



Serving the Mohawk Valley and Its Communities
FALL EDITION • SEPTEMBER, 2021
24 Years of Publication! Thanks Mohawk Valley!
*“We don’t win by attacking what we hate,
but by strengthening and protecting what we love!”*

**MARCOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT MOVES INTO THE FUTURE
WHILE HONORING ITS PAST**

EARLY HISTORY

In May 1901, the District #79 School was moved from just south of the conjunction of Paschelke and Wendling roads to a new property on Wendling Road where the high school now stands. This was primarily driven by the creation of a new school district at Wendling, which consumed the eastern portion of District #79 and the western portion of District #130. This action took away enough students so that the location was no longer central to the students’ homes. This new school held its first classes on May 13, 1901. The original school as built was 24x36 feet in size. This one room school was used until 1906 when Districts #79 (Lower Mill Creek) and #42 (Parsons Creek) merged into a single district.

After the students were moved to the new school located adjacent to the old boundary between districts #42 and #79, the one room school building sat on the lot. Its usage between 1907 and 1924 is unknown. In July 1924, the Mabel, Wendling and Marcola district (#64, #163, and #79 respectively) voted to implement a Union High School (UHS Dist. number unknown). The start of the school year was already upon them, so the first year of Mohawk Union High School was taught in the old Marcola High School building.

In 1925, they built a new high school building on the Wendling property. At that time, Charles C. Irish (Curt's father) purchased the old one-room schoolhouse and had it moved across the road for use as a house. Later in the 1940s, the building was added to by using lumber from buildings being disassembled in the town of Wendling. His one room schoolhouse has now come full circle back to the school district that built it.

The wooden high school (Mohawk) that was built in 1925 was burned to the ground by an arsonist in 1997. The current building housing the high school gym and classrooms was built in 1998. The three modular classrooms installed in 1996 and unattached to the main building, did not burn and were in use until this year when they were replaced. The older high school building, dating back to the 1960's, survived the fire and is still in use housing the high school office, classrooms, woodshop, and other CTE programs.

THE CURTIS IRISH ERA

The Irish farmhouse and the 13.5 acres on which it sits, was

purchased by the Marcola School District in 2017. The Irish Farm groundbreaking ceremony for a new bus maintenance and tractor storage facility was held in the spring of 2021. The building will be marked with an Irish family stone that was carved to honor Curtis Irish. Mr. Irish's

generosity to our



Irish Family Stone

well sediment to improve water flow and upgrade their equipment with new technology serving Marcola. A fence around the well was added to protect well water quality. This Irish Farm/RWD Well provides approximately 1/3 of Marcola's water supply!

After the sale of his farm, Curtis then donated a 75 horse power tractor and later made a sizable donation



CURTIS IRISH

school children by making his farm affordable in 2017 will benefit generations of MSD children involved in science classes and our FFA farming program.

The Irish Farm includes a well, maintained by Rainbow Water District (RWD). Upon purchase by MSD, the District formalized an agreement with Rainbow Water District granting a 100-foot easement that allowed RWD to invest funds and pump out

well sediment to improve water flow and upgrade their equipment



Well Fencing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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toward building the bus maintenance and tractor storage facility. The MSD maintenance barn, a \$325,000 project, is being paid for by Mr. Curtis Irish's very generous donation and matched by \$225,000 from MSD as part of a series of 18 recommended improvements totaling \$1.3 million, authorized by our MSD Board of Education.

OTHER MSD IMPROVEMENT NEWS

A list of districtwide improvements that were needed was developed by MSD stakeholders to improve education facilities using a combination of funds from multiple grants, some district funds, and a capital projects loan. These improvements include replacing 3 older modular classrooms, adding 5 more classrooms and student restrooms, building the maintenance building at the farm, seismic upgrades at the older high school building, deer fencing around the growing area at the farm, creating a commercial kitchen space for class use as well as a farm-to-table program, and more. Our School Board also authorized spending funds to start a preschool program this past summer.

These recommended improvements just made sense. It was too early for another facility improvement bond, especially considering our community's economic situation during COVID. The MSD improvements are realistic and affordable improvements we were able to make to benefit current and future students. Our voters told us in 2015, when approving the elementary school bond, to make sure to take care of our facilities. Many years ago, we had established a rainy-day fund, a bus replacement fund,



and a facility repair fund for this purpose. We also took a recent capital improvement loan to pay off other higher interest loans and save money with a lower interest rate. The loan payments are paid out of District revenues from our partnership with Teach NorthWest as well as other sources.

These many upgrades have taken most of the past 12 months, which is much longer than anticipated. While most of the work on additional classrooms is done, the Lane County permits for campus projects are pending approval, and are in the final stages of being granted. Since we have accomplished all the work Lane County required, we have asked for final inspection of our classrooms and special permit to be issued, which includes the maintenance barn permit on the Irish farm. The County has been extremely backlogged in response to the fires up the McKenzie



The Irish Farm Bus Barn and maintenance facility groundbreaking ceremony was held on January 21, 2021. Man in light green shirt is Mr. Terry Augustadt MSD Superintendent. 75 hp Holland Tractor was donated to MSD new Farm by Mr. Curtis Irish.

last year and COVID issues causing significant delays in our permit process.

WHY DO WE NEED ALL THIS?

The newer classrooms are replacing three very aged modular classrooms and adding five more helps us to accomplish recommended COVID space requirements between students. Not all of our classrooms were big enough to accomplish the space requirements from Oregon Department of Education (ODE).



The ODE Ready Schools Safe Learners (RSSL) guidelines for a full return to in-person instruction has stipulations to be met. The five additional modular classrooms also addressed MSD future growth needs. We have added 100 students since the elementary school was built, have been growing by about 16% yearly, and MSD was bursting at the seams needing more classroom space. An added benefit of having more classrooms is that MSD has been able to shift some classroom spaces making a classroom available and then fund preschool for 3-4 year olds as requested by our community members. Eighteen new preschool



students were enrolled for the Summer 2021 preschool program this year. This program will create school-ready students who come to our buildings ready to learn in years to come.

The three old modular classrooms were moved to the Marcola Fire Station and set up as their training classrooms, a win-win situation for our community.

A security fence was added around our bus parking area to prevent vandalism. The planning stages for the seismic work are happening now. You will see the major work involved in this \$2.5 million grant-funded project taking place mostly next summer. Seismic reinforcement of walls and roofs - replacing roofing material, providing structural reinforcements and foundation components, will result in a safer school building for our students. Exterior surfaces and bathroom retrofits are part of the plan as well. By braiding our grant funding with our facilities maintenance funding, our money goes further, benefiting MSD students and stretching our general fund facility improvement dollars and giving us a 'big bang for the buck' at MSD. The seismic facility reinforcement work will be overseen by WRK Seismic Engineers and done in phases over summer break so as not to interfere with student education.

WHERE IS THIS MONEY FROM?

Multiple grants have been utilized for these projects. A Career and Technical Education Revitalization grant from the Federal government, Oregon High School Success grant, a Weyerhaeuser grant, and additional COVID response funds have all contributed to the work. The loan we took out is only one source of revenue used for the improvements. Repayment of the \$1.3 million capital



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facility improvement loan does not come out of our children's classrooms and does not affect our students' education. Payments on the loan are possible due to the 10 year partnership we have with Teach NorthWest and their growing student population.

THE FUTURE

It's important to note here how far MSD Has come as a school district since 1901. Six years ago, MSD became one of only two small school districts in Oregon to become a (mostly paperless) accredited high school. This means that we had 1:1 technology in place for our students and met a series of quality assurances allowing us to issue credits to students who attended our school. In 2021, we became a fully accredited District with the outside review and accreditation of both Marcola Elementary School and Mohawk High School. Teach NorthWest was accredited as a virtual school this past year as well, making all MSD schools fully accredited.

Today we're adding up-to-date modern teaching methods and attracting highly qualified new hires (teachers with multiple certifications) from the best schools in Lane County, due to what they've heard about our school district. In 2020, our graduation rate topped 92% for our Seniors, even during a disruptive pandemic, well above the state average of 83%. In 2021, 100% of our seniors graduated. On March 14, 2020 when Governor Brown closed all Oregon Schools due to COVID 19, we led and were recognized as a virtual-ready school having four years of online learning experience already. Our students and teachers didn't miss a beat- no classroom? No problem!

