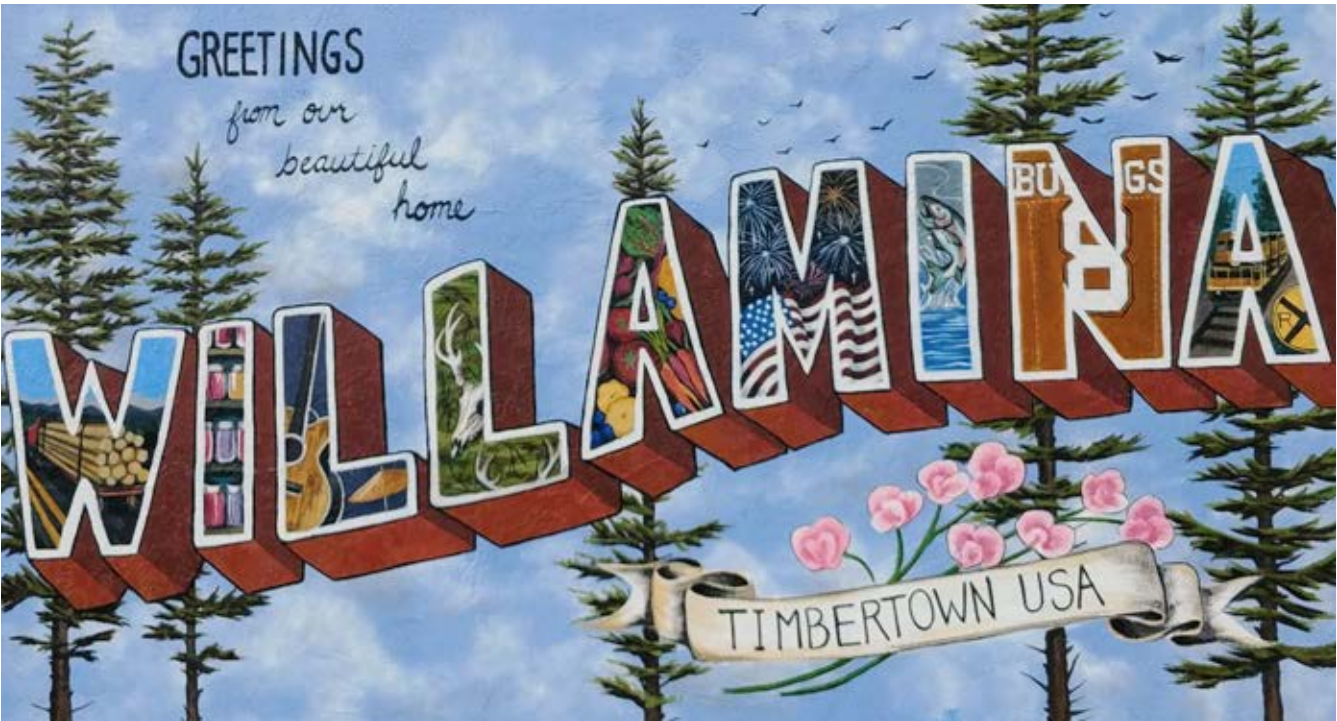
AUGUST 23RD SEVERIN SISTERS (AMERICANA MUSIC)

AUGUST 30TH COMING UP THREES (CELTIC FOLK)



Willamina

'Honoring our history with an eye to the future'



MURAL WAS PAINTED BY LOCAL ARTIST NATALIE FLETCHER

ILA SKYBERG

Mayor of Willamina

The city of Willamina is located among rolling hills, the Yamhill River and Willamina Creek. As the story goes, in 1845 a couple looking for a place to settle, came upon a beautiful clear creek where she promptly fell in. She lived to tell the tale and later the creek and the town would bare her name. Our city is fortunate to have the Willamina Historical Museum, which holds and keeps the rich history alive of the pioneers who called Willamina home. We honor our rich history and keep a positive eye on the future. Music is alive and well at various venues throughout the year. The Wildwood, Dillons, Odd Fellows Pizza, and the West Valley Community campus host. Each offer a variety of performances, from extremely talented musicians.

A church bell rings each Sunday morning announcing the Sabbath and the five wonderful churches within our city

limits. Willamina has two restaurants, a bar and grill, food markets, hardware, lumber, livestock, and pet supplies. Delightful shops offer arts, crafts, beauty and massage, and more to meet your shopping needs. We are also grateful to have 24/7 emergency and fire response. Our largest employers are Hampton Lumber, the Willamina School District and Spirit Mountain Casino.

We invite you to Willamina to make some memories while visiting one of our seven parks. Drop by our amazing library, star gaze, or catch some fish at our wonderful Huddleston Pond at Hampton Park. Attend our Christmas Light Parade and the 4th of July festivities. Start the day with a pancake breakfast, shop the vendors, see the logging show, arm wrestle, and have a picnic in the park. End an amazing day with the best fireworks in the valley.

Stop by on your way to the coast or Spirit Mountain Casino. We look forward to seeing you!

Info.

Incorporated in 1903

Population: 2,425 people

Elevation: 225 feet

Land area: 0.86 square miles

Population density: 2,609 people per square mile

- Hampton Park**
- Blackwell County Park**
- Lamson Park**
- Garden Spot Park**
- Triangle Park**
- Playground Park at City Hall**
- Oaken Hills Memorial Park**

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Willamina Museum



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Trunk or Treat October 31st

Coastal Hills Art tour November 10-11th

Winter

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Parade**



Willamina Creek

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City of Willamina: willaminaoregon.gov



Western Oregon University

A legacy of higher education excellence lives on in the heart of Polk County

The largest institute of higher education between Portland State University and Oregon State University can be found in Polk County. Western Oregon University in Monmouth had a total enrollment of 3,752 according to the latest figures.

WOU has made great gains since the early 1980s, when it seemed to be in danger of being abolished. The state of Oregon was having rough financial times then, and there were people who thought discontinuing the state's regional colleges would be a necessary step in the financial recovery of the state.

However, the regional colleges (they were not designated as universities then) and the state legislators representing them convinced doubters that the institutions were a necessary investment for Oregon, and the people who prevailed have been found to be right.

Western is the state's oldest public

institution of higher learning. It began as Monmouth University in 1856, soon was acquired by the state, and went through several other names before becoming Western Oregon University.

WOU originally was primarily a teachers' college, and it remains strong in education. As a university, it now has the College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as well as a satellite campus for the nursing program of Oregon Health and Science University.

The College of Education consists of the Division of Education and Leadership, the Division of Deaf Studies, and the Division of Health and Exercise Science.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offers 30 bachelors' degrees in seven academic divisions: behavioral sciences, business and economics, computer science, creative arts, humanities, natural

sciences and mathematics, and social science.

It offers Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music, through the College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts, as well as master of science in education and master of arts in teaching degrees.

For those interested in lifelong learning, WOU offers speaker series in a variety of subjects.

Besides academics, Western plays a variety of sports in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, which is in Division II of the NCAA.

Not to be forgotten are study abroad programs, health and wellness programs, financial aid possibilities, and student clubs.

The 2023 SafeWise report ranked Western at No. 6 in the top 20 safe campuses in Oregon.

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From left to right: Nicole Mears, Christina Winters, Tony Rose, Terie Kester, Jake Stamas, Sarrah McMaster



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THINGS TO DO





Experience Wine-Lovers' Dream

Crush Wine Bar Is Now on the Road



Walking down Main Street in Monmouth, one might notice that Crush Wine Bar is for sale. Although the brick-and-mortar building will be no more, owner John Bracken is taking the popular bar on the road.

Bracken is making the transition because he said it takes time away from his true passion - bringing people who love wine together and to have a memorable experience.

Not only will oenophiles get to enjoy local wine made in Polk County, but they now be also able to do so without the worry of getting behind the wheel. Instead, they can leave the driving to Bracken and explore local vineyards in style aboard the luxurious Crush Party Bus. The shuttle has two rows of bucket seats that can accommodate 14 passengers, a mini bar, a sound system, and a couple of televisions for further entertainment.

Bracken feels the term party bus is a lit-

tle misleading. He sees it more as a "limo bus" due to how the interior is set up.

"A common reaction is 'I was picturing rows of seats in here, but this is nice,'" Bracken said. "A limo bus is a more accurate term for the party bus."

He decided to focus more on tours than a brick-and-mortar restaurant because it aligns with his idea of experiencing more of the region's offerings.

"Finding out that the tours were in line with my passion is one of the main drivers for me. I want to do well and be successful. I also want to experience as much as I can that this world has to offer," Bracken said. "It dawned on me one day that the tours are in line with that; they are an experience and something that will create memories. For some people, it may be a once-in-a-lifetime event; for others, it may be something they start doing every birthday because they love it so much."

But those aren't the only options Crush

Wine Tours offers.

"We have two types of tours. One of them is the private kind. We come to pick you up wherever you want to get picked up, like at home or a restaurant. The place you want to wind up at the end of the tour, where you can eat, drink some water, and sober up," explained Bracken.

The other option is the joinable tours.

"Those were a really popular thing before COVID, so we're just about to relaunch those," said Bracken.

According to Bracken, the bus leaves whether there are two people on board, or it's filled with 14 people. Since there's a list of 24 wineries, rarely does the participant hit the same place twice if they go on multiple tours.

To find out more, go to Crushonmain.com and click the "joinable tours" tab on top of the webpage.



