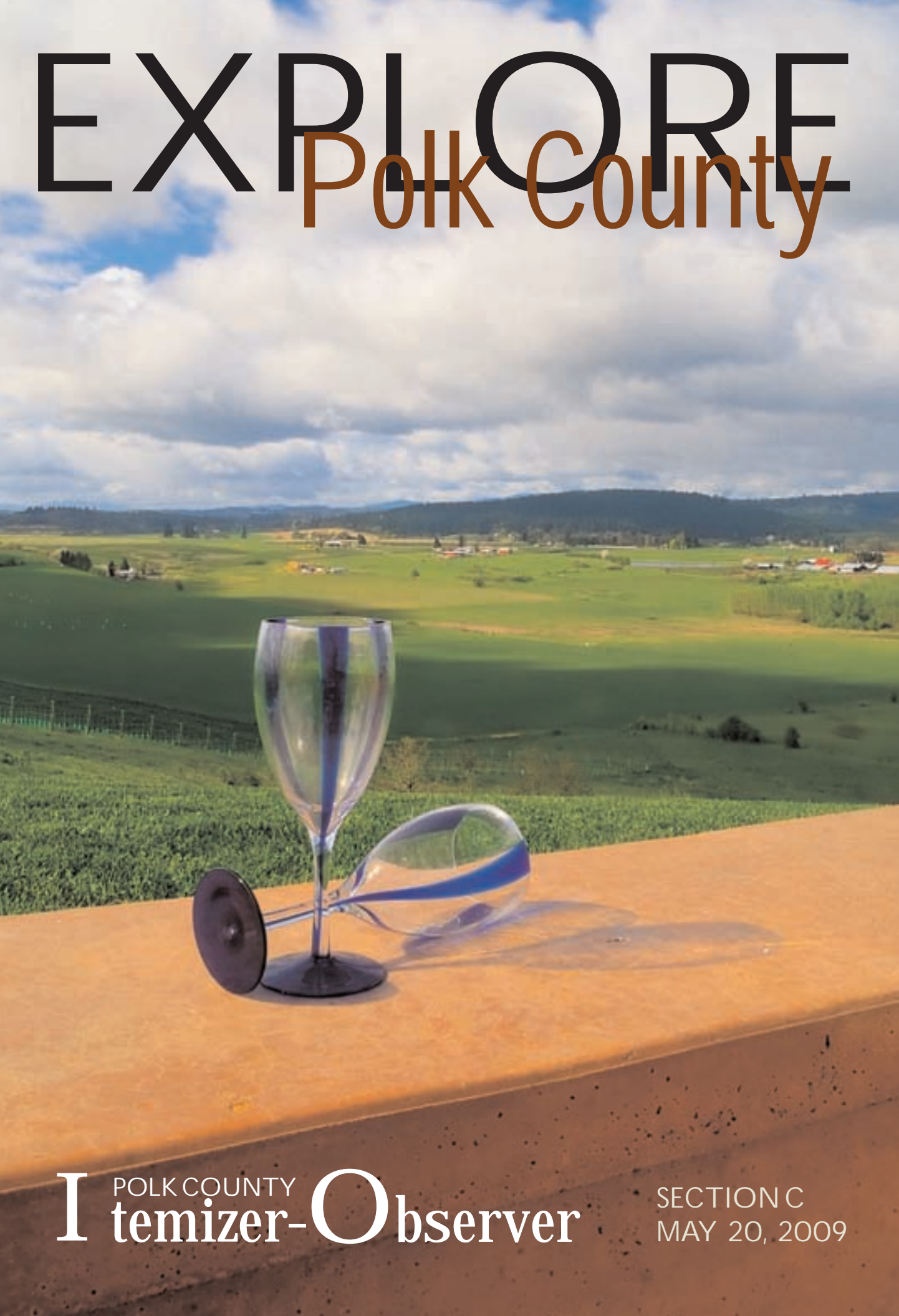


# EXPLORE Polk County



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### Published by the Polk County Itemizer-Observer

Nancy Adams, publisher; Kurt Holland, managing editor; Craig Coleman, reporter; Jillian Beaudry, reporter; Sam Scott, reporter; Adam Korst, photography; Marc Faulconer, design; Heidi Mowrey, display advertising; Isaac Maiden, display advertising; Debbi Dupras, display advertising; Kathy Huggins, production; Bill Haskins, production; Elijah Voris, production; Pat Letsch, bookkeeping; Dawn Ohren, classified ads; Ami Braden, classified ads; Caroline Bauch, classified ads/office administration



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Mayor: John McArdle

### City of Monmouth

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Van Duzer Vineyards offers spectacular views of Baskett Slough. Located minutes from Dallas, no lengthy expedition is needed to enjoy scenery and quality wine on a sunny day.

## Region filled with touted wineries, vineyards

With more than 70 wineries in Polk County, how does one choose where to stop? These three wineries from different parts of the county are best known for the quality and variety of wines, stunning landscape and general atmosphere.

### Van Duzer Vineyards

A short drive from Dallas settled in the hills overlooking Baskett Slough is Van Duzer Vineyards. Located at 11975 Smithfield Road, Dallas, the vineyard is named after the Henry Van Duzer Forest State Scenic Corridor known for its summer cooling that grows wonderful pinot noir.

Since 1998, the family-owned vineyard has grown pinot noir and pinot gris on its 140 acres. It features five different bottlings of pinot noir as well as dessert wines and port.

Kathy Fiebig, direct sales and hospitality manager, said the winery is set up for visitors to taste fabulous wines that represent the region.

“(It’s the perfect place to) just sit



Award-winning wines and good people at Cubanismo Vineyards will make visitors want to salsa all night under the Polk County stars.

outside on the patio and drink a glass of wine,” Fiebig said.

The architecture and design of the tasting room draws elements from its art deco-style label. Gold stars decorate the ceiling and colorful leaves wrap around glass light fixtures.

The winery uses sustainable farming and production to create 16,000 cases of wine each year.

Visit the tasting room daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. On sunny days, the patio is the perfect setting for a

gathering looking out over the slough and small farms. Guests are welcome to bring a picnic as well. However, some days the patio can be windy, so bring a hat.

Because of tough economic times, the winery has reduced prices by 3 to 11 percent. Bottles range in price from \$16 to \$45.

For more information: 503-623-6420.

### Cubanismo Vineyards

Cubanismo is a winery that features a unique combination of breathtaking views of Salem, award-winning wines and Cuban style.

Located at 1754 Best Road NW in West Salem, the winery has only been creating its own wine since 2003 and hosting tastings since 2007. Before that time period, the grapes, planted in 1990, were sold to wineries such as King Estate Winery and Erath Vineyards.

The property’s 21 acres have vines that produce pinot noir and pinot gris.

Continued on Page 8



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# Wineries: Vineyards offer great wine and views, too

**Continued from Page 6**

Christina Collada, the director of operations and owner's daughter, said her father Mauricio is an immigrant from Cuba who came to Oregon to work as a doctor.

There are visible signs of his culture from the decor of the tasting room to the label.

"People are thrown off by the name," Christina said. "We have a catchy name with good wine to back it up."

Earthy colors and Cuban design transport visitors to Mauricio's home country by stepping into the tasting room.

Outdoors, the patio has a dance floor that hosts salsa lessons every third Saturday of each month by reservation.

Christina said their winery is unusual and doesn't fit the typical uptight stereotype some wineries have.

"I know that we break from that stereotype," she said. "We like to have fun with our wine."

Currently, the menu includes nine wines — varieties of pinot noir and pinot gris. Bottles range from \$16 to \$70.

Their wines win awards every year they enter competitions, Christina said. The most recent award was the gold medal in the American Fine Wine Competition

for their 2006 pinot noir.

The tasting room is open every day March through December from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information: 503-588-1763.

## Airlie Winery

If you are looking for a winery to spend the day, make the drive out to Airlie Winery at 15305 Dunn Forest Road southwest of Monmouth.

Airlie is known for its variety of quality wines. The winery is laid back, primarily run by women, dog friendly and secluded. A gravel road leads you to owner Mary Olson's 32 acres of grapes that she has been growing since 1997.

Olson has seven varieties that she blends to create wines such as Marechal Foch, a French-American hybrid grape and pinot noir.

"We have a breadth of our wines, from a sweet wine to a dry red wine, and everything in between," Olson said.

Olson recently took home the bronze medal for her pinot noir at the Newport Seafood and Wine Festival in February, and was the winner of the 100 Top Value Wines of the Year in June 2008.

Her bottles range in price from \$10 to \$30.

Pack a picnic and plan to be at the secluded winery for a long time.



**Polk County's place in the Van Duzer Corridor is the perfect cool spot to grow the finicky pinot noir grape.**

Rather than relaxing near the tasting room, take your picnic down to the unique spring-fed pond.

Olson said even dogs are allowed to take a swim on hot days.

The tasting room is open weekends from noon to 5 p.m., March through December, and by appointment.

There is also an annual Memorial Day Weekend event complete with food, wine and music.

For more information: 503-838-6013.



**Drawing on the Cuban roots of the owner, the tasting room at Cubanissimo has warm colors and soft lighting. Guests only remember they are in Polk County upon stepping outdoors to view the city of Salem below.**





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Bryan Croft, winemaker at Firesteed Cellars near Rickreall, examines plump pinot noir grapes on the vine.

## A fine time for wines in Polk County

In case you haven't heard, the Polk County wine industry keeps getting bigger and better. The county has emerged as one of Oregon's major players in the state's touted wine industry.

Statistics from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service via its 2008 Oregon Vineyard and Winery Report is proof that Polk County contributes in a big way when it comes to Oregon wine.

Polk County ranks second in planted acreage (2,883), second in harvested acreage (1,960) and second in production (4,086 tons). Only neighboring Yamhill County to the north ranks higher.

The county also ranks fourth in number of vineyards with 78. Only Yamhill (248), Washington (84) and Jackson (81) counties have more.

Bottles bearing the names of local vineyards like Airlie, Chateau Bianca, Eola Hills and Van Duzer, among many others, have helped make Polk County one of Oregon's top producers of grapes and wines.

Pinot noir accounts for the ma-



Lowell Ford looks over barrels of wine at Illahe Vineyards in Dallas.

jority of Polk County's planted acreage, with 2,035 acres in that variety. Pinot gris (414 acres) and chardonnay (175 acres) are a distant second and third.

Polk County is blessed with the ingredients for growing grapes: good soil, moderate temperatures,

and a balance of sunshine and rain. No wonder, then, that wine lovers discovered the county fertile territory for vineyards.

Vineyards (where the grapes are grown) and wineries (where they're made into wine and bottled) dot the region.

One of the best resources for those interested in a tour of area wineries is "Vintage Oregon: Oregon Winery Guide," produced by the folks at the Oregon Wine Board. It offers a guide and information to the state's wine industry and detailed information about wineries.

Additional information is available at the wine board's Web site, [www.oregonwine.org](http://www.oregonwine.org).

Many of the region's wineries offer wine tastings on a seasonal or year-round basis. Some are open by appointment only, others just on weekends, and others daily throughout the week. A few offer full tours. It is recommended you call ahead to confirm schedules and operating hours.

**Continued on Page 12**



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**Polk County is one of the leading players in Oregon's touted wine industry. The county ranks second in the state in planted acreage, harvested acreage and production. Pinot noir is the most popular variety.**

## Wineries of Polk County

### Continued from Page 10

Wineries in Polk County that offer tasting rooms and tours include:

- Airlie Winery, 15305 Dunn Forest Road, Monmouth (Airlie), 503-838-6013.
- Amalie Robert Estate, 13531 Bursell Road, Dallas, 503-831-4703.
- Bethel Heights Vineyard, 6060 Bethel Heights road, West Salem, 503-581-2262.
- Bryn Mawr Vineyards, 5955 Bethel Heights Road NW, West Salem, 503-581-4286.
- Chateau Bianca Winery, 17485 Highway 22, Dallas, 503-623-6181.
- Cherry Hill Winery, 7867 Crowley Road, Rickreall, 503-623-7867.
- Cristom Vineyards, 6905 Spring Valley Road NW, West Salem, 503-375-3068.
- Cubanísimo Vineyards, 1754 Best Road NW, West Salem, 503-588-1763.
- Emerson Vineyards, 11665 Airlie Road, Monmouth, 503-838-0944.
- Eola Hills Wine Cellars, 501 S. Pacific Highway (99W), Rickreall, 503-623-2405.
- Firesteed Cellars, 2200 N. Pacific Highway (99W), Rickreall, 503-623-8683.
- Johan Vineyards, 4825 N. Pacific Highway (99W), Rickreall, 866-379-6029.
- Left Coast Cellars, 4225 N. Pacific Highway (99W), Rickreall, 888-831-4916.
- Mystic Wines, 3995 Deepwood Lane NW, West Salem, 503-581-2769 (tasting room located in Amity).
- Namaste Vineyards, 5600 Van Well Road, Dallas, 503-623-4150.
- Orchard Heights Winery, 6057 Orchard Heights Road NW, West Salem, 503-391-7308.
- Redhawk Vineyard, 2995 Michigan City Lane NW, West Salem, 503-362-1596.
- St. Innocent Ltd. (tasting room), 5657 Zena Road NW, West Salem, 503-378-1526.
- Stangeland Vineyards, 8500 Honeywell Road NW, West Salem, 503-581-0355.
- The Cost Vineyard, 5917 Orchard Heights Road NW, West Salem, 503-922-3549.
- Van Duzer Vineyards, 11975 Smithfield Road, Dallas, 503-623-6420.
- Whistling Dog Cellars, 5657 Zena Road NW, West Salem, 503-329-5114.
- Witness Tree Vineyard, 7111 Spring Valley Road NW, West Salem, 503-585-7874.

—  
Want just a taste in town? These spots offer a variety of local wines without the drive:

- Fine Wines and Flowers, 154 S. Main St., Independence, 503-837-0459.
- J. Bella's Restaurante, 114 S. Main St., Independence, 503-838-4425.
- L'Attitude Point One, 904 Main St., Dallas, 503-831-1588.
- West Side Wine Store, 550 Taggart Rd. NW, Suite 110D, West Salem, 503-763-9463.

It is recommended you call ahead to confirm schedules and operating hours.



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**Chris Eggen, a member of the Black Rock Mountain Bike Association, catches some air as he flies down a path that is part of the group's sanctioned freeride trail system northwest of Falls City.**

## Black Rock: Where spirits soar

### Volunteers, ODF have created a mountain bikers' paradise

Chris Eggen rolls deftly along and off a low-lying teeter-totter, continues forward onto and then off the lip of a 6-foot cliff.

He coasts through a single track, launches up onto a narrow wooden bridge, lands with a soft thud, and then swoops left along a roller coaster-like banked turn before slowing to a stop.

