

Mohawk Valley Community Grange



Serving the Mohawk Valley and Its Communities

Mohawk

Messenger

**SPRING EDITION • MARCH, 2026**

28 Years of Publication! Thanks, Mohawk Valley!

**CELEBRATE WITH US, THIS IS OUR 108th ISSUE!**

# THANK YOU, MARCOLA!



The founding members of MOVIN' ON recently marked 50 years since the formation of Marcola's own homegrown rock band. What began in a garage on Wendling Road in the mid 1970's turned into a decades-long musical adventure of which Marcola was very much a part.

The journey took us to many different venues starting with our first "official" performance at a '70s Mohawk High School homecoming dance. From there it was on to numerous local and not-so-local engagements, from small clubs to headlining outdoor concerts for several thousand people.

Wherever we performed over four plus decades around the state, through several lineup and even generational changes, we could usually count on a contingent of our Marcola friends and fans showing up to join the party.

In a very real sense, Marcola sustained us. 6 full photo albums tell the story. We especially looked forward to playing the Mary Cole celebrations (June 13, 2026) as they were OUR homecoming.

**SO, THANK YOU, MARCOLA FOR BEING A BIG PART OF THE MOVIN' ON STORY AND FOR ALL THE GOOD TIMES!**

COMMENTS AT  
MOVINON6161@HOTMAIL.COM



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PORTLAND, OR  
PERMIT NO. 3142



# FRIENDS OF THE MARCOLA SCHOOLS MEDIA CENTER

## SPRING 2026 NEWS

### Seed Library: Opening March 4th

We're pleased to announce a free Seed Library coming to the Media Center. With a grant from the Lane Library League and seed donations from several companies (including Burpee & Baker Creek), we've been toiling to get it all together for the March 4th unveiling. The Seed Library (flowers & vegetables) will be available only during our open hours. We'll be happy to add your seed donations to the Seed Library, whether in the original packet or from your garden. Look for seed saving titles we'll be adding to the book collection, too.

### 2026 Summer Programs, Preview of Coming Attractions

We are already brewing up plans for a great summer at the Media Center.

- Wednesday afternoon kids' programs are shifting to Saturday mornings.
- Summer Reading Raffle Basket (one raffle ticket for each summer youth book check-out) will be increasing to 4 graded raffle baskets.
- One Coast, One Book featuring George Takei's graphic novel, They Called Us Enemy, is coming to Marcola. The coast-wide kick-off is May 31st. We'll have book copies available and are planning related programming. Follow us on Facebook, scour local bulletin boards, and keep reading the Messenger for updates.

### Save the date: Mary Cole Days June 13, 2026

Book & Vinyl Sale: June 13th & 14th

Join us at the Media Center for our Mary Cole Days Sale.

Saturday, from 8am to 5pm. Sunday, 10am to 4pm. Support the community and stock up on books and LPs for yourself, friends, and family. We'll have our usual amazingly eclectic mix of books for all ages and LPs in many genres. Hope to see you there!

### Book Donations Needed

We need your book donations for our next book sale. Drop off your gently used books during our open hours or contact us for an alternate time.

### Younger than 5 years old? Want a FREE book, in your Mailbox, every month?!

Get your life of reading off to a grand start with a FREE book, mailed to you, every month, up until your 5th birthday. An adult can help you sign up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: <https://www.earlychildhoodlane.org/imagination-library>. Sponsored by Lane United Way.

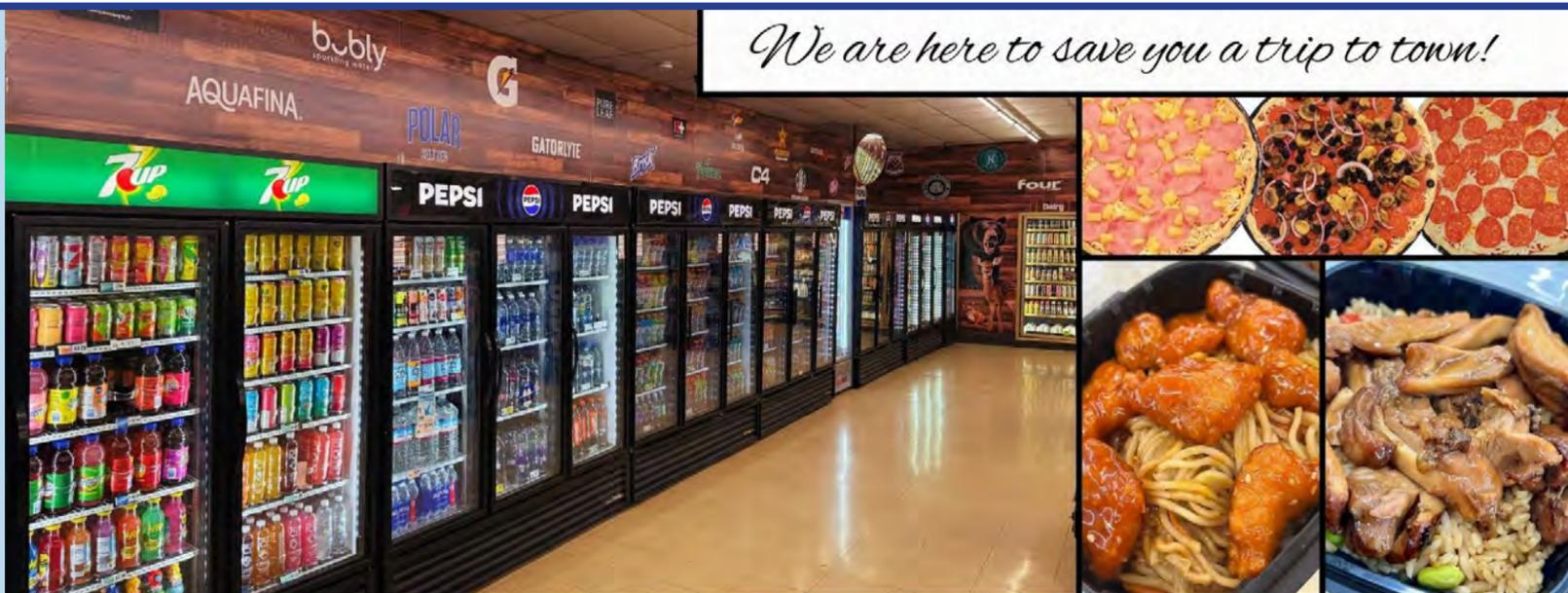
### Did You Know? We Have a Library in Marcola!