Meet in the middle at the crossroads of Polk County



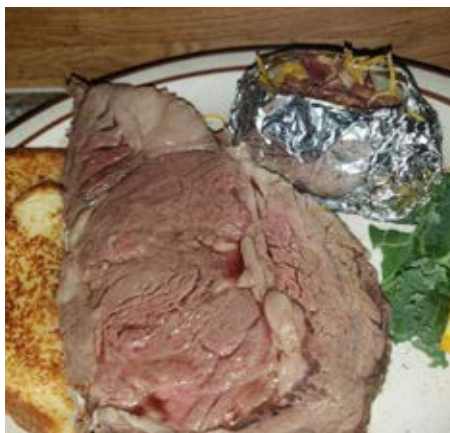
JASMINE BEDORTHA

Owner Westside Pacific Family Restaurant & Saloon

Jasmine got her love of the restaurant business at the very young age of 9 bussing tables. Her parents were the original owners of Tater's in Dallas.

Now all grown up she owns and runs Westside Pacific Family Restaurant & Saloon and is loving every minute of it. The homemade cuisine and friendly service attracts regulars and visitors to Polk County with its central location in Rickreall, located between Polk County Fairgrounds and the Polk County Historical Museum.

Stop in and meet Jasmine and her friendly staff, the food is awesome, service is great, book the banquet room which seats 24. Check for daily specials, happy hour, music events and more on Facebook



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Walking among giants

Prepare before you go on the hike of your life

Some of the largest Douglas firs and Western Hemlocks in the Oregon Coast Range can be found in the Bureau of Land Management's Valley of the Giants. Many of these trees are 20 feet in circumference, 200 feet tall, and 400 to 450 years old. Though a windstorm blew it down in 1981, the tree called "Big Guy," believed to be the second-largest Douglas fir in Oregon, reached a circumference of 35 feet and was approximately 600 years old.

In the 1970s, public concern grew over the increasing rarity of exceptionally large trees. In 1976, the BLM protected the 51-acres known as the Valley of the Giants by designating it an Outstanding Natural Area and an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. To this day, it is still used heavily by researchers and educators. In 2016, the BLM expanded the ACEC to over 1,600 acres in acknowledgment of the entire valley's ecological importance.

The Valley of the Giants contains all the features of an old-growth forest—large standing and fallen trees, logs and stumps, understory plants, fungi, and mosses. This spectacular topography can be seen right alongside the trail.

The forest preserve is located approximately 30 miles west of Falls City by way of logging roads not suitable for passenger cars.

Know before you go:

Visitors are encouraged to call the BLM's Northwest Oregon District Office for directions and road information.

From the trailhead to the Siletz River, the Valley of the Giants Trail is fairly steep and can be slippery when wet. The

bridge across the north fork of the river, and the several steps leading up to it, can also be treacherous when wet or icy. The trail is approximately 1.3 miles long, and many of the huge trees surrounding it are on their last roots. Hikers should watch out for falling limbs and trees and avoid the area during high winds. Visitors are warned to hike these trails at their own risk.

Private lands surround many Valley of the Giants access points and can only be crossed with permission from the landowner. Roads with closed gates are closed to the public. Please do not trespass on private land.

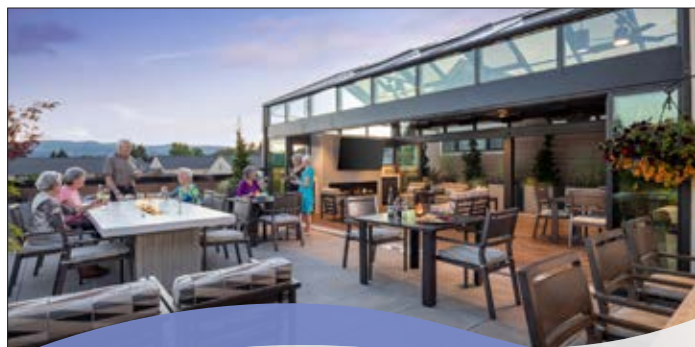
The Valley of the Giants is only 14 miles from Falls City as the crow flies. However, rough narrow, and winding roads make it a slow, 30-mile trip. Visitors should allow at least 90 minutes of travel in each direction. Visitors are encouraged to contact the Northwest Oregon District before heading out to the site.

They also ask you report any vandalism, trash dumping, or other crimes or accidents to the BLM's Northwest Oregon District Office or the BLM's law enforcement reporting number (800) 637-9152. This number is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Point of interest:

The Valley of the Giants is often used for research and education on old-growth forests. It is therefore important to stay on the trail to avoid impacting the soil, small animals, and plants. The picnic table area is the only point at which visitors are permitted to leave the designated trails.





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Nature-lover's haven

Luckiamute State Natural Area holds easy nature trails

Luckiamute State Natural Area, nestled on the border of Polk and Benton Counties, is a nature-lover's haven. Enjoy a jog down the largest remaining remnant of bottomland cotton-maple-ash gallery forest. Scout for the several species of birds native to the area. Find a spot to sit and wonder at the majesty of the Willamette River. The Luckiamute State Natural Area's 315 square miles of riparian wilderness has something for every aficionado of the outdoors.

The autumn is especially beautiful, with the leaves changing into bright colors. However, any time of year you visit this quiet, tucked-away slice of nature is a delight. It can get muddy, so make sure to wear proper footwear.

As you meander through the winding trails, you'll be welcomed along your walk or run by native shrubs, flowers and trees. Most have been planted by

volunteers, working to repair the habitat to its natural state. Others, such as purple camas, have growth that predates the settlers who came after.

Birdwatchers come prepared - you'll spot hummingbirds, red-breasted sapsuckers, white-crown sparrows and redbellied hawks, depending on the time of year. The eagle eye can also find the less common feathered friends - including nesting wood duck, ruffed grouse, Western screech-owl, five woodpecker species, as well as red-eyed vireos and band-tailed pigeon populations.

Several grassland species of birds can also be seen nesting within the Luckiamute natural area, such as the Oregon vesper sparrow and streaked horn larks, both of which are declining in number.

Another sensitive species here is the Western Pond Turtle, in decline due to habitat loss.

For those who enjoy outdoor activities, be sure to try geocaching — a kind of treasure hunt using a set of clues, a map and/or GPS coordinates. When you find the cache, of which there are a few planted in the Luckiamute State Natural Area, log your name in the cache book. If you take some of the loot, be sure to leave something too, for the next geocacher to find.

The loop from the northern trailhead is about two miles, but additional trails connect with it, taking hikers and joggers to the confluence of three rivers, where the Santiam and the Luckiamute meet the Willamette. Other trails have canoe access or give hikers a chance to explore the forest deeper.

Bring a jacket, a camera, pack a lunch and you'll be prepared for happy exploring.





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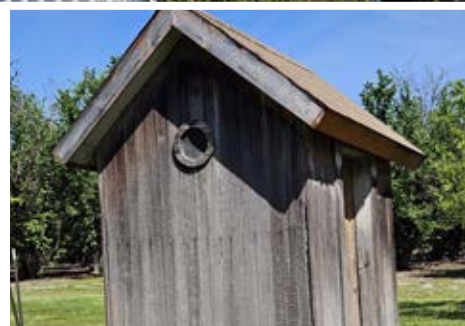
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Take a guided walk

Through history at reopened Brunk House

As commuters busily go about their day driving along Highway 22, little do they know the bit of history that awaits them just east of Oak Knoll Golf Course.

The centerpiece of the Brunk Farmstead, once a sprawling 1,100 acres now whittled down to 1.12 acres, sits one of Polk County's oldest remaining two-story wooden homes. The Brunk House, now owned by the Polk County Historical Society, was once home to three generations of the Brunk family.

The home reopened May 12 with two of the tour guides who share a piece of the homestead's legacy.

Cathey Harrison, after moving to Dallas in February, couldn't miss the chance to volunteer at the house once owned by the Brunks, her ancestral cousins.

"I'd always wanted to see the Brunk House when I found out it was standing back when I was a child," she said. "I just find this very fascinating."

Harrison hadn't memorized all the

home's history and had to rely on a printed script, detailing everything from the story of Harrison and Emily Waller Brunk having the home built in 1861 to Clara Brunk doubling the size of the kitchen in 1948, which included installing plumbing and electricity.

Having previewed the renovated home before its opening with her daughter and grandchildren, Harrison said she is most amazed by historical significance of the undertaking that brought the Brunks out west from Missouri.

"To me it's just mind-boggling the journey for not just the Brunks, but all of those who came from back east to partake quote 'a better life' in the Willamette Valley," Harrison said after her tour of the house was over. "Because politically too, back then, it was part of the 'Westward Ho,' thinking what a hardship that must have been. And the work. It was obviously a lot of work to keep this up. They built their reputation

here, maintained their faith. To me it was just fascinating. The integrity they had, hard work, and yet they did it. And it's still standing today."

The Brunks had originally journeyed west in 1849 to take up a Donation Land Claim in an area that would eventually become the Basket Slough National Wildlife Refuge. Proving too marshy for farming, Harrison sold the land and purchased the land claim of A.C.R. Shaw. Their growing family lived in a log cabin until the main home was finished Nov. 7, 1961. Daughter Leora Frances Brunk was the only one of 12 children actually born in the home.

The Brunks raised wheat and other grains, flowers, apples, cherries and peaches. The orchard of filbert trees that still stand behind the Brunk House is owned today by the Walker family.

While the upstairs is still off limits to tourists, tour guides like Harrison will lead visitors through the small spaces by

today's standards, which contain a sewing room, guest and master bedrooms and a nursery, before ending in the since expanded kitchen. Throughout, the home is stocked with some original items from the Brunks, like their sizable kitchen tables, and recreations, like the rope frame bed shipped out from Missouri.

Self-guided tours of the Brunk house have been on hold for about 3 ½ years. Manager Alan Bittel explained the biggest reason Brunk House closed was the front porch fell off.

"A beam inside the house wasn't flashed properly and it rotted. We were looking to do work to shore it up and it came down," Bittel said. "Then with covid, everything closed, even after porch was rebuilt." They took advantage of the closure to continue work on restoring the inside, changing walls out and replacing peeling wallpaper.

He and his wife Sandi enjoy maintaining old things, which originate with their own home in Perrydale built in the 1890s.