"That's so fun," Eggen says of the short run as he walks his bike — an impressive 38-pound machine sporting dual suspension, titanium bolts and magnesium pedals — back up the hill to try a different route.

"Exhilarating."

This one sends him, and later Evan Nance of Falls City, sailing off a jump 40 feet through the air. A few

happy hoots cut through the otherwise quiet of the forest.

This is "Basic Training" — the practice spot of the Black Rock Mountain Bike Area just northwest of Falls City.

Because of the narrow wooden trestles, elevated bridges called "skinnies," ramps and other riding features sitting amidst tall fir and spruce trees, it has been described on more than one occasion as resembling an Ewok village.

To freeriding enthusiasts like Eggen and Nance, it's paradise in the woods.

"When you're riding, you're mind is silenced," Nance says. "For us out here, it's like our sanctuary ... you can let everything on your mind go while you're on a mountain bike."

The popular Polk County riding area is the product of a unique partnership between the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) — which owns the 1,000-acre parcel of timber that contains the trails — and the Black Rock Mountain Bike Association (BRMBA).

The land was once a haven for dirt bike riders during the 1980s, until ODF closed it to motor vehicles. Mountain bikers, meanwhile, still flocked there and even cut some primitive trails into Mount Brown.

In 2002, Leo Kowalski, Michael Susee and Jason Vogt — a trio from the Salem-area — approached ODF about building a sanctioned freeride trail.

**Continued on Page 16**





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# Black Rock: A unique history

Continued from Page 14

Freeriding is a more aggressive subset of mountain biking that focuses on downhill riding, jumps and maneuvering through and over obstacles. ODF agreed, and designated Black Rock a mountain bike-only site.

"I call it an extreme version of forest recreation," said John Barnes, an ODF public use coordinator who has worked with BRMBA from the beginning.

"Freeride trails aren't the type of trail that you can put anywhere. You have to have the right terrain ... the only type of recreation that's ever occurred at Black Rock has been mountain biking."

The group dug and routed the first trail there, "Sikter Gnar," in 2002. In the years that followed, more volunteers have gotten involved in moving tons of dirt and using fallen timber to construct features on steep hillsides.

"I was out there three days a week my first couple of years," said Troy Munsell, who manages the "Granny's Kitchen" trail. "It sounds strange, but it gets really addictive building trails, as hard and dirty as the work is."

There are about 10.5 miles of trails that wind through 400 acres of the Black Rock parcel today, with five different runs of varying difficulty levels, not unlike a ski resort. The difference here is riders must pedal or walk back up the hill after finishing a trail. During special events or races, vehicles shuttle bikes and riders back and forth.

Kowalski, Susee and Vogt originally formed the Black Rock Freeride Association to manage the trails and interact with ODF. That group has since developed into BRMBA, with about 1,400 members registered through its Web site, said Rich Bontrager, BRMBA president.

As recognition goes, Black Rock has grown by leaps and bounds. Featured in mountain bike magazines and videos, the area is popular with Willamette Valley locals and visitors from as far away as California, Canada and even Ireland.

"It's not that we made a great place, it's that ODF let us," Munsell



**Evan Nance of Falls City prepares to land on a ramp while riding down a trail through tall fir trees on Oregon Department of Forestry land.**

says. "We had dedicated people, and the right people, get involved (with the trail) and the powers that be let Black Rock happen.

"That combo has made an amazing place, one of the best in the United States for freeriding."

—

Use of the Black Rock Mountain Bike Area trails is free and open to the public. To get there:

- From Main Street in Dallas, turn right on Fairview Avenue — which becomes Highway 223 South — and follow it out of town. Continue on

Highway 223 for about nine miles, then turn right onto Falls City Road.

- Once in Falls City, travel west through downtown and bear right before the bridge onto Mitchell Street.

- Drive up a short hill, turn left onto a dirt road and follow the river for three miles until you reach the Tapawingo Camp sign. Turn right here, cross a bridge and park at an area next to a main gate. Do not drive past the gate, even if it's open.

For more information, visit the Web site [www.brmba.org](http://www.brmba.org).



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Drive-ins like the Motor-Vu in Dallas are a great place for a family night out. While summer is considered prime time for going to the drive-in, the Motor-Vu is typically open from April through at least October.

## Big-screen magic at its best

When the sun drops behind the hills, music drifts through the air as families and teens on dates watch the 90-foot screen light up as the show begins.

Conventional patrons of Dallas' Motor-Vu Drive-In Theater sit in their vehicles, while others relax in lawn chairs or on mattresses, recliners and sofas in the beds of their trucks.

Fifty years ago, this was a typical summer weekend activity. Today, with only four drive-ins still open in Oregon, it is a rare throwback to an earlier time in America.

"We like to see people



Movies on the outdoor big screen are part of Americana.

grow up with what we had growing up," Motor-Vu co-owner Robin Mexico says. She and her husband Jeff are the fourth owners

of the 435-car drive-in theater located on Fir Villa Road in Dallas.

The Motor-Vu's story began in 1953, when Don

and Jeri Wernli, who had experience with indoor movie theaters, built the drive-in. It opened on July 22, showing "Branded" and "Meet Me At The Fair" in Technicolor.

The owner prior to the Mexicos, Ron Burch, was impressed with the husband and wife team's restoration of indoor movie theaters in Stayton and Albany, and asked in 2003 for the Mexico's to take on the Motor-Vu as it was struggling to survive.

They declined at the time, because they had too much on their plate.

**Continued on Page 20**



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A completely renovated snack bar awaits moviegoers to the Dallas Motor-Vu Drive-In Theater.

## Drive-in: Owners keeping the faith

Continued from Page 18

But in October 2007 they found themselves in a good place to say yes and rolled up their sleeves.

Since taking over ownership, the Mexicos have been busy upgrading the sound system, restrooms, snack bar, fencing and the marquis. Jeff dons an orange vest and radio and serves as a security guard, making sure everyone knows and follows the rules.

The Motor-Vu reopened for the season on weekends in April. Beginning in May, it is open each night of the week until Labor Day. Then, it reverts to weekend showings only until the winter closing in October or November.

The drive-in will show "American Graffiti" and "Grease" Sept. 18-20. It will also feature a cruise-in on Sept. 19.

According to [www.Drive-ins.com](http://www.Drive-ins.com), at the peak of their popularity there were more than 5,000 drive-in theaters in the United States. Today, there are less than 500. The other three in Oregon are located in La Grande, Milton-Freewater and



Portal to the past: The gate at Dallas' Motor-Vu Drive-in.

Newberg.

Jeff Mexico says drive-ins are being torn down because developers want the land to build new houses, not because they are less popular.

"Originally there was a plan to put houses in (the Motor-Vu lot) and put a road through the drive-in, but people complained," Jeff says.

The Mexicos say they want to

keep the drive-in alive. Right now, business is good. Jeff says he is seeing about 40 to 75 cars on weeknights and is drawing weekend turnouts of 180 to 200 cars. He says he reached the 400-car maximum a few times last summer.

Families come from all over the Willamette Valley to enjoy the trip back in time and for the price — \$18 per car (for up to eight people) for two first-run movies.

Mexico says he has added a new playground in front of the screen for kids, the projection system has been enhanced, and a coffee and smoothie window has been added to concessions. A new, wider variety of ice cream will also put more smiles on faces.

The Mexicos have big plans for the future, and intend to build on the small empire they're restoring.

"People keep saying 'Oh, it's going away — they'll put houses in it,'" Jeff says

"No, it's here to stay."

For showtimes: 503-623-4449. For more information: [www.dallasmotorvu.com](http://www.dallasmotorvu.com).



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A faithful following turns out every Friday night for the old-fashioned country music jam sessions hosted by the Guthrie Park Community Center south of Dallas.

# Foot-stompin' fun

There's no place like Guthrie Park, where music is the language and friendship is the currency

There's no question that something special happens every Friday night at the Guthrie Park Community Center.

One of the most spectacular sights is 82-year-old Billie Buell, shining gray hair pulled off her face, dancing happily with her red walker in the aisles.

"I get up and dance quite often — they don't mind," Buell says.

Buell has been attending the country music jams at the community center since 1965. Nothing can keep Buell away from the soulful country music — not even a hip replacement gets in the way of her dancing.

"It still works real well," Buell says.

Every Friday from 7 to 11 p.m., about 20 musicians come from all over the county, and even the Salem

and Corvallis areas, with accordions, acoustic guitars, fiddles, harmonicas and a bass to play classic country tunes.

The musicians form a circle, some sitting on the wooden stage and some in folding chairs. Listeners sit in chairs along the walls, slightly bowed with crisp white paint and green trim. The wooden floor is worn from all of the dancing and children running over it when it was used as a gymnasium.

Sally Clark, the manager and owner of the Guthrie Park Community Center located at 4320 Kings Valley Highway, wouldn't have it any other way.

"I envisioned it to be what it is now," Clark says.

A group of her friends learned to play music together at the Pedee Country Store and rented the com-

munity center when the store closed in early 1987.

The center came up for auction in November 1987 and Clark knew she had to have it. Luckily, she was the highest bidder. Clark says the other interested buyer would have turned it into a car garage.

A car garage would have been a sad fate given the center's history.

According to Polk County Historian Arlie Holt, a carpenter named David Guthrie from Missouri came up from California with \$3,000 and bought 640 acres in the area. Guthrie built a home on Cooper Hollow Road, where he raised sheep and mohair goats and grew hops and peaches.

Seven children later, Guthrie built a schoolhouse after forming the Guthrie School District in 1885.

**Continued on Page 24**



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Musicians come from near and far to play during the Friday night country music jam sessions.



Guthrie Park Community Center was originally a gymnasium that was part of the Guthrie School District.

## Guthrie: Just old-fashioned fun

### Continued from Page 22

According to Holt, music was brought to Guthrie by teacher Audie Stone, who organized plays, community concerts and pie socials to raise money for a playshed that was later used as a gymnasium.

The gymnasium became the schoolhouse after the second school was either burned or demolished. Holt says stories conflict as to what actually happened.

The school was closed in 1960 and given to Guthrie's heirs, who donated it to the county for event rentals. It was later sold at auction to Clark.

Today, Clark has turned the center into a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers, rentals and donations.

The walls were bowing and the windows boarded up when she bought it, but she cleaned it up, built a stage and a deck, where the musicians play in the summertime when it gets hot.

Clark says the weekly music jam has only been canceled once in its 21 years because of a bad ice storm.

Crowds of old and young pack

into the church pews and folding chairs every Friday to hear their friends play. There is no sheet music in this jam; Clark says they don't need it.

"We all play by ear and sometimes you don't even know the song," she says with a smile.

There is also no amplification system, making the ambience feel as though you have stepped into a different time. Only the shiny keys on the accordions and Christmas lights twinkling above in the rafters give away the time period.

Carol Wilson moved to Dallas last June and attends the music jam every week, often bringing family and friends. She loves the song "Rock Me Mama" and also attends gospel music night the third Saturday of each month.

"When I leave here at night I feel so good," Wilson says. "It's a place I need to be at."

Older couples in country western garb get up from their seats and make their way to the back to show off perfected country dance skills. Some listen, some chat with friends, and others slip in a donation and

enjoy cookies and chips.

Wilson says the events remind her of what her parents did on the weekends and recommends everyone come down and enjoy the evening.

"It's better than having people go to the bar," Wilson says with a laugh.

There is fun for all every week at Guthrie. Acoustic music jams are every Friday from 7 to 11 p.m. and gospel music nights are held the third Saturday of each month from 7 to 10 p.m.

Country folk dances resume in September and are normally held from 7 to 10 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month in September, November, January, March and May. No experience is necessary as all dances are taught.

Admission to the dances is \$5 for adults, families of four or more are \$15 and children under 12 are free.

This year, the annual Christmas show will be Dec. 18 from 7:30 to 11 p.m.

For more information, visit the Web site [www.GuthriePark.org](http://www.GuthriePark.org) or call 503-623-0874.



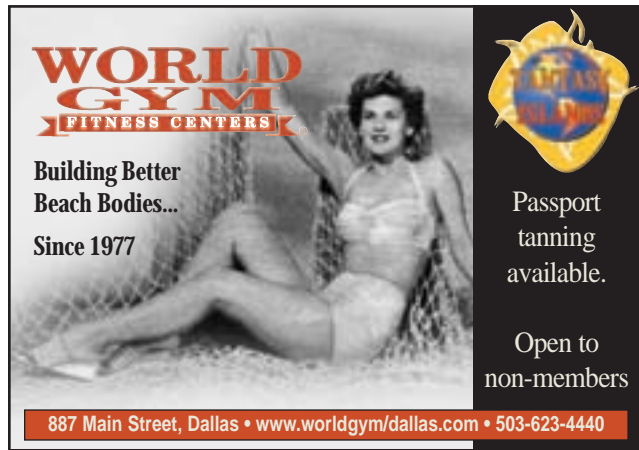


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One of the outdoor treasures available to residents and visitors of Polk County is Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge, which sits on the north side of Highway 22 just outside of Dallas.

The 2,492-acre refuge, named for original landowner and thoroughbred horse breeder George J. Baskett, is home to an abundance of wildlife — bird species in particular. It draws thousands of visitors every year.

Established in 1965 to provide vital wintering habitat for dusky Canada geese, the refuge now sports an incredible variety of birds, woodland critters, blacktail deer, and is home to Fender's blue butterfly, which were thought to be extinct until a small population was discovered at the site in 1989.

Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge is a brilliant respite from the

hustle and bustle of everyday life.

If you approach it from the west off Highway 22 and turn onto Coville Road (located on the north side of the highway) you enter the refuge through its most peace-laden vignette.

Coville Road is a nondescript, narrow gravel road that seems to lead nowhere. But drive down this road that parallels Highway 22, and you'll approach the Baskett Slough National Reserve through the heart of its wetland marshes.

The road winds around the base of Baskett Butte to the main parking area. But, before you push ahead and abandon your car for a nice hike, stop along the roadside amidst the marshlands. If it is spring or fall, the water should be high. Turn off your engine, get out of your vehicle and feel the air pass over the water.

Watch geese teaching their goslings to swim and remember what it was like for you when you

were small and your parents were everything.

Close your eyes and listen to the water, the wind and the wilds. When you feel that same sense of longing you're ready. Take a deep breath, get back into your car, and drive to the main parking lot.

If you're a seasoned hiker, you will have packed a lunch (no concession stands or vending machines here!), a water bottle, a camera, binoculars and your favorite field guide. If you aren't, you'll have packed a lunch to eat in peace. Remember, anything you carry in you carry back out.

The hike up Baskett Butte is a gentle swoop, and if you are in reasonably good health you'll have no trouble.

Grab your day pack, lock your car and wander off. There is a clearly marked information kiosk at the trail's start and a toilet.