The Friends operate a volunteer-run library within the schools' Media Center. There are books for all ages. We're open to the public every Wednesday, 4-7pm, and the second Saturday of the month, 10a-1p. (Not accounting for snow days, holidays, etc.) Stop by, sign up for an account, & borrow books. Sign-up is free & fast for all Valley residents, not just school students. The Media Center is located at 38300 Wendling Road, at the east end of the Elementary School.

### Contact the Friends

- Drop in during our public hours at the Media Center and talk to us in person
- See our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/friendsofmarcolamediacycenter](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofmarcolamediacycenter)
- Email us: [friendsofmarcolalibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmarcolalibrary@gmail.com)
- Call/Text: Sally Leete 541-933-0264

*We are here to save you a trip to town!*



## MARCOLA COMMUNITY MARKET

HOT FOOD - BEER - PRODUCE - VAPES - WINE - GROCERY - PET FOOD - AUTOMOTIVE - LOCAL BEEF, PORK & JERKY - PELLETS - HOME SUPPLIES - TAKE N BAKE PIZZA & MORE



## FROM LINDA MOONEY, EDITOR:

What a strange "winter" it's been! 60s in the daytime and freezing at night and no rain! I'm hoping for rain and snow for February and March to build up our snowpack!

Anyone who is interested in writing columns, taking and submitting photos or finding more advertising, please email me!

Please send your comments and, yes, even your criticisms to [lindamooney39361@gmail.com](mailto:lindamooney39361@gmail.com)

## HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY

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

Hours: 9-10 - number pickup 10-12 Doors open  
Michele Freese, Manager 541-359-964

## ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!

I will invoice all advertisers and sponsors by the 15th of the month in which the paper comes to you, this Winter issue deadline for payment is by January 15th.

Mail checks made out to Linda Mooney to 39361 Howard Rd, Marcola, OR 97454.

PLEASE DO NOT MAKE YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE MOHAWK MESSENGER!

I cannot cash them and they will have to be rewritten! Thanks! Advertisers may pay directly to me using PayPal or Venmo. Email me at [lindamooney39361@gmail.com](mailto:lindamooney39361@gmail.com) for details on this method.

I have raised my advertising prices by around \$20 starting with this March, 2026 issue. I regret having to do this, but this paper is completely supported by your ads and I had to kick in the extra money to make the publisher's bill! in the Fall & Winter issues.

Thank You for your continued support!

Thanks to our ever-so-generous Sponsors:

Mohawk Valley Community Grange #922  
Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District

## CLASSES/MEETINGS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN OUR MOHAWK VALLEY

### Boy Scout Troop 51

Meets each Thursday at 6:30 pm at McKenzie Church of Christ, 250 51st Street in Springfield. Many of the Scouts in this Troop are from both Mohawk Valley and Springfield. Come join our Camping trips and adventures! Contact Tom Snyder at 541-729-7736

### Cub Scout Pack 450, Marcola

Meets in the Marcola Media Center on Tuesdays weekly at 6:30 pm. Contact Richard Davey at 541-510-9192

### Marcola Christian Church

Office Phone 541-933-2727  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Church Service 10:45 AM  
[www.marcolachristianchurch.org](http://www.marcolachristianchurch.org)

### Marcola School District 79 Board

Meetings: 2nd Monday of every month in Marcola Elementary Media Center at 6PM

### Marcola Schools Media Center, PUBLIC

Hours: most Wednesdays, 4-7pm, and 2nd Saturdays, 10a-1p. Books for ALL ages, not only students. Check-out FREE to Mohawk Valley residents. [www.facebook.com/friendsofmarcolamediacycenter](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofmarcolamediacycenter)

### Marcola Water District Meeting

Community Meetings are held at 6:00 pm on the second Monday of every month at the Marcola Fire Station.  
Contact: Jamie Porter at 541-746-1676 for more information.  
[rwdonline.net/marcola](http://rwdonline.net/marcola)

### Mohawk Community Church

Sunday School 9:30 AM; Worship 10:00

### Mohawk Valley Community Grange

Regular meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except December. 6PM More information, check website or call Linda Mooney at 541-913-3799

### Mohawk High School Booster Club

Meets 1st Monday of every month. Check with HS for specific times and locations. Members needed.

### Mohawk Valley Lions Club Meets 2nd

Wednesday of Each Month at Marcola Christian Church, 92419 Marcola Rd, Contact Bob Leeper at 541-515-6907.

### Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at Fire Station #1

### Tai Chi Classes

Contact Karren Slater at 541-933-2080

### Valley Yoga Classes

Contact Jean at 541-969-6802 for information! See ad, Page 6

### VFW Post 4166

Meets at our Mohawk Valley Community Grange at 7:30 pm every 2nd Monday Monthly. VFW remains active in Community events and new members are always welcome!

# LOIS ROBERTS SHARES WITH US....

## A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Printed pictures and words are the way our history has been captured for hundreds of years.