"That's what drew us to Brunk. Preserving it. Fixing it up. It's always going to need maintenance. We told the board one time, there's like 13 buildings out here it's going to be an ongoing restoration effort long after I'm gone," Bittel said.

One of the other volunteer guides is Grant Olds. He, too, moved to Dallas about three years ago. Emily Brunk was his great, great aunt. He points out her maiden name was Waller and his grandfather was George Townsend Waller.

"I found that out, doing genealogy research about five years ago. When I found out she was my aunt it was kind of exciting," Olds said. "But then when we moved to the area, and discovered actually just lived a few miles away from the Brunk House, I took advantage of it and wanted to volunteer."

While leading visitors through the outdoor attractions on the farmstead, Olds gets to point out the Brunk Farm was named a Century Farm in 1958. In addition, in 1978, it was designated as a

National Historic Site and recognized as a Polk County landmark.

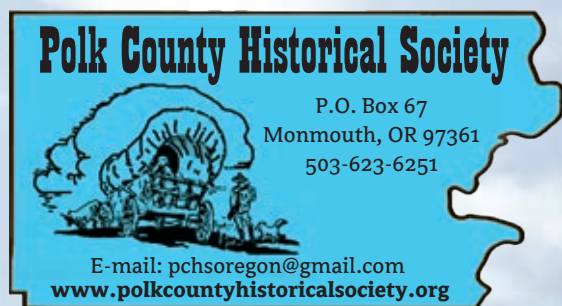
The granary and outhouse are original structures of the farm. The orchard house was relocated nearer the main house and is now used as the visitor center and souvenir shop. The garage was originally a carriage house. And the machine shed, built only to look old Bittel said, houses the blacksmith shop, which is home to monthly classes to create your own railroad spike knife.

"It's kind of neat to walk on the same wood floor, the same house my aunt was in 1881," Olds said. "It's kinda cool."

Located at 5705 Highway 22 W. Brunk House farmstead tours are Fridays and Saturdays, on the hour from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more info:

Visit www.polkcountyhistoricalsociety.org/brunk-house.



Visit the Polk County Museum
560 Pacific Highway, Rickreall

Hours: Tue-Sat 12pm-4pm
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Step Into Polk County's Past

Step into the shoes of Polk County pioneers. Learn about how logging and farming shaped Polk County, and the Native Americans who came before the pioneers.

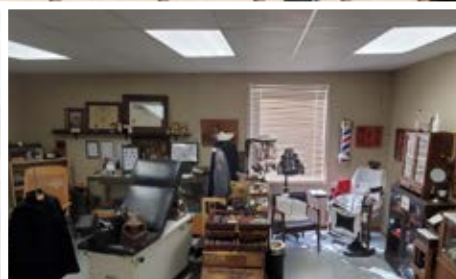
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Call to schedule a tour or reserve the sites for your event



Walk through Memory lane

Polk County Museum

Want to take an extensive walk down memory lane? Let the Polk County Museum be your guide on that journey. The museum features artifacts from the pre-settlement era and over 177 years of Polk County history. Uncover a plethora of Polk County's stories and treasures of the past. Within its walls, the history books come to life.

A replica Conestoga wagon sits in the museum's center, harking back to when the first pioneers arrived in the area during the 1800s. In a display, only a few feet away lie the relics of a time before the settler appeared from the east – when the native Kalapuya roamed the Oak Savannahs of the Willamette Valley.

The Polk County Historical Society has been collecting and housing the shared history of the county since 1959. Polk County Historical Society President David Moellenberndt points out the museum tells the story of how society functioned in throughout the years and how individual people lived their lives.

"You have to know where you came from," Moellenberndt said.

On the ground floor, there's an exhibit on early logging practices, law enforcement, and military service from the area. Upstairs, dedicated to the everyday, features a classroom recreation from a century ago and another display that showcases the inner workings of a turn-of-the-century dentist or barbershop.

Many settlers came to Polk County in the middle of the 19th Century and staked out a claim to land under the Donations Land Claim Act of 1850. The first settlements were in the Yamhill District, Polk County. The county seat was a plot of land north of Rickreall Creek called Cynthian – renamed Dallas in 1852. Polk County and Dallas were named after then sitting president and vice president James Polk and George M. Dallas, respectively.

Bette Jo Card-Lawson, museum registrar, wants to visitor sto know that the exhibits are more than just display

pieces; they are a part of Polk County's living history.

"Everything that comes in here, I feel like they're my friends," Card-Lawson said.

Point a finger in any direction of the museum, and Card-Lawson has a personal connection to many of the pieces on display. Her family owned Dallas's only airport that closed in the 1990s. Her grandfather also supplied the stone that built the Polk County Courthouse from his property in Polk County.

Along with troves of historical treasures, the museum also houses volumes of historical references and genealogical histories of families from the area.

To Moellenberndt, the Polk County Museum is vital to understanding the past and not forgetting those who lived there.

"It's better than fiction; that's why we have history museums," Moellenberndt said.



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Ghost Walk

Features tales of haunted Independence

On a clear Saturday night, the adventurous take to the streets of downtown Independence in search of tales of the paranormal and, perhaps, with hopes to catch sight of an actual apparition.

The Independence Downtown Association's annual Ghost Walk is the first weekend of October. Marilyn Morton, city councilor and author of "Haunted Independence Oregon," said the event has grown in popularity over the years, from a humble 300 at its onset to more than 1,000 at its height of popularity. It appears the community is eager to explore what goes bump in the night.

Participants are given maps marking locations, from The Tap Station furthest north to Gilgamesh south and the side streets between, featuring a guest speaker regaling listeners with yarns of the location's history and brush with the paranormal.

Outside the former location of the Red Front Saloon on C Street former City Councilor Tom Takacs, the longest tenured volunteer, said he started attending the walk about 12 years ago as a guide

before transitioning into a storyteller. Dressed as the Ghost of Hops Picker Past, not based on anyone specific, Takacs centers his tales on the city's hop heritage.

"It's a lot of fun. It's like herding cats. These groups just kind of go everywhere. We tried to keep it a little more organized back in those days, but it never worked. Now it's more a free for all," Takacs said. "A lot of these people have been here year after year. To have this many people. I think it's just a fun, community event, you learn about history. the ghost stuff is kinda fun. It's just a fun evening."

While most of the stops along the route are outside, a few locations invited guests indoors for a longer tale and closer look at usually members only areas such as the Elks and Masonic lodges.

Inside the gathering hall of the Masonic Lodge, Scott Freeman welcomed guests from the dark, back lit to enhance the eerie ambiance. Word is, the Masonic Lodge was the most active stop on the tour for ghostly sightings.

"Independence is a great place. I'm pretty sure that's why spirits like to stay around here and why we get really cool ghost stories," Freeman said. "Places like this, wood-brick buildings, are warm and inviting. And I think they pick up the flavor of the people that have been in the building. Not in a bad, zombie way. But in a warm ambiance way."

Morton added overhearing the exclamation of an excited youth upon leaving the lodge.

"One young man of about 8 years of age exclaimed, rather loudly, in the Masonic Lodge that this Ghost Walk was the 'Best One Ever!'" Morton said. "One other person that I spoke to said he'd gotten photos of orbs (plural) in the Masonic Lodge."

The saying is with today's technology, it's too easy to fake paranormal activity unless you see it for yourself. The IDA's Ghost Walk is the perfect opportunity to become a believer for yourself.

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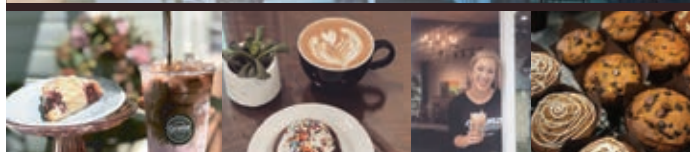
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Swing on by the county golf courses

Many courses in Oregon and elsewhere have experienced a climb in play during years. When the pandemic limited opportunities for sports, exercise and more, golf was one activity that still could be played, either solo or with friends, as it could be done while social distancing.

Participation has only gone up since the end of the pandemic.

The pandemic “increased our play probably 20 percent,” said Bill Mulholland, pro shop manager at Dallas Golf Club.

“We’ve changed every way we run the business,” said Tim Tarpley, owner of Cross Creek Golf Course, adding that the course had to add to its fleet of golf carts and schedule extra workers.

“The number of rounds have gone way, way up,” Tarpley said. “We had a lot of new customers.”

“Golfers were more likely to brave the elements during the pandemic,” Mulholland said.

“When the weather’s nice and then it isn’t so nice, people often say, ‘We can’t golf in that,’” he said. “But in Oregon, if you don’t golf in the rain, you don’t golf.”

Dallas Golf Club

Dallas Golf Club’s nine-hole, par-31 course, which opened in 1990 at 11875 Orrs Corner Road, opens for play at 7:30 a.m. The last tee time is 5 p.m. The layout measures about 1,815 yards,

and the facility has pitching and putting greens and a driving range, although the range is “in rough shape,” Mulholland said, “because freezing temperatures brought down ‘most of the nets.’” The owner, Wilson Golf Enterprises, is debating whether to replace the nets or use that land for RV parking,” he added.

Cross Creek Golf Course

Cross Creek has 18 holes that can stretch to 6,918 yards, with a par of 72. Tim and Kathee Tarpley bought the property in 1996, then built the course and opened nine holes in May 1998. The driving range and new clubhouse came in 2003. The back nine opened in 2005.

The course has rolling hills, mostly wide fairways, some sand and Cross Creek, which golfers must cross on Nos. 1, 8, 10, 11 and 18 (twice on the par-5 finishing hole).

“We get golfers from other courses” during inclement months, Tim Tarpley said, “because we have a lot of good drainage.”

Cross Creek also has a practice putting green and clubhouse with limited menu, including sandwiches and hot dogs.