Continued on Page 28





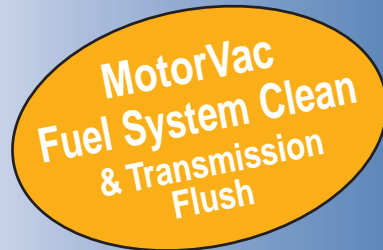
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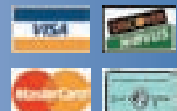
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# Baskett Slough: Lots of scenic options

Continued from Page 26

There is but one main path from this starting point. Take it to the first junction. Here you have a choice. Veering right takes you to the 1.5-mile Baskett Butte Loop, also known as the Richard Guadagno Memorial Trail, which will leave you at the top of the butte, where an observation platform also named in honor of Guadagno is located.

Guadagno was the manager of Baskett Slough for several years until 2000. He was aboard hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 that crashed in rural Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001.

There is now a large platform at the top of Baskett Butte.

While a right veer will take you to the woods, a left veer will take you directly to the platform.

If you go directly to the platform, you can double back down the path and go through the Baskett Loop Trail backward. This is the best option if you want to also visit Morgan Lake (a much longer hike).

If you choose to double back, look for the tamped down grass to your left that disappears under the scrub oak grove. That is the end (or the beginning) of the butte loop.

If it's a hot day, the gorgeous woods will be a relief from the sun-exposed platform. Trot up the incline and you'll soon feel your sun-baked skin cooling beneath the fragrant shade of this little leaf-fringed paradise.



Great egrets like these are a common sight at Baskett Slough during the spring, fall and winter seasons.

The path is level and in very good condition. As you jaunt through the woods tread softly and the critters will make themselves seen. Listen for the Morse Code tapping of a woodpecker, and watch for the rustling chase of two chipmunks bickering.

If you stay on this trail it will wind back to the beginning and drop you near the parking lot. It takes about an hour to hike if you saunter, taking your time to stop and smell the fern fronds.

About midway through this hike you'll come upon another fork. It's not obvious, so keep your eyes open. It will be to the left (if you're

coming from the platform). This fork takes you to Morgan Lake.

Morgan Lake is only open during the spring and summer. The rest of the year it is closed to mitigate disturbances for roosting birds.

The Morgan Lake Trail is three miles long and will eventually loop back to the Butte Loop (Guadagno Memorial) Trail, which will then take you back to your vehicle.

If you have all day to hike, it's well worth the shoe wear. Morgan Lake is a favorite spot for the dusky Canada Goose, mallards and cinnamon teal.

If you are a bird lover, take the time to hike this trail, but have food and water with you. All the trails in Baskett Slough are well marked and maintained year-round, but three miles is longer than it seems.

Whether you brave Morgan Lake, or just hike the Butte Loop, you'll end up back where you started. Along the way you'll pass a wonderful hollowed tree, countless woodland animals, wild flowers, and, just maybe, deer.

New in 2009 is a program where guests can borrow binoculars and bird guides while visiting the refuge. For more information, call 503-623-2749.

Just a few miles from the cities of Polk County, Baskett Slough truly is a treasure.

So close to civilization ... yet so wild.



A redwing blackbird, one of hundreds of water-loving species at Baskett Slough, sings a springtime song.



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From March to December, berries like this are ready to be enjoyed in Polk County.

# Strawberries, strawberries

Airlie farm produces the biggest, sweetest, earliest and latest

No doubt the sight on Aaron Kennel's farm off Airlie Road has left many passersby scratching their heads.

Several greenhouses are filled with what look like drug-store sunglasses racks, more than 2,000 in all.

The shoulder-high stacks collectively carry roughly 50,000 strawberry plants — particularly green and leafy specimens. Some bear fruit almost the size of apricots.

"We've had people stop and pull in just to ask what this is," Aaron Kennel's wife, Sarah, said. "Even our neighbors couldn't stand it. They had to ask what we were doing."

What they've done with Airlie Hills Family Farm was create in 2007 what's believed to be the only hydroponic strawberry operation in Oregon. Visitors to the U-pick patch can treat themselves to strawberries that produce from



The plants are "fed" automatically three times a day.

March until December.

"We get the occasional people from out of state who are interested in trying something similar," Aaron Kennel said. And "there is still a good amount of curiosity from the people who drive by about (our set-up)."

Kennel works alongside his brother and father growing grass seed in Polk County. Four years ago, he became interested in diversifying into hydroponic

crops.

"The system works well for a lot of things, and particularly well for strawberries," Kennel said.

According to Bernadine Strik, Extension Office berry crop professor at Oregon State University, there were 1,800 acres of strawberries harvested in the state in 2008, with perhaps 200 acres dedicated to fresh market.

"Some growers are using tunnels to advance

and extend the fruiting season of day-neutral strawberry varieties that fruit all season long," Strik said. "At Airlie Hills, (Kennel) goes the extra step of using greenhouse structures and hydroponics to grow day-neutral strawberries.

"The operation is ... still considered very innovative," she added. "There's no other farm like it in Oregon."

Hydroponics is a method of growing plants without soil. Kennel's strawberries grow from beds of perlite and vermiculite.

The minerals are a rooting media only; the actual nourishment is a mixture of nutrients and water that is pumped through an automated system.

The solution flows through plumbing beneath the patch, and into hoses that drip through the stacks to individual plants three times a day.

**Continued on Page 32**



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Strawberries are the mainstay, but Airlie Hills Family Farm also has a pumpkin patch in the fall and many other things to see and do for kids and families.

## Strawberries: They just grow and grow

Continued from Page 30

The technique doesn't require as much land because plant roots don't have to spread in search of food and water. This lets the plant devote its energy toward growing instead of searching for food and battling pests.

Because the stacks sit off the ground, plants have better air flow and are less susceptible to mold, soil-borne disease and insects, Aaron Kennel said.

Every quarter-acre of strawberries also uses about 500 gallons of water a day, about five times less water than growing on the same size plot in a conventional manner, Kennel said.

The operation requires a minimal workforce — his wife and their two children manage customers and prune plants — but also a high level of care.

The fruit is cut from vines with scissors to avoid uprooting plants.

---

*“We still have strawberries in the fall, when people are coming out for the pumpkin patch.”*

—Aaron Kennel

---

Strawberry plants are vulnerable to disease, and because the farm has such a high density planting, customers must sanitize their hands before picking.

The stacks make it easy for individuals to get at the berries without having to bend over or squat. The ground is level and covered with nursery cloth to allow wheelchair and handicap access.

The Kennels' operation has tripled in size since 2007, and has become known for more than just

being a U-pick site. They have launched a small line of gourmet strawberry preserves and sell berries to grocery stores.

In 2008, the family turned a small pumpkin patch into a full-blown harvest season attraction that opens every October.

Three acres of the farm are replete with hay pyramids, a small track for tricycles, a tall Sudan grass maze, tractor rides, and a barn featuring a giant hayslide and a grain-filled sandbox.

“We still have strawberries in the fall, and when people are coming out to the pumpkin patch then, it's a good way to promote both,” Aaron Kennel said.

Airlie Hills Family Farm is located at 10775 Airlie Road, about one mile west of Highway 99W.

For more information on operating hours, call 503-871-2072, send e-mail to [Info@AirlieHillsFarm.com](mailto:Info@AirlieHillsFarm.com), or visit [www.airliehillsfarm.com](http://www.airliehillsfarm.com).



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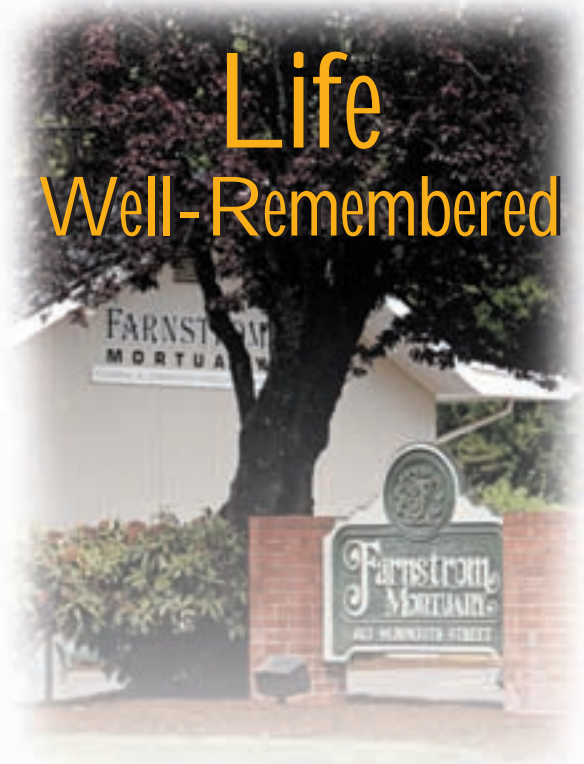
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# Wings of Wonder

Guests enter another world at butterfly breeding sanctuary

Set amidst the rolling farmland of the Buena Vista area, Robert and Betty Heriford's 2,400-square-foot greenhouse — or more accurately, what's inside of it — is a surreal sight.

Hot and heavy with humidity, the greenhouse looks and feels like a miniature rain forest.

Orange weavers and African tanagers chirp and dart among the branches of tall banana trees, ponytail palms and eucalyptus. Button quail, the size and shape of potatoes, scurry through the underbrush.

And on a given day, the building is awash with thousands of newly-emerged zebra long-wings, white peacocks, and other species of butterflies.

The Herifords opened Wings of Wonder in 2007 on their immaculately landscaped acre off Willamette Ferry Street southeast of Independence. Earlier this year, the couple decided to transition the exotic butterfly farm into a nonprofit organization.

The Herifords still manage the place, but do so under a board of directors and a renewed goal of educational outreach.

The facility features a rearing laboratory, a coffee shop, and two greenhouses.

The larger one is the elaborate exhibition building, which is believed to be the only year-round butterfly exhibit in the state; the other houses a recently-expanded rearing lab.

"If you don't get out of Oregon, you won't see most of these butterflies," Robert Heriford said.

The complex's off-the-beaten-path locale made it somewhat of a hidden attraction starting out, but strong word of mouth and a steady stream of school children have kept it going.

Wings of Wonder is a federally licensed containment site for the butterflies, and the Herifords have permits to import and export North American butterflies and species



**A zebra long-wing is one of the many varieties of butterflies on display at Wings of Wonder southeast of Independence.**

from India and Southeast Asia.

"Some of these exotic butterflies ... they're like bats in size," Betty Heriford said. "The Scarlet Mormons are like 4 to 5 inches across. They're really impressive."

Robert Heriford, who admits to a childhood spent hunting bugs, snakes and other "critters," said the inspiration for raising butterflies occurred about a decade ago, after Betty caught a polyphemus moth in their home.

The two researched rearing tech-

niques and raised more moths. They later did the same with monarch and swallowtail butterflies.

They attended butterfly seminars, and set out to create a greenhouse three years ago after learning about all of the resources and plant space needed for a successful breeding program.

Then they decided to broaden the scope of the facility that exists today.

**Continued on Page 36**





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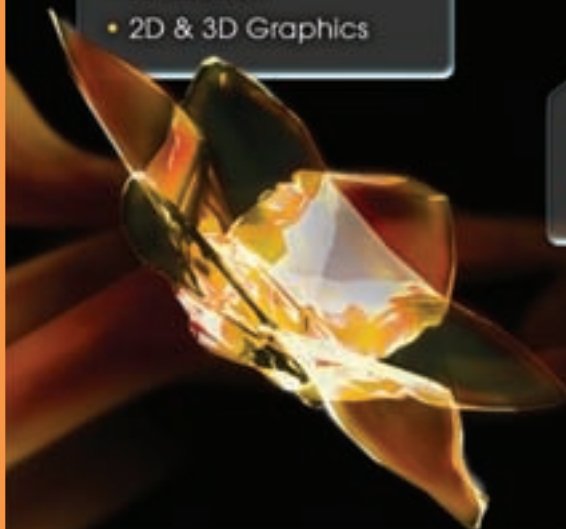
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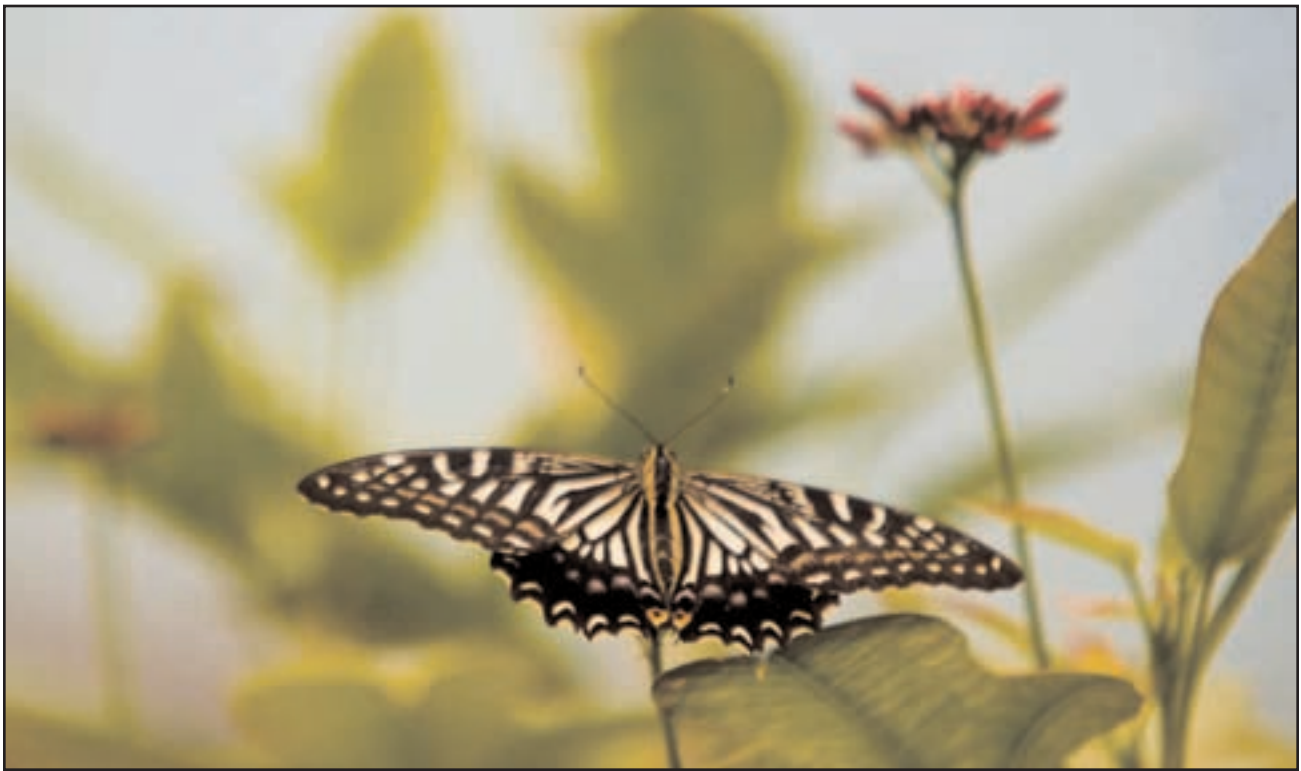
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A Chinese yellow swallowtail finds a perfect resting place on a lush green leaf.