IDEALS Magazine was first published in America in the early 1900s and became one of the most enjoyed and cherished circulars of its time. Does anyone remember IDEALS?

In school, we all learned about "people, places, and things..." Inside IDEALS's covers for each season through each year were pages of articles and poems and

paintings and drawings and photographs depicting interesting events of the current times and writings and pictures of the past. There were ideas for Christmas, Valentines, Easter, and Halloween celebrating and decorating. And pictures and poems of snow in winter and beautiful lakes and rivers for swimming in summer. We saw breath-taking photos and watercolors of fall leaves and spring's beauty in nature's creations, all in its height of glory! Bible stories and illustrations of famous people were described and shown in ways we could easily understand. Each season's issue assured the reader hours of enjoyment and appreciation for so many precious things our wonderful country held within its borders.

The eyes were made to see beyond anyone's own backyard or neighborhood or limited imagination. Opening new worlds of descriptions and color and documenting for us a way of holding onto the past while also capturing things which were occurring during our own lifetime.

These methods assured that remembrances could be preserved for coming generations to relish through the act of turning a page and learning of the lives and lifestyles and memories of many different places and times. This gift of time through IDEALS printed page was carried on through many decades.

Keeping warm by the good old wood stove...

I started purchasing and collecting IDEALS as a young bride in the 1960s and 70s. And as time went on, many of the magazines were re-circulated in secondhand stores and antique shops. And the older the issues, the more valuable they became! As years passed, IDEALS provided the thrill of "going back in time!"

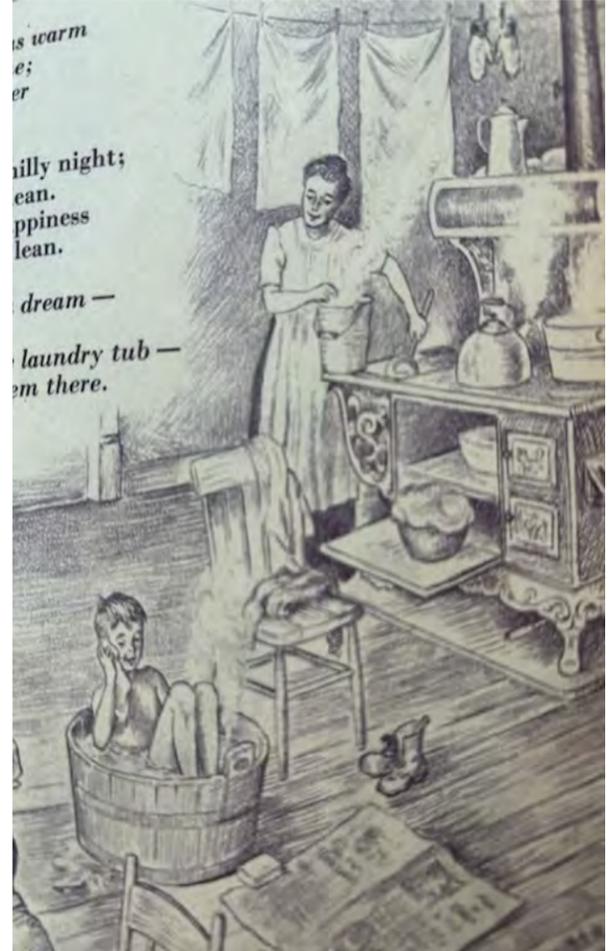
I've included a few pictures that were someone's sketches and drawings which reminded me so much of my own upbringing. One example was of a time when home-life was simple and families had to "make do."

One of the ways shown on several pages revealed how we took a bath when homes had no indoor bathrooms. A mom

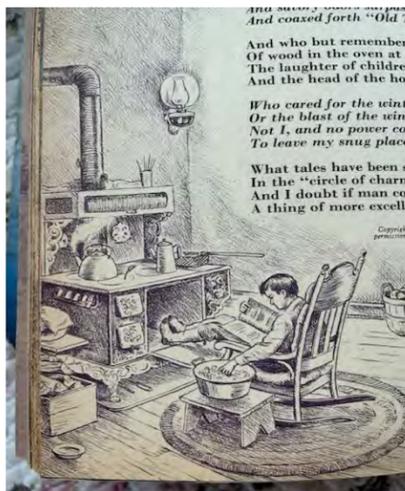
would fill her wash tub with a few inches of water and place it in front of the warm wood stove for children to take a bath in. It was very common, especially in rural country homes, and we kids enjoyed sitting in the warm water with legs crisscrossed and a few rubber toys to play with. When we were all washed and through playing, our mom would rinse us off with a saucepan full of water and out we'd jump, grabbing a towel to wrap and dry with. The old saying, "Saturday-night bath time" was true in many homes years ago!

I've enjoyed so many aspects of IDEALS and all the pictures and articles bringing such good times to life.

And still to this day, I pick out several of the issues for whatever season and holiday we may be celebrating. And I find a comfortable chair and just sit and go through page after page of the most enjoyable literature and eye-catching and heart-rending articles that could be captured on the printed page.



Old-time Saturday-night bath



I hope you also can still find copies of IDEALS, which have been passed on.

Our own Fisher stove that we've used since 1976



## MARCOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT Board Member Resignation

The Marcola School District Board of Directors announces the resignation of Board Member Roxanne Ericson, effective February 10, 2026.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Roxanne for her dedicated service to our students, staff, and community. Her leadership, thoughtfulness, and steady commitment have made a meaningful impact on our district. She has generously given her time, her voice, and her heart to support the success and well-being of every student we serve.

At Marcola School District, our maxims guide us: *We Care. We Create. We Grow.* Roxanne exemplified these values in her work on the Board—caring deeply about students and families, helping create opportunities for growth and innovation, and supporting a culture where our school community continues to thrive.