Cross Creek opens at 6:30 a.m.

Oak Knoll Golf Course

Scott Hicks and co-owner/wife Karla

are in their sixth year at Oak Knoll. The course, located at 6335 Highway 22, has been around for nearly 100 years. The front nine have since gone back to the original, 1926 nine hole placement.

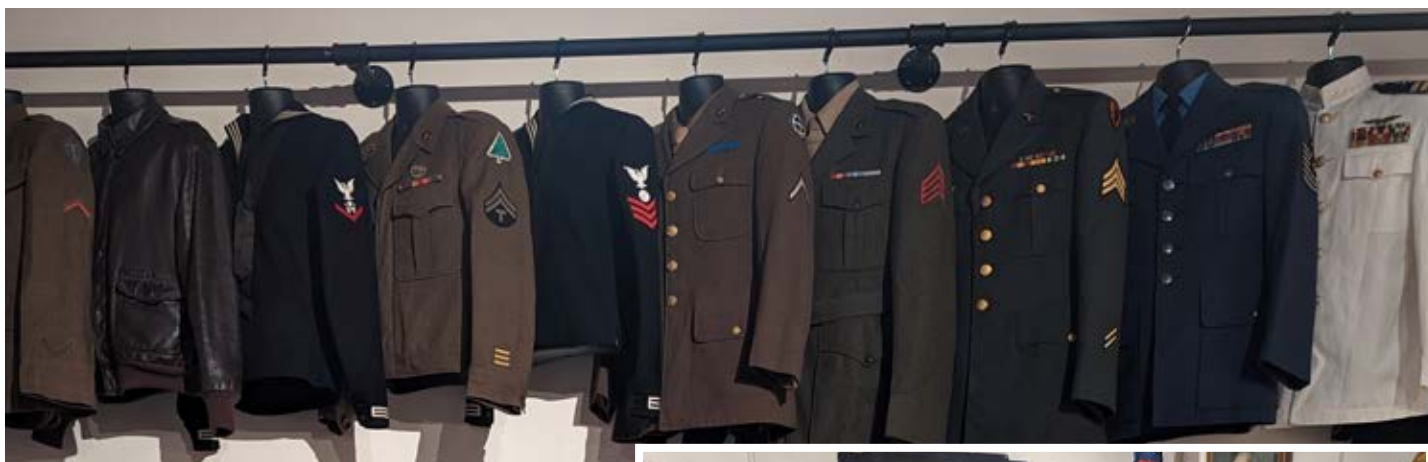
That includes the interesting, 115-yard fifth hole, which has probably the smallest green in the state with a surface that is about 15 feet wide and 20 feet long.

With the grounds fully open during dry weather, including the back nine, Oak Knoll golfers have access to 18 holes at about 5,876 yards from the white tees, at a par-72.

The course will be open from 7 a.m. till dark.

Oak Knoll also has a driving range and putting green, and food service for golfers through a unique drive-through concessions via wide, garage doors on each side of the pro shop. The doors will allow players to pull in and get something to eat or drink between nines. The on-site restaurant is still used for onsite events, including weddings and parties.

Oak Knoll also has become known for a different type of golf – disc golf. The disc golf course gets year-round play and tournament action during the more peak months, rain or shine. Disc golf can be played on the golf course when it is closed to golf. During the summer, play changes to outside of the course so the two sports don’t overlap.



The must-see museum

Downtown Independence where history happens

Just when you think you have seen it all in this riverside town – the colorful bustle of the shop-lined Main Street, the ceaseless emerald currents of the Willamette River, the vibe of hometown artistry from craft beer to bear-claw pastry – you'll turn the corner to find another big surprise, a trove of rich history.

It's the Independence Heritage Museum, which opened its doors in the spring of 2022, at C and 2nd streets. For many years, it had been housed in a historic church nearby, but now the museum isn't only part of the downtown scene, it chronicles the historic city in an up-close and personal, hands-on way.

Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

You won't want to miss the blacksmith area, which not only includes every traditional tool of the trade but also emits the sound of a large bellow once used to forge metal utensils, ranging from horseshoes to fire pots.

A few steps away is the replica of a tent that once provided sleeping quarters for the crews that moved into the town during the hop-harvest season.

Next to that display is an old schoolhouse classroom, where the white-chalk writing on a blackboard curls into cursive letters, harking back to bygone days when cleaning erasers meant clapping them together to make the dust fly.

In the "Veteran's Corner" dress coats representing different eras and branches of the military are displayed high on a wall – a timeline of official garments dating back decades.

In fact, veterans have a special place in the museum, aside from the exhibit area. The museum holds a "Veteran of the Month," a special event where families and friends gather to honor the passing of a loved one who served in the U.S. military. After meeting at the museum, they walk down the block to the Vietnam Memorial in the upper plaza in Riverview Park to raise a flag

– at a monument that's the oldest Vietnam memorial in the Western United States.

The museum isn't just a place for artifacts and memorabilia, however.

This is where new exhibits are welcomed with regularity from across the state and throughout the nation, and where special presentations are offered. One recent standing-room-only example: A session on "Birds of Prey" by two professors from Western Oregon University, which included a live falcon that eyed spectators from a safe perch on the arm of ornithologist Jim Dawson.

Over the past year, the Independence Heritage Museum has had over 4,150 visitors, according to the most recent count. It is located at 281 S 2nd Street, across from the post office in downtown Independence. It opens at 10 am, Tuesday through Saturday

– Anne Scheck, Trammart News Service
(*Trammart News Service is solely responsible for the content it provides.*)

DISCOVER





Zen master

Brings the taste of Oregon wines to West Salem

As an oenophile, Nate Dean has a problem.

He and his wife refined their love for wine while he was stationed in Germany as an airplane mechanic for the Air Force. Now back in West Salem thanks to his wife's job, Dean has discovered Oregon has around 900 vineyards boasting outstanding selections of wines.

"When I try one that I really like, I can't have it anymore," Dean explained. "I have to move on to find the next great one."

His solution? Rather than follow his first idea post-retirement from the Air Force of opening a brewery, he'd share his burgeoning knowledge of Oregon's wine industry in his own tasting room. The fruition of that vision was Old Zen Wine Bar.

Dean's first business model for the tasting room at 1115 Edgewater Street in West Salem was to feature both old world wines and varietals produced exclusively in Oregon. However, Old Zen would come with a twist – stay open past 5 p.m. Then he discovered Oregon had such a large selection, he needed no imports to fill his shelves.

"We were going to do old world wine and Oregon wine. I've worked with vineyards while working for a catering company. There are too many Oregon vineyards," Dean said. "I could fill my shelves with just Oregon wines that are new world wines of those versions. Pinot noirs, German Rieslings. Hunting for malbec from Roseburg, cabernet sauvignon even grown here in Oregon."

Dean's path to opening Old Zen in West Salem post military service first traversed through culinary school in

Portland where he also took classes on old and new world wines. Inspired by his family of foodies, he learned to manage a kitchen should he open a brewery with culinary needs. However, as he saw breweries close during the pandemic, his secondary plan of a wine tasting room seemed more plausible.

"For the wine industry, the pandemic was great for all the people shut in their homes, unable to travel," he said. "Then the Oregon wildfires hit, which wasn't so good for the wine industry."

The timing turned out perfect when the former space of the Garibaldi's Mexican restaurant became free when they relocated. Dean removed all the Mexican tile, the "Denny's style flooring" and avocado walls. In its place, he installed a natural, woodsy-looking area.

"Somewhere to sit back, have some wine and enjoy some Zen," Dean added.

Visitors are invited to take a seat and order from the menu or approach the bar and ask Dean for a recommendation. The neat aspect Dean loves about being an oenophile is never pausing the learning process of Oregon's great varietals.

"Take Chris James's Le Grinde. There's not many in the world, but he grows it in honor of grandfather. Oh, it's delicious. I've got to get it on my shelves for people who have never even heard of it before. I learn something, I can spread the knowledge, too. It's great," Dean said.

In addition to its burgeoning wine selection, which features 45 in stock so far with plans to expand past 75, Old Zen Wine Bar also offers charcuterie boards and cheese trays. Dean's ancillary hope is to help promote local businesses as well.



NATE DEAN

If patrons bring in food from West Salem restaurants, Dean offers a \$1 discount off their first glass or 10% off a full bottle. Dean envisions installing a commercial kitchen within the year to enable hosting of food and wine pairing dinners.

The Old Zen Wine Bar now features a wine tasting series, spotlighting flights from one particular vineyard each month, with the vineyard proprietor pouring selections themselves from 5-7 p.m. each first open day of the month, with a 10% discount off their selections the rest of month.

"I'm constantly getting in new Oregon wine as fast as I can and as many varietals as I can," Dean said. "Since we've opened, my list of vineyards I've been told to visit is up to 60. It's kind of fun to go hunting around for those Southern Oregon malbecs and tempranillos, up here for pinot noirs and chardonnays, Eastern Oregon has some great vineyards, too. As long as it's in Oregon and has an Oregon grape in it, I want to carry some of their wine."

Black Rock

Man-made bike trails being rebuilt better than ever



A global pandemic unleashed by Mother Nature couldn't dissuade outdoor enthusiasts from riding the trails of the Black Rock Mountain Bike Area outside Falls City.

Even her second attempt to lock them out of the forest by sending an ice and windstorm through the region was only a temporary setback for these action junkies.

Hardy volunteers regularly venture out to clear the way of debris to then climb aboard their bikes to enjoy some of the best trails in the Pacific Northwest.

Black Rock had been a destination for dirt bikes during the 1980s until the Oregon Department of Forestry closed it to motor vehicles. In 2002, a trio of people approached the ODF about building a sanctioned free-ride trail.

By 2010, BRMBA became an international destination for mountain bikers of all experience levels and the International Mountain Bike Association added BRMBA to its Epic Trail Program — a distinction given to trails based on quality of design, organization behind projects and cooperation with public agencies.