## Wings: It's full of colorful learning

**Continued from Page 34**

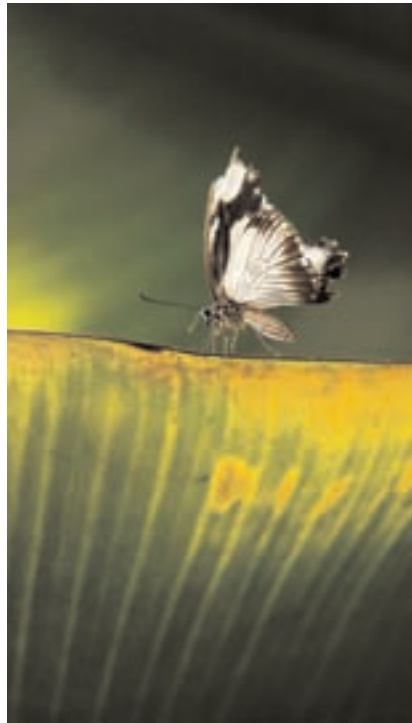
Nearly 65,000 butterflies were raised at Wings of Wonder last year. Its laboratory is sectioned off into three rooms, one to collect eggs from breeding butterflies, another for raising caterpillars, and a third where the resulting chrysalides — cocoons — are stored.

"It's fun to take a butterfly from being an egg to watching it grow," Betty said. "Everybody seems so interested in how it happens ... it makes people smile."

The egg-to-butterfly development cycle takes about a month, and most species live for about two weeks after emergence. Butterflies are highly vulnerable to their surroundings, so the entire lab is controlled for temperature and humidity, double-sealed and swabbed with bleach to prevent disease or insect-killing viruses such as polynuclear hedrosis.

"Once that gets in, the facility is no good for up to three years," said Robert, who teaches butterfly breeding and rearing classes.

The exhibition greenhouse is heated by propane tanks, features a number of exotic birds and 80 dif-



A *Charaxes Brutus* butterfly at Wings of Wonder

ferent varieties of tropical plants, is also highly controlled. Visitors exiting the building are stopped in a "holding cell" where employees in-

spect each person for stowaway butterflies.

Beyond the butterflies, the main facility also features a "critter room" with aquariums full of corn snakes, anoles and toads.

The Herifords are also now caring for several green iguanas and a 10-foot long Burmese python named Buttercup from Southern Oregon Reptile Rescue in Medford.

And, Betty Heriford said, it's possible that exhibits showcasing arachnids could be created in the future.

Wings of Wonder Educational Outreach is located in the Buena Vista area of southeast Polk County at 5978 Willamette Ferry St.

It is open for exhibition and lab tours from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays. It's closed to the general public on Mondays and Tuesdays to accommodate large groups.

Admission is \$8.50 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$6 for children ages 4-10.

For more information: 503-838-0976, [betty@wingsof wonder.us](mailto:betty@wingsof wonder.us) or [www.wingsof wonder.us](http://www.wingsof wonder.us).



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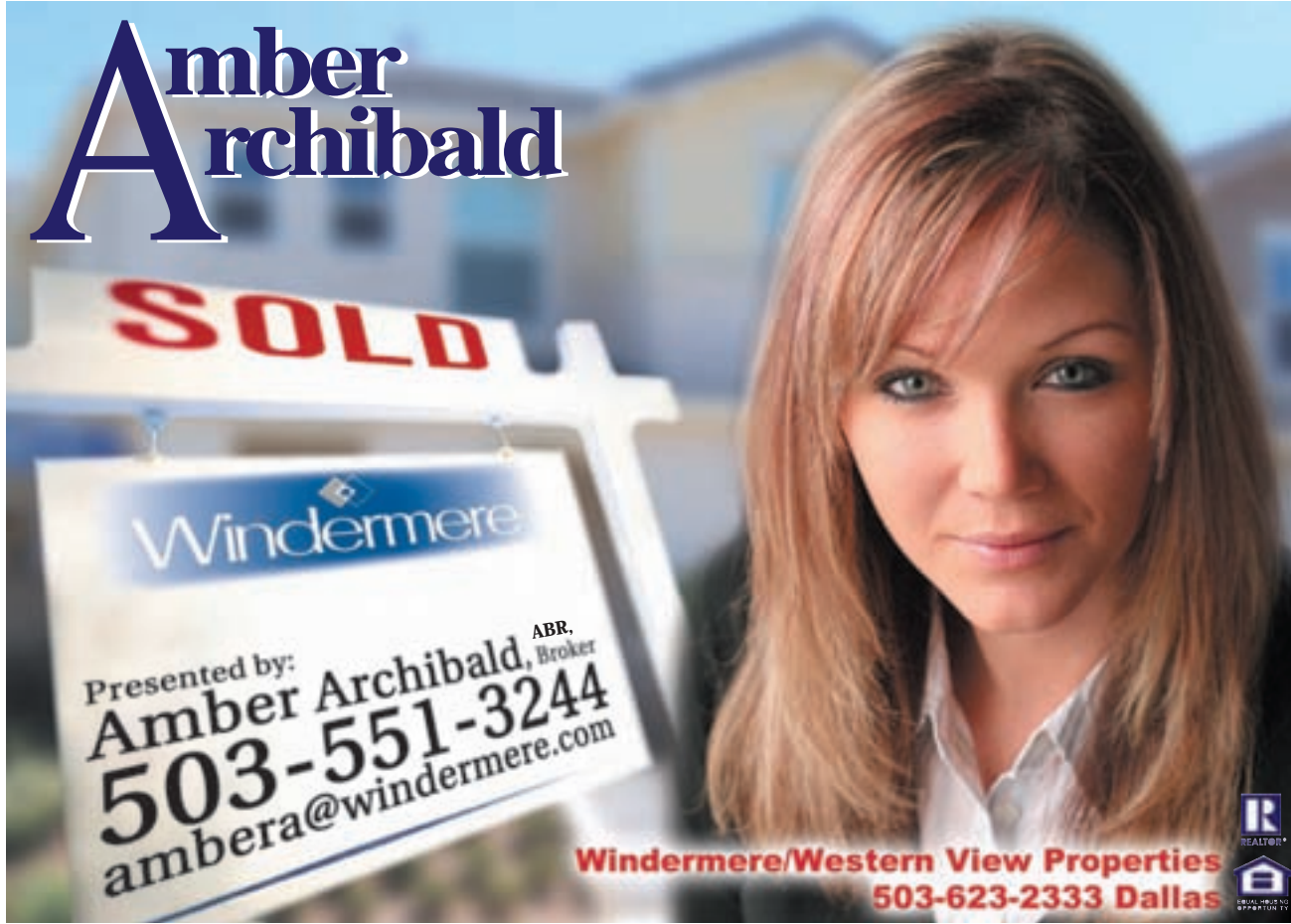
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A wide selection of locally grown fruits and vegetables are among the tantalizing offerings at local farmers markets. Many of the region's markets will remain open well into the fall, capitalizing on the harvest season.

## 'I got it at the farmers market'

The aromatic scent of a freshly prepared bouquet of flowers. A plump, ripe, juicy tomato. Bread hot out of the oven. Jars of delightful jams and jellies. That irresistible first-of-the-season ear of sweet corn.

Polk County residents and guests visiting the area can enjoy all of that — and much more — as the farmers market season kicks into high gear.

Despite a mostly cool and damp spring, markets that have already opened are reporting brisk business as folks pursue locally grown produce, artisan food products, and other items — as well as an experience not available in traditional grocery stores.

"More consumers want to connect to the farmer and want to know where their food comes from," said Laura Barton, marketing specialist with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. "They want things that have been picked fresh from the field. They can do that at farmers markets."

The number of farmers markets in Oregon has grown from just 10 in the early 1990s to more than 100 by the time all markets open this year. Estab-

lished markets are operating locally in Independence, Rickreall, Dallas and Kings Valley, offering an outlet for small farmers while providing products that consumers want and like. A market is in the works for Monmouth.

"Having that face-to-face dialogue with the person who grows the food gives the consumer a sense of confidence," said Barton. "Some of the growers will actually bring pictures of their farm and talk about the methods they use to grow the crops. Many of them also have U-pick operations or produce stands on site and will invite consumers to come to the farm."

The early-season offerings at Oregon farmers markets are normally a few assorted vegetables like salad greens, asparagus and rhubarb, along with baked goods and nonfood products such as flowers, bedding plants and handmade crafts. Soon, as the harvest season moves along, more great Oregon tastes will be available to consumers — items like fresh strawberries, blueberries, tomatoes, squash, corn and pumpkins.

One of the joys of shopping at a farmers market is that availability of

products changes from week to week and you never know who will show up and offer what type of produce, baked goods or crafts.

For more information: [www.oregonfarmersmarkets.org](http://www.oregonfarmersmarkets.org).

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Polk County's courses offer three choices for the serious and casual golfer.

## How about a round?

Many people are being forced to cut back in a variety of ways because of the recent economic downturn.

But golfers apparently have their priorities in order.

Operators of the three courses in the county — Cross Creek Golf Course, Dallas Golf Club and Oak Knoll Golf Course — indicate they are not seeing reduced numbers.

"We haven't," said John McComish, who owns Oak Knoll along with Brooks Farnworth and Jay Kenyon. "We didn't even last summer, with the \$4-a-gallon gasoline. Maybe we didn't see quite the upswing we usually do, but we didn't see a downturn in rounds played.

"People might be forgoing that expensive vacation, but they still have money for local recreation. That's what we're hoping for, anyway. Nobody really knows, with the way the economy is going."

"Right now, we're still whining about the weather," said Mike Tallon of Dallas Golf Club. "Once the weather turns, people will come out."

Cross Creek has prepared for a big summer by buying some new equipment and overseeding its fairways. Owners Tim and Kathie Tarpley also are moving forward with plans for future improvements.

"It's still kind of early for us to tell," Tim Tarpley said. "We're hoping for the best. We're still pouring the same amount of money into the course. We've bought a lot of new

equipment, and we're still planning on building a maintenance facility with a big shop and everything."

### **Cross Creek Golf Course** **503-623-6666**

Cross Creek Golf Course is located at 13935 Highway 22, just west of Perrydale Road.

Cross Creek started as a nine-hole course in 1998 and added nine holes in the summer of 2005. The 18-hole course is a par-72 playing 6,884 yards from the blue tees, 6,402 from the white tees and 5,935 from the gold.

Nine-hole greens fees are \$15 on weekdays and \$18 on weekends and holidays. Eighteen-hole greens fees are \$27 on weekdays and \$31 on weekends and holidays. Weekday greens fees for juniors (under 17) and seniors (over 60) is \$13 for nine holes and \$23 for 18 holes.

The driving range is open, and each \$2 token is good for 30 practice balls. Pull carts are available for \$2, and electric carts are \$11 per nine holes.

The course opens at 7 a.m. weekdays and 6:30 a.m. weekends, and is open until dark. Lessons are available.

### **Dallas Golf Club** **503-623-6832**

Dallas Golf Club is located at 11875 Orrs Corner Road.

It has five par-3s and four par-4s on the 1,961-yard par-31 layout.

Regular greens fees are \$12 for nine holes and \$22 for 18 holes.

For senior citizens (59 and over) and students, it's \$10 for nine holes and

\$18 for 18 holes. For juniors (14 and under), it's \$9 for nine holes and \$17 for 18 holes.

There are eight mats at the practice range. Range balls are \$2 for a small bucket, \$4 for a medium bucket and \$6 for a large bucket.

Electric carts are \$12 for nine holes and \$24 for 18 holes.

Rental clubs are available for \$5 for nine holes and \$6 for 18 holes. Pull carts are \$2 for nine or 18 holes.

### **Oak Knoll Golf Course** **503-378-0344**

Oak Knoll Golf Course is located at 6335 Highway 22.

It has a regulation 18-hole course, two putting greens and a driving range. The par-72 layout plays 6,208 yards from the blue tees, 5,909 from the white and 5,239 from the red.

The range has 10 covered spaces with mats and 25 spaces with real grass.

Regular weekday greens fees are \$17 for nine holes and \$27 for 18 holes. Weekday senior rates (55 and over) are \$15 for nine holes and \$24 for 18. Student rates are \$10 for nine holes and \$18 for 18 holes. Junior rates (13 and under) are \$8 for nine holes and \$15 for 18 holes.

Weekend and holiday fees are \$18 for nine holes and \$30 for 18 holes. A twilight rate (after 2 p.m.) of \$22 for 18 holes is offered seven days a week.

Range tokens are available for \$2 (approximately 30 balls), \$4 and \$6. Pull carts are \$2. Electric carts are \$14 for nine holes and \$26 for 18 holes.

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Signs along the Fort Yamhill pathway tell of a time of conflict among Native Americans, settlers and soldiers.

## Fort Yamhill: History on view

Hike to the top of Fort Yamhill's historic grounds and you'll understand why, in 1856, soldiers decided to establish a military outpost there.

The expansive views take in the valleys below and the Coast Range, including nearby Spirit Mountain. Close your eyes, and the noise of distant Highway 18 blends with coastal winds and birds' songs. It's not hard to imagine the sound of soldiers marching across the parade grounds, or the sound of Native Americans working and playing games below the blockhouse.

Life at Fort Yamhill is made easier to imagine thanks to the Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area, an educational park that opened in 2006 at the northern edge of Polk County on Hebo Road near Grand Ronde, also known as Highway 22.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde joined forces at the park to present the fort's history from both a soldier's and Native American's point of view.

At the nearly half-mile loop through the grounds, interpretive signs tell the story of the fort that today sits above Spirit Mountain Casino, tribal reservation land and the communities of Willamina, Fort

Hill and Grand Ronde.

For thousands of years, the hill was on the Killimuck Trail, the path used by Native Americans traveling and trading between the Oregon Coast and the Willamette Valley. In the late 1700s, Spanish and British explorers arrived in the Northwest by ship, changing forever the indigenous population.

After Lewis and Clark explored the region in 1805, fur traders arrived, traveling the Killimuck Trail past the hill that would one day house Fort Yamhill. With white traders came diseases that decimated the native population. By the time settlers came to claim land in the Oregon Territory, natives were few.