### Board Vacancy Announcement

With this resignation, Board Position #5 is now vacant, and the District is seeking qualified applicants to fill the position through an interim appointment. The selected individual will serve from April 13, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Individuals wishing to continue serving beyond that date must file for election through the Lane County Elections Department by the statutory deadline. Continued service is not guaranteed, as this position is filled by public election.

### Minimum Qualifications:

1. Resident of the District for at least one year as of April 13th, 2026
2. Qualified voter within the District.
3. Not an employee of the District.
4. Attend the April 7th, 2026, special School District Board of Directors meeting and participate in the selection process.

### To apply:

1. **PREFERRED METHOD:** Complete the Application by following the QR code or visiting the district website:  
<https://www.marcola.k12.or.us/page/school-board>
2. Hand delivery to Marcola School District Office, Attention: Heather VanderPloeg, 38300 Wendling Rd, Marcola, OR, 97454.
3. Email attachment to Heather VanderPloeg at [hvanderploeg@marcola.k12.or.us](mailto:hvanderploeg@marcola.k12.or.us). Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2026.



Scan for  
Application

### Selection Process:

- Applications reviewed and qualifications verified by the District Office;
- Initial screening conducted by Board Chair and Vice Chair, narrowing the field to three or less finalists;
- Finalist interviews held at the April 7th, 2026, Board of Directors special meeting; (Attendance by applicants is required; failure to attend will remove the applicant from consideration)
- Appointment by the Board of Directors on April 13th, 2026, if an applicant is selected.

We encourage community members who are passionate about education and committed to serving Marcola students to apply.

Truly and sincerely, we thank Roxanne for the leadership, time, and heart she has given to Marcola School District. She leaves a lasting legacy, and we are grateful for her service.

PIZZA • HOT FOOD • SANDWICHES • FULL ESPRESSO BAR • BEER • WINE • LOWER TOBACCO PRICES  
 ATM • EBT • LOTTERY • LANE COUNTY PARK PASSES • DAY FISHING PASSES • PROPANE EXCHANGE  
**WE DO THE LIFE JACKET EXCHANGE PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER**



**COUPON for \$1.00 off a BREAKFAST SANDWICH when you buy a 16 oz espresso**  
 drink Expires April 31, 2026

**Thank you for 14 great years! Looking forward to many more!**

541-747-0321 LOCATED ON MARCOLA ROAD NEAR CAMP CREEK RD ACROSS FROM HAYDEN BRIDGE



92178 Marcola Road  
 541-933-2828

**MONDAY-FRIDAY RESTAURANT:**  
 10AM-8PM  
 BAR IS OPEN TIL MIDNIGHT+

FREE POOL ON SUNDAYS

**WEEKENDS RESTAURANT:**  
 9AM-8PM  
 BAR IS OPEN TIL MIDNIGHT+

**DAILY HOMEMADE DINNER SPECIALS**

- Mondays - JACOB'S POT PIE
- TUESDAYS - Tacos
- Wednesdays - Pub nights with our delicious quick pub food
- Thursdays - Italian Night
- Fridays - Steak, Prime Rib or Chicken and Ribs
- Saturdays - Mama Bear's Meatloaf
- Sundays - Chef's Choice

**PLEASE WATCH OUR INFO BOARD AND ONLINE AT FACEBOOK'S MOHAWK VALLEY NEIGHBORS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS!**

KARAOKE IN THE BAR FRIDAYS AT 9PM

**The Marcola Roadhouse Restaurant and Tavern features daily made soups from scratch, delicious homemade desserts, and always FRESH daily specials.**

**20% Off your next meal at the Marcola Roadhouse with the completion of a Roadhouse comment card! Coupon valid for in-house only! One per household**  
 ALCOHOL IS EXCLUDED FROM COUPON  
 Expires January 31, 2026

**NAMASTE**

The yoga class at the Mohawk Valley Community Grange invites you to join us!

We meet at 11AM on Fridays for a 1-hour class.

**ALL LEVELS ARE WELCOME AND WE CHARGE \$5 PER MONTH**

For more information, please call Jean at 541-969-6802 Or Donna at 541-225-8769

There are mats and blocks available or bring your own!



**COME AND JOIN US!**

# IT'S YOUR TURN!

Editor's Note: Have something to share with our community?

Email me at lindamooney39361@gmail.com and I will print it in the next issue of this paper.

## Contempt for Oregon Voters is on the Rise

by Jerry Ritter

I commend the editor and staff of the Mohawk Messenger. As an editor myself I appreciate the effort required.

However, I found the last issue very one-sided politically and feel the need to respond. Many voters are likely unaware of the growing abuse of legislative power in the era of Democrat majorities in our state government. Democrats have controlled state government since 2006.

I have been involved at the Legislature for more than 20 years. During most of that time I was the legislative affairs representative for a non-profit corporation. In the last several legislative sessions I have witnessed voter suppression on an increasingly disturbing scale. Space permits only a few examples.

Let's begin with the "Emergency Clause" which eliminates voters' ability to launch referenda. With an emergency clause a bill becomes law immediately upon the Governor's signature, leaving no opportunity to challenge it through a referendum.

The use of emergency clauses increased after the last successful statewide referendum, Measure 88 in 2014. M88 repealed the Legislature's 2013 Senate Bill 833 which granted resident driver cards to illegal immigrants.

Legislative Democrats resorted to unprecedented dirty political maneuvering in an attempt to derail the referendum. However, the vote to repeal SB 833 was 2-to-1 statewide.

Democrats were determined not to let that happen again. Emergency clauses are now common on all manner of bills, especially on controversial measures such as the "Cap and Trade" bill mentioned by State Representative Marty Wilde in the last Mohawk Messenger.