Marcola High School Farm to School Initiative

It's finally here! We have been preparing for some time to get this process started, but COVID has slowed us all down. However, the installation of the fence on the school farm was the turning point needed to get fresh produce from our farm into the hands of our students. Mohawk FFA in combination with an agricultural education program is dedicated to getting this job accomplished. The farm will break ground as soon as there's enough water for the soil to easily turn without being lost. The first goal is to get some permanent crops planted in the back like fruit trees, blueberries, and raspberries. The remainder of the ground will be prepped for winter veggie crops. The high school is progressing towards the completion of a kitchen, which will be utilized by the farm to prepare summer crops for fall and winter consumption by canning, freezing, and/or vacuum sealing.



**Farm to School Garden Space
9 foot fence to keep the wildlife out!**

We look forward to preparing lessons for all aged students to spend some quality time on the farm. It always brings great joy to indulge yourself in the bounties of your labor, especially if you can put it in the ground and harvest it with your own hands. Even though we have big hopes, please be patient - we are amateurs at work with big plans, creative ideas, and dedicated hearts on our side. If you have any questions, please feel free to email our AG teacher, Kelli Fisher. Kids and crops will soon be growing side by side in Marcola!

MARCOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT ROCKS!



What's New: Friends of the Marcola Schools Media Center, Fall 2021

The Friends of Marcola Schools Media Center are happy to be back in the Media Center and preparing the library ready for our reopening. Stay tuned for days and times of the reopening, notification to the Community will be through our Facebook page and window posters around the town of Marcola. It will be very exciting to welcome everyone back to our beautiful Library and we are looking forward to sharing the new Pilcrow Grant books and other acquisitions with the community.

Summer/Fall Reading Fun

Continuing: #caughtreadinginmarcola

Our Facebook contest, #caughtreadinginmarcola is still going on. We have extended the date to the end of September. Post photos of yourself, friends and family reading to our Facebook page. Or post to your own FB or Instagram account. Tag all photos with #caughtreadinginmarcola. Photos will be displayed in the Media Center, when we are open again. All Marcola students (K-12) who participate as the subject or photographer can pick up a free age appropriate book!

Little Free Library

Has everyone seen the Little Free Library at the crosswalk by the Lion's Lee Downing Park? The Friends of the Media Center and other community members, have maintained a rapidly rotating collection of books for readers of all ages.

Blind Date with a Book

Our Blind Date with a Book program was put on hold due to our access to the Media Center, changed because of Covid. We will be adding our "Blind Date with a Book", books once a week starting August 15th. The wrapper will include some clues about the book's topic and its general reading level. Get ready for a new reading experience!

Be sure to watch for our announcement for dates and times for our Fall Book sale, Pilcrow Reception and Holiday Book Sale.

Imagination Library

Are you familiar with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library? It's available for children ages birth to 5 years old, thanks to a partnership with United Way of Lane County and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. It's an opportunity to expand your child's library at home. A free book, especially chosen for your child's appropriate age is sent monthly to Marcola and other rural areas of the Mohawk Valley and Lane County. Register online or by mail for this great opportunity. www.lanekid.org/imagination-library or call United Way of Lane County at 541-741-6000.

Contact the Friends

See our Facebook page: facebook.com/friendsofmarcolamediacenter/

Email us: friendsofmarcola@gmail.com or call Cindy Miska at 541-953-3725.

FIRE HOUSE UP-DATE

As we are going through our summer months, we would like to remind everyone that there are a few things we need to be looking at around the house.

1. Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors along with daylight savings.
2. Make sure your house is accessible to fire trucks and ambulances.
3. Clean out clogged run offs and drains
4. Start to prepare for a wildfire situation by giving yourself a defensible space around your home.

You might ask what a defensible space is. Well the answer is, an area around your home that will act as a firebreak in order to protect your home in such event. Many times homes are lost in wildfires due to the condition around the homes. There are improvements that you can make to your home in order to increase the chances it will make it through.

Creating defensible space around your home is the best way to protect your home from wildfire. The first 30 feet surrounding your home - referred to as the primary ignition zone - is the most critical - and there are some simple actions that a homeowner can take to help protect their homes from wildfire that are easy, quick, and relatively inexpensive, such as:

- Removing dead and dying debris - particularly from places that it piles up near the home such as in gutters and planters, any "valleys" that can catch debris that embers and sparks can blow onto - the most common way for a wildfire to damage or destroy a home in the wildland-urban interface.
- Storing firewood at least 20 feet away from the home or completely covering it to protect it from those same blowing embers and sparks.
- Properly maintaining the plants that are in the area - pruning, removing dead and dying materials, and keeping them well-watered and green.

A defensible space also allows room for firefighters to fight the fire safely.

Protecting your home from wildfire falls into three categories:

- using fire-resistant building materials (such as roofing)
- reducing fuels around your home (such as wood piles)
- planting fire-resistant plants in your landscape

While these steps do not ensure that your home will survive a wildfire, they substantially increase the chances that it will.

In addition you can use fire resistive plants around the house during your landscaping projects. Some examples include:

Carpet bugleweed	Cranberry cotoneaster
Rock cress	Orchid rockrose
Yellow iceplant	Oregon grapeholly
Kinnikinnick	Creeping holly
Wild strawberry	Vine maple
Japanese pachysandra	Rocky Mountain maple
Yarrow	Dwarf burning bush
Sea thrift	Amur maple
Columbine	Bigleaf maple
Basket-of-gold	Mountain alder
Delphinium	Eastern redbud

These are just to name a few. You can find more landscaping ideas at: http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/20921/*pnw590.pdf

If you would like more advice or would like us to come take a look, just gives us a call here at the station. As we all saw last summer, the Mohawk Valley is not immune to a large wildfire. This year is not looking to be much better as we are already seeing fires in the county, and around the state. Please only burn on approved burn days and remember to call LRAPA every day you burn to insure that is a burn day and that no burn bans have been put into place.

What could happen if you violate burning restrictions?

1. You could start a large fire that could affect thousands of people.
2. You could be fined by LRAPA and or The Oregon Department Of Forestry.
3. You can be held Criminally Liable for damages.
4. You may be responsible for the cost of the fire suppression efforts. This could easily reach \$50,000 and up in costs. This includes any fire lite by your minor child as well.

Help Wanted!

As always we are looking for people who would like to join the district and become a volunteer firefighter. So if you are interested in "Answering the call" please contact the training officer for more information.

Who We Are:

Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District provides fire and medical protection from Camp Creek Rd to the Lane/Linn County line as well as the Coburg ridgeline to the Camp Creek ridgeline. The fire district averages about 450 calls a year responding to a variety of calls including fires, medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, industrial accidents, and hazardous materials incidents. Currently, the district is staffed with a paid Fire Chief, Maintenance Officer, and Training Officer as well as 20 volunteer firefighters and 7 intern firefighters.

When a resident of the Mohawk Valley has an emergency they call 911. Whether it involves a fire or a medical issue, it is the volunteers of Mohawk Valley Fire District who respond. What would you think if no one responded? Everyone in our community needs someone who is willing to help in a time of need and that someone could be you. If you have the desire to help your neighbors and make your community a better place to live, then consider volunteering with Mohawk Valley Fire District.

Thank you for taking the time to read our article. Please feel free to call or stop by the fire station any time if you have any question.

Steven C Wallace, Fire Chief / EMT I, Mohawk Valley R.F.D
Phone: 541-933-2907
Fax: 541-933-2908
Cell: 541-972-1199

Members of the Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District received awards from the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association. The top photo and bottom right photo are those that received Meritorious Unit Citations. The bottom left photo are the four that got a Meritorious Award for Distinguished Conduct. These awards were a result of their work during the wild fire last year.

This is great honor to all the members of the Fire Department and should make all of us very proud of the hard work they do every day to keep us safe. I would add that there are 3 members not in the photo due to them down working on the Bootleg Fire.



FROM LINDA MOONEY, EDITOR:
I was so hopeful for the end of the pandemic, but, alas, too many people have not gotten their shots. That has allowed the COVID VARIANT, DELTA to run through the unvaccinated and mutate into a much more virulent and contagious strain of virus.

So here we go again back to masking in public spaces. Unfortunate and completely annoying to those of us who are vaccinated.

Please do your part to stop this virus from mutating into a strain much worse! **PLEASE, GET VACCINATED ASAP!**

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All checks **FROM NOW ON must be made out to Kay Allen, our treasurer.** She will be invoicing all advertisers and sponsors by the 15th of the month in which the paper comes to you, currently by September 15, 2021

In the memo slot of your checks, please note Mohawk Messenger, FALL Ad.