The Oregon Department of Forestry has cleared the excess fallen trees and

debris. Efforts continue to maintain and update the trail features. The list of planned improvements and restoration is extensive:

1. Perform much needed maintenance on the access road, including grading and graveling the entire road up to Mount Brown Loop Trail.
2. Rebuild Sunday Stroll, including its dirt jumps and wooden features. Extend it from the top of Mount Brown to the Socialist Valley intersection. Total trail distance will increase from 0.28 miles to 0.78 miles.
3. Rebuild Sickter Gnar so as to improve flow and intuition on the trail.
4. Rebuild Granny's Kitchen, so that it starts once again at the top of the mountain and exits near Basic Training for a total of 1.08 miles (up from 0.41 miles). Perform reroutes where appropriate to improve trail flow and rider experience.
5. Update the wooden features on Banzai Downhill and rebuild the trail where appropriate so as improve trail continuity.
6. Install outdoor structures such as a gazebo at the summit of Mount Brown and covered areas at other locations such as Basic Training and near the Cliff

Drop. Provide new picnic tables for riders. Repair the information board at Basic Training.

7. Build a new 0.42 mile line at the exit of BD3 that would provide an easier route for riders to descend to the base of GK5.

8. Rebuild Basic Training, adding a mini dual slalom course.

Don't let the name of the trails fool you. Designers must have been thinking reverse psychology, as the easiest trails to navigate have names like Player Slayer and the most challenging courses have misnomers like Sunday Stroll (beginners need not apply).

To accomplish the goals, however will take more than muscle power. It requires the additional power of giving. The BRMBA has set up a GoFundMe-Page (<https://bit.ly/3I8eObU>) to help purchase the quipment and tools needed to succeed.

To keep an eye on the BRMBA's progress and any announcements, go to their Facebook page www.Facebook.com/blackrock.brmba or their website www.brmba.org.



Xicha grows from its West Salem roots

Ricardo Antunez traveled north to Oregon in hopes of participating in the burgeoning restaurant scene in Portland. Instead, he and his wife, Maggie, have filled a niche in the Willamette Valley brewing up their distinctive Latin beer. After opening their first brewery and restaurant in West Salem, they have since expanded to two more locations.

The duo opened Xicha (pronounced chee-cha) Brewery in 2017 after falling in love with the West Salem area. It was an idea percolating in the back of the minds of Ricardo and co-partner Ben Mendoza since 2015, looking to take advantage of the beer boom.

"We weren't represented as two colored individuals in that scene," Ricardo said. "We slowly started thinking what if we did start a place? Then we'd have to craft our own beer in order for it to be right. Oh, and we could do a taco shop right next to it."

They "stumbled" upon a good sized, beer brewing kit with an output of

barrels that went beyond a hobby to profitability.

"Otherwise, you're just investing money and not getting anything in return, except beer," Ricardo said. "We found a system, a good rate, a good price, and just went for it."

They found the perfect location in a warehouse off Edgewater's main, beaten path, down Patterson Street. Next, they recruited local brewer Matt Dakopolos, homebrewing on the weekends to help them develop a distinctive brand – Latin.

"In all essence, Latino beers are German beers, Czech beers, a lot of European style beers. They have the same recipes that came across the ocean and made their way into Latin America," Ricardo said. "So, all those super grassy, super malty beers, that's where they come from. We wanted to pay homage to all those easy-drinking beers but make them with a twist."

The actual Latin flavor and spice they cook up is on the food side of the brew-

ery. So, instead, they craft beers that pair well with their menu items.

"Great beer is great on its own, but it should be better if paired with the proper food," Ricardo said.

However, when it comes to the food recipes, simple is not really a word they use at Xicha.

"It's a Latin American inspired menu," Maggie explained. "We try to use as many locally sourced farmers in the area as we can. We use a lot of Peruvian chilies or tamarindo (a Mexican peanut that adds a signature sweet and sour taste to dishes) into the food or sauces. It all has a lot of our background incorporated into the menu."

"We're trying to incorporate flavors on top of flavors, yet keeping it approachable," Ricardo added. "So, we do have tacos and chimichangas on the menu, but our version of it, with different sauces and kind of funky."

He points to their most popular item, the barbacoa tacos, kind of their staple,

featuring shredded cabbage, cilantro, cotija cheese and chipotle mole. The finished product is not your traditional street taco.

"I'm not gonna say we elevated it, just that we made it our own. We made it a version of ourselves. Fun and punchy," Ricardo said.

Without a big restaurant scene in the Dallas and West Salem area, their opening was met with mixed reactions.

"We had some people that were really excited and are still coming every day, and there were some people who didn't know what we were," Ricardo said. "They were like, 'At least it is a brewery, we can find a beer.' It's nachos and tacos, essentially can't go wrong with that combination."

They've since been the opposite of wrong. Their trajectory allowed for expansion to Eugene last year.

"So far so good. Fortunately, we picked a good location. The clients in the location were hungry for something new. After a couple months now, the business

is busy, so we're excited for what the future brings there," Ricardo said.

Their future was looking so bright, they are opening a third Xicha in North Salem later this month at 2195 Hyacinth St., in the 45th Parallel Building.

"We're pretty excited for that. We don't have a set date yet," Ricardo said.

"It has lots of businesses in it," Maggie added. "It's a huge warehouse. We're tucked in back corner with really large space. It has brew kit in it now. Definitely upgrading the brew side as well."

They expect the expansion to open opportunities to experiment and play around with more beer recipes.

Each kit makes 15 barrels of beer, or about 1,500 gallons, at a time. Their West Salem location makes 30 regular kegs at a time. Fermenting can be between two weeks to three months. Their Mexican lager Chela has been one of their staples they've had since day one. Their Guyaba and Mango paleo dark beers have also gone over really well.

"Our beers definitely compliment the

food," Maggie said. "When you come out to a restaurant, you don't want a super, super heavy beer that masks your whole mouth while you're trying to eat something really delicious that's crafted to order. We get the best of both worlds."

The Antunezes are happy to have found a home for Xicha in West Salem, away from the cluster of other breweries in downtown Salem.

"It's nice to have a place that's not over there for these locals on this side of the bridge," Ricardo said.

"The West Salem community has been great," Maggie added. "We've been living here 18 years. We're parents as well. Everybody knowing everybody then coming down here and supporting us. And knowing it's a safe space and family friendly. Which was important to us."

Keep up to date with their latest brews and expansion news at their website www.xichabrewing.com (it will ask if you're over the age of 21). They also post regularly on Facebook, Instagram and now TikTok.



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Leisurely wine

Enjoy a glass at Andante

Karen Saul has known forever that the Willamette Valley was great for wine, since she's lived there her whole life, between Salem, Portland and Dallas. So, one might say she was destined to someday own her own vineyard.

"My parents used to remind me when I was still a lawyer, 'You always told us that you were going to write books and live on a vineyard, Karen.' Well, I live close by one and I might still write a book."

For now, she and her husband Joe Allan are the proud proprietors of Andante Vineyard, located in between the Basket Slough National Wildlife Refuge to their east and the Van Duzer Vineyard to their west.

They purchased the 42 acres in 2010 after she finished practicing law, to take up a life of farming. The location was also within commuting distance for Allan to be on call at Willamette Ear, Nose and Throat clinic where he worked until his retirement in 2021. Looking around, their hillside property proved good for just one crop – grapes.

"It has marine sedimentary soil, of silty clay loam, about 12 inches to 2 feet deep, with fractured silt stone beneath that. It's obviously hilly. That's conditions grapes love, but a lot of other crops don't," Saul explained. "Looking back, it was not something we were consciously looking for, but retrospectively, all the signs seemed to be pointing toward this."

Their first harvest in 2013 was interrupted by an unseasonable "monsoon," that Saul said pulverized their grapes. They sold most of the grapes and made about 50 cases of wine, "which we drank ourselves, or with close friends who were enthusiastic with us."

They continued their hospitality plans while growing their vineyard up to the 15 acres needed to make an official winery. Bandyng names about, they kept

coming back to Andante.

"Joe is a very fine pianist, andante is a tempo, a walking pace. There is a lot of classical music with a walking pace designated in it. One that was particularly special to his mom was Beethoven Piano sonata he played for her all the time," Saul said.

That left designing a logo. More inspiration was found outside their windows – the egret bird.

"It's such a wonderful, resilient bird, that was almost hunted to extinction in the 1800s for hat feathers," Saul said. "They seem to not mind sharing property with humans."

Today, they're producing up to 60 tons, enough for about 2,800 cases, thinking they can comfortably up that to 100 tons.

"That would be more than enough to keep our guests wines they'd like to purchase from us. We have no desire to be big. Five or six thousand cases I think all we ever aim for," Saul said.

While their vineyard has the expected Pinot noir (with seven different clones, including a white and rosé), Saul said they're gaining a reputation for their Sauvignon Blanc wine, which has become their most popular because it is so unusual. They also feature a Chardonnay, a Gamay and a very popular Alagoté, which very few people have. She said Alagoté also originates from the Burgandy region of France, just like Chardonnay.

One of their biggest decisions was to add a tasting room to their facilities.

"It was huge. Huge," Saul said. "Our sales increased significantly when we introduced a tasting room. Our patio will be popular, too. As popular as it is to be inside when it's chilly out, even last year, when we just opened it and everyone was admiring it, they said, 'but we want to sit outside.'"



JOE & KAREN

Their outdoor patio is nearing completion, which she expects to attract even more oenophiles, even those willing to traverse a few miles of dirt road to be served.

"A lot of our friends, before we had the tasting room open, would tell us, 'You're way out here. It would be a lot more fun if we could get something to eat,'" Saul said. "I think wine is intended to be paired with food. So, we absolutely believe food is part of our wine selling process to demonstrate to people how food and wine pairing can change your experience."