Rep. Wilde and his Democrat colleagues know that Washington voters rejected similar proposals twice over their high cost. The last thing Democrats want is for Oregon voters to have the same opportunity. Republicans do and that is why they left the statehouse.

Emergency clauses are occasionally warranted but too often they are used solely to prevent voter challenges to legislative decisions. Republicans have introduced several bills to rein in this abuse but the Democrat majority won't give these the time of day.

Voter suppression also occurs when the Legislature violates a voter mandate, which it did, flagrantly, in 2019 with House Bill 2015. HB 2015 revoked the voters' Measure 88 decision

and restored driving privileges to illegal immigrants.

Every Lane County Democrat in the Legislature supported HB 2015. Rep. Wilde cosponsored the bill.

The Legislature has imposed nearly \$8 billion in new taxes and fees since 2017. Emergency clauses cannot be attached to tax bills but there are other methods to prevent referenda.

A referendum must target a single bill with specific language. Accordingly, the Legislature can pass a similar bill that accomplishes the same goal but is worded differently. This tactic effectively scuttles the referendum effort.

That's what happened through language included in HB 2164 last year targeting the referendum against the deceptively titled "Student Success Act" which is a multi-billion-dollar gross receipts (sales) tax.

These weapons have effectively taken the referendum off the table. The initiative process was also undermined, this via SB 761 which every Lane County Democrat supported despite a massive amount of opposing testimony.

Even more opposing testimony was submitted against HB 4005, also cosponsored by Rep. Wilde, to require trigger locks or lock boxes for your guns. The Democrats ignored all of it. The bill was in committee at adjournment but it and even more restrictive gun measures will return next year.

Oregon voters have repeatedly rejected a general sales tax. But the Democrats have a work around by imposing sales taxes on individual items and transactions. We now have sales taxes on some bicycles and new automobiles.

More are in the works. The biennial state budgets (spending) have been going up by double-digit amounts for more than 30 years. Have you been receiving double-digit raises every 2 years?

The Bend Bulletin accurately characterized recent legislative actions as "a protracted expression of contempt for voters." But voters continue to re-elect Democrats no matter what they do. That is the citizens' right. It's something I don't understand but must accept.

*Jerry Ritter of Springfield has written successful legislation and represented two statewide organizations at the Legislature. He can be reached at editor@8thafhsoregon.com*

# IT'S YOUR TURN!

Editor's Note: Have something to share with our community?

Email me at lindamooney39361@gmail.com and I will print it in the next issue of this paper.

## Public Statement regarding Curtis Irish \$100,000 Donation



In 2018, Marcola community member, Curtis Irish, sold his family farm to the Marcola School District. The District purchased the farm with the hopes of maintaining the farm as both an educational resource for District students and as a community resource. The Irish farm has been wonderfully successful at both providing students with a hands-on learning experience and providing Marcola residents with a place to purchase fresh produce. Mr. Irish continued to live on the land at no charge until his passing.

In addition to selling the Irish farm to the District, Mr. Irish also generously donated \$30,000 in July 2019 so the District could purchase a tractor for the Irish Farm. Later, to ensure the District could secure a better tractor, Mr. Irish donated another \$20,000 to the District. The District returned the first tractor it purchased with the donation and with the refund credit and the additional donation, purchased a

New Holland WM 70 tractor, which it still uses to this day.

This was not the end of Mr. Irish's generosity, in November 2019, he donated another \$100,000 to help fund a tractor outbuilding. Originally, the plan was to build an outbuilding to house the tractor and other supplies related to the Irish farm. The project evolved into a larger joint tractor and bus facility to house the tractor and the District's bus. Mr. Irish was informed of the changes throughout the process and provided feedback during the design. The District broke ground on this facility in September 2021 with a ceremony that Mr. Irish attended.

The project struggled to get off the ground as it was bedeviled by setbacks stemming from permitting issues with Lane County. In fact, Lane County required relocation of the facility five different times for proximity to the Rainbow Water District setbacks, and road, septic, and power infrastructure.

Today this facility houses the tractor purchased with Mr. Irish's donations, its attachments, and food grown on the Irish farm. The building has a sign reading "Irish Tractor Barn" adorned over the garage. Unfortunately, Mr. Irish passed away in November 2021 before the completion of the bus and tractor facility. The project was completed in March 2023 and has been in use by the District since.

The District understands that community members have raised concern about how the District spent Mr. Irish's \$100,000 donation, however, an Oregon Department of Justice investigation found that the District complied with the intent of the donation. In October 2024, a complaint was filed with the Charitable Activities Section of the Oregon Department of Justice alleging the \$100,000 donation was improperly spent on the tractor and bus building. The Department of Justice, disagreeing with the complaint, concluded that the intent of Mr. Irish's "\$100,000 donation was for the bus and maintenance building," confirming that the donation was properly used on the joint project.

The District understands the concerns that some community members have raised, both before the District's board and in the *Mohawk Messenger*, but the District maintains it has been a responsible steward of Mr. Irish's generous gifts.

The District would also like to address specific points made in an Op-Ed published in the December edition of *Mohawk Messenger*. The most serious charge is that the District violated Oregon charitable gifting laws, yet this was explicitly investigated by the Department of Justice which concluded the District spent the \$100,000 donation appropriately. The Op-Ed alleges that the District took advantage of Mr. Irish - a charge with the District vehemently denies. The District worked with Mr. Irish in the planning of the tractor and bus facility and was in constant contact with Mr. Irish about the project until his passing. Additionally, the Op-Ed charges the District with improperly parking the District's tractor outside of the tractor and bus facility, and while the District has occasionally parked the tractor outside for cleaning, the District maintains that more often than not, the tractor is in the building complying with the intention of the donation.

The District has available, for any citizen interested, documentation supporting these positions. Anyone interested is asked to inquire with the District.