Please mail checks to: MOHAWK MESSENGER, P.O. BOX 1133, MARCOLA, OR 97454 THANK YOU!

Thanks to this newspaper's
ever-so-generous
sponsors:
Marcola School District #79
Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District

HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY
2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
92170 MARCOLA ROAD
(in front of the Marcola Community Market)

Hours: 9-10 - number pickup
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Clean Up

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Editor's Note: One' (pronounced "Onay") has done numerous jobs for me at my home on Haward Rd. He is efficient, diligent, a hard-working professional and a very nice guy!

Mohawk Valley Sanitation's Guide To Garbage And Recycling-

Accepted items in your regular recycling:
Cardboard- Breakdown and flatten. PLEASE DON'T SMASH THEM WITH YOUR FEET!
Thin cardboard (cereal boxes, etc)- Breakdown and Flatten and can be put with paper
Paper, Newspaper and Magazines- Put together in paper bag or bundle/stack together if possible, NO SHREDDED PAPER
Glass- Rinse and remove food, throw lid away, don't peel labels
Aluminum- Rinse and remove food, Lid is recyclable, don't peel labels
Plastic- Rinse and remove food, Transparent HDPE 2 plastic such as milk jugs and juice containers, don't peel labels
Make sure to thoroughly clean and remove all food debris! DIRTY recycling will now be charged for! Please put your recycling out every pickup day. Do not save it and put it out all at once. This creates a space issue in the truck.

Special Plastics:
Please put out your special plastics with every pickup. Put them in a separate bag with your recycling. If possible separate into each category: #2 Tubs/Lids, #2 Bottles/Jugs, #4 Bottles/Tubs/Lids, #5 Bottles/Tubs/Lids.

READ CAREFULLY! WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT: #2, #4 and #5 tubs, jugs, bottles, lids that are %100 CLEAN and adhesive labels must be removed. To remove labels: Spray Goo Gone Spray Gel to adhesive and wipe with a cloth or paper towel. You can soak labels in hot water, or fill tubs/jugs/bottles with hot water to loosen the adhesive. You can use a hairdryer to heat the label and then peel. The last option is to apply a generous coating of old cooking oil to the label and let it sit overnight. By morning it's easy to remove and can be wiped away. Try your best to remove all adhesive labels. Any tubs or jugs that have labels printed on (laundry detergent, etc.), do not need to be removed. Clear labels like those found on shampoo bottles need to be removed, so check carefully.

Garbage Rules:
Please bag all garbage! No loose items in your can unless they are big, sharp or will tear the bag. Do not overfill the bags. Please do not dump your vacuum canister contents or dustpan directly into the can, because it blows everywhere and Corey inhales it. Put into a small grocery bag and tie it. Please do not put anything sharp, pointy, pokey in your regular garbage. Put it into a separate bag or container with a note. We do not have a lift truck and Corey does this all by hand! If you have extra garbage or recycling, then please contact us! Corey might have to make adjustments to accommodate extra garbage bags, large items, and extra recycling. Thank You!

DONATION IDEA FROM COREY AND MELISSA:
We have several customers with trees that are producing an overabundance of apples. Instead of letting them go to waste, we had a thought to use the apples to raise money for our community such as the Mohawk General Store's preservation repairs or maybe Helping Hands food pantry and the Lions Club! Is anyone interested in donating their time to help this fundraiser? Fall is almost here and a great time to make cider and baked goods, and possibly have a bake sale? We could deliver the apples and help advertise. Contact us ASAP if you are interested in helping!

Meetings (Alphabetical) in the Community

DUE TO COVID PANDEMIC, CALL ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT WHETHER MEETINGS ARE IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL

- **Boy Scout Troop 51**
Meetings: 6:30pm Thursdays at McKenzie Church of Christ, 250 51st St, Springfield, Contact Tom Snyder 541 729-7736; Jim Smith 541-933-2256
- **Cub Scout Pack 450, Marcola,** Contact is Richard Davey 541 510-9192

- **Marcola Christian Church**
Contact Brenda 541-933-3040 for updated times of services

- **Marcola School District 19 Board Meetings:** 2nd Monday of every month in High School library at 6PM

- **Marcola Water District Meeting**
6:00PM @ the Marcola Fire Station
3rd Wednesday of every month

Contact: Jill Lindsay
Rainbow & Marcola Water Districts
541-746-1676
jill@rwdonline.net

- **Mohawk Community Church**
Sunday School 9:30 AM; Worship 10:00 AM

- **Mohawk Valley Community Grange**
Regular meetings on the 3rd Sunday of every month. 6PM
More information, check website or call Linda Mooney 541-933-2511

- **Mohawk High School Booster Club:** 1st Monday of every month.
Check with HS for specific times and locations. Members needed.

- **Mohawk Valley Lions Club Meetings**
We are temporarily meeting only on the second Tuesday at 5pm and are rotating member’s homes. WE hope to settle back in our old routine by late fall. Contact Bob Leeper @ 541-515-6907.

- **Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District –**
2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM at Fire Station #1

- **Tai Chi Classes:** Contact Julia Mooney 541-915-9392
- **Valley Yoga Classes:** Contact Julia at 541-915-9392 for information!

CHIPS Over But Not Over

By Gail Weathers

We’re near the anniversary of our Evacuation. The trauma of it still lingers and I don’t even know what to do about it. We came through with our possessions and animals intact but somehow we are still grieving the physical loss of nothing. How do you deny something that didn’t happen? What do we bargain with? What about the other five steps of grief? I had thought about starting an evacuation support group, but don’t know where we could get a qualified facilitator. On top of that, we are up here all together and are managing to keep a comfortable emotional distance. I don’t know anyone who would like to adjust that. I haven’t stumbled across any books or articles that even approach how you deal with something undesired that didn’t happen. No, I am not borrowing trouble and I am not the only one who is still feeling—off. Every haze or cloud of smoke has us checking. I just found out about an online grief support group and the person sharing this praised it and added that some people are still participating ten years after their loss. People trying to cope with the COVID-19 lifestyle can visit it, too. I didn’t write it down, but I can track it down if it cannot be found by trial and error.

I recently went to a memorial for my cousin, who had a cabin in the woods in the fire area. His sister said that it was like God cupped his hand over the house and everything else around it burned. His good friend said that my cousin had done an excellent job of creating a defensible space and that the cabin had a metal roof. Not all of us have achieved that, and every time I see flashing lights or hear a siren, I run out to listen—to determine where they stop. Every helicopter that goes over gets my scrutiny, though those four that went south to fight fire didn’t look specially equipped. I found out about them on the news. I check my answering machine for notice of evacuation levels. Luckily there’s no flashing light on that.

I talked to Steven Wallace of the Marcola Fire Department and he confirmed the rumors I’d heard about that fire up by the Linn County line a few weeks ago. Incidentally, I have re-read his “Report to our Community” in the September 2020 issue of the Mohawk Messenger. I have found it reassuring. The emergency personnel know not only what goes on up here and are equipped for it, but what other fire districts are doing and how they are able to work together. I noticed that this summer the Fire Department was requesting volunteers. I have heard from various organizations that

volunteers are hard to get. I guess that during the shutdown people found other activities to fill the slots volunteering left. A staffer at the Bohemia Mining Days said that she phoned more than sixty people from her list and they did not want to volunteer. I noticed at the Asian/Taikei Drum Festival that there were features and activities unavailable, and they had fewer volunteers. The First Friday Art Walk doesn’t use a lot of volunteers but they arranged things so that art-lovers would not be clustering. So here we are, trying to be normal, but are noticeably not.

Learning to shop or take classes virtually might have gotten people more familiar and confident using the Internet, and that can eat up a lot of time. Unfortunately, viewing a lighted screen can stress the eyes significantly, more than a page printed on paper. Viewing scenery on a small, lighted screen robs a person of the benefits of walking a wooded trail and coming upon a surprise cataract or waterfall, or a deer. It lacks the multi-sensory benefits: scents, texture of forest floor, sounds of birds, wind and water.

Speaking of things to notice: I saw a fellow at Wilco working beside his car. He had a flat tire. I offered him the use of my floor jack. He took me up on it and jacked the car up, took off the old tire and put on the factory spare. When he let the jack down, he couldn’t get my jack out from beneath his car. It didn’t mean that the spare tire was that much smaller: it meant that the spare was flat! He used the factory jack to get his car high enough to get my jack out. His next step was to phone his wife. Much, much, later I realized he probably could have walked one of the tires to Jerry’s to get it aired up enough to get home or to a tire place. I haven’t checked with Jerry’s about this.