They also plan to expand musical entertainment options. But she doesn't expect the grounds to become a wedding or events venue.

"That's a whole other business. We want to concentrate on growing and selling our wine," Saul said.

For more info:

go to <https://andantevineyard.com> and learn more about Andante.



Wistful waterways

The meandering Willamette River forms the border between Polk and Marion counties

Looking for the perfect location to take your kayak, stand-up paddleboard, or canoe on either a short trip or multi-day? Look no further than the Willamette River Water Trail. You'll find what you desire somewhere along its 187 miles of the river – stretching through the main stem of the Willamette and several miles of the Coast Fork, the Middle Fork, and the McKenzie River.

A commonly used stretch of the Water Trail through Polk County starts at the Buena Vista Ferry, south of Independence, and ends at Wallace Marine Park in West Salem. The trek is 23 miles and takes a couple of days to complete. A paddler can make it a one-night adventure or take their time and float for two nights on this portion of the Water Trail. The trip will take paddlers

on an easygoing journey past fields and forests, providing a great view of historic downtown Independence. If you plan to stop in Independence, there is a campsite next to the river and places to stay in town – including the Independence Hotel, which hosts an outdoor patio and restaurant.

A slightly longer route through Linn and Polk counties connects Bryant Park in Albany to Independence. In this section, you can experience the confluence of the Luckiamute and Santiam rivers near the Luckiamute State Natural Area. This trip is 24 miles and takes about two days.

If you're opting for a more extended, multi-day trip, there are plenty of other attractions and campsites to stay in the Willamette Valley. Camping along the

Water Trail is first come, first serve. So, it's good to have more than one campsite in mind for your journey.

For those who don't own their own paddleboard or kayak, there are several outfitters in the Willamette Valley that offer rentals and gear to get you out on the river.

While the Willamette is a relatively safe, slow-moving waterway, it's essential to know what gear to take and how to read the river. Safety should be the main priority.

For more info:

For important itinerary information, gear lists, safety tips, and more, go to willamettewatertrail.org.



Baskett Slough

Teems with native and transitory wildlife ready to be discovered

The 2,492-acre Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge, sits along Highway 22 just north of Rickreall where more than 230 species of birds live, along with a variety of mammals, amphibians and plants.

The Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1965 as part of the Willamette Valley NWR Complex primarily to provide wintering habitat for dusky Canada geese.

The refuge also provides wetland and woodland sanctuary for migratory and resident wildlife which range from the prolific black-tailed deer to the rare endangered butterfly Fender's blue, thought to be extinct from 1940 to the late 1980s, when a few populations were found in the Willamette Valley,

Another endangered species is the Willamette daisy, a wildflower usually found on upland prairie and oak savanna

habitats with little or no shrub cover.

Threatened species on the refuge include:

- The streaked horned lark, whose favored habitat is open spaces.
- Kincaid's lupine, a wildflower found in upland prairies and oak savannas.
- Nelson's checkermallow, a wildflower found typically in wet prairies and floodplains of the Willamette Valley and the Coast Range.

Plants that are neither endangered nor threatened include the meadow checkermallow, showy milkweed, and gold paint brush.

For a partial listing of the animals neither threatened nor endangered, are you ready? Fox sparrow, lazuli bunting, band-tailed pigeon, American white pelican, double-crested cormorant, downy woodpecker, white-faced ibis, sora rail, avocet, rufous hummingbird, northern

spotted owl, yellow-headed blackbird, turkey vulture, peregrine falcon, golden eagle, wood duck, black-necked stilt, raven, belted kingfisher, western osprey, trumpeter swan, bat species, mule deer, sharp-tailed snake.

The refuge includes a three-mile trail system and does not allow running, biking, hunting, or fishing.

More than 42,000 people volunteer their time and ideas each year to US-FWS. They work on the land, in the visitor center, and with youth. There are more than 200 nonprofit Refuge Friends organizations.

Visitors are urged to keep their distance from the animal life and other visitors. Cameras, of course, are encouraged, as well as good walking shoes and a jacket for chilly weather.



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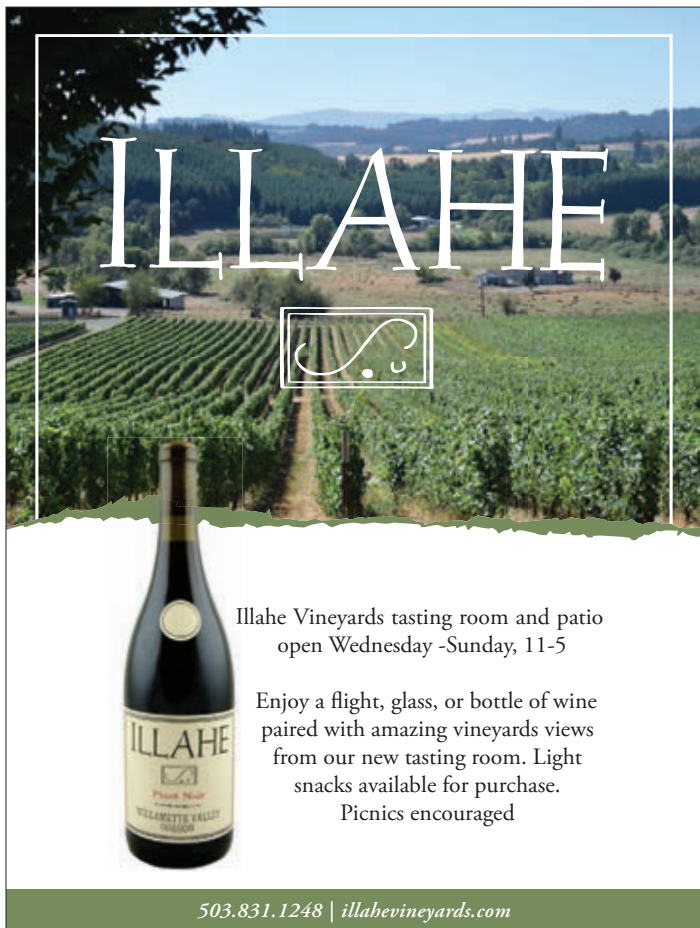
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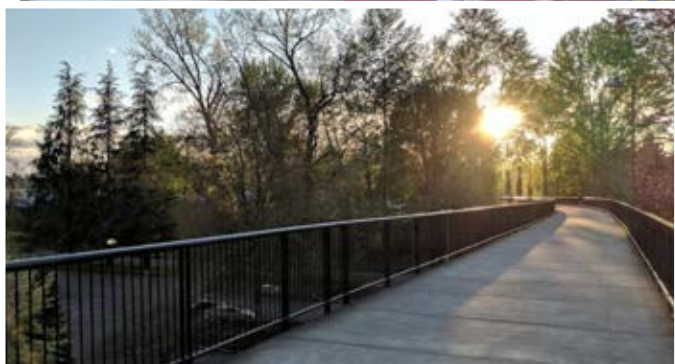
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Wallace Marine Park

offers myriad activities for outdoor enthusiasts

On the outskirts of downtown Salem, just over the Willamette River lies Wallace Marine Park, a secluded 114 acres that is home to a beautiful open space for myriad outdoor activities.

At the heart of the park, accessed at 200 Glen Creek Road, is the Wallace Marine Softball Complex, which hosts softball and kickball leagues, in addition to local, state, regional and national tournaments in the star complex on 5 natural grass softball fields.

Outside of the softball complex, five soccer fields of various sizes fill the middle of the park to accommodate different levels of play, and has a playground with picnic tables, and portable toilets.

The south end of the park features

restrooms, a boat ramp and floating dock enjoyed by motorboats, kayakers, fishing enthusiasts and the like. The website swimguide.org is happy to report the gravel beach at Wallace Marine Park is extremely popular with the locals and is quite child friendly with a slow-moving current and shallows for wading. This being said, it can be a VERY crowded place on the hot days of summer!

Walkers, runners, and bicyclists enjoy the developed and undeveloped trails circling the park and up the Union Street Railroad Bridge which crosses the Willamette River and leads the public into Riverfront Park.

According to OregonRuns.com, the majority of the trails at Wallace Marine

Park are soft surface trails. A fraction of the trail runs along the Willamette River through a forested area with ivy and blackberries. The trail then loops wide around the parking areas and the softball complex. The trail continues past two spacious green areas. The running here is relatively flat with a few tiny ups and downs.

Overall, OregonRuns.com's review finds Wallace Marine Park a great place to run especially when factoring in combining this run with Riverfront Park. Just run across the Union Street Bridge to get to Riverfront Park and this would add another two miles to your run.



Rachel Greco, Owner

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We opened Grandma's Attic in 1994 with a few bolts of fabric and a dream to create a Quilt Shop where women would feel comfortable shopping, attending classes, and learning about the history of needle arts and women in America. By 1997, we had added a website, making us one of the first three quilt shops on the world wide web. Twenty-eight years later, Grandma's Attic has grown tremendously. We are a destination store with customers arriving at the brick-and-mortar store from a radius of at least 60 miles regularly, and throughout the United States as people pass through town.

Owner Rachel Greco produces a Scrapbasket Newsletter and Grandma Gazette each month, in addition to writing for the Country Register newspaper. She has produced many different books and patterns filled with quilt blocks and quilt patterns and continues to e-mail "gab sheets" to over 18,000 world-wide customers each week.

We survived the pandemic by giving away elastic to anyone who was making face masks and by adding curbside service to our mail order and in-store shopping. Today, twenty-eight years after opening, Grandma's Attic is a traditional quilt shop with a reputation for high quality fabrics, informative history classes, and tons of fun and laughter.

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Wet and wild

Dallas Aquatic Center offers good times on the water



With the pandemic far in the rearview mirror, the Dallas Aquatic Center is fully open to the public where swimmers can enjoy a variety of indoor water activities.