Sincerely,  
Terry Augustadt, Superintendent  
Marcola School Board Members



Thanks to Jay Swofford:

**ANYONE HAVE INFO ON THIS PHOTO,  
PLEASE CONTACT ME AND I'LL PASS  
THE INFO ON TO JAY.  
lindamooney39361@gmail.com**



**Family on Porch**

An unknown family at unknown location that arrived with photos donated to Wendling Preservation Association. If you know the name of the family, where this house was located or anything else, please let me know.

## Lasting Relief

Informed Touch By Andi



**Hi Neighbors!**  
I'm excited to share that I'm now a Licensed Massage Therapist, offering sessions right here in the Marcola area.

I specialize in fascial integration — a gentle yet highly effective form of bodywork that supports the nervous system and soft tissue. It offers many of the benefits of massage, and sessions can be received fully clothed (undressing is always optional, never required).

If you're experiencing chronic tension, stress, old injuries, or simply want to feel more at ease in your body, I'd love to support you.

To book, visit:  
[www.informedtouchbyandi.com](http://www.informedtouchbyandi.com)  
or scan the QR code below.



Andi Bocci  
LMT #29447

## KANDIE DISKIN RETIRES FROM MARCOLA POST OFFICE

Kandie Diskin, a familiar and friendly face at the Marcola Post Office, is retiring after 13 years serving local customers and helping to keep the community connected.

Before coming to Marcola, Kandie worked in Mapleton for 13 years. She and her family lived in Florence, where she raised three children, 2 sons and a daughter.

Her career path included work for a Seattle insurance company before she joined the U.S. Postal Service and became a mail carrier—work she says suited her well because it combined responsibility with daily connections to the public.

Kandie said her move to Marcola was helped along by her friendship with Bev, the former Marcola postmaster. Knowing Bev was retiring, Diskin asked questions about Marcola and, after hearing about the merits of the community, decided she wanted to work here.

Over the years, she's come to appreciate smaller post offices, where it's easier to build personal relationships and get to know the community beyond the counter. Asked what she'll miss most, Kandie didn't hesitate: the people. What she won't miss, she added with a laugh, is the schedule.

Retirement will bring Diskin back to Florence. After selling their place in Marcola, she and her husband plan to buy a home there to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren. She's also looking forward to traveling—especially cruises—plus more time for

simple joys like riding her electric bike on the beach and expanding her photography.

Reflecting on her years in our town, Diskin said, "It was my greatest pleasure to live and work here and to get to know the community."

### MARCOLA ALONG WITH MOHAWK VALLEY RESIDENTS AND CO-WORKERS JOIN IN WISHING HER A HAPPY RETIREMENT AND MANY MEMORABLE MILES AHEAD.





# Poetry Contributions



## THE EARLY DAYS OF SPRING

I think I love the early days  
that bring a taste of spring.  
The early bits of sunny skies,  
the first sweet birds to sing;  
The days in March so bright and warm,  
before the spring is due,  
When temperatures of 60 plus  
are really very few.

Oh, yes! I love the April skies  
and gentle little showers  
That make the grass a brighter green  
and help bring Maytime flowers.  
We know that May and June are sure  
to share a warmth supreme,  
But yet they never can compare  
with early days of spring.

### OUT OF THE DEPTHS

By Dianne S. Stewart

**Sagging foliage gradually shrinks  
instinctively**

**Into fuel for odd shapes  
In cold hibernation.**

**Secured in darkness 'neath layers of  
humus matter,**

**Roused forms quietly stir  
In slow maturation.**

**Sunbeams warm frozen grounds as is  
purposely designed--**

**A boost for roots and stems,  
And a strong foundation.**

**Signs of rebirth appear, through  
months of earned slumber—**

**A triumphant goal starting  
With fruitful germination.**

**Sunny daffodil blooms open first,  
shouting "Spring is near!"**

**And beautiful things happen  
From determination.**

I love the thrill of anxiously  
awaiting springtime sun,  
Just when the snow shall melt away  
and wintertime is done.  
The joy of watching life anew  
burst through the warming ground  
When little tulips show their heads  
without the slightest sound.

Oh, how I love the hills afar  
beneath the skies of blue,  
The lovely valley with its stream  
that softly trickles through;  
Of all the days throughout the year  
there's none can ever bring  
As much in real true happiness  
as early days of spring.

From Lois Roberts

This reminds me of the returning springtime  
beauty right here in our Mohawk Valley!



## WORDS OF WISDOM

To analyze the charms of flowers is like dissecting  
music; it is one of those things which it is far  
better to simply enjoy than to attempt to fully  
understand.

...Tuckerman

Faith is the key to fit the door called Hope, but  
there is no power anywhere like Love for turning  
it.

...Elaine V. Emans

Do the best you can with what you possess.  
Though it isn't much, yet it could be less.  
He invites defeat who gives up to sighing.  
But the battle is won if you keep on trying.

...Isla P. Richardson

Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to  
entertain strangers, for in so doing, some have  
entertained angels unawares.

...Saint Paul

Quotes from IDEALS Magazine  
1964 Edition

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# PLASTIC RECYCLING THROUGH CHEMICALS

BY Abraham Mooney

Since the dawn of civilization humans have been creating waste and it's safe to assume this will never change. It's a natural thing, really, from our consumptive habits to our GI-track, we naturally create waste, but what should we do with it? To the landfill appears to be our gut reflex and to this day that remains the preferred "technology," at least in the USA. Most of the developed world burns it for energy production with, of course, the best-in-class scrubbers on the smokestacks to keep the air mostly clean.

Burning trash remains taboo in much of the USA but I would argue that at least that method creates energy. As a hydrogen developer, I see landfill waste as a source of plentiful carbon and hydrogen which is useful stuff. The EPA sees landfills as carbon sequestration, or storage - a flawed view in my opinion, but not incorrect.