Sometimes I will stop at Carl’s Jr. for a sandwich. I sit in a booth where I can watch the cars going through the drive-through. One time another couple was in a booth next to mine. An SUV came through with a big dog leaning out the window. The man in the next booth held his sandwich up for the dog to see—didn’t even offer it to him. I thought that dog was coming the rest of the way out of the car! Luckily for the driver, he was able to pull up—out of sight of the sandwich.

Another time a very old pickup pulled up with a sort of roost in the passenger seat. Seated upon it was a big, spectacular, fully grown macaw. I could see his tongue going up and down within his beak, but couldn’t hear what he was singing. See, there are things you can do, without going to events or to the Internet.

MARCOLA BURNED

From Jay Swofford's Facebook Page (Thanks, Jay, for all your wonderful historical information!)

On July 14, 1941, the Fischer Lumber Co. in Marcola caught fire. As the flames engulfed the mill, it quickly spread to nearby houses. They used dynamite to blow up the R.L. Garrison Garage in Marcola to create a firebreak and save the rest of the town. Then they dynamited the remains of the planer to prevent the spread to the sawmill.

In the end, over a million board feet of lumber, the planning mill, two new dry kilns, two railroad cars, several trucks,



and eleven nearby homes were lost to the fire.

The only casualty was Earnest Spicer. As his house caught fire, he worked strenuously to get everything he could out of the house and onto the lawn to save it. During this process he suffered a heart attack and passed.

This image is the remains of some of the homes that were lost that night. Chimney blocks and remains of metallic appliances can be seen in the ashes.

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Singing Is for the Birds



By Juanita Turner Paslay
Gideon Aux. Chaplain

Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord,
among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name.
Psalm 18:49 NKJV

We purchased a CD of bird songs from the Amazon rain forest to play in the car. The irritating squawk of some of the parrots got on my nerves, until I changed my attitude.

King David, my favorite psalmist, said all creation praises their Creator. With our human ears we certainly cannot hear the moon and stars sing, but we can most definitely hear the songs of the canary, the sparrow, and even the obnoxious, brightly colored parrot. Plus, if we are humble enough, we can sing along with them. King David loved to sing and worship his God. I wonder if he had a strong baritone voice or a low base. Nobody would enjoy hearing me sing, nobody but the Lord and the birds.

Father, my joy increases as I sing Your praises. I look forward to the time when we will gather around Your throne to sing Your praises with the angels, and I might ask the house finch to join us.

. . . I heard what sounded like a vast crowd
in heaven shouting, "Praise the Lord!
Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.
Revelation 19:1 NLT
Excerpt from As The Deer ©2018 by Juanita Turner Paslay

W Lohawk Community Church

91190 Hill Road

Worship Service
10:00 AM

Bible studies,
Children's Church,
Community



Greetings Fellow Grangers and our wonderful community,

By Linda Mooney

Summer is over, I'm very glad! Climate change is making summers way too hot for me. This fact exacerbates the fire danger. After last Labor Day weekend's evacuation, I'm still holding my breath that we can slide into fall without a repeat!

We did do a Road Clean Up on July 24th! Thanks to all the volunteers who came to help. Since it hadn't been done for 1 1/2 years, it was very dirty! Please don't throw garbage out of your cars! Let's keep our valley clean!

So COVID has resurged due to too few people getting vaccinated and now we have a variant, a mutation called Delta. This variant is MUCH more contagious! Because of this situation, our Grange is back into shutdown!

We had a BINGO night and a RECYCLING event planned for September – Now CANCELED! We are waiting to see how the variant is spreading before we decide about our October Harvest

Festival. We have crossed our fingers and scheduled it for October 23rd. Watch our reader board across from the post office for information about this event....or if it must be canceled also.

**Stay Safe,
Everyone!**



The Mohawk Valley Lions

continue to be active despite the need to cancel the BBQ and Music in the park that was scheduled for August 28th due to increasing COVID concerns and the inability to get a permit to BBQ at the park because of the increased fire danger. We pray for some rain and heat relief soon.

In the mean time we have completed our summer road clean up as well as keeping up our support for Helping Hand, Canine Companions for Veterans, Oregon Sight and Hearing, Eugene Mission, and other charitable projects. Support for our Lions Sight project has grown due to an additional six physicians volunteering their efforts, thanks to Lions like Regina Kirkland, our Sight and Hearing coordinator. Maintaining Lee Downing Memorial Veterans park continues to be a strong focus for many of our fellow local Lions as we water, mow, trim, and generally clean up the park for the enjoyment of the community.

We have several names to add to the memorial and are anxiously awaiting the availability of our stone cutter.

Thanks to the hard work of Kandice Diskin we anticipate a new and updated Lions website later this fall.

Also this fall, we hope to be back in the school helping with eye exams and the reading program.

If you would like to send a note of encouragement to a local Lion or are considering becoming a Lion member, we would love to hear from you. Just drop us a line at PO Box 791, Marcola, 97454.

Thank you for your support.

Bob Weaver
President, Mohawk Valley Lions

OUR GRANGE NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE PAST THANKS TO JAY SWOFFORD FOR THIS FASCINATING VIEW

This is a view looking north along what is now Marcola Road just north of Shotgun Creek, but at that time was called the Oshkosh Road.

To the left side of the road can be seen, in bottom to top order, the Mabel school house, the Mohawk Valley church and just to the left of the bend in the road is the Rural Supply Company store run by Mrs. Gerking. Jacob Bahr and Philip Workman both served as ministers in the Mohawk Valley church according to Luis Polley. The Mohawk Valley church was built on 2 acres purchased from Andrew Workman and it was built in 1894. Its denominational affiliation was the German Baptist Church of the Brethren also called the Dunkards

In the foreground center can be seen the Coast Range Lumber Company Cookhouse. The trees around the cookhouse still stand in Mabel today.

In the bottom right corner is the Church of the Brethren, also known as the Dunkard church. This property was also purchased from Andrew Workman and was built in 1901 and the congregation moved from the original building across the road to this one. After this move to their new building it is unknown if the old building still served as a church, but was possibly used for their Sunday School (which was separate in those days from the Church itself).

In the center right, you can see two rows

of company housing built by the Coast Range Lumber Company for their employees. As these were larger homes they were most likely used by men with families or management personnel. **Today, a road travels right down the center of these rows and takes you to the Grange building.**

As there are no power poles visible, is why I dated this photo to 1911. The housing was built in 1911 and electricity was added in 1912 from the Mill Powerhouse



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OREGON HORSE RESCUE



The mission of Oregon Horse Rescue is to provide a safe and supportive home for horses and other animals that have been neglected, abandoned, or otherwise mistreated. We rehabilitate horses to the best health possible, and selectively place some rehabilitated horses in new homes that can provide them a safe, supportive, and forever home. We aim to educate the public about the problem of mistreated horses and inform them about solutions to the problem.

Every horse who comes to Oregon Horse Rescue is unique: They have their own history, personality, medical or behavioral issues, and circumstances that landed them at our doorstep. Here's a little bit of background on two of the horses who arrived this year.

"Cisco" came to Oregon Horse Rescue from southern Oregon in May of this year. Cisco is a blind white appaloosa; he also has an eye defect called microphthalmia. He's 30 years old. He came from a loving home that raised him from a young'un; he arrived here after his long-time owner passed away. Cisco's very comfortable with his blindness, however he is so because he has a seeing-eye buddy, Shadow. Shadow accepts his role gladly, and even seems to enjoy it. They make quite a pair: Cisco is pure white, and Shadow is as dark as, well, you know... a shadow!



"Misty" is a special case – she's completely blind and is not as much at ease as Cisco is with her blindness. Misty was very nervous and scared when she arrived at Oregon Horse Rescue in July, as she did not come with a buddy. Misty, a 35-year-old quarter horse, had been with her owner for 30 years, but the owner was moving out of state and Misty could not be transported to the owner's new home due to her age and blindness. Needless to say, it's scary coming to a new place, particularly if you can't see. However, Misty is settling in – she



made friends quickly with a half-blind quarter horse gelding named Country.

Oregon Horse Rescue has helped Cisco, Misty, and almost 120 other horses since our founding. We believe we are different than the "typical" horse rescue in several ways. We accept elderly, blind, and medically compromised horses who are tremendously difficult to find homes for. We provide veterinary care above and beyond basic needs for a variety of cases. Also, most rescues do not offer permanent residency, especially to medically needy horses (such as blind). In that way, we are both a rescue and a sanctuary. (By the way, grants are very hard for us to get because most horse-related grants will not donate funds to an organization with sanctuary horses.)