Opened in November of 2000, the Aquatic Center features five pools - a six lane lap pool, a warm therapy pool, a hot and relaxing spa, a multi-use pool, and a wading pool for the children 5 and under to swim in. The Dallas Aquatic Center is also a part of the Roger Jordan park which includes multiple soccer fields, skate park, baseball field, and two tennis courts.

"During rec swim, the slide is open, and the river is on, the rope swing is open ideally once an hour. Staffing impacts the extras, but we try to keep everything open during the recreational swim. We try to offer that," said Gretchen Noll, Dallas Aquatic Center manager.

The DAC's lap pool has a 14-foot-high and 105-foot-long water slide that feeds into one end of the pool, a diving board at the deep end, and roped-off lanes for the lap swimmers. The Aquatic Center

also has a sizable spa that one must be at least 16 years old to enjoy, so if adults want to take a break from the chaos of the kids, they have a relaxing place to get away.

The Aquatic Center also has a therapy pool and kids wading pool.

For birthday parties and other family functions, Noll said a party room is available for rent, which includes a couple of packages.

- The Splash Basic package opens the multi-purpose room during any recreation swim to host your party at just \$60 per hour (admission not included). With this package the center allows a birthday treat, all other food will have a \$20 fee charged for outside food.

- In the Super Splash package, you supply the guests and the cake while aquatic center staff does the rest. The cost of \$25 per child (with a minimum of 8) includes multi-purpose room for one hour, set up, covered tables, plates, napkins, utensils, party bag for each guest, ice cream cup, drink, you get to

choose pizza, soft pretzels, corn dog, or hot dogs with chips for each guest; and room clean up. This package includes admission for paid child and two adults.

For the really big event planner, you can rent the entire facility for \$300 per hour for the first 40 swimmers, where you and your friends can enjoy the entire facility all to yourselves.

Pricing for additional time and swimmer available upon request.

For adults, there's Moonlight Swimming at the Dallas Aquatic Center. The lights are turned down low so you can enjoy a relaxing evening in the pool. The cost is \$4 for non-members while members are free.

More info:

Pool hours and swimming times vary from the different seasons and are available at the DAC's website www.dallasor.gov/aquaticcenter or call (503) 623-9715. The Dallas Aquatic Center is located at 1005 SE LaCreole Dr.

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EVENTS





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Biggest block party around

Dallas hosts Krazy Dayz

Clear out six city blocks. Set up more than 100 vendors offering food, drink, crafts and access community organizations. Sprinkle in some attractions like a car show. Top it off with nightly, live entertainment. And you've got the components for an annual party that is back and bigger than ever – Krazy Dayz.

The three-day festival runs from July 27-30 in the downtown core of Dallas.

The regional party kicks off at 11 a.m. with the “Christmas in July” parade. The parade route starts at Washington and Jefferson streets then ends at the Academy Building on Academy Street.

Krazy Dayz festivities wraps up July 30 as events move to the city park for the Dallas Rotary Club's Breakfast in the Park and the Dallas Art Association's Art in the Park. The City Park located at 600

Algood St.

Be sure to bring a lawn chair and stake out some prime real estate to enjoy live entertainment.

More info:

For the latest in Krazy Dayz information, go to www.dallasor.gov/community/page/krazy-dayz.



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Something old, something

Tina Andersen is quite happy with the Polk County Fair's niche in the entertainment world.

"This is your last old fashioned county fair," said Andersen, fair manager. "We are not commercialized. We don't have a huge carnival that comes in.... Once you get inside the gates, we don't nickel and dime people. The rodeo, the monster truck, the tractor pulls, they're free once you pay your entry."

Numbers suggest old-fashioned fun remains in demand. The fair drew 16,000 visitors last year. A good number, Andersen said, but off the high-water mark of 22,000 set four years ago.

"Then, of course, covid hit and everything changed," she added.

The fair was closed for much of 2020, the peak of the pandemic. But the livestock auction carried on with some modifications. Upon reopening, patrons found the fair's commitment to kids and families unchanged.

"We've set up a kids area. We've got big games. We've got a water slide," said Andersen. "This is a place where you can

grab a burger and something to drink and sit at a picnic table and let your kids play."

Old-fashioned fairs have themes. Polk County Fair is no exception, with this year's "Whatever Floats Your Goat" following last year's "When Pigs Fly." Any similarity between the two is purely intentional.

"It's just a fun theme for the kids, and I think for the next few years we're going to pick an animal and put our fair theme out there again (until) we hit every animal that's shown at the fair," she said.

It's fortunate a fowl-related fair theme wasn't selected for 2023. Given that some birds could be a no-show.

"It looks like our poultry show will be limited to market animals only because of the dangers of spreading avian influenza," said Andersen. "That means the kids that bring in animals that they normally would take home will not be able to show them. But those kids that bring in animals that are going to market will be able to bring theirs. That's the way it's looking now, and I don't see that

changing for this year."

Luckily, the vast majority of what people love about the fair remains intact. For example, patrons of any age can hitch a ride with the American Thunder monster truck, sponsored by Home Comfort.

"Old and young alike love riding monster trucks," said Ron Leach, founder and owner of American Thunder Motorsports. "The thrill of big wheels spinning and excitement from the horsepower draws in everyone."

Leach added he is attracted to the monster truck biz because he "loves hearing the laughter of kids and adults."

American Thunder is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 11, in the arena, with time to be determined.

"See 'ya at the Polk County Fair," said Leach. "Enjoy the ride."

The arena also hosts a Rough Stock Rodeo at 7 p.m., Aug. 10. The 4-H archery contest and the tractor pulls are Aug. 12, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., respectively, in the arena.

Other old reliables such as the Marines, Army National Guard and Polk County



new at the Polk County Fair

Sheriff's Office will also be present and accounted for, sir.

Celebrating one's past doesn't mean forgetting one's present, not at this fair.

"You want to come into today's time. But you still want to preserve the old county fair," Andersen said. "So it's a very fine line."

Straddling this "fine line" includes having a booth on CBD, the cannabis extract.

"We had a lot of requests from people wanting us to bring in CBD products because a lot of people don't know much about it," said Andersen.

Experts will explain differences between the chemical found in marijuana and marijuana itself.

"A lot of us don't understand what the difference is," said Andersen. "But it's kinda what's going on in the world, and I rather that we bring someone in to explain it than just have people here selling (CBD) products and not having answers when people ask them questions."

Hollywood is 1,000 miles from Rick-

reall. But that won't keep a Tinsel Town legend from making an appearance, nor will he be walking around incognito.

Just look for the large reptile wearing an orange mask.

"Since the Teenage Ninja Mutant Turtle movie is coming out this summer, Michelangelo is going to be here," said Andersen.

Drone races and a robotics display are also in the fair's lineup. As are a steam-punk display, tarot readings, magic show and a hypnotist that recruits his willing victims, er, subjects from the audience.

"So don't be anywhere near the stage when the guy comes on if you don't want to be picked," said Andersen of the hypnotist's act.

This is Andersen's 23rd year as manager.

"I was a volunteer and they drug me in here," she said with a laugh. "And my goal then, what I told them, was that I would take over fair management for no longer than five years. But I can't let go."

The job appeals to Andersen because she never finds it boring.

"It's a little bit of everything," she said.

"I keep a pair of boots, a pair of sandals and a pair of tennis shoes under my desk because I never know what I'm doing that day."

Coming challenges include drafting 5-year, 10-year and 20-year master plans "... as we move into the future," said Andersen.

Fair funding comes from a number of sources.

"Our businesses are amazing. They sponsor the fairgrounds. They help us with donations," said Andersen. "We could not survive without them."

Funding also comes from facility rentals, fair proceeds and public monies.

Improvements to the grounds over the past year include new drop ceilings, better lighting and improved ventilation in the main building, replacing motors in the walk-in cooler and freezer, and upgrades to the beef barn and other barns. Faster internet service is available as well.

Polk County Fairgrounds is at 420 S. Pacific Highway West in Rickreall.



Polk Flea Market

Attracting regional bargain hunters

Deb Thomas likes to slightly exaggerate that the Polk Flea Market for a while there was the only one open between Los Angeles and Canadian border.

As the manager since 2000, she's seen other venues close their doors for good and others that never reopened after the pandemic ended.

"Portland antique expo isn't running, it's shot, shut down, and won't be doing it for the foreseeable future," Thomas said. (The Rose City Vintage Market has since reopened.)

With closures of markets in Salem and Eugene, Thomas said the event at the Polk County Fairgrounds has become a regional destination.

Thomas said the Polk Flea Market has

been up and running without fail through the pandemic since July 2020.

The flea market usually attracts up to 150 vendors. Bargain hunters can expect to find jewelry, Avon products, dolls, glassware, hunting and fishing gear, gaming and technology tables, car stuff and guy stuff.

"Basically, everything under the sun," she added.

Thomas said the interesting fallout of the pandemic was the demographic of shoppers changed. Older, regular customers began staying home, while younger bargain hunters were attracted to Polk County's market. Since the end of the pandemic, the regulars are returning.

Just like the big box stores, the flea mar-

ket was able to remain open and was able to solidify a solid base of regulars. You'll see them every first Sunday of the month throughout the year, except for August when it gives way for the Polk County Fair.