Plastic is ubiquitous throughout the world and yet our ability to recycle it is abysmal. Even in Oregon where we consider ourselves leaders in environmentalism and recycling, we recycle just 17% of all plastic generated (source: Circular Action Alliance or CAA). The CAA's goal is just 25%.

Traditional recycling requires lots of cleaning and sorting and then each type of plastic is ground into fine pellets for re-use to make "new" plastics. Unfortunately, recycled products do not have the same sheen and gloss of virgin plastic products which is why bottling companies like Coca-Cola do not prefer recycled plastic - customers prefer clean and bright looking products.

A better way to recycle is called "chemical," or "advanced" recycling where waste is broken down into its chemical molecules (mainly carbon and hydrogen) where it can then be used for any number of different "new" products - from new plastic containers to fuel such as diesel, gasoline, and jet fuel. The process of advanced recycling creates carbon/hydrogen molecules identical to the fossil-based ones originally used. Fossil fuels are the feedstocks for plastic production and that will never change unless we rethink recycling.

Plastic is such a cheap and universal building material that humans will never stop using it despite the Sierra Club and Greenpeace's advocacy efforts. Instead, let's make plastic waste as valuable as an oil or gas well. Through advanced recycling, we can stop wasting our waste and start a truly circular economy. Help me spread the word, traditional recycling is better than nothing, but not good enough.

I spent a year of my life developing gasification technology - a type of advanced recycling. The largest obstacles are not technical, but sociological. The very same environmentalist groups that want to improve plastic recycling have a goal to recycle only 25% of the plastic we generate. That means 75% is still going to the landfill. We can do a lot better, but we must trust the chemistry! The science is real but the political will to think out of the box is rare. Be the change you want to see!



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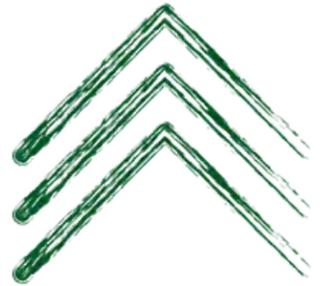
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**Juanita Turner Paslay,**  
writer and Auxiliary Chaplain  
folks7777@gmail.com

### BUNNIES AND A RED FOX

My husband wished wild rabbits would visit our yard, though I'm sure our family dog would not allow them. But . . . one



afternoon, two black and white bunnies with long fluffy fur visited our front porch. We did not get a second look because the mother rabbit and her bunnies quickly hopped away as soon as we saw them

or they saw us, whichever happened first. I hoped they would come back again. It was exciting to observe rabbits after all the years we have lived here. Alas, they didn't; however, we had another animal visit.

Later, a red fox with a long bushy tail camped in our neighbor's barn. Occasionally, the fox wandered around our filbert orchard. Sadly, his visits lasted only a couple of weeks. There must be a story behind the fox's sudden disappearance.

The red fox reminded me of a red-haired woman from our church in the 1950s. Every Sunday, she wore her 'dead' fox stole with head and feet still attached. Poor fox! We young kids didn't want to get too close to her.

I wonder what people think of me when I wear my real, not faux, mink stole to the grocery store now.

### WATCH AND PRAY

Christmas decorations are all packed away for next year, except one lovely piece—a reminder of a magnificent event still to come.

A golden angel with wings spread and trumpet raised to his mouth is the exception. He will hang in my kitchen as a constant reminder of what's coming next. Remember this song? "There is coming a day when my Jesus I shall see". Such an encouraging song! We know Jesus said that He would return for those who believe in Him.



That final day could be so close, either our last breath leaving our lungs or the trumpet sounding in our ears. But what about those who do not worship Jesus? Who is on your daily prayer list? Family and friends? The clerk at the store?

Let us feel the urgency to tell others about Jesus and not miss one opportunity to give someone the hope of eternal life. Do you have an extra Bible on your shelf right now? Someone you know desperately needs one.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18. Therefore, encourage one another with these words.**

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### DID YOU KNOW ....

*.....that the Mohawk Community Grange is part of the Sheriff's program for allowing people who get in trouble to work off their hours under Thorp McClaren's supervision as a part of the rehabilitation program. YAY for that! THANKS, THORP!*

*....that Kelly McClaren, Grange rental manager, is working with the cat rescue people in getting feral cats fixed. THANKS, KELLY!*

*....that the Mohawk Grange would like to get a Farmers' Market going at the Grange. Any farms and/or people out there who would like to help organize it, call the Grange or email them at mohawkcommunitygrange922@gmail.com.*

*.....that the Grange doesn't charge for rentals for public memorials, or other public events.*

*....that the Mohawk Grange is selling their piano. Make an offer!*

# MARY COLE DAY CELEBRATION IS BACK!

Yes, it's true! Sponsored by the Mohawk Valley Lions Club and the Mohawk Valley Volunteer Firemen Association and The Marcola Roadhouse. The events will take place at 3 different locations: Marcola Schools (approval is pending) the Marcola Roadhouse and Fire Station #1.

Here is a very early look at a schedule for **The big day on June 13, 2026!**  
A more complete schedule will be in our June issue!

8:00AM: Hopefully (approval is pending) at **Marcola Schools**  
8-10AM: Firemen Breakfast  
8-3PM: Firemen silent auction & raffle,  
Kids inflatables for play  
10-1: Marcola Media Center Open: Possible book sale

11AM: Parade starting at the **Fire Station #1**, ending at Marcola Schools (approval is pending)

Marcola Roadhouse,  
5PM-?  
Food & Drink specials  
Down N Dirty band plays  
Cornhole Tournament

The party starts at 10AM at the **Lee Downing Memorial Park** in Marcola with....