If you think maybe someone else will help these horses, that someone else will cover the bill – oh, how we wish that were true! Unfortunately, it's not. Your donations will help us continue to let older horses live out their lives with good quality and be buried here, while also rehoming younger horses into forever homes.

You can donate online on our website at OregonHorseRescue.com/ donate or by mailing a check. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit and thus all donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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KARREN LANSKY'S PAGE

FFA In the Mohawk Valley

By Karren

Future Farmers of America (FFA) was founded by a group of young farmers at the national level back in 1928. Their mission was to prepare future generations for the challenge of feeding a growing population. They taught us that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting – it's a science; it's a business; and it's an art.

Oregon FFA was founded in 1929 and today continues to help the next generation rise up to meet these challenges by helping its members develop their own unique talents and explore their own interests in a broad range of career pathways. The Oregon FFA is a three –



legged organization encompassing the Association, the Foundation, and the Alumni. They work together to help all members to thrive, succeed, and be educated in the agricultural industry.

In 1988, the official name of the organization was changed from "Future Farmers of America" to "FAA," to reflect the growing diversity of agriculture. Today we are still the future farmers of America, but we are the future biologists, future chemists, future veterinarians, future engineers, and future entrepreneurs of America, too.

The FAA has many traditions and trademarks identifying it as an agricultural organization. Their official colors are national blue and corn gold, worn on official FFA jackets.

WHAT IS FFA YOU SAY?

By Kelli Fisher

Mohawk Jr. Sr. High School

Agriculture Education CTE, Health Pathways CTE, Science

Mohawk FFA Advisor

The National FFA Organization, formerly standing for Future Farmers of America, is a student-led agricultural educational program for grades 7-12. Agriculture education is a three-circle model including classroom education, FFA career development events and leadership development, and supervised agricultural education (SAE project). In short, an accumulation of in and out the classroom learning with career related skill building on top!

SAE projects range from mechanics to food preservation, gardening to livestock and all things agricultural in-between. SAE projects are designed for student driven, career based learning outside of the classroom. Members decide what their career passion may be and find a project, which will enhance their skills and/or give them the ability to be an entrepreneur outside of their core career. For example, most ranchers do not raise livestock for a living, but more likely than not, your beef came from a local ranch.

Raising livestock for the ultimate goal of showing animals at the Lane County Fair is a choice 17 of our FFA members participated in this past July. Within the livestock industry, animals are raised and shown in two categories – as a breeding project or a market project. The first step requires students to learn how to evaluate an animal to purchase as their project of choice. Breeding projects are owned by the students year round and require a wide range of skills including the nurturing and health care of a new baby and momma to long-term health, nutrition, and fitting practices. Market animals are raised for a terminal goal to be on a dinner plate. Even though breeding and market projects have similarities, nutritional expectations for a nursing mom is different from a growing animal intended as a feed source. Either way students become versed in a variety of skills.

Prepare, Show, and Repeat!



Alexis Robinson and her bull calf she raised on her property. During shows, including fair, cattle stay double tied to a fence. Therefore, Alexis had to make time to untie her calf to allow him to nurse

Members have to pick out and purchase their animal. There are several ways to do; word of mouth, auctions designed specifically for show animals, or ranch tours. The training starts very early!

Most animals are between 3-6 months old when purchased. If you raise your own animals, training

starts much younger. Building trust is the most important part of the relationship and the primary goal for the first couple weeks. That looks different for each species. Some spend hours feeding their animals by hand, while others stay and continuously pet them while eating until they will come to you at feeding time.

Walking your animal is the first goal. Halters are only used in the show pen on cattle. Swine use a whip or cane to guide their hog, goats use collars (most common) or halters, while lambs and all small animals are shown without any equipment at all.



Right to left: Bellece Bendix, Violet Eisele, and Lucy Barrowcliff are properly walking lambs in their showmanship class. Using a halter to start training is common, but ultimately lambs are shown without any equipment.



Left to Right: Abrianna Roberts, Emma Romane, and Cameron Andrews are showing how to properly pose their goats for evaluation. In this stance, the animal's frame and muscle definition is clear and easy for the judges to see

With the exception of swine, all animals are taught to pose.

Before the show, participants learn how to properly fit their animal. Fitting is a term used to describe how well the animal looks. A lot of the fitting process is done with health practices and nutrition since both are important for coats and a full body frame. However, bathing,

clipping, blowing (to dry and train hair), and combing are also necessary components of the process.



JW Cheechov is demonstrating the use of a stand to help hold animals still during the grooming process. Training an animal to get on and off of a stand is also part of the training process. Cattle must go in and out of a shoot.

Continued on Page 12

FFA at the Fair Continues



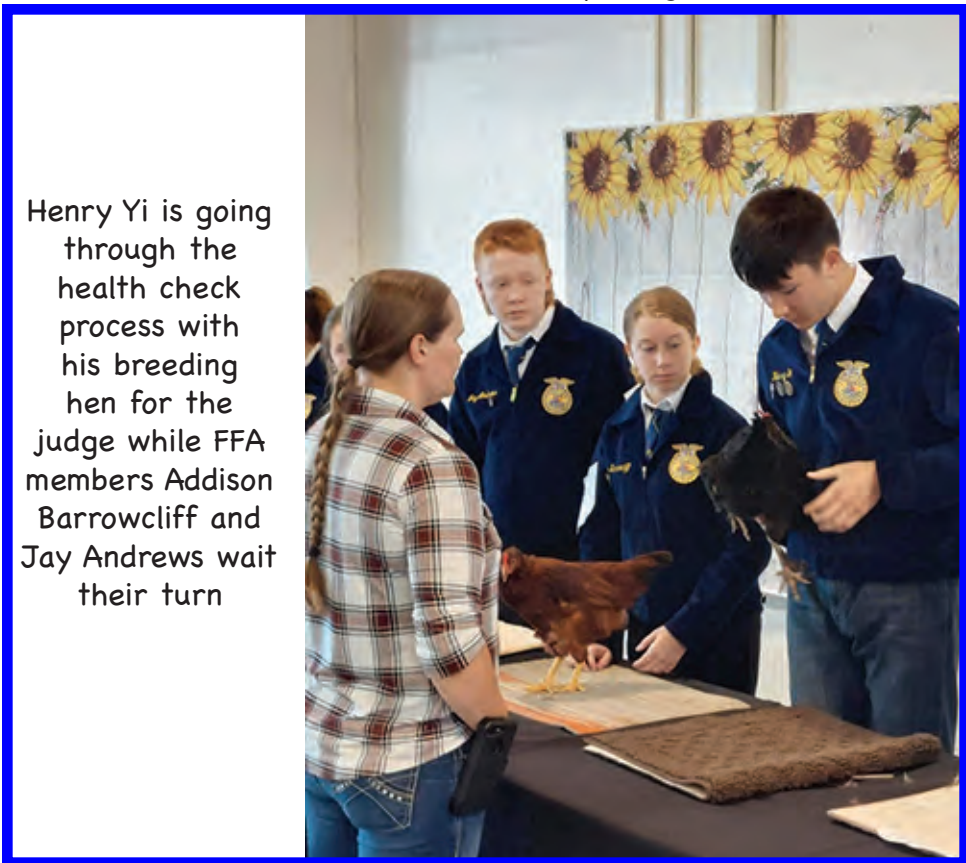
Kallee Eck was Reserve Champion Advanced Beef Showman. In showmanship class, members are evaluated on their ability to make their animal look it's best which includes fitting, training, and presentation skills

The final stretch of the fair can be sad for many members as they prepare to sell their market animals at auction. Remember, they are working hard to create a quality food product for the market. On the last day, each member sits in front of their animal's pen as they engage with the public and potential buyers coming through the barn area. They fit their animals for the last time and walk through the auction pen.



Cameron Andrews is patiently waiting for anyone to come meet her market goat

Small animal showmanship includes additional knowledge expectations. One skill is needed when training a rabbit or chicken. Most for the objective of completing a health check.



Henry Yi is going through the health check process with his breeding hen for the judge while FFA members Addison Barrowcliff and Jay Andrews wait their turn



Anyone and everyone is invited to come bid on and purchase these animals from FFA and 4-H members. There are write off benefits for businesses and families, plus a quality product!)

Overall the 2021 Lane County Fair was a huge success for all our members. Great titles were presented, large paychecks were earned, and most of all priceless lessons were learned.

