



# A MATTER OF MILES

Stopping By B1

- Downtown McMinnville parade honors veterans and first responders **A3**
- Savvy Senior: How to know when an aging parent has a gambling problem **B1**

# Yamhill Valley News-Register

Tuesday Nov. 12, 2019 \$1 KEEPING YOU CONNECTED SINCE 1866 McMinnville, Oregon 154th year, No. 91

## Neighbors turn out to oppose processing facility

By NICOLE MONTESANO  
Of the News-Register

Neighbors of a proposed marijuana processing facility filled the room at the site design review hearing on Thursday to testify about their opposition to the proposal.

Applicants OreTex Farms LLC, JCB Farms LLC, Christopher Bryan and 3 Peaks Property LLC, say they plan to grow and process marijuana and hemp on the 22-acre property on Jaquith Road outside Newberg. Bryan said he plans to grow marijuana indoors and hemp in the fields, and to process both in buildings on site.

Two county planning commissioners abstained from the hearing because they have ties to Bryan. One, Brett Veatch, did not attend. The other, Joe Strunk, announced that he would abstain, and left the room.

The commission left the record open for another 11 days, at the request of participants. Parties now have until 5 p.m. Nov. 18 to submit additional written testimony on the application to the county planning commission. They will then have until 5 p.m. Nov. 25 to submit written rebuttal to any of the testimony previously entered.

Testimony may be submitted by mail or in person, to 525 N.E. Fourth Street, McMinnville, OR 97128, or by email to [planning@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:planning@co.yamhill.or.us).

The applicant will be allowed until Dec. 2 to submit final written arguments, but no additional testimony will be taken.

The hearing will be resumed on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m., in room 32 of the Yamhill County Courthouse.

**Bryan told commissioners** he plans to begin processing in an existing building designed for that purpose, and in the future

See **FACILITY**, A6

## Sheriff's office to buy new guns

The News-Register staff

Yamhill County Commissioners on Thursday approved \$54,718.50 for new handguns for deputies, along with new holsters and sights, and initial rounds of ammunition.

Sheriff Tim Svenson told commissioners in a memo that the department is switching from the Glock .40 caliber handgun to the Glock 9mm handgun.

"This transition is expected to provide a more efficient and effective piece of equipment for staff and bring long-term savings to the office due to improvements in firearms technology," Svenson wrote in his memo.

He wrote that, to help cover the cost, the Sheriff's office conducted an auction of surplus firearms and items from its evidence lockers earlier this year, raising \$22,780.25. Once the new guns are purchased, he wrote, it will sell off more "existing stock," that he expects to raise another \$19,380.

The guns themselves are being purchased for \$35,218.50, while the new holsters and sights will be \$14,250, and new ammunition another \$5,250.

Because the purchase is being offset by the sales of surplus firearms and other items, Svenson said, he expects the new weapons to cost the department about \$12,600.

# A FRIEND IN HARD TIMES

Mac the dog comforts young victims at Juliette's House



Handler Julie Siepmann, an interviewer at the Juliette House's Yamhill County child abuse assessment center, loves working with Mac, the center's facility dog. Mac will be 2 later this month. Marcus Larson/News-Register

By STARLA POINTER  
Of the News-Register

Rosie met MacDougall the dog, Mac for short, the first time she went to Juliette's House, the Yamhill County child abuse assessment center.

Rosie, who's now 10, was nervous. She didn't want to talk about what had happened to her, especially not to people she didn't know.

But when she sat down on the couch in the interview room, Mac hopped up beside her, put his muzzle on her knee, and sighed contentedly.

"I like dogs. He's a sweet dog," she said.

Mac made her forget about being nervous. "He's gentle. He's kind, and so sweet," she said, stroking the Labrador retriever's head on another visit, this time just to see Mac and tell a reporter about him. "He's very soft, like a bunny's belly, especially right here on the ears."

"(Mac) gets along with everyone, but he loves children."

She added, "He makes me feel happy." Mac makes her aunt and father happy, as well. They are relieved when they see how much stress Mac takes away from her visits to Juliette's House. "With the dog, Rosie is very calm," her aunt said. "It helps her feel grounded and keeps her in the moment."

Her dad added, "He doesn't make any demands on her."

**Mac rarely barks.** He doesn't jump up on people or run around, at least while he's working. He's unfazed by energetic siblings, sirens or stuffed animals.

Mac just cuddles and naps and radiates love. Mac is a "facility dog" trained to "provide quiet companionship, support and comfort" to clients of Juliette's House, the Yamhill County Child Abuse Assessment Center.

He works with both children and adults, pressing against youngsters as they tell their stories.

The dog is without judgment. He listens to tales that are horrific, often involving abuse by people the children once trusted.