10AM-5PM Vendors  
Entertainment throughout the day:  
12:30-1:30: Dan & Eve  
1:30: Color Guard  
4-5: Headliner  
1-5: Lions Lunch and Raffle  
Hotdogs and VFW-style chicken  
Desserts included from Mohawk Grange  
2-4-5: BINGO with the Mohawk Grange

Sunday, June 14, 2026  
Marcola Schools (approval is pending)  
Community Church Service with Pastor David Lomond from the King's Assembly of God Church in Marcola.

## OLD MARY COLE CELEBRATION PICTURES! RECOGNIZE ANYONE??





## GREETINGS

### MOHAWK GRANGERS AND THE MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY!

Will we get any winter at all?? I'm hoping for a snowy, rainy February and March!! Fingers crossed. Otherwise, our summer could be in trouble.

We've been busy doing much planning at the Grange. We met at my house in early January to brainstorm how we will raise money to replace the roof on our beloved building.

We wanted to do some events that are different and lucrative!

#### Some possibilities are here:

3 annual Fancy Dinners, Movie Under the Stars, Taco Night, Spaghetti Dinner, Mother's Day Brunch, Patron Saints of the Mohawk Valley Dinner [Lori Smart, Helen Kennedy, Bob Russell, Curtis Irish ...] Dances / Socials: Father-Daughter, Mother-Son with bands Moving On & Down & Dirty. Bake Off Challenge with entry fee [and prizes]; Bottle Drive; T-shirts of Mohawk Valley Marcola (see below); BBQ in April.

WOW, we are going to be busy! We are starting our "Raisin' the Roof" campaign immediately! First, however, we are working on securing non-profit status (501c3) so we can, hopefully, receive large donations for the roof. The new roof is going to cost upwards of \$30,000, OUCH!!



### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR RAISIN' THE ROOF

**Mark your calendars!**

April 18th - BBQ Dinner  
May 10th - Mother's Day Brunch,  
Make reservations soon. More info to come.

June 13th - Mary Cole Day Bingo!  
See article on Page 14

**More specific info soon!**

Please visit our website, [www.mohawkgrange.org](http://www.mohawkgrange.org) or Facebook's Mohawk Valley Neighbors, or the Readerboard across from the post office for upcoming events.

We also will be doing our road cleanup this spring. The date will be set at the February meeting. Watch the ReaderBoard for date!

We had a super turnout for our Road Cleanup on November 18th! Thanks to all you fine folks who showed up for the event!

Happy Spring Everyone,  
Linda Mooney,  
Grange President



16 big bags of trash in just 2 miles of Marcola Rd!  
Please cover your dump loads!

### Compost Available for the Community at the Grange

We have more compost available at the Grange! This is where and why we receive it: Lane County, with the assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture has been moving toward zeroing out the amount of organic garbage & food going to the Short Mountain Landfill. To this end, they are partnering with local restaurants and all institutions that handle food to send spoiled, or otherwise unusable food and yard waste to become compost rather than dumping it with other garbage. They are partnering with Rexus to produce this compost for the public.

It is available to the public for \$3.00 per bucket at Rexus OR at your local Mohawk Grange.. Bring your bucket and shovel.

This compost is waiting at the Mohawk Grange, which is much closer to home than Rexus is on Hwy 99! There will be a donation box to put your money in!

### ANYONE INTERESTED IN STARTING A BUNCO GROUP AT THE GRANGE?

**EMAIL ME:**

**[PATRICIAKRAZLER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PATRICIAKRAZLER@GMAIL.COM)**



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## 2024/2025 Residential Highlights for Lane County



**New Listings**  
New listings (294) decreased 13.5% from the 340 listed in January 2025, and increased 53.1% from the 192 listed in December 2025.

**Pending Sales**  
Pending sales (265) decreased 6.7% from the 284 offers accepted in January 2025, and increased 46.4% from the 181 offers accepted in December 2025.

**Closed Sales**  
Closed sales (180) decreased 22.4% from the 232 closings in January 2025, and decreased 35.0% from the 277 closings in December 2025.

**Inventory and Time on Market**  
Inventory increased to 4.0 months in January. Total market time increased to 89 days.

**Year-to-Date Summary**  
Comparing the first month of 2026 to the same period in 2025, new listings (294) decreased 13.5%, pending sales (265) decreased 6.7%, and closed sales (180) decreased 22.4%.

**Average and Median Sale Prices**  
Comparing 2026 to 2025 through January, the average sale price has decreased 8.3% from \$482,900 to \$442,800. In the same comparison, the median sale price has increased 3.1% from \$408,500 to \$421,300.

### Residential Trends

#### January 2026 vs. December 2025

- New Listings **+53.1%** ↑
- Pending Sales **+46.4%** ↑
- Closed Sales **-35.0%** ↓
- Average Sale Price **-6.4%** ↓
- Median Sale Price **-4.0%** ↓
- Inventory **+1.3** ↑
- Total Market Time **+21** ↑

#### January 2026 vs. January 2025

- New Listings **-13.5%** ↓
- Pending Sales **-6.7%** ↓
- Closed Sales **-22.4%** ↓
- Average Sale Price **-8.3%** ↓
- Median Sale Price **+3.1%** ↑
- Inventory **+1.2** ↑
- Total Market Time **+13** ↑



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### Inventory in Months

	2024	2025	2026
January	3.2	2.8	4.0
February	2.3	3.1	
March	2.0	2.8	
April	2.4	2.9	
May	2.0	2.8	
June	2.6	3.0	
July	2.5	2.8	
August	2.5	2.8	
September	3.2	2.8	
October	3.0	2.5	
November	2.9	3.2	
December	2.5	2.7	



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