Continued on Page 13

Goats especially enjoy the extra companionship



During the fair, every member completes barn duty. They sit with the animals to ensure their needs are being met, while engaging with the public to answer any questions



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The following is a list of all awards earned over the 6-day stretch!

Cattle:

Grand Champion Advanced Showman: Lily Eisele
Res. Grand Champion Advanced Showman: Kallee Eck
Overall Supreme Female: Alexis Robinson
Champion Heifer: McKenna Gallaway

Goat:

Res. Grand Champion Market Goat: Abrianna Roberts
Grand Champion Beginning Showman: Abrianna Roberts
Grand Champion Advanced Showman: Cameron Andrews
Res. Grand Champion Advanced Showman: Emma Romane

Rabbits:

Grand Champion Market Rabbit: Carlie Goodman
Grand Champion Beginning Showman: Carlie Goodman

Poultry:

Res. GRAND Champion Market Poultry: Jay Andrews (pen of 3 chickens)

Sheep:

Grand Champion Advanced Showman: JW Cheechov
Res Grand Champion Advanced Showman: Lucy Barrowcliff
Res. Grand Champion Beginning Showman: Violet Eisele



Next Steps

Within the next month, members will be preparing again for the next fair, 2022. Many already have. Breeding animals are getting bred and barns are being prepared for the next batch of little ones. Members are reaching out to ranchers looking for their next market animal purchase. Every year another layer of knowledge is gained. As they grow in their practice, they become teachers for younger members and the skills expand exponentially! Thank you to all the parents and community members supporting these students and many others in the SAE project experiences.

**HOMAGE TO THE VALLEY’S HERO,
CURTIS IRISH**

**Documentarian of our Mohawk Valley and More
Flowers, History, Current Events**
(All photos attributed to Curtis Irish)

There are so many pictures and so little space.

Thank you to you, Curtis for your generosity in sharing your pictures.
I hope to continue to share the pictures with the community through this paper.



Poignant Photo from the
Holiday Farm Fire pictures,
2020
McKenzie River Valley



C. C. Irish Family Home
Wendling Road
1920



Mohawk Union High School, 1940
Mohawk High School Burned, July, 1997

Dollar Road
Pearly
Everlasting
Anaphalis
margaritacea



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor: Leaving Afghanistan

The lives lost in Afghanistan demand an accounting from our national leadership. Every counterinsurgency is a battle for the loyalty of the people. Our leaders did not insist on an Afghan government, services, or a military worthy of the people’s loyalty. We failed in Afghanistan because we did not support an option better than the Taliban. We now see now the sobering consequences of that choice.

In 2011, I volunteered to serve in the Governance section of the international military headquarters, because Afghanistan was turning into a new Vietnam. The US was again backing a predatory government that did not serve the people. I hoped to help the Afghan people develop ground-level governance that made sense to them.

What I found was an Afghan government that was uninterested the people’s needs or priorities. How could the government in Kabul be worse for the Afghan people than the Taliban? The Afghan government routinely extorted bribes and failed to provide basic services. Corruption at every level was rampant. After two decades of abuse and neglect by their government, the people were ready to embrace any alternative – even one as loathsome as the Taliban.

At the heart of our failures was unwillingness to accept the necessity of building local capacity with small projects offering real value to the Afghan people, who would then support the government that provided them. We preferred meeting with people who talked like us and shared our belief in hierarchical governance, not the people actually doing the work in the communities. And, as in Vietnam, we refused to acknowledge when our choices failed the people.

The restrictions on American support also became obstacles. In 2011, if the Taliban attacked a US troop outpost, we could send another platoon out to defend it—a response that cost lives, injuries, and \$40 million a year. What we could not do was provide the nearby communities with small-scale water, power, and sewer services – costing \$1 million/year – to encourage people to be more invested in our presence and a sustainable future.

The military task in a counterinsurgency is to protect the people from violence. We focused on fielding the most Afghan soldiers and police as quickly as possible, but not as effectively as possible. Shortcuts in training failed to provide sustainable logistics and turned a blind eye toward corruption in their leadership. While I served, we piloted a cell phone banking system to pay troops directly; otherwise, much of their pay would be stolen by their officers. We churned out Afghan trainees in 16 weeks – about the same time spent on a US trainee – but, unlike US soldiers, the Afghans lacked basic literacy and numeracy. In a region where tribal affiliation was primary, they did not even have a shared identity as Afghans. We put quantity of trainees over quality and appropriateness of training, and we reaped what we sowed when Afghan military members deserted en masse.

What’s next for Afghanistan? No government will have the loyalty of the Afghan people until it becomes responsive to their needs, instead of its own interests. I doubt the diverse Afghan people will long tolerate a Taliban regime, either. Maybe a confederal government will arise from the ashes. But in the meantime, the reality may be bloodier as the country devolves from a civil war with “sides” to a more general state of anarchy.

As in Vietnam, our leaders believed that Afghanistan could be remade only in our image, not according to the vision of its own people. The lesson we should take from it is this: We should never again put our troops in harm’s way to support a government that its own people do not believe in.
Marty Wilde,

Rep. Marty Wilde is a member of the Oregon Legislature and a Colonel in the Air National Guard. The views expressed herein are his own and not necessarily those of the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

Dear Editor,

A “correction” on your “Backyard Birds.” (Editor’s Note: Summer Issue, Page 15).

Those are NOT Doves – they are Band Tail Pigeons showing what they do best....cleaning out a bird feeder. They send out “Scouts” then comes the rest! They are very persistent!.

They’re bigger than doves. Best way to get control? They are edible!

Enjoy your “Messenger”

Toni Richardson, Marcola
(Editor’s Note: Thanks for the correcting info!)

Dear Editor,
PUTTING MOHAWK VALLEY PRECIPITATION ON THE MAP
By Anne Rock

My rain gauge on August 21: one one-hundredth of an inch! Back in the house I entered the amount in the CoCoRaHS daily precipitation form and added a few observation notes. By the end of the day over 11,000 people in the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, and the Bahamas had entered daily reports.

CoCoRaHS, the Collaborative Community Rain Hail Snow Network, is a grassroots organization of volunteer weather observers now in its 24th year. Members measure precipitation (rain, hail, snow) and submit the daily total via computer, smart phone app or paper. A variety of organizations and individuals, such as the National Weather Service, other meteorologists and hydrologists, emergency managers, water districts, farmers, teachers, and neighbors use the data.

The Mohawk Valley currently has only two active CoCoRaHS stations. I joined CoCoRaHS about seven weeks ago and am writing this in hopes of seeing more stations in the valley. With a river that is prone to flooding and a post-wildfire watershed, more stations would provide a better understanding of our weather (and run-off) for data users, help with flood predictions, and create a precipitation map for viewing by the community. Membership requirements are an interest in weather and a 4” manual rain gauge that measures in hundredths of an inch. CoCoRaHS provides training through on-line videos and slide shows; topics include how the rain gauge works, measuring snow, data entry, and where to place your rain gauge. Visit the web site (<https://cocorahs.org>) to view or read the training materials, maps, FAQs, information on quality control, etc.

In addition to the daily precipitation form, there are a number of optional forms: hail, condition monitoring, soil moisture, frost, optics, snowflake types, thunder, and significant weather. The significant weather report is used to report heavy rain or snow that has just fallen or is falling and is forwarded to the National Weather Service.

Another way to report severe weather is through the NWS SKYWARN Storm Spotter program (<https://www.weather.gov/SKYWARN>). No-cost training is through the local NWS forecast office and lasts about two hours. You can attend the training (on-line only last spring; fall schedule not available yet) and then decide whether to join (NWS Portland spotter page <https://www.weather.gov/pqr/SpotterTraining>).

After submitting the daily report, I usually take a few minutes to look at the reports map. Each reporting station has a circle which is color coded based on the amount of precipitation. A quick glance at the U.S. map shows where the storm activity is. I check local stations (one to my northeast, just over the Linn County line, recorded 0.02” shortly after my 0.01”) and look around Oregon. Then I zoom in on southeast Arizona to see if the summer monsoon has dropped any rain on a relative. Finally I pick a couple of stations at random. The precipitation amount is interesting but I’ve quickly learned I’m looking for the optional observation notes. A station in Canada, on Lake Champlain, wrote a very long detailed account of a variable weather day. My favorite, so far, is from a station near Pinedale, Wyoming. The observer wrote at the end of the notes, “The temperature is dropping. I think summer is on the way out. I won’t be sorry to see it go.”