Polk Flea Market

Where: Polk County Fairgrounds, 520 South Pacific Highway West

When: First Sunday of the month, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission: \$1; Early Admission \$5: 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and 6 to 9 a.m. Sunday

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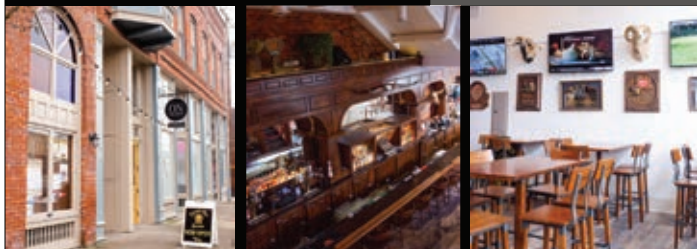


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Music makes the soul grow fonder of the summer concert season

One does not need to venture outside Polk County to enjoy an outdoor concert. Dallas, Monmouth and Independence each host their own series of performances in open, amphitheater settings to stake out your own spot of a lawn chair or beach blanket during the summer months. And with no more social distancing guidelines to follow, each venue is sure to pack in the audiences aching to enjoy a live performance of regional favorite acts.

Dallas returns with its 27th year of the Sounds of Summer. Organizers expect crowds to top 500 on the lawn and stone steps surrounding the stage at the corner of Main and Academy Streets.

The Thursday night shows run from 6:30-8:30 p.m., July 6 through Aug. 10 and feature bands performing a variety of genres selected to appeal to listeners of all ages.

The city is excited to have local vendors sating that appetite and whet that whistle throughout the evening. The performances are free to attend. While Ward said the city does not take donations, she hopes those attending will support the participating vendors and sponsors.

Monmouth Music in the Park series returns for its 13th season. It kicks off at 6:30 p.m. the first Wednesday after the 4th of July and runs through Aug. 30. Concerts usually run until 8:30 p.m.

The music is augmented with food vendor and a beer garden. There will also be a rotating group of local organizations setting up tables and booths to introduce themselves and their services to the attendees.

Independence is home to the annual River's Edge Summer Series, featuring a variety of regional talent before live crowds at the Riverview Park Amphitheater on Friday nights at 6 p.m. and a mix of recent and classic family friendly movies on Thursday nights at 9 p.m. The Summer Series runs from July 6 through Aug. 20. Check at the city's website to schedule updates at www.independence-amphitheater.com.

Info.

Dallas Sounds of Summer 2023 schedule:

July 6 - TBD

July 13 - Red Band

July 20 - Ty Curtis

Aug. 3 - Great American Trainwreck

*Aug. 10 - Johnny Limbo and
the Lugnuts*

Monmouth 2023 Music in the Park schedule:

July 5 - Ben Rick Band (blues)

July 12 - Bon Bon Vivant (New Orleans style)

July 19 - Resoelectrics (rock n soul)

July 26 - River Divide (country/classic rock)

*Aug. 2 - Mark Seymour and Friends (Ameri-
can/folk rock/blues)*

Aug. 9 - Shinkle Band (country)

Aug. 16 - Soul Vacation (soul/funk)

Aug. 23 - Severin Sisters (Americana)

Aug. 30 - Coming up Threes (Celtic folk)

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Left to Right:
Devon, Mark



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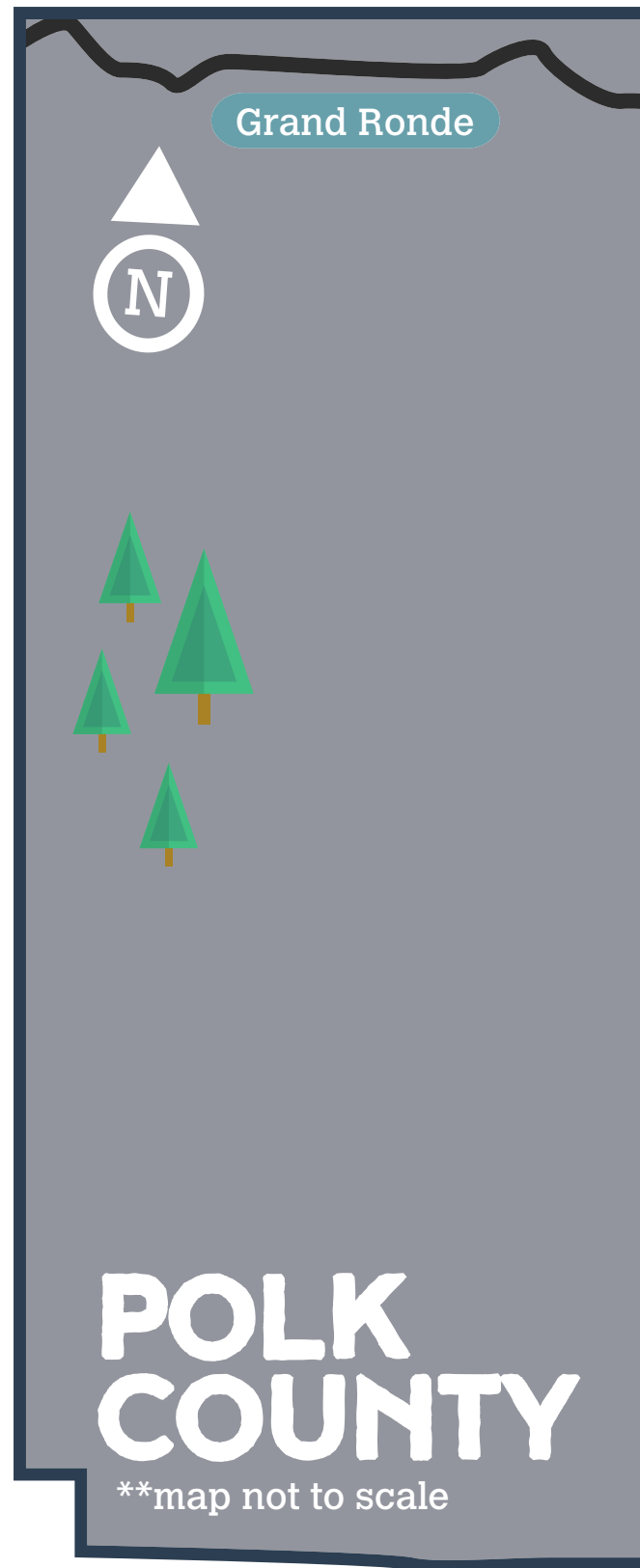
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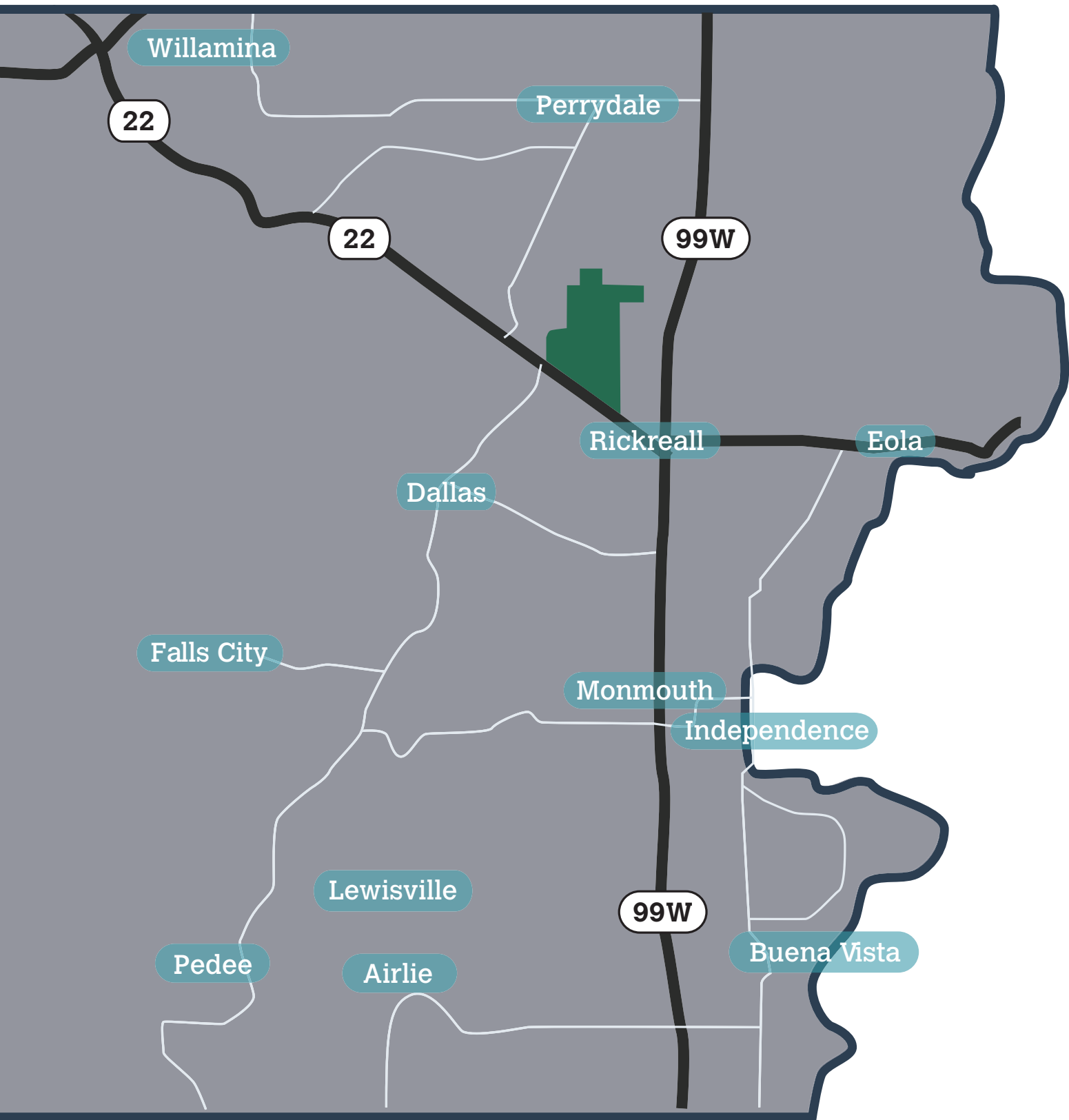
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POLK COUNTY FAIR - 2ND WEEKEND IN AUGUST!

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