Horrifying diseases and the settler's demand for land combined to create both violent reactions and helplessness among Native Americans. Shortly after the Oregon Territory was established in 1848, Native Americans began being moved onto reservations — some made to give up their homelands to march far away to reservations under conditions both inhumane and awful.

The Grand Ronde Reservation, established in 1857, was the destination for native people from 27 tribes and bands ranging from

Rogue River in southern Oregon to the Columbia River in northern Oregon.

It was an uneasy life in Grand Ronde for the diverse tribes who, in the beginning, could hardly understand their new neighbors' languages, not to mention the soldiers assigned to guard them.

Interpretive signs along the fort's pathway — excerpts taken from journals left by soldiers — describe the short years before the fort was closed at the onset of the Civil War. A walking tour map provides a map of the fort's former buildings, few of which remain. However, the area is now being restored and artifacts are being recovered from the land.

One of the buildings being restored, the last officer's quarters, according to local legend, may have been home to one of the region's most famous historic visitors — then 2nd Lt. Philip Sheridan.

After the fort was closed in 1866, its buildings, which cost \$36,053 to build, were auctioned off to the public for a mere \$1,260. For the next hundred years, the land was farmed and forested, until 1971, when it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The state parks department bought the land in 1988.





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# Fresh-air fun

Here's your guide to summer outdoor entertainment

## DALLAS

### Sounds of Summer Concert Series Dallas Rotary Performing Arts Stage Corner of Main and Academy streets

July 9 — Joe Shinkle and 99W, country western  
July 16 — Oyster Shooters, classic rock 'n' roll  
July 23 — Ty Curtis Band, blues/rock/funk  
July 30 — Rhythm Culture, reggae  
Aug. 6 — Touchables, super hits of the 60s  
Aug. 13 — Chris Baum Project, funk/R&B  
Aug. 20 — Graber, Souter and Rupp with special guests, country gospel (benefit food drive show)  
Aug. 27 — Johnny Limbo & the Lugnuts, rock 'n' roll

*All dates are Thursdays; events are 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.*

## INDEPENDENCE

### Summer Concert Series Riverview Park Amphitheater

July 10 — Joe Stoddard, comedy/variety  
July 17 — Amadan, Celtic rock  
July 24 — Albany Swing Band  
July 31 — Calamity Jazz, upbeat jazz  
Aug. 7 — Golden Bough, Celtic ballad  
Aug. 14 — Homegrown and Third Brigade  
Aug. 21 — River City Band, rock and soul  
Aug. 28 — Mark Kershner, swing era

*All dates are Fridays; events begin at 7:30 p.m. except Aug. 14 concert begins at 6 p.m.*

## Other Amphitheater Events

June 20 — Art festival and wine tasting  
July 2-5 — Western Days celebration  
Aug. 4 — National Night Out  
Aug. 13-15 — Sesquicentennial Celebration  
Sept. 5 — Mexican Fiesta  
Sept. 25-27 — Hop & Heritage Festival

## Amphitheater Movies

July 2 — Twilight  
July 9 — Over the Hedge  
July 16 — Yours, Mine and Ours  
July 23 — Spiderwick Chronicles  
July 30 — October Sky  
Aug. 6 — Kit Kittredge: An American Girl  
Aug. 13 — Maverick  
Aug. 20 — The Express  
Aug. 27 — Shrek the Third  
*All dates are Thursdays. Movies start at dusk.*

## MONMOUTH

### Dave Anderson Memorial Concert Series Main Street Park

July 8 — Rock Hounds, variety  
July 15 — Jim & Alan, music and comedy  
July 22 — Guthrie Park Night, country  
July 29 — Joe Stoddard, comedy soloist musician  
Aug. 5 — Courtney Jones, R&B  
Aug. 12 — Darby O'Gill, traditional Irish  
Aug. 19 — Bill Larimer, rock

*All dates are Wednesdays; events are 7 to 9 p.m.*

# Helmick park has a real story behind it

Sarah Helmick State Recreation Area isn't the biggest of Oregon's 187 state parks. Nor is it the best-known or most-visited park in the Beaver State.

But the lush, 30-acre site just west of Highway 99W about six miles south of Monmouth has one everlasting distinction.

Sarah "Grandma" Helmick donated the original five-acre tract on Feb. 15, 1922, making it the first property deeded to the Oregon State Highway Commission for park purposes.

Helmick Park is located along the floodplain of the Luckiamute River and is lushly forested with

Douglas fir, grand fir, maple, ash, Port Orford cedar and cottonwood. An abundance of native plants, birds and wildlife can be viewed from several walking trails.

There is no fee to use the park. However, two reservation picnic areas will accommodate up to 200 people each. Both areas have electricity, water and picnic tables. They can be reserved (\$35 for the first 50 people, 80 cents for each additional guest) by calling 1-800-551-6949.

The park, open year-round, offers opportunities for picnicking, bird and wildlife watching, fishing, and trail walking.

Sarah Helmick and husband Henry journeyed from Iowa along the Oregon Trail and established their land claim in 1846 in what is now southern Polk County. (It wasn't the southern part of the county at the time, however — Polk County extended all the way to the California border.)

The Helmicks homesteaded along the Luckiamute River at the base of a hill that came to be known as Helmick Hill. Henry Helmick died in 1877.

Sarah Helmick — a true Oregon pioneer woman and a local legend to boot — died in 1924 at the age of 102.



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Dallas City Park, at 35 acres, is the crown jewel of the community's park system.

# A day in the park

Outdoor beauty is as near as the city parks in Polk County

One of the biggest assets Polk County's communities have are its parks. Dallas, Falls City, Independence and Monmouth all boast strong park systems that are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

## DALLAS

### Dallas City Park

Dallas City Park is the largest park in the city at 35 acres. The "new" entrance is located on Brandvold Drive off Levens Street or off Southwest Westwood Drive and left on Southwest Park. The "old" entrance is on Southwest Academy Street. The park has facilities for gatherings, including two shelters, two fireplaces, numerous barbecue pits, horseshoe pits, basketball hoops, paved trails and a Japanese Garden.

### Roger Jordan Community Park

Roger Jordan Community Park is located next to the Dallas Aquatic Center off LaCreole Drive. It consists of soccer and baseball fields, a skate park, two tennis courts and a picnic area.

### Birch Park

Birch Park is located at the intersection of Birch and Stump streets. New playground equipment recently was added, and the park also has two basketball hoops.

### Gala Park

Gala Park sits at the intersection of Uglow Avenue and Hankel Street. It features a basketball court, playground and a grassy area with a gazebo.

### Kingsborough Park

Kingsborough Park is located at 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

Rotary Park is located at 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

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

### Central "Bark"

Central "Bark" is located at 1000 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.

## FALLS CITY

### Michael Harding Memorial Park

Michael Harding Memorial Park is on the south side of the Luckiamute Falls. It is named for a Falls City city clerk who was killed in a car accident in 1976.

### George Kitchen Memorial Park

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

Continued on Page 48



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Main Street Park in Monmouth is a green slice of tranquility packed into one city block.

## Parks: Gems abound in Polk cities

Continued from Page 46

### 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 the Lower Park.

### INDEPENDENCE Riverview Park

Riverview Park is located downtown between C and B 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 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.

### Mount Fir Park

Mount Fir Park is located off F Street between 7th and 9th streets. The land formerly was part of the Mount 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.

### Pioneer Park

Pioneer Park is located at the corner of 7th Street and C Street. It has picnic tables, a playground and lots of tall, mature trees.

### MONMOUTH

#### Main Street Park

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

#### Madrona Park

Madrona Park is located along Madrona Street and Edwards Road. It has a picnic shelter, basketball court, playground equipment and a large paved gathering area.

#### Monmouth Recreational Park

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

#### Gentle Woods Park

Gentle Woods Park is at the inter-

section of Myrtle Drive, Olive Way and High Street. It is mostly wooded with a large picnic shelter, horseshoe pits, playground equipment and restrooms.

### Cherry Lane Park

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

### Winegar Park

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

### Mini 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. LaMesa 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.



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The historic Ritner Creek Bridge underwent a major restoration effort to bring it back to its grand self.

## Not just any old bridge

The historic Ritner Creek Covered Bridge is undergoing a renaissance of sorts.

More than 100 people crowded under the roof of the 1926 Ritner Creek Bridge on May 3, 2008, to celebrate its restoration. The bridge that has twice dodged a bullet was once again opened to the public.

After being closed to the public for nearly two years, the bridge and the small county park that surrounds it is again being enjoyed. It is located about three miles south of Pedee next to Kings Valley Highway (Highway 223), just a stone's throw north of the Benton County border. It is the last of Polk County's covered bridges, and one of fewer than 50 left in the state.

One visit to the country bridge is enough to see why it has evoked community and county passions. Its unique Howe Truss structure, built by Hamar and Curry Contractors working for the state, spans idyllic Ritner Creek near its confluence with the Luckiamute River.

From the bridge's portals, lean

over and look into the creek's shady waters and see — oh, look! A trout. A turtle. A water ouzel trots along the bank with its characteristic dipping skip.

The dreamy bridge has long been the setting for Pedee and Kings Valley community activities. Its roof made it a gathering place in the rainy Coast Range foothills — community picnics, weddings, even mailboxes were set inside its sheltered walls.

Although it was once located on the highway, in the early 1970s the road was slated to be widened and the bridge — too narrow to accommodate modern traffic — would have been destroyed.

But public outcry in 1973, including a penny drive by area school children, saved the covered bridge. In 1976, it was moved to the small park next to the highway. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Fast forward, three decades.

The bridge, now dilapidated and crumbling from lack of maintenance funds, was determined in

2005 to be unsafe and had to be closed to the public. Again, officials discussed the idea of destroying the bridge. But again, local supporters of the bridge rallied.

Polk County Commissioners and their public works staff went to work, found state and federal grants to do the expensive work of restoration, and in May 2008 the region celebrated the completion. Volunteers raised funds in a variety of creative ways to assist the effort.

To help with continuing maintenance, protectors of the bridge formed a nonprofit group, Friends of Ritner Creek Bridge. Tax-deductible gifts can be made at any branch of OSU Federal Credit Union. The group's mailing address is 593 E St., Independence, OR 97351.

The group plans to install engraved bricks in a pathway to the bridge in September. Those interested in buying a brick can e-mail [ritnercreekbridge@gmail.com](mailto:ritnercreekbridge@gmail.com), or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/ritnercreekbridge/>. All funds will go to bridge upkeep and education.



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The state's biggest tourist attraction? That's an easy one: Spirit Mountain Casino and Resort.

Located in Polk County on Highway 18 at Grand Ronde, Spirit Mountain has expanded to become "Entertainment Central" for people of all ages and tastes.

The resort's new South Expansion and Event Center opened in May 2008 with an additional 135,195 square feet of space for concerts, conferences, bingo, offices, social and business events, and eating.

And if you like to gamble, you'll find nearly 2,000 slot machines — along with blackjack, craps, roulette, poker, pai gow and keno — in the 90,000-square-foot casino operated by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The new addition allows full-service, in-house catering to be available for groups of 10 to 1,600. From intimate wedding parties to huge banquets, the resort can handle its customers' requests.

The buffet restaurant, a popular

feature in the original casino building, has expanded into the new addition.

Now billed as "Oregon's biggest buffet," the Cedar Plank Buffet features seven chef stations preparing international foods, pizza, seafood, a carving station, and American, Asian and bakery items. Cedar plank salmon, prime rib and made-from-scratch baking highlight the selections.

The resort also features a menu ranging from deli sandwiches and burgers at Rock Creek Court to steaks and seafood at Legends.

Visitors can attend regularly-scheduled headline entertainment in the two-story events center. Spirit Mountain has played host to musical acts like ZZ Top, Clint Black, Joe Cocker and Blues Traveler, comedians including Dana Carvey, Ron White and Dennis Miller, and a number of crowd-pleasing specialty acts.

Next door to the expansion, the Youth Activity Center, in a separate 16,000-square-foot building, hous-

es Playworld. It is an entertainment center for children 3 to 12 years old and features two levels of tunnels, tubes, sky slides, arcade games and crafts.

Parking has recently been increased to 3,600 spaces in the lot surrounding the casino.

The casino's gaming is open 24 hours, but if you get tired, there are 254 rooms to choose from in the adjacent Spirit Mountain Lodge, part of the recent expansion. For those who drive their own rooms, there's free RV parking in the expanded parking lot.

And if that's not enough, Spirit Mountain is scheduled to open two new attractions — Mountain View Sports Bar and Raindrops Nightclub — on May 23.

According to state tourism statistics, Spirit Mountain Casino, which opened in 1995, has been Oregon's top tourist attraction for several years running, with about 3 million people visiting each year.

For more information, check out [www.spiritmountain.com](http://www.spiritmountain.com).





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The Delbert H. Hunter Arboretum is tucked away in the southwest corner of Dallas City Park. It displays native Oregon trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

It is said to be one of the largest and most complete arboretums in the state. Visitors can find trees and plants that have played an important role in the lives of ancient inhabitants and pioneer settlers.

But visitors can find something else amid the winding foot paths that snake their way through the foliage.

Peace.

There are few more peaceful and reflective spots in Polk County than the arboretum. It's not just a place

to study plant species. It's a place to find peace of mind — right in the middle of a thriving city.

The arboretum started in 1978. Its champion was Delbert Hunter of Dallas, a past chairman of the city's parks board. Hunter's dream has come true with a five-acre arboretum that contains hundreds of specimens, along with a pool, waterfall, rock garden and arboretum center.

Volunteers contribute all the labor and material for the arboretum.

One of the newest additions to the arboretum came in November 2008 in the form of a 30,000-gallon pond feature that created an opportunity to plant more native wildflowers. Other additions include an expansion of the butterfly garden, 60 willow trees and native

pond lilies and water plants.

Although it's open year-around, the busy season for visitors is late spring, summer and fall.

A special annual tour is held on the Sunday of Summerfest weekend in late July, where those in wheelchairs or who have limited mobility can ride through the arboretum — motorized vehicles normally are not allowed.

Tours are self-guided, but information signs and placards identify the wide variety of native trees, plants and shrubs.

Visitors can reach the arboretum by traveling through Dallas City Park via the Levens Street entrance or, more directly, via West Ellendale Avenue, then Westwood Drive and Park Street.

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A ferry has made the Willamette River crossing at Buena Vista for more than 160 years.

## Cross over through time

A lazy float down the river it isn't. But a step back in time it is.

What fun is driving over a bridge? Fifteen or 20 seconds — sooner for some people — and it's all over. If you have a few minutes to spare, however, you and your vehicle can cross the river in style.

Ferries have been taking people and cargo across the Willamette River at Buena Vista for almost 160 years. It's one of three ferry crossings on the Willamette (the others are at Wheatland in Marion County and Canby in Clackamas County).