Sometimes Mac sleeps; sometimes he nuzzles a child's hand or bumps an arm as he or she

See **FRIEND**, A7

# Census reflects female face of farming

New numbers highlight leadership role of women in agriculture

By TOM HENDERSON  
Of the News-Register

Women represent nearly 43% of all farmers in Yamhill County.

They also represent approximately 40% of all "principal producers," reflecting the administrative roles they play on their farms.

According to statistics released by the Oregon Department of Agriculture Oct. 31, only Clackamas, Jackson, Lane and Marion counties have more women who are principal agricultural producers.

The statistics on women farmers are among the results tucked away in the 2017 agricultural census department officials released last week.

Helle Goddick Ruddenklau, the state president of Oregon Women for Agriculture, said previous census numbers may have been a bit misleading.

She and her husband Bruce operate a 900-acre farm south of Amity where they grow grass seed and a mixture of other crops, including winter wheat, sweet corn and seed crops like radish, clover and sugar beets.

See **FARMING**, A5



Helle Goddick Ruddenklau of Amity, the state president of Oregon Women for Agriculture, operates a 900-acre farm with her husband Bruce. That's something previous statistics failed to calculate — listing only husbands as "principal producers" when a married couple ran a farm. Marcus Larson/News-Register

## Y-C Tigers trounce Eagles

Sports A10



Offbeat Oregon: Skill, stout shipbuilding kept Peacock shipwreck fatality-free **B1**





# County work session spent on debate over format

By **NICOLE MONTESANO**  
*Of the News-Register*

A work session last Tuesday scheduled for the county commissioners to discuss ways to address homelessness turned instead into a debate about the definition of a work session.

Commissioner Casey Kulla said at the beginning he hoped to end the discussion with a directive to county staff “to work with other agencies to address homelessness.”

Several people attended the meeting, expecting to be part of the conversation. Some left halfway through when it became evident commissioners were not going to get to the topic of homelessness. Others waited through the nearly hour-long discussion about the meeting’s format

Kulla invited advocates who work with the homeless to attend the meeting. He became frustrated when his colleagues objected, because he believed that was the purpose of the meeting, and that Commissioner Mary Starrett had said she would invite agency representatives, but didn’t.

Starrett said she thought they were going to first discuss it among themselves to decide their approach before bringing in other parties.

Chair Rick Olson said he believed they needed to start by defining just what they meant by the term “work session.”

County Administrator Ken Huffer said he thought the board was going to discuss the issue among themselves initially, and then decide whether the county had sufficient staff resources to take any action.

Starrett also spent time explaining why she opposes having government involved in trying to end homelessness. She said the non work session was a prime example.

“I believe when you get government involved, it is demonstrably more expensive and less effective,” Starrett said.

Olson said he’d like to see a meeting involving all of the agencies working on homelessness, so that he could meet all of them and understand their roles, and have the participants identify where there are gaps or overlaps in services.

“I believe the county does have a role to play — I don’t want it to be in charge, but we need to set the direction,” he said.

It was not clear what action the board intends to take next.

# Fire destroys Lafayette home, trailers

*The News-Register staff*

**LAFAYETTE** — An early Monday morning fire destroyed a Lafayette home in addition to a motorhome, tent trailer and travel trailer that were all parked within close proximity of the residence.

The first crew arrived at 850 Fifth St. shortly before 3:30 a.m., according to Lafayette Fire Chief Terry Lucich. The motorhome was fully engulfed and flames quickly spread to the tent trailer, travel trailer and home.

An adult male was living on the property and he escaped the home unharmed.

There was a lot of combustible material in and around the home, making the firefighting effort a challenge, according to Lucich. It created a more labor-intensive situation for the responding personnel.

The fire went to two alarms with six pieces of equipment and 20 firefighters from Carlton, Dundee, Lafayette and McMinnville responding, in addition to the Yamhill County Fire Investigation Team.



**Rosie, who met Mac the facility dog when she came to Juliette’s House, drew this picture of Mac, his handler, Julie Siepmann, and herself being interviewed by a reporter. The dog helps her be calm, Rosie said.**

## Friend

*Continued from A1*

talks, reminding the youngster that he cares about them.

If a youngster is very upset, he may lift his head and make eye contact, as well. “I’ve seen him lick away tears,” said Kayla Noffsinger, a forensic interviewer with Juliette’s House.

**Mac was born** at the home of a Guide Dogs of Australia breeder who specializes in producing calm, gentle puppies. At 10 weeks, he flew to Maui to begin training with Assistance Dogs of Hawaii.

Later, he came to the mainland for more training on Bainbridge Island, Washington, the base for the Assistance Dogs Northwest program run by Mo Maurer. Technically, Mac belongs to Maurer’s program, but he was donated to Juliette’s House.

First, though, Mac was “puppy raised,” or socialized, by a family in Seattle that had a small boy.

“That has a lot to do with his love of children,” said Julie Siepmann, clinical services director and principal forensic interviewer at Juliette’s House. “He gets along with everyone, but he loves children.”

