



SPORTS

ON THE PROWL

Tigers take first series over Grizzlies since 2012 **A9**

ALONG THE STREET

Business news from around Yamhill County **A2**

Yamhill County's News-Register

Monday April 20, 2026

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED SINCE 1866

McMinnville, Oregon 161st year, No. 46



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Julius Vetter, a 16-year-old from Neuenburg am Rhein, Germany, raises his hand to speak during a discussion in a McMinnville High School German language class. Vetter and his classmates, including Felicia Ortlieb, on his right, are visiting Mac High this month; local students will travel to Neuenburg in June.

HLC to vote on request for church demolition

Petition calls for reduced building plan, in line with previous 'theoretical' findings

By **SCOTT UNGER**
Of the News-Register

The city has received 14 letters of opposition regarding a plan to replace a 1941 church on Second Street with a new 72-unit affordable apartment complex.

McMinnville's Historic Landmarks Committee will decide Thursday whether to approve McMinnville Cooperative Ministries' applications to raze the United Methodist Church at 544 N.E. Second St. and replace it with an apartment building. HLC members will need to approve the demolition and a downtown design review separately for the new building. The Co-op also submitted a third application to add 935 square feet to an adjacent ministry center on the parcel.

Residents addressed several issues with the plan, including increased traffic, less parking, pedestrian safety and concerns over density and building height.

Others cited a negative change in the neighborhood's character.

"I grew up in McMinnville, and like many residents, I value the historic charm that defines our downtown," resident Jamie Medina said. "These buildings are part of what makes our community unique, and once they are gone, they cannot be replaced."

A petition signed by 36 residents requests that the apartment complex be reduced to a two-story building with 20 units.

"Please lower the number of planned apartments and adjust the height to be more compatible with the surrounding neighborhood before you continue with this project," the petition states.

See **CHURCH**, A3

GAPP forms bridge

German and American students learn about life and language in each other's countries

By **STARLA POINTER**
Of the News-Register

German exchange students who are spending two weeks at McMinnville High School have been impressed by the friendliness of who they've met in Oregon.

"All are really nice, really happy," said Julius Vetter, 16, one of 14 students visiting McMinnville through the German American Partnership Program (GAPP).

He and his classmates are from Neuen-

burg am Rhein, in southern Germany near the borders of Switzerland and France. They will host Mac High students on an exchange trip in June.

"People here can start small talk," Julius said. "German people are more reserved; not like an open book."

Felicia Ortlieb, 16, agreed. "People we've met are really kind," she said, explaining she applied for the GAPP program because she enjoys exploring new cultures and

making new friends — including Haley Anderson, with whom she is staying while in McMinnville.

Julius is staying with Ethan Walker, the son of Mac High's German teacher, Christine Walker.

Mac High has been part of the GAPP program since the 1990s, when Monica

See **BRIDGE**, A8

Feeding the children at Wascher Elementary

Duerfeldts honored with Lafayette community award

By **EMILY BONSAANT**
Of the News-Register

During an April 16 Wascher Elementary School assembly, the city of Lafayette recognized Tim and Emily Duerfeldt's dozen years of service running the Friday food bag program at the school by presenting them with the Linda Lyon Community Service Award.

Lyon was a longtime volunteer in Lafayette and the first recipient of the award in 2019. The award was created "in honor of

her many years of service to the community as the founder of the Lafayette Community Fund, for being the driving force behind the Community Center renovations and for several other projects that positively impacted the lives of Lafayette residents," according to the city's website

"This award is not one that every year we have to pick someone," Mayor Hilary Malcomson told the students. "We only give this award when somebody has shown longtime service," which the Duerfeldts accomplished.

See **DUERFELDTS**, A5



Tim and Emily Duerfeldt package food bags for low-income students at Wascher Elementary School, with help from Dana Libonti. The Duerfeldts have received the Linda Lyon Community Service Award from the city of Lafayette. Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Master Gardeners plant sale May 2-3

The News-Register staff

Yamhill County Master Gardeners will hold their annual plant sale Saturday and Sunday, May 2-3, at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds in McMinnville.

Vegetable starts, flowers, bushes and trees will be available during the sale, which will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday in the Leslie Lewis Pavillion.

Master Gardeners grow many of the plants from seed or cuttings. Others are purchased from nurseries.

The event will include free soil pH testing, a plant help clinic, plant information and specialty vendor booths. Assistance with loading plants will be available.

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who complete an intensive course offered by the Oregon State University Extension Service. In return for the training, they are required to spend hours volunteering at events such as the plant sale or information booths at the McMinnville Farmers Market.

Proceeds from the annual sale fund education for Yamhill County residents and scholarships for graduating high school seniors.

For more information, go to the Yamhill County Master Gardener Association website, vcmgga.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

MONDAY, APRIL 20

Grad auction: An online silent auction supporting a safe and sober graduation celebration will continue from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day through April 23, with bidding conducted online. For details, call 503-804-0954, email MHS.Graduation.night@gmail.com, or visit 32auctions.com/mhs2026gradnight

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

History presentation: "Secrets of the Past: The Hispanic Origins of Oregon" will be presented from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 21 at the Yamhill County History Museum, 11275 S.W. Durham Lane, McMinnville. Admission is free for members and \$5 for non-members. For details, call 503-472-2842, email office@yamhillcountyhistory.org, or visit yamhillcountyhistory.org/event/secrets-of-the-past-the-hispanic-origins-of-oregon/.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Parent support: A free six-week parent support series for families with teens led by licensed counselors will be held beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at McMinnville High School Library, 615 N.E. 15th St. Topics will include "Understanding Anxiety and Depression in Teens, Supporting Teens Through Distress and Life Transitions, Supporting Teens Identity, Self-Expression and Healthy Relationships and Talking to Teens About Safety, Emotions, and Social Support. The series continues each Wednesday through May 27. Sessions will be in English and Spanish. For details, and to register call 503-272-1754, email juliette@lifecounselingandtherapy.org, or visit lifecounselingandtherapy.org/group-counseling-sessions.