A ferry crossing is believed to have existed at the site since the 1840s, but the Buena Vista Ferry was formally established by Oregon settler Reason B. Hall in 1953.

The boat that runs today is owned and operated by Marion County. It was built in 1955, while its current hull is 60 years old, said Ed Watson, senior ferry operator.

The basic technology hasn't changed much. It's still a matter of

a cable to keep the barge on track, and a source of power (nowadays, an electric motor) to move it from one side of the river to the other.

The ferry can hold as many as four vehicles, depending on size. Journeys are about three minutes or less. And river traffic — usually no more than a canoe or jet-powered craft — simply has to wait.

The ferry began as a critical way for area farmers to move their goods and equipment across the river, and still serves that purpose today.

Jack Platt of Platt's Oak Hill Dairy said his workers move trucks, trailers and tractors between his Buena Vista and Turner farms via the ferry.

"It would be very scary if we don't have it," he said, noting the heavy traffic on alternative routes through Albany.

Buena Vista residents and cyclists are regular customers, though for vehicles, the ferry is one of the more seldom used in Oregon. Wat-

son said it carries an average of only 55 vehicles per day. For comparison, the Wheatland Ferry 20 miles to its north on the Willamette transports about 950 vehicles daily.

Now might be as good a time as any to experience the ferry and a slice of Oregon history. The vessel is next year scheduled for a thorough Coast Guard inspection, which could signal the ferry's end. Marion County officials have been mulling whether it's worth the estimated \$2.5 million for an overhaul during the current budget crisis.

For those on foot or on a bicycle, the trip across the river is free. For others, the fee is \$1 for motorcycles, \$2 for vehicles (and trailers being towed) less than 28 total feet, \$4 for vehicles (and trailers) more than 28 feet, \$6 for a dual-axle truck, and \$8 for single vehicles using the entire ferry or weighing more than 30,000 pounds.

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Monmouth grew around Western Oregon University. Both were established in 1856.

## WOU: Older than Oregon, and still going strong

The city of Monmouth and Monmouth University were born in 1856, three years before Oregon became a state, when members of the Disciples of Christ traveled from Illinois with the dream of building a community and a religious college.

Monmouth University. Christian College. During the next 141 years, the school — the oldest in the state's public university system — would endure six more name changes before finally becoming Western Oregon University in 1997.

Throughout its history, Western has been known as the state's leading institution for teacher education.

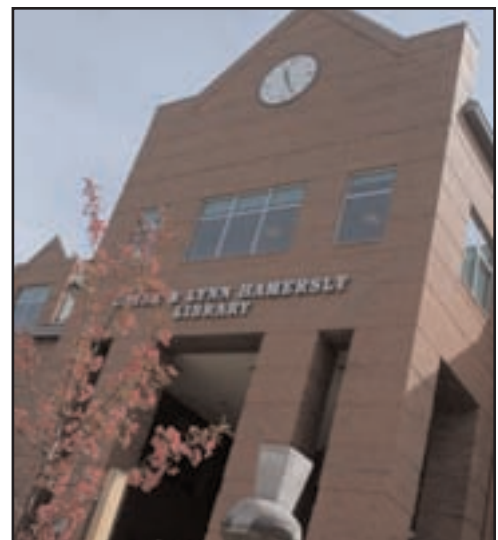
But during the last decade, officials have transformed West-

ern into a comprehensive liberal arts and sciences university with an enrollment of 5,349 in 2008-09 — the largest in the institution's history.

Western offers 55 majors, 60 minors and 10 graduate programs. This includes degree additions in the last three years for theater, history, as well as a pre-professional program for art students.

In 2008, WOU accepted the inaugural crop of students into its new nursing program with Oregon Health Sciences University. The program is housed in a state-of-the-art facility erected on the second floor of the former Oregon Police Academy building on Monmouth Avenue.

**Continued on Page 60**



**The Hamersly Library is an asset to the campus and the entire community.**



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Past, present and future: Western Oregon University is the center of life in Monmouth.

## WOU: Serving the entire community

### Continued from Page 58

This summer, the university will break ground on a \$31.9 million overhaul of the Old Physical Education Building into an improved recreation complex/wellness center for students and additional class space.

The university is home to a number of important facilities that serve not only its student population, but the entire Monmouth community. These include:

- The Hamersly Library, Western's addition to the campus in September 2000. The 80,000-square-foot facility includes a plethora of information technology resources, conference rooms and space for exhibits such as the Straub Archives.

The latter is a collection of papers, memorabilia and personal items donated or on long-term loan

by the family of former Oregon Governor, Robert Straub.

- Campbell Hall, the university's art building, is the oldest building in the Oregon University System. Completed in 1871, Campbell Hall has withstood snow, winds, earthquakes and the Columbus Day Storm of 1962, during which its landmark tower toppled to the ground.

Today, it houses the Dan and Gail Cannon Art Gallery, where student and visiting artist exhibits are held throughout the year.

- The Leonard W. Rice Auditorium seats 619 and serves as the venue for the orchestra, chorus, musical theater, and the annual Edgar H. Smith Fine Arts Series.

- Werner University Center, hub of campus life, received a three-year renovation that added approximately 20,000 square feet and ren-

ovated another 28,000 to keep up with increased use by a growing community of faculty, students and staff.

- McArthur Field, New P.E. Building and Western Oregon Field are home to the university's sports teams, which compete in NCAA Division II's Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

- The university's majestic giant Sequoia tree is the tallest of all campus landmarks, standing 123 feet. It was planted by the senior class of 1887.

Visitors to Western's campus will take notice of its pristine lawns and sculptured flower beds; the university has won four national awards for its landscaping.

For more information about Western Oregon University or to schedule a tour: 503-838-8000 or [www.wou.edu](http://www.wou.edu).



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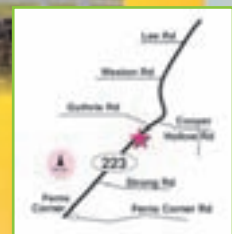
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A visit to the Polk County Museum takes one back to a different time in the region's history.

# County museum is a treasure

You'll want to spend hours — if not days — viewing the displays

Polk County will never look the same to those who first take a journey through time at the Polk County Museum, next door to the Polk County Fairgrounds on Highway 99W in Rickreall.

Artifacts and displays fill in the back story of the rural communities that make this county unique.

The displays filling the museum's two levels and 14,000 square feet re-create for visitors Polk County life in the parlors, kitchens and bedrooms during the area's earliest days and more recent bygone eras. There are displays of textiles and clothing, toys and furniture, from pioneer times to the Depression era.

The second-floor schoolrooms, barbershop and pharmacy are so skillfully re-created that visitors can easily imagine they are walking back in time to a day when quilts and spinning wheels were the

décor du jour, and one-room schoolhouses were the destination of local children.

A hands-on learning area for children keeps young minds occupied.

The first floor displays are arranged into historical themes: agriculture, timber, Native American, pioneer, military, old towns and post offices. The spacious museum includes a covered wagon, vintage autos and a historic gun collection, to name a few items of interest.

Plan on spending hours, unless you are a genealogy or history buff, in which case you may need several days to review the books and videos available in the research library.

Or, if you'd rather take publications home with you, the museum has an extensive collection of local history publications for sale: Hun-

dreds of calendars, cards, census collections, coloring books, picture books and history books are available.

This year, the museum is mixing its annual events with special programs centered around Oregon's 150th birthday. A special display upstairs showcases a map of donated land claims and laws in the early years of statehood, and highlights Polk County residents who signed the Oregon Constitution.

The display also features memorabilia from the state's 100th birthday.

The museum invites the public to talks and programs at 1:30 p.m. each third Saturday of the month.

On July 20, the museum asks "What is your Polk County story?" in which the community is asked to share their knowledge and memories.

**Continued on Page 64**



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# Courthouse passes test of time

It stands proud and majestic, much like a grandfatherly figure, in the heart of downtown Dallas. But it represents an entire county and its people.

The Polk County Courthouse is one of the most recognized buildings in all of the county. The structure and its well-manicured grounds draw admiration from residents and visitors alike.

Representing the third courthouse structure in Polk County history, the present courthouse was built in 1898.

Polk County's courthouse bears a striking resemblance to one in Lane County that was demolished in the 1950s — and for good reason. The two courthouses actually came from the same "plan," so to speak, designed by Delos D. Neer of Portland.

The only major difference was the material. Lane County residents opted for brick and paid \$75,000. Polk County residents went with stone and paid \$40,000.

According to the Polk County Web site, officials trying to develop



**The courthouse is the center of Dallas and Polk County.**

a local building stone industry elected to construct the courthouse by using sandstone from an area quarry.

There is a fossil attesting to the

stone's origin on the northeast side of the courthouse between the old and new buildings.

The main superstructure is 44 feet high, with an 11-foot-deep basement and clock tower that is 95 feet from the ground.

In the early 1900s, the clock tower was used as a launching spot for fireworks until one backfired and caused spectacular results and \$900 of damage (a fortune in those days), according to Polk County history.

The building saw little change until an addition to meet increasing demands of county government was added in 1965.

A major renovation took place in the late 1980s.

Despite all its years, additions and renovations, the old courthouse at 850 Main St. has not lost its grandeur. It remains the centerpiece of the county.

With its stately grounds and high clock tower, the courthouse is in all likelihood the most recognizable building in Polk County and serves as a landmark for her people.

## Historical: Afternoons well spent

**Continued from Page 62**

The annual Porch Sale will be held July 18 and visitors can browse household goods, collectibles and antiques.

Hours at the museum are 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and Monday. The museum is closed Tuesday and Sunday.

Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors, \$1 for students 6 to 17. Children under 6 are admitted free.

For more information: 503-623-6251; or visit the Web site at [www.polkcountyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.polkcountyhistoricalsociety.com).



**A re-creation of a Polk County pharmacy is among the museum displays.**



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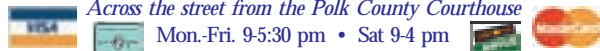
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The historic Brunk House and farmstead was home to an industrious family with 12 children. It was built in 1861 and now is maintained by the Polk County Historical Society.

## Brunk House is a landmark

Many motorists rushing down Highway 22 to Dallas or Salem don't know how close they are to a major landmark in Polk County history.

"Graveyard Field," the final resting place for at least 18 souls, lies near the northeast corner of Oak Knoll Golf Course.

That's just part of the hidden history of Brunk Corners, a place you may have driven past many times. But have you ever stopped?

The Brunk House is something to see.

Owned by the Polk County Historical Society, the house is filled with antique furniture and carpets. On the grounds are old-fashioned vegetable, herb and rose gardens, as well as a grape arbor and apple orchard.

There's also a machine shed with antique tools and power machinery.



Dining area in the Brunk House.

But there is also a history here. The house says a lot about the life of Harrison Brunk, who came to Oregon in 1849.

That was the same year

thousands of men rushed to California and the promise of gold.

But that was not for Brunk. He was a farmer and family man.

The two-story, seven-bedroom house reflects that. Thomas Pearce, Brunk's neighbor, built the house for the Brunks and their 12 children.

It took Pearce 18 months and \$844 to build the house in 1861. The home stayed in the family for three generations, becoming a "Century Farm."

When Earl Brunk died Sept. 14, 1974, the house was bequeathed to the Polk County Historical Society. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The farmhouse, at 5705 Highway 22 (near Oak Grove Road), is open from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays March through November, and other times by appointment.

Admission is free, though donations are encouraged.

For more information: 503-623-6251.





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A polar bear — along with many other denizens of the Arctic — greets visitors to the Jensen Museum.

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Paul Jensen was part polar bear.

Maybe part Kodiak.

For whatever reason, something deep within him resonated with Alaska. For more than 30 years, he traveled to Alaska and other polar regions as education consultant to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

But it was more than business. It was a deep, abiding pleasure.

His vast collection of artifacts became the basis for the Paul Jensen Arctic Museum on the campus of Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

The museum really had its beginning when Jensen



True-to-life murals enhance the museum experience.

was born in 1907 in Teestrup, on the Isle of Sealand, Denmark. He was the fifth son of a farmer.

His father wanted him to be “a good soldier.” Jensen had other ideas. He wanted to be an ex-

plorer.

Paul came to the United States as a teenager, eventually earning a doctorate in education.

During his trips to Alaska, he worked with teachers to develop bilingual and Yupi’k and Inupiat language materials for elementary students.

Jensen served as the arctic museum’s curator until his death in 1994. The museum hired Roben Jack Larrison, an Inupiat who grew up in Nome, Alaska, as its curator in 2007. She manages the facility with the help of student interns and community volunteers.

**Continued on Page 72**



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The survival of an ingenious and courageous people is told through exhibits at the Jensen Arctic Museum.

## Jensen: Museum houses 4,000 Arctic artifacts

### Continued from Page 72

The Jensen Arctic Museum is the only museum on the West Coast — and one of only two in the lower 48 states — dedicated solely to collecting, preserving and teaching the Arctic culture and ecology.

More than 150 people have donated items to the collection of 4,000 artifacts covering art, tools, clothing and lots of information about the indigenous Arctic peoples.

The Friends of the Jensen Arctic Museum, a nonprofit group that supports the museum, is working to raise \$1.3 million to expand the facility. Conceptual planning has started for a new building that would be erected in three phases and triple the amount of available space.

The expansion plans include replacing the



A young enthusiast with curator Roben Jack Larrison.

three existing structures.

Federal and private foundation grants and individual contributions will be sought and luncheons will be held to pay for the project. The museum relies on memberships and donations for

its regular operating costs, with Western Oregon University providing about half its normal budget.

Beyond tours, the museum features arctic education and crafts for children the third Saturday of every

month from 1 to 3 p.m.

Annual benefit events include the popular Salmon Bake and Auction on Sept. 13 this year. The museum celebrates its birthday each May with cake and games — and May 2010 will mark the museum's silver anniversary.

The Jensen Arctic Museum, located at 590 W. Church St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and at other times by appointment. It is open year-round except for federal holidays.

There is no admission fee, but a small donation (\$2 for adults, \$1 for children) is suggested.

Educational and group tours are always welcome.

For more information: Curator Roben Jack Larrison, 503-838-8468; or visit [www.wou.edu/arctic](http://www.wou.edu/arctic).





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The Gentle House in Monmouth is a wonderfully maintained example of late-1800s architecture.

# A house beautiful

## Graceful home has been a landmark for generations

Antique toys, dolls and other children's possessions adorn a second-story bedroom in the nearly 131-year-old home of the late Thomas Gentle's sons.

Books, folders and a lamp cover the desk inside Gentle's study, giving it the appearance it's still used. A room made to resemble Thomas' wife, Carrie's, sewing chamber gives off a similar feeling.