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PLASTIC RECYCLING IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY IS ALMOST BACK!

By Jean Guidry, Grange Member

The Mohawk Valley Grange was hoping to hold a Lane County Community plastics recycling event in September, but are again postponing it due to the surge in the Delta Variant of the virus.

But wait! Continue to save your plastics in the manner described below. Also, if you are a customer of Mohawk Valley Sanitation you can also have them take your plastics.

Before you start throwing all your plastic into a big bag, continue reading so that what you bring to us or give to Corey CAN be recycled. Everything must be as clean as the dishes that go into your cupboards. Everything must be free of all labels and label residue. If it is not, you will need to take it home with you! :-)

However, since there are exceptions to every rule, here are the exceptions: Labels may be left on #1 bottles. Also, some bottles, tubs and lids have labels imprinted right into the plastic and you don't have to remove those.

It helps if you pre-sort your plastics into the six categories listed below:

- 1- **#1 bottles must be at least 6 ounces in size. But remember, the labels can be left on.**
- 2- **We can take all the #2 plastic bottles that are not accepted at the transfer station. They must be clean and free of labels and label residue.**
- 3- **#2 tubs and lids, clean and free of labels**
- 4- **#4 tubs and lids, clean and free of labels**
- 5- **#5 tubs, lids and bottles, clean and free of labels**
- 6- **Small vitamin bottles can have labels and lids left on, but they must be clean. The number doesn't matter, so long as the label is still on the bottle.**

So now you may be asking, “Why should I bother to recycle

plastic?” Well, for one thing, there is just so much of it. We’ve all seen pictures of floating plastic islands in the ocean and mountains of plastic trash in landfills. We’ve heard about animals dying because they ate something plastic. In addition, mounting evidence now shows that as plastics break down, the chemicals from them get into the soil, the water and even the air. These chemicals are absorbed by plants and animals and even find their way into our bodies. Every day we are exposed to plastic chemicals through the air, through dust, in our water, and even in our food. Some plastic chemicals are known to be hormone disrupters. They may increase the risk of heart disease and diabetes. They may damage the developing brains and reproductive systems of our children. So, why not try to keep plastic out of the environment by recycling it?

**Please, do not drop anything off at the Grange,
as we need to be there to accept your plastic.**

Please watch our reader board across from the Post Office or Mohawk Valley Neighbors on Facebook, for new dates of local Grange recycling. There are also other places that take plastic. Garten Recycling in west Eugene takes #1 bottles with labels. EcoGeneration holds events in several places around the Eugene area, once or twice a month. They not only take the same numbers that we do, but they also take many other things. In particular, they take packaging from personal care items, spray tops and pump tops, dental floss containers, empty chapstick and lipstick containers, plastic pens, plastic bags, large pieces of Styrofoam, small lids, and a host of other things. Check out their website at www.ecogeneration.org.

**WE’D LOVE TO MEET YOU AND HELP YOU RECYCLE
YOUR CLEAN, DRY AND LABEL-FREE PLASTIC.
JUST AS SOON AS WE CAN SAFELY DO SO!**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR THE MOHAWK VALLEY

By Ellen Furstner

I have been to a couple of the Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District Emergency Preparedness meetings in the last couple of months, read articles and posts, and told Linda Mooney I would write a piece about this. *(Editor’s Note: Thanks, Ellen, I appreciate it!)*

My goodness! There is so much information! Although I am happy to do this, and am learning a lot, it is difficult to put everything in understandable order and (hopefully) not make any mistakes. **Please check the list of resources in the box on Page 18 for yourself!** Any mistakes in here are mine and my out-of-practice note-taking.

First of all, I want to say that I am super impressed with all of the work that has been done since the big fire last year, and I am most appreciative of this. Last year’s Holiday Fire was a learning experience for all of us in our communities, and our rescue/emergency/preparedness/etc. teams have been working hard to put in place what they have learned. I am not just talking about our local Fire Department, but all of those in the area, county, and state. It sounds like there is a good working relationship between most of the groups, with sharing information and resources, and not having to invent the wheel time and time again for each area. My impression is that they are seriously dedicated about being prepared to make life safer for all of us. So, that is one big thing that makes me feel much better about this whole situation we find ourselves in.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of “dry and boring” stuff that goes into being prepared for any emergency. And our emergencies aren’t just fire, but also earthquakes (the BIG one. At least five bridges in Lane County will not survive a major earthquake, including Hayden Bridge over the Mc Kenzie), floods, storms, snow, ice, and school shootings (Marcola S.D. and Pleasant Hill S.D. have plans in place). Because our Valley is long and narrow, we basically just have two in- and-out spots; you either go South or North. There are no side roads and/or short cuts. For some emergencies we may be stuck here for who knows how long? Days? Weeks? Months?

Kevin Woodworth, President of the MVRFD Board, and chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee has stated, “Emergency Preparedness is an on-going work in progress. We all get excited when we have a big emergency then as time passes, we start to forget and let our guard down. Our hope is that we are able to get the Valley and its citizens in a position that will only require minimal work to maintain the plans and process we have implemented.”

This information right now will be mainly about fires, since that is mostly on our minds (and in our noses: smell that smoke?), but will also apply to other emergencies in many cases.

The goals of the MVRFD is:

- 1. To be prepared for all emergencies.**
- 2. For everyone to have their own individual/family/ household plan, and for each house to have defensible space.**
- 3. To set up three committees that will work before and during emergencies. These committees are where local residents can participate and be of service, either before or during emergencies.**

Those committees are:

- Large Animal Rescue, headed by Kim O'Dea, a valley resident, local attorney, and a member of the Benton County Sheriff's Posse, who has drafted a document about large animals, and emergency planning.
- Communications, headed by Cindy Murdock.
- Logistics, getting equipment and supplies to the right places, headed by Kaitlyn Moore

Some of the details:

- Pretty self-explanatory to want to be prepared for ALL emergencies. But it takes ALL of us to participate.
- Every household has different needs. What does yours need to survive? Make a list and get started.

Defensible space:

- First 5 feet around the home. Leaves, needles (there are more than usual now because of the heat), gutters, firewood, fire resistant plants. Anywhere hot embers can ignite.
- 30 feet out. Green and/or low grass and ground cover, trees spaced.
- 100 feet out. Thinning and limbing trees. Keep brush out. There is no guarantee, but there is a better chance of keeping your home.

Committees: Each committee is asked to come up with a plan, lists, and resources.

- Large Animal Rescue:** Last year was a Noah’s Ark, according to Kim O’Dea. This year (if needed) will be much better. Kim has some legal documents regarding large animals, but I have no further information about that. Please check with her. One of the main issues was/is loading large animals into trailers and pens. They will NOT go if they have not been trained to do so. The training needs to happen long before it is needed to really happen (right now is a good time to start). Not just horses, but cows, goats, pigs, etc.
- Communications:** Because of our geography, communications up and down the Valley is iffy. This committee can really use some expertise (especially since Cindy, the lead, also has large animals). There is a lot of attention paid to communication being shared by various groups (some folks up the Mc Kenzie had no warning at all). There is so much information going out about this issue, that I hesitate to write too much, because it’s sort of mind boggling. There are resources in the box near this article. There are the Hamm radios, which quite a few people have, but that is for the experts.

There is now much interest in General Mobile Radios (GMR), which many people are quite enthused about, and our Fire Department is testing them. They are available to the general public for about \$80. You need a license, but it is only about \$70 for the whole family/household for 10 years. While they do not reach the whole Valley, a chain can be set up. More about this in “Zones”. Protocol for communication: During Katrina it was realized that, with so many teams from different areas from all over the country, there was not a single language used for communicating. Everybody/area used their own words for items, actions, etc. There now is a standard national language in use.

- Logistics.** Last year the Fire Station was inundated with food, water, and supplies, which was wonderful, but there was no one to deal with it. There are also many people in the Valley who have tools and equipment, private firefighting equipment, skills, water ponds, etc., that are valuable in emergency work, and this committee aims to organize this resource. There was also some unwanted help from some well-meaning folks; hopefully being organized will prevent this from occurring again.

ZONES: Our Valley is now made up of 5 Zones, Blue 5 (north), Yellow 4, Green 3 (main Fire Station), Orange 2, and Pink 1, with mini zones within each zone.

This is partially for communication purposes, so people can use their GMR like a radio tree, and each can (hopefully) plug into the main Fire Station. Besides the Communication Committee leader (Cindy), each Zone will need a person who controls the communication from that Zone. The second purpose for the Zones is that for certain disasters, when the whole Valley is not in danger and does not have to be evacuated. This is still a work in progress, like everything else.