She recalled a meeting at which a Juliette’s House board member brought a baby. Mac lay perfectly still, allowing the child to grab his ears.

Children and adults love him back. They follow him on Instagram and Facebook, too — he can be found at “Super Mac”; he’s the dog wearing the cape.

**Faith, 16, is** definitely a fan.

She also met Mac when she came to tell her story to interviewers at Juliette’s House.

When she returned to talk to a reporter, Mac greeted her in the lobby. When Faith sat, he put his big blond head in her lap and closed his eyes.

“Mac is super sweet, really cuddly,” she said.

She said she was excited when she first heard that Juliette’s House had a facility dog trained to comfort to both youngsters and adults.

And Mac really was “super helpful” and “a good distraction.”

“I could focus on him,” she recalled. “It was easier than answering hard questions” directly to people.

Her father said Faith was “incredibly nervous” about coming to Juliette’s House for the first time. But once she met Mac, she calmed down.

“He was instantly like ‘I love you,’ and that helped so much,” Dad said.

He was familiar with service dogs who work with veterans and other individuals. Knowing a facility dog was available to help anyone in need at Juliette’s House “was huge for me,” he said.

Watching his daughter rub Mac’s ears, completely relaxed, he said the dog was a great comfort to him and her mother, as well.

And Faith added, “it’s nice having something soft and warm here with me.”

**Mac’s presence** at Juliette’s House is due, in part, to Siepmann’s encounter with Sarah Grabner, who handles Marybeth, the Yamhill County Courthouse canine. Marybeth provides comfort to children and other victims who are going through the court system.

Grabner sang the praises of having a facility dog, and asked why Juliette’s House didn’t have one of its own. Some assessment facilities already did.

Siepmann looked into it. She and her colleagues liked the Assistant Dog Northwest program, which was very thorough in vetting Juliette’s House — its staff even did a walk-through of Mac’s future living accommodations.

Siepmann was paired with Mac when she went to Washington for a 40-hour course to become certified as a facility dog handler. The partners practiced 90 commands together.

Mac now lives with Siepmann and her pets, including a terrier-mix named Charlie, two cats and a horse.

He spends alternate days at work with Noffsinger, who also became a trained handler. She also has a dog of her own, Hemingway, a peekapom.

“Hemingway was skeptical at first, but now they’re buddies,” Noffsinger said.

The women share responsibilities for feeding and walking Mac, but they say that is a pleasure, not a chore. Having him at Juliette’s House “makes our work so much better,” Noffsinger said.

She explained how the dog provides comfort to them, as well, both directly and indirectly, since they are happy to know interacting with Mac eases things for their young clients.

Other staff members also “gravitate toward him” during the day, she said. And when Mac attends the biweekly multi-agency meetings about fighting child abuse, police officers, assistant district attorneys and others “get that dog support.”

“The benefits are undoubtable,” Siepmann said, citing research that shows “being in a room with a sleeping dog lowers the blood pressure.”

Both women also continue with Mac’s training to keep his skills fresh.

Like service dogs, he can turn lights on and off, pick up dropped items and put them away in cupboards. Although that’s not his duty at Juliette’s House, he sometimes demonstrates those skills for the pleasure of youngsters.

“We’ll say, ‘Mac, where’s the bunny?’” and he’ll retrieve a stuffed animal, she said. “It’s another nice way to connect with kids.”

**A sign** in the Juliette’s House lobby makes visitors aware that Mac is on duty — just in case people are allergic or afraid of big dogs. Interviewers introduce themselves to youngsters and

their families first, waiting a bit before telling kids about the dog.

When they do, “their faces usually light up,” Siepmann said.

When a child enters the interview room, Siepmann or Noffsinger direct them to the right-hand end of the a couch. Mac hops up on the youngster’s left side and settles down with his body pressed gently against theirs, his head on their leg or under their arm.

“Every new person is his BFF,” Siepmann said.

She said Mac immediately relaxes with children, even if they are wiggly.

“He may sleep. Sometimes he snores,” she said.

Yet he pays attention, too, lifting his head and gently bumping them if he senses the child needs comfort.

“He is unflappable,” she said, crediting his demeanor to “80 percent breeding and 20 percent training.”

Mac will celebrate his second birthday Nov. 29.

He’s not asking for gifts. He has everything a canine could want: soft blankets, steady meals, plenty of friends and the most rewarding job a dog could ask for.

He knows he makes a difference, and that causes his tail to wag.

*Note: The names of the children in this story have been changed.*

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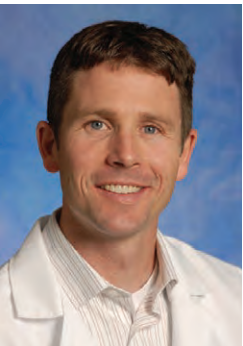
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