Century-old firs and gnarled walnut trees stand sentinel over the grounds outside. Camellias, tulips, daffodils and other colorful ornamentals highlight a pristinely manicured four acres.

The immediate members of the Gentle family have long since passed away. But considerable effort goes into maintaining their memory and home — now known

as Gentle House — just north of the Western Oregon University campus in Monmouth.

Catherine Gentle, Thomas' daughter, donated the house and property to the WOU Foundation in 1981, two years before she died.

The foundation rents out the property for weddings, reunions and other events to support the building.

The Friends of Gentle House, meanwhile, maintain the historic displays inside and conduct tours for the public.

Thomas and Carrie and their five children moved to Monmouth from Wisconsin in 1911, not long after Thomas was hired at the Oregon Normal School.

As head of the campus elementary training school, Thomas

helped prepare a generation of state educators.

This year, "Friends" has completed poster displays inside the home that depict different periods in the history of the Gentles, including when Thomas was studying education at the University of Jena, a famous German institute founded in 1537.

It was there that he adopted several teaching methods considered unique at the time — such as detailed lesson plans.

The farm house that Thomas would eventually buy on Monmouth Avenue had been built in the 1880s by the Butlers, one of the city's settling families. It changed hands several times before the Gentles acquired it in 1914.

**Continued on Page 75**



# Gentle House: It's as if frozen in time

**Continued from Page 74**

The Gentles were ingrained in the community during the 1920s, said Madeline Fisher, "Friends" president and a great-granddaughter of Thomas.

"Students came to the house, they hosted gatherings here," she said. "They were involved in civic clubs. Their children were Boy Scouts."

Today, the Polk County Master Gardeners host work days on the grounds of Gentle House twice a month, using the garden as a sort of classroom for rose and grape pruning demonstrations for the public.

"I think the house today reflects the Gentles' involvement in Monmouth," Fisher said. "We want to keep up that involvement."

Much of the upstairs remained unused during the 1940s, when Thomas' children had moved on. Plans were made for restoring the house a few years after Thomas died in 1951, but the renovation never happened.

The foundation has undertaken

several projects, however, to extend the lifespan of the home. An annex, with kitchen and conference center, was added in 1991. A few years ago, local volunteers and businesses donated almost \$30,000 in material and labor to repair an aging roof.

"We would like to see the history of the home preserved," Fisher said, "so a child today can imagine what life was like 100 years ago."

Gentle House is at 855 N. Monmouth Ave. Artifacts representing early Monmouth history or contributions for upkeep of the building are welcome through the WOU Office of University Advancement. Tours are available by appointment.

Gentle House's Holiday Bazaar fundraiser takes place Nov. 11-14, 2009. Home crafts and wares are sold to support the building. A holiday tea party event is also planned for the first week of December.

To book an event at Gentle House or take a tour: WOU Foundation at 503-838-8673 or via e-mail at [gentlehouse@wou.edu](mailto:gentlehouse@wou.edu).



Gentle House garden gazebo

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**Spring Valley Church, located in Zena, was dedicated in June of 1859. It still hosts regular services and events.**

## Zena church has deep roots

It is a quaint old country church.

There was a time, however, when the Spring Valley Church in Zena was so much more.

Its bell rang out the news of every birth, every death, every meeting and every emergency in the community.

The tombstones in the graveyard next to the church mark the dates of the people who lived there, died there and in between worshiped in the little white church.

The bell that rang out so much news came from England via Cape Horn in 1884. It weighs about 900 pounds.

Nondenominational Bible study sessions continue to be held every Sunday at the church located northwest of the intersection of Spring Valley Road and Zena Road. Weddings are often booked months in advance. Special Easter and Memorial Day services are held.

There are still plots left in the cemetery, reserved for people who have a long-standing connection to Spring Valley and her people.

A walk among the tombstones tells the story of a community reaching back before the Civil War.

The church and cemetery have withstood more than a century of winter storms and summer sun, not to mention the occasional attack of vandalism. That has been an ongoing issue in recent years as an Internet report about ghosts and the cemetery circulated.

The church is tucked away in the northeastern corner of Polk County. It began as a 12-foot-by-12-foot log cabin on the Barker property.

The Rev. R.J. Cornwall of the Cumberland Presbyterians organized the church in 1851. The present church was built by volunteer labor in 1858 on four acres donated by Nelson Walling, and the church was dedicated in June of 1859.

The church was designed after the typical New England-style meeting house and is a classic example of early pioneer churches built by early settlers of the Willamette Valley during the 1850s.

The first lumber for the church came overland from Independence. Then finished lumber was shipped by boat from Canemah, near Oregon City, to Lincoln — a once-thriving port on the Willamette River two miles east of the church.

The church door is opened by turning a small porcelain knob of unknown age. The original hand hewn sills, floor, pews, woodwork, platform and pulpit remain intact.

The original pulpit Bible was printed in 1860.

Eight of the men who took donation land claims in the Spring Valley area are buried in the cemetery.

The entire valley, to the north and east, spreads out before the church. An early pioneer, Major Walter M. Walker, named it Spring Valley for the water that attracted him there in 1848.

Early on, the church was called Spring Valley Christian Church, after the community.

But the community was named Zena following the arrival of brothers Daniel Jackson Cooper and Jacob C. Cooper, who started a store and post office in 1866.

The brothers were married to sisters, Arvazena and Melzena Stillman, and took the name for the town from the last part of their wives' names.

The church was listed in the National Register of Historical Places on May 8, 1974.



# County parks offer rural charm

Polk County has no shortage of scenic parks. Three of them, in fact, are in a three-mile stretch along Highway 22.

There are also several other parks owned or managed by the county. Here's a list:

### Ballston Park

This park is located in the ghost town of Ballston and includes the historic Ballston School, believed to be the oldest school building in the state. The park has picnic tables.

### Buell Park

This is a park for families. There's a well-equipped playground and restrooms. Picnic tables and barbecue pits are nestled in the trees along Mill Creek. There are trails to explore along the creek. It's all located just off Highway 22 and a little west of Red Prairie Road.

### Buena Vista Park

Take Corvallis Road south out of Independence and follow the signs to the Buena Vista Ferry. This is the county's maritime park, with a boat

ramp on the Willamette River. It also has a small dock, picnic tables and a nearby rock favored by anglers.

### Gerlinger Park

This is very much a nature park. It's about three miles west of Falls City on the Little Luckiamute River. There are two picnic tables and footbridges to a little island.

### Mill Creek Park

#### Mill Creek Recreation Site

Mill Creek Park is a little more primitive, but it's also more scenic and caters to people who want to get a little farther away from it all.

It's just half a mile from the Mill Creek Recreation Site.

The difference between the two is unimportant to most visitors. The park is owned by the county, and the recreation site is owned by the Bureau of Land Management.

Mill Creek Park features a spectacular scenic canyon. There are half a dozen picnic tables, some barbecue pits and a large surrounding grassy area — complete with a

small backstop for hitting baseballs and softballs. It's a little cramped for a full baseball field, but it's a great place for getting in a little practice.

The recreation site also has picnic areas, restrooms and barbecue pits, as well as a large open area.

There are no developed trails. Moss-covered trees overhang the deep canyon, providing a unique scenic area.

### Nesmith Park

Nesmith Park is next to the Polk County Fairgrounds on Highway 22. It was built around the historic James Nesmith family graveyard. The park features nature trails along Rickreall Creek and has picnic tables as well as barbecue pits and a large open grassy area.

### Ritner Creek Park

The park is four miles west of Pedee on Burbank Road. There are three footbridges across the creek as well as trails along it. There are picnic tables and restrooms.

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The advertisement features four oval-shaped images: top-left shows a large indoor storage area with stacks of bags; top-right shows a store interior with various pet supplies; bottom-left shows a display of potted plants and garden supplies; bottom-right shows a white truck and a yellow tractor in a gravel area.



One of several Heritage Museum displays showing decor common at the turn of the century.

# A town's heritage preserved

## End of the Oregon Trail, beginning of the Oregon dream

An old Oregon adage says that the end of the Oregon Trail was wherever your pack mule died.

But Independence folks believe that since the trail began in Independence, Missouri, it logically ends in Independence, Oregon.

For more than 50 years, the city has been celebrating its unique connection to the Oregon Trail — a celebration chronicled at the Heritage Museum at 112 S. 3rd St.

There, visitors can wander the halls of the 1888 Baptist Church that now serves as the community's museum. Using a self-guided tour book, an entire afternoon can be whiled away reading about the area's history and ogling bits and pieces — from dental tools to World War II posters — of this area's history.

Wander past the covered wagon that looks as if it could carry pioneers to Independence. Pause to view the archaic farm equipment.

Continued on Page 79



The historic Independence First Baptist Church at 112 S. 3rd St. now serves as home to the Heritage Museum.



# Heritage: Ever-changing reflections of life

**Continued from Page 78**

Wonder for yourself how women could possibly swim in the attire featured in the museum's historic swimsuit display.

Check out the delicate workmanship of the Japanese display, where internment information is highlighted. See the hops baskets and farming displays connected to the city that once claimed title as "the Hop Capital of the World."

Learn how school children spent their days, and browse the old high school annuals. Walk through the room full of military uniforms that once adorned soldiers from Polk County. Camp Adair and Western Oregon University exhibits are also new or refreshed.

The Heritage Museum is full of farm, business, community, and family artifacts from every era, including those that preceded the pioneer settlers. But the museum and its volunteers also help organize events that educate and entertain people on the topic of local history.



The museum also hosts free Chautauqua programs that feature a speaker.

On Aug. 15 is the "On to Oregon Cavalcade Reunion," featuring a parade, wagon train and mustache contest. For more fun, the museum is a regular stop on the annual Ghost Walk held in downtown Independence during the Hop & Heritage Festival (Sept. 25-27 this year).

The museum is open Wednesday and Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m., and Thursday and Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. Appointments for tours can be made by calling 503-838-4989 or e-mailing [heritagemuseum@minetfiber.com](mailto:heritagemuseum@minetfiber.com).

The museum does not charge admission, but tax-deductible memberships can be purchased online at [www.ORHeritage.org](http://www.ORHeritage.org). Donations and volunteers are encouraged.



## *Music in the Park*



### Dave Anderson Memorial Concert Series

#### Main St. Park • Monmouth

#### Every Wednesday ~ July 8th - August 10th ~ 7pm - 9pm

- July 8 - Rock Hounds (Variety)
- July 15 - Jim & Alan Music and Comedy Show
- July 22 - Guthrie Park Night (Country)
- July 29 - Joe Stoddard (Comedy Soloist Musician)
- August 5 - Courtney Jones (R&B)
- August 12 - Darby O' Gill (Traditional Irish)
- August 19 - Bill Larimer (Rock)

*Bring your chairs and blankets  
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For more information contact Rick Gydesen at 503-838-4912





A pie-eating contest is part of the fun at the annual Hop & Heritage Festival, held every September.

# When it's time for fun

Polk County communities go all-out with these events

Polk County was founded by hard-working folks who also knew how to play hard. The tradition lives on today as several communities, and the county itself, stage fairs and festivals that celebrate life in this bountiful area.

Here is an overview:

### WESTERN DAYS

**Monmouth and Independence  
July 2-5, 2009**

The pioneer towns support their heritage with several days of fun. And what could be more fun than that back-to-back fireworks nights?

This year's Western Days celebration will feature two separate pyrotechnic displays, at 10 p.m. on July 3 and July 4.

The two communities kick off their four days of fun with a rock and hip-hop concert and an outdoor movie July 2 at Riverview Park Amphitheater.

A parade, mini-marathon, vendors, carnival, live music, an outdoor church service — you name it and Western Days has it. The hub is Independence's Riverview Park, where the Riverview Park Amphitheater and stage host the entertainment and a carnival. Monmouth's Main Street Park also hosts popular events.

For more information: 503-580-8525; [www.westerndays.us](http://www.westerndays.us).



### SUMMERFEST Dallas

**July 23-26, 2009**

Dallas' own downtown celebration began just after World War II and has been called, over the years, "Smileroo" and "Krazy Dayz." Whatever the name, the four-day festival brings a parade, art exhibitions and a major car show to the city's core. Many of the activities are centered on the Polk County Courthouse lawn and in Dallas City Park.

It's a time for everyone — locals and visitors alike — to let their hair down and have lots of summer fun. The annual parade during Summerfest is touted as one of Oregon's largest small-town events.

This year's Summerfest theme is "Happy Birthday, Oregon," as the state celebrates its sesquicentennial.

For more information: 503-623-2564; [www.dallasoregon.org](http://www.dallasoregon.org).

### POLK COUNTY FAIR

**Rickreall**

**Aug. 6-9, 2009**

Polk County is an agricultural county, and that means its fair is what a great old-time fair ought to be.

Mixed in with the prize-winning animals, baked goods and craft displays are plenty of live entertainment, a carnival, tasty treats, a talent show and — a long-standing tradition — the Northwest Youth Rodeo.

4-H and FFA exhibits are a key part of the annual showcase.

This year's fair, themed "Honoring Our Pioneer Heritage," will run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day except Sunday, Aug. 9, when fair hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information: 503-623-3048 or [www.co.polk.or.us/fair](http://www.co.polk.or.us/fair).

**Continued on Page 82**



# Riverview Park Amphitheater Concert & Movie Series

Located in beautiful historic downtown Independence  
Free and open to the public

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Friday Evenings at 7:30

July 10 - Joe Stoddard Comedy Band

July 17 - Amadan



Golden Bough



River City Band



Amadan

July 24

Albany Swing  
Band

July 31

Calamity Jazz

August 7

Golden Bough



Calamity Jazz



Mark Kershner

August 14 - Homegrowing 6-7:30pm

Third Brigade 8-9pm

August 21 - River City Band

August 28 - Mark Kershner

## FREE MOVIES

Thursday evenings beginning July 2. Movies begin at dusk.

### Western Days Celebration July 2-5

#### July 2

- "Youth Night" Celebration begins at 5 p.m.
- Bubba Swatta performs
- Hip Hop/Rap/R&B 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- Movie Twilight begins at 10 p.m.

#### July 3

- Grand Jazz Band 3:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
- Debra Arlyn 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
- Renee Hill Band 8:45 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.
- FIREWORKS BEGIN AT 10 p.m.**
- Renee Hill Band 10:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

#### July 4

- Canyon Fever 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Aaron Shinkle 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Hoodwinked 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Liquid Assests 8:45 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.
- FIREWORKS BEGIN AT 10 p.m.**

• Liquid Assests 10:45 p.m. - 11:45 p.m.  
For a complete list of Western Days activities go to:  
<http://www.westerndays.us/>

**Sesquicentennial Celebration August 13-15**

**Mexican Fiesta September 5**

**Hop & Heritage Festival September 25-27**

[www.independencpolice.org/AMPHITHEATER/index.html](http://www.independencpolice.org/AMPHITHEATER/index.html)



A jouster awaits his next opponent at the Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire.