EPUD is also taking steps to work on partial outages for certain areas, so the whole Valley does not lose power if that’s not

Concluded from Page 17
necessary, or the Valley will lose power only when it becomes absolutely necessary.

DURING AN EMERGENCY/EVACUATION:

Repeat of the Levels:

Level 1: Round up animals and corral/move them if you can. Get your Grab & Go Bag and other things you might need if there is time.

Level 2: Be ready to go, or just go, to avoid the rush. Definitely move your large animals.

Level 3: Go!! And it is probably too late for your large animal move.

Paula Edgars, a relatively new community member who, with her husband Joe, lost their home and one cat in the Paradise fire, said to put your pets in the car as soon as you can, even on Level 1, because they will panic and disappear in the chaos.

Once Level 3 is going, NO ONE will be allowed back into the Valley. Last year too much time and energy were wasted on this issue. If you have animals (hopefully not, but maybe chickens), you can call the Fire Department and they will be aware of it, and try to feed and water them.

The fire department personnel will do a check on all houses (if able) to check each situation. If you saw your patio furniture or firewood moved last year, or something looked different, you were not looted. The Fire Department did it.

If you lock your gate: DON'T. It may mean they will skip to the next house instead of wasting time.

Some people put sprinklers all around their house and on their roof, turned them on when they left, and let their well run dry. You can put out your sprinklers, but do not turn on the water. The fire department personnel will turn them on if needed (you can let them know they are there).

Remember to pack your bags, scan your documents and put them on a device, and be careful out there!

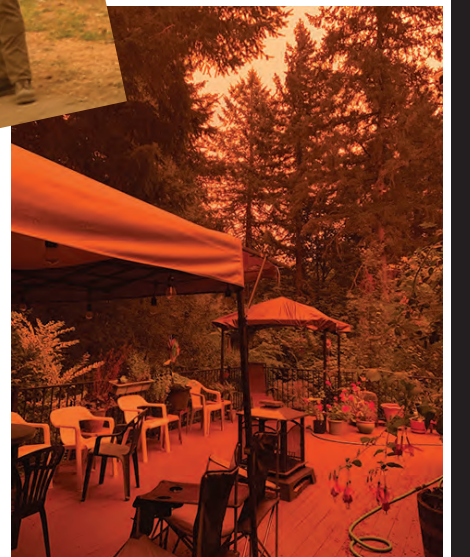
LEST WE FORGET! SEPTEMBER, 2020



Thanks to Curtis Irish for these 2 scary photos!



Photo taken by Linda Mooney. My deck, in case I would never see it again!



EMERGENCY RESOURCES, CONTACT PEOPLE AND INFORMATION

Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District,

Steven Wallace, Fire Chief, 541-933-2907

The Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District is a small rural fire district located NE of Springfield. The district is 21 miles long and responds to about 350 calls a year. The calls for service are handled by 3 paid staff and about 25 volunteers

<https://www.facebook.com/Mohawkvalleyfire/>
<http://www.mohawkvalleyfire.com/>

Mohawk Valley Emergency Preparedness Committee,

Kevin Woodworth, Chair, and President of MVRFD.

This group is where all our events, tips, tricks, and all things preparedness will be posted. We strive to provide the knowledge to help our community grow into a strong self-reliant community!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2379908638805350>

Oregon Department of Forestry South Cascades

Oregon Department of Forestry South Cascade District consists of two units, Eastern Lane Unit and Sweet Home Unit. These units each have active associations. The Eastern Lane Forest Protective Association and the Linn Forest Protective Association.

<https://www.facebook.com/odfscas/>

McKenzie Residents Wildfire Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/909182485904022>

McKenzie Community Communications

McKenzie Community Communications is a non-profit (501(c)(3) McKenzie River community organization. Our goal is to provide resilient, dependable, and durable communications infrastructure to the residents of our area.

<https://www.facebook.com/McKenzieWiFi>
Website with good information about General Mobile Radio (GMR)

<https://mckenziecommunications.org/gmrs-repeater-network-project/?fbclid=IwAR2Lh1p9NxOwDwLK5TD30XU54t4nI9YZ4EgRKCavG7FiWdTm9gHps9-iaBI>

Lane County Emergency Management

Patience Winningham -Melcher 541-682-3977 is the County Emergency Services Manager. She worked her tail off during the Wild Fires last year and lives on the McKenzie River.
https://lanecounty.org/government/county_departments/lane_county_emergency_management

#Vanlife 8/15/2021

By Barry Rogers, previous valley resident and now traveling correspondent

Well, here it is, six months later. I'm camped in upstate New York in a campground in the Allegheny Mountains. Yesterday, I moved back into the van after a three-week break, staying at my sister's house in Virginia and attending the wedding of my nephew. The break was nice, as was sleeping in



Allegheny State Park, NY

air conditioning rather than the hot and humid Virginia summer. I do feel happy to be back in the van and on the road again.

I'm glad to have stayed ahead of the real heat (except for southern Nevada



Southern Utah

and Utah, where

it was in the 115 +/- range) and the fires. I knew things were likely to get bad as I was traveling down through the Sierra Nevada Mountains in northern California.

The good news was that campgrounds at 8,000 foot elevation, that would normally have been closed due to snowpack, were open and



Smith Lake
Sierra Nevada Mtns

there was no snow on any of the nearby peaks. The bad news is that they have subsequently been consumed by the Dixie fire. You could see that there had been a lot of clearing and prescribed burns throughout



Sequoia National Park
Northern California

the forests, but it would have taken years to do enough to prepare for the fires that have



Zion National Park
Utah

occurred.

I've visited a number of National Parks along the way: King's Canyon / Sequoia in California, Zion

in Utah, Yellowstone and Grand Teton in Wyoming,

and Shenandoah in Virginia. I enjoyed all of the parks I've visited, though Zion and Shenandoah were probably my favorites with good hiking at each, and amazing views. There were others that were on my list, but I was deterred by the reports of crowds and the unavailability of camping reservations. There really are a lot of folks out on the road this summer. The popularity of traveling by van/RV has been growing for some time, but Covid has really sent it over the top. Now that I'm 'back east,' the crowds seemed to have thinned a bit.



Devil's Tower - Wyoming
"Close Encounters of the Third Kind"



Grand Teton National Park
Wyoming

I've also had the opportunity to hook up with a number of old friends along the way (at this point in my life, 'old' refers both to the length of time we've known each other, and our relative ages). Anyway, it's been great, you know that a friend is one of the real keepers when you can pick up where you left off even if it's

been decades since you last saw each other face-to-face. I've also discovered the difficulty in contacting people in the age of cell phones. Back in the day, I used to be able to travel and find my friends in the local phonebooks ('phonebooks' some of you may say, what's that? - exactly). Anyway, thank goodness for Google.

Over the next few months I plan to wander through eastern New York, Vermont and New Hampshire, seeing if there are any cute little towns where I'd be inclined to settle down. I have friends in Burlington, so it's currently pretty high on the list. We'll see. After that, I'm thinking of heading into the south, where a number of friends have invited my to come visit.



Great Falls
on the Potomac River,
Washington DC

Between summer heat and humidity, and spiking Covid, I've taken a wait-and-see.



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MARCOLA MEMORIES!



Turning a certain age this year has had me reflecting on many different memories. Many of those memories were rooted in the Mohawk Valley. It was no different during a couple recent Marcola properties that I worked on. 21 years ago, the development of the old railway property through Marcola into Mohawk Country Living Estates was something I had the privilege to work on. When meeting recently with a Buyer of one of those properties, on Treston Lane, I told them they had the right guy and that my middle name

was Treston. Smiling at them, I could tell that their original thought was that I was joking. Then there was a pause and she asked, “really!?” I assured them that really was what the “T” in Cory T. Neu stood for, and that was also what my Son, Treston, goes by. The name Treston has some deep roots in Wendling and Marcola. I can tell you about it sometime, if you like! That moment in particular was a neat one!



Inventory in Months*			
	2019	2020	2021
January	2.2	1.9	0.8
February	2.0	1.6	0.9
March	1.8	1.7	0.6
April	1.7	2.0	0.7
May	1.5	2.0	0.7
June	1.6	1.3	0.7
July	1.5	0.9	0.8
August	1.6	1.0	
September	1.8	1.1	
October	1.8	0.9	
November	1.7	0.8	
December	1.4	0.6	

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