Candidate forum: A candidate forum for Yamhill County commissioner races will feature Position 1 candidates Kit Johnston and John Linder and Position 3 candidates Neyssa Hays, Jason Fields and David Wall discussing key local issues is set for 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Chehalem Cultural Center, 415 E. Sheridan St., Newberg. For details, call 503-472-6196, email chamberinfo@mcminnville.org, or visit <http://www.mcminnville.org>

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Bingo bash: A fundraiser for MHS Grad Night is set for 6:30 p.m., with doors opening at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 23, at McMinnville Grand Ballroom, 325 N.E. 3rd St., McMinnville. The event will feature bingo, desserts, and prizes. For details, call 505-263-5608, email mhs.graduation.night@gmail.com, or visit mhs-grizzlies-grad-night.square.site/bingo-bash

Hands on history: "Hands on History: Botanical Keepsakes with Amanda Bayha" will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at the Yamhill County History Museum, 11275 S.W. Durham Lane, McMinnville. Tickets are \$35. For details, 503-472-2842, office@yamhillcountyhistory.org, or visit yamhillcountyhistory.org/event/hands-on-history-botanical-keepsakes/.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Veggie workshop: The Yamhill County Master Gardeners Association will host the second of a two-part "Vigorous Veggies: Green Thumb Essentials" workshop series from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 25, at the McMinnville Community Garden. The session will cover watering, fertilizing, and weed and insect identification. Cost is \$15 for one class or \$25 for two. For details, contact vcmgga.org



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

McMinnville High School German language student Kaiden Percival explains the differences between American football and rugby to a group of visitors during a class discussion about culture, history, food and sports in Germany. Students from both countries are participating in the German American Partnership Program exchange.

Bridge

Continued from A1

Lautenbach was the German teacher. Christine Walker was among students who participated back then, and she is pleased to continue offering the experience to her students today.

Every other year, some of McMinnville's advanced German language students make the trip to Germany. In addition to studying in Neuenburg am Rhein, they travel around the country visiting cultural and historic sites. They also tour a former concentration camp over the border in France.

The visiting Germans also travel some in addition to taking classes at MHS, a much larger school than the one they attend at home. They visited the beach one day and Salem on another.

Accompanied by two teachers from their school, they also spent several days in New York City after arriving in the U.S. Next, they flew to Portland International Airport, where they were greeted by their Mac High counterparts.

In Neuenburg am Rhein, students are required to learn French and English, in addition to their native language. Less than a week after arriving in McMinnville, Felicia, Julius and others said they feel they've already improved their language skills by being surrounded by English speakers.

Herr Nils Bauer, one of the visiting teachers, said the exchange builds more than language.

"It helps them accept differences, which is very important in today's world," Bauer said. "It makes them more resilient; everything is different, which is tough, but they will grow a lot."

Local students who previously participated in GAPP say their German improved rapidly, as well. Cherry Scholer, for instance, said traveling to Germany with GAPP two years ago was "life changing."

"In my language skills and as a person, I grew so much," she said. She also made many new friends, including her exchange partner, with whom she keeps in touch.

Now a senior, Cherry was among Mac High students who listened to their GAPP counterparts present about German history, culture, traditions, sports and foods last week.

The visitors spoke and showed slides in German. Mac High students listened and read the titles easily, since they have been studying the language for multiple years.

Still, they had some questions, especially about the slides showing common German foods, or "essen."

MHS students had tried, or heard of, schnitzel, spätzel and sausages. But they wondered about something their new friends called "fleischkäse" — literally "meat cheese."

"Fleischkäse is made from pieces of meat and fat ground up and formed into a loaf," Julius explained. He compared the texture



Rachel Thompson/News-Register

Mac High German teacher Christine Walker describes Marionberry, apple and pumpkin pie to students visiting from Germany. Walker traveled to Germany when she was a Mac High student, and is pleased to offer a similar exchange to her students.

to hot dogs, and said it's one of the fattiest foods available. Germans are health-conscious and don't eat many fatty foods, he said.

From the reaction of the local students, it's unlikely they will be ordering fleishkäse when they arrive in Germany.

"Just say no to fleishkäse," quipped Gideon McKay from Mac High.

While the GAPP students introduced new foods and concepts to the McMinnville students, they also learned a few things. During the food discussion, Walker and her students realized their visitors weren't familiar with an American dessert staple: pie.

Walker listed, in German, some of the common pie fillings Americans love: kerbis, kirsch, apfel, schokolade, Marion-brombeere, erdbeer-rhabarber, pekan-nuss... — pumpkin, cherry, apple, chocolate, Marionberry, strawberry-rhubarb, pecan.

When she explained the latter, the visitors gasped. Pecan pie, made with sugar, corn syrup, butter and eggs as well as nuts, sounded over-the-top sweet to them.

But learning about new cultures is important, students said. So, it's likely some of them will try pecan pie before they fly home on April 25.

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