Amusement rides put smiles on the faces of children at the Polk County Fair.

## Festivals: Polk folks have fun

### SHREWSBURY RENAISSANCE FAIRE Kings Valley Sept. 19-20, 2009

Sitting right on the Polk-Benton county line is one of Oregon's most unique annual festivals.

The Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire, now in its 14th year, is modeled on the merriest of elements from the times of Shakespeare and Elizabeth I, set in the historic renaissance of 1558 to 1603.

The festival site is about one block east of the Kings Valley Highway (Highway 223) on Grant Road. Faire hours both days are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children 6-12. Children 5 and under are admitted free.

For more information: 541-929-4897; [www.shrew-faire.com](http://www.shrew-faire.com).

### HOP & HERITAGE FESTIVAL Independence Sept. 25-27, 2009

Hops once were the economic lifeblood of the Independence area. Although most of the crops are gone, the celebration isn't.

The community turns out for fun and games, food booths, music, a popular downtown ghost walk, cartoons in the park for kids, old-time farm equipment exhibits, a car show, hot air balloons, lawnmower races, an airport fly-in, and lots more.

Most activities take place downtown and at Riverview Park Amphitheater.

For more information: 503-838-6026 or [www.independencepolice.org](http://www.independencepolice.org) (click on link to festival).





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# Polk County Church Directory

*Attend your chosen house of worship.*

## DALLAS

**Calvary Chapel Dallas** - [www.calvarydallasor.com](http://www.calvarydallasor.com) - Currently meeting for worship and verse by verse Bible teaching at 628 SE Jefferson St. Worship service begins at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Sunday school is available from youth ministry and below to nursery. Wednesday Bible study is at 6:30 p.m., study of the Old Testament. Mens prayer is Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Womens Bible studies are scheduled also, call for times. The Pastor/Teacher is Larry King. Come join us and be a part of God's family here in Dallas. For more information call 503-831-1074.

**Christ The King Church** - Meets at the Morrison Campus, 1251 S. W. Main St. 503-623-2262 Christ The King Christian Church is a conservative, contemporary, biblical Church. At Christ the King we learn: the truths of the Bible, how to live those truths, how to please God, and how to be a blessing to all people. Service time is 10 a.m. Sunday.. Children's ministry ages (4-10) is available. Come and join us as we learn and grow together. Everyone is welcome. Wally Wildman, senior pastor. For more information call 503-623-2262. [www.ctkdallas.com](http://www.ctkdallas.com)

**Dallas Alliance Church** - 775 E. Ellendale, Dallas, 503-623-2265, Email [dallascma@qwestoffice.net](mailto:dallascma@qwestoffice.net), Senior Pastor - Ian Munro, Youth Pastor - Scott Totten, Visitation Pastor - Ron Israel. Sunday School - 9:15 a.m., Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., (Nursery provided for a.m. services); Sunday Evening Fellowship 6:00 p.m.; Tuesdays: High School/Middle School Youth 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays: Bible Explorers (ages Kindergarten - 5th grade) 6:45 p.m., Choir and Adult Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m. Call for info on current Bible Studies.

**Dallas Christian Fellowship Foursquare Church** - 976 SW Hayter Street, Dallas, 503-623-6890, Sunday morning - time of fellowship 9:30am, worship 10am, nursery and children's church provided; small groups meet at various times throughout the week, please call for additional information. Everyone is welcome.

**Dallas Church** - PO Box 462, Dallas, 503.508.2001. Worship Gatherings – Sundays @ 10am. Currently Meeting at Dallas High School, 1250 SE Holman Ave. Atmosphere is relaxed, families & children welcome, come as you are, current music & relevant teaching about Jesus. Café with coffee & teas and pastries. Pastor: Ben Bauman. [www.dallaschurch.org](http://www.dallaschurch.org)

**Evangelical Bible Church** - 1175 S.E. Howe, Dallas 503-623-2331. Senior Pastor Jerry Franz, Visitation Pastor Allan Wiebe, Youth Pastor Nathan Ensz. Sunday: Worship \*8:00 a.m.; \*10:45 a.m.; \*6:00 p.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; High School Youth Group 7:15 p.m.; Thursday: Jr. High Youth Group - 7:00 p.m.; 2nd & 4th Tuesday: MOPS \*9:00 a.m.; Wednesday: AWANA - 6:30 p.m.; Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 p.m.; Thursday: Bible Studies \*9:15 a.m. (women); \*7:00 p.m. (men & women) \*Nursery care provided.

**Faith Evangelical Free Church** - 2290 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas, 503-623-8034; Senior Pastor Al Perkins, Associate Pastor Ed Sutter, Worship Pastor Ted Kitzmiller, Jr. High Director Don Radke, High School Youth Associate Scott Lamb, Children's Director Debbie Davies. Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday High School Youth Group 7:00 p.m.; Sunday Jr. High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Please call for information about other meetings. [www.faithfreechurch.org](http://www.faithfreechurch.org)

**First Baptist Church** - 245 S.W. Church St., Dallas, 503-623-5189; Pastor Jerry Casey. Church Office Hours: Mon., Wed. & Thurs. 9am-1pm; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:45 a.m., Sunday Youth Group 5:00 p.m., Other activities call church office. Website: [www.gofbc.org](http://www.gofbc.org)

**First Presbyterian Church** - 879 S.W. Levens Street, Dallas, 503-623-3397. David Hampton, Pastor. Sunday Pastor's Bible Study 9:00 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.m.; Men's Bible Study Every Tues. 7:00 a.m.. Women's Bible Study Every Tues. 10:00 a.m. Except for summer months. Child care available. Handicapped accessible.

**Grace Baptist Church** - 1855 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas, 503-623-4858. We're a church committed to Loving God, Loving others, and Making Disciples of Jesus Christ. Come Grow With Us! Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday night prayer 6:30 p.m., Russ Hilsinger, Pastor. E-mail: [RJHilsinger@q.com](mailto:RJHilsinger@q.com)

**Grace Community Church** – 598 E Ellendale Ave, PO Box 69, Dallas, 503-623-4961. Senior Pastor – Guy Basso, Assoc/Youth Pastor – Dave Bertolini. Sunday Worship Services: 9:00 am and 10:45 am. Adult Sunday School: 9:00 & 10:45, Youth Sunday School: 10:45, Kids Worship Time: 9:00, Kids Sunday School: 10:30. Nursery provided for both services. Jr High Youth Group Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, High School Youth Group Thursdays at 7:00 pm. Office hrs are 8:30 – 2:30, T–F. Visit our website at [www.graceindallas.org](http://www.graceindallas.org). All are welcome! Call for Summertime hours.



**Living Word Faith Fellowship** - 830 SE Shelton Street, Dallas, 503-623-9062. Pastor Joan Siewert. Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday service 10:00 a.m., nursery provided. First Saturday of month breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at Murphy's Restaurant, Dallas. Pastor Lavern Siewert in charge of men's fellowship. Call for additional information. Website: [www.proclaimhim.org](http://www.proclaimhim.org)

**New Beginnings - Church of God of Prophecy** 575 SW Ash Street, Dallas, 503-420-9186. Pastor Darrel Gaylor. Service Times - 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning; 6:30 p.m. Sunday evening; 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening, Bible Study and Youth Group. Friday Youth Activities.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church** - 589 SW Birch, P.O. Box 450, Dallas 97338-0450. 503-623-5872. Services on Saturday: 9:30 A.M. Sabbath School Bible Study for all age groups. 10:50 A.M. Worship Service. Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 to Noon. Phone: 503-623-5872. Pastor: Doug Clayville.

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church** - 1486 S.W. Levens Street, Dallas, 503-623-8522. Interim Vicar Jay McMurren 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist AND Sunday School. Nursery Care available. Visitors always welcome!

**United Methodist Church** - 565 SE LaCreole Dr., Dallas, 503-623-2481. Email: [dallasumc@qwestoffice.net](mailto:dallasumc@qwestoffice.net) Website: [www.dallasumc.qwestoffice.net](http://www.dallasumc.qwestoffice.net) Pastor-Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen. Worship Service 10:55 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Child-care available. Handicap access. Call for Summertime hours.

**Valley Life Center (Assemblies of God)** - 1795 S.E. Miller Ave., Dallas, 503-623-4116. Pastor Chris Barker, Youth Pastor, Jerry Mullins, Children's Pastor, Lonelle Anderson, Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Family Night 7 p.m. Please call for more information or visit our website at [www.valleylifecenter.com](http://www.valleylifecenter.com)

## FALLS CITY

**Mountain Gospel Fellowship** - Corner of Main & Dayton, Falls City, 503-787-8031. Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Wed. Eve. Service 6:00 p.m. Come worship with us and find a new beginning in God's love.

## INDEPENDENCE

**Buena Vista Community Church** - 11355 Church St., Buena Vista. Independence. Pastor Don Johnson. 503-838-2247. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship 11 a.m.

**First Baptist Church** - A warm, friendly church that cares about you! Located at 1505 Monmouth St., Independence (across from Central High School); 503-838-1001. Senior Pastor Michael Parks, Youth Pastor Ben Bobeda. **Sundays:** 9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship Service **Weekly:** Youth Group 7 pm **Wednesdays:** 7 pm AWANA (during the school year). **Thursdays:** Men's and Women's Bible Studies, and FUSE for youth.after school. *First Baptist has ministries for children, youth, adults, young married and seniors, including monthly senior activities and small groups for all ages throughout the week.*

**Liberty Fellowship** - 330 Monmouth St, Independence. Phone: 503-606-2062 Email: [info@lfchurches.org](mailto:info@lfchurches.org) Senior Pastor Ricky Faircloth, Children's and Youth Director Karen Rowton, **Service Times:** Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30 AM, Children's and Youth Sunday School Classes available for all ages. Wednesday Worship @ 6:00 PM, Wednesday Special Study "Repairing Brokenness in the Family" @ 6:45 PM, Children's ministry available. Youth Programs available. **We invite you to our "Fellowship Breakfast" every Sunday morning beginning at 9:45 AM.** For more information please call or visit our website at [www.lfchurches.org](http://www.lfchurches.org)

**Life Center Foursquare Church** - 437 D Street, Independence, OR Phone: 503-838-6507. Pastor Larry Gratrek. Worship Service and Sunday School starts at 10:30 a.m. Youth activities/Men's studies/Women's studies/Home Fellowships available throughout the week. Call for more information. You are welcome!

**St. Patrick Parish, Catholic** - 1275 E St., Independence. 503-838-1242 or 503-838-6442. Rev. Carl Gimpl. Masses Sat., vigil 5 p.m.; Sunday 9:30 a.m. (English), 11 a.m. (Spanish); Weekdays Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 9 a.m. & Thurs. 8am, Saturday 7 p.m. (Spanish). Evergreen Nursing Home; Holy Days 9 a.m. (Eng) & 7 p.m. (Eng/Span). Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 3:30-4:30 p.m. or by appointment. Religious Education: RCIA Mon 7:00-8:15 p.m.; Mid-High & High School Grades Mon 7:00-8:15p.m.; Grades 1-4 Tues. 7:00-8:15 p.m. WOU Campus Ministry: Mass Sun. 5:00 p.m. at 315 N. Knox St., Monmouth followed by a social hour.

## MONMOUTH

**Bahá'is of Monmouth** 503-838-0599 for more information. **Call 1-800-22-UNITE.** Our interest is in sharing the Teachings and the principles of the Bahá'í Faith. The search for truth is upheld as an individual undertaking, as we have no clergy in the Bahá'í Faith. You may also want to check out Bahá'í books in our public library or visit our website: [www.us.bahai.org](http://www.us.bahai.org). Contributions not accepted.

**Christ's Church Methodist and Presbyterian United** - Come care and share with us. 412 Clay Street West, Monmouth, 503-838-1724. Rev. James Simmons. Worship Service 11 a.m. Call for information on small groups.

**Heart to Heart Church** - 191 N. Monmouth Ave., Monmouth (across street from WOU). Pastor Jim Miller. email: Jim@h2hchurch.com. Sunday School for children and adults 10:00 a.m.; Worship Service 11:00 a.m.; Prayer & Praise 3:00 p.m.; College Fellowship - Monday 6:00 p.m.; Children & Adult Bible Study - Wednesday 7:00 p.m.; Everybody welcome. Information: church 503-838-0537. www.h2hchurch.com

**Praise Assembly** - 189 Monmouth Ave. S. (one block south of WOU) Pastor Joe Pearson, 503-837-0300. Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Youth 12:30 p.m. Thursday College 7pm.

**St. Hilda's Episcopal Church** - 245 West Main St., Monmouth, 503-838-6087. Vicar, The Rev. Anne Moore. Holy Communion, Sundays 10:00am and Wednesdays 7:15am followed by fellowship and refreshments, Sunday service is interpreted and signed. Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00am - 3:00pm, Wednesday 8:00am - Noon, Or by appointment. Call for Christian Education information and special events, or visit our website at www.sthildaschurch.org Visitors are always welcome. Parish Hall available for public use, donations accepted.

PERRYDALE

**Valley Baptist Church** - Next door to the Perrydale school, Perrydale, 503-315-7554, Pastor Greg Trull. Sunday School 9:30 a.m., [during school year]. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Child care available. Youth program, Bible studies, Mom's program, Ladie's evening Bible Study and other services available, please call for more information.

RICKREALL

**Bethel Community Church** - Old Bethel College Building where Bethel Rd and Zena Rd meet north of Rickreall. Pastor Dan Anderson, 503-585-5819. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 11:00 a.m., Monday Night Bible, call Stann for directions 503-831-1537.

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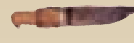
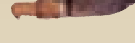
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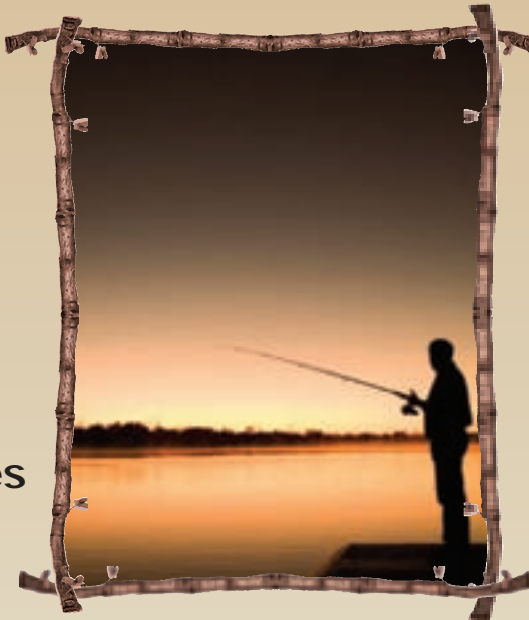
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