



VINTAGE N-R

Chronicling life in Yamhill County through the generations with the newspaper photo archives **A7**

Yamhill County's News-Register

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KEEPING YOU CONNECTED SINCE 1866

McMinnville, Oregon 157th year, No. 55

Judge throws out gun 'sanctuary' ordinance

By NICOLE MONTESANO
Of the News-Register

Presiding Judge Ladd Wiles made short work of the county's arguments defending its gun "sanctuary" ordinance on Friday, stating the ordinance clearly violates multiple state laws.

"The ordinance is declared void in its entirety," Wiles told county attorneys and a courtroom filled with observers, including County Commissioner Lindsay Berschauer.

"This ordinance strikes me as a violation of the Oregon Constitution."

— Yamhill County Presiding Judge Ladd Wiles

Protesters demonstrating outside broke into cheers when they heard the verdict from observers who had been inside. Among them was Cathy Navarro, who said she is opposed to the county's ordinance.

"We want common sense gun laws," she said.

Wiles was presiding over a hearing in a lawsuit brought by the state against the county, alleging the county board of commissioners

was overstepping its role and breaking state laws. The state had asked the judge to rule in its favor summarily, without taking the issue to trial, while the county asked to have the lawsuit thrown out.

Summary judgments, either to dismiss a lawsuit or to find in favor of the plaintiffs, are issued when a judge determines there is no gen-

See **ORDINANCE, A3**

'It will take all of us'

Rep. Bonamici discusses housing issues with local leaders, hears about efforts to help homeless

By STARLA POINTER
Of the News-Register

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Oregon, sat down Thursday to talk with people who work with local affordable housing and homeless programs during a visit to McMinnville.

She said she wanted to hear, among other things, "how we can partner at the federal level with Yamhill County."

Partnerships are key to reducing and resolving such complex issues, Bonamici said. The effort needs public, private, city, county, state and federal resources, she said.

"It will take all of us working together," she said — a worthwhile effort, because "creating stability for people is so important."

Bonamici, who has visited and spoken in Yamhill County numerous times since she was first elected in 2012, also toured A Family Place Relief Nursery. She said she is advocating for the Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries to receive money to upgrade facilities as part of the next round of federal Community Project Funding.

In addition, the representative stopped at McMinnville's Project Turnkey, where the Yamhill Community Action Program offers transitional housing and services to unhoused residents.

Homelessness is the only criteria for accessing Turnkey services, coordinator Sean Cavaghan said. Most of the Turnkey clients end up needing other services, including mental health support and health care; he said there's often a wait for services, such as a two- to three-week lag between detox and admission to a rehabilitation program, for instance.

Turnkey grew out of a local motel room program offered during the pandemic, and now has expanded with more rooms, a permanent location and ser-

See **HOUSING, A5**



Bonamici



Above: McMinnville Soroptimist members Hermie Kann, left, and Doreen Lybeck Pittman welcome youngsters to the nonprofit's rock-painting booth at Turkey Rama community fair. Below: Landen Dean receives a cool "tattoo" from Facepainting by Dominique of Forest Grove. Jake Volz/Eagle Eye Droneography

WINGING IT

Merchants and nonprofits put their best feathers forward for revised Turkey Rama

By STARLA POINTER
Of the News-Register

Children painted rocks and made jewelry at the Soroptimist booth, bounced in an inflatable castle set up by Northwest Christian Church and tossed bean bags beside the Habitat for Humanity stand at McMinnville's Community Fair on Saturday.

The fair, featuring local nonprofit organizations, was part of Turkey Rama, McMinnville's annual summer festival.

Many people said they were disappointed that Turkey Rama didn't include a carnival this year, which the McMinnville Area Chamber of

Commerce said was due to labor shortages. Chamber officials and those from the McMinnville Downtown Association, which cosponsors Turkey Rama, also said events were scaled back because fewer volunteers were available.

But many also said they enjoyed the new Community Fair that filled the Oregon Mutual Insurance parking lot instead.

During the Community Fair, people lined up to fill out raffle tickets or spin wheels in hopes of winning prizes. Organizations such as Juliette's House, Lutheran Family

See **RAMA, A2**



Rusty Rae/News-Register

Amber Blankenship holds Pepper and Curry, two of the more than 100 kittens she has cared for as a volunteer with Homeward Bound Pets.

STOPPING BY

Care for kittens

For Amber Blankenship, fostering young felines brings joy and healing

By STARLA POINTER
Of the News-Register

Kittens cannot solve inflation, lower gas prices or heal strife within or among nations.

But boy, can kittens spread happiness and make people's lives better.

"Kittens are therapeutic," said Amber Blankenship, a foster care provider for kittens who volunteers for Homeward Bound Pets and Hazel's House.

She takes in nursing mother

cats and their kittens, along with orphans, and raises the little ones until they are old enough for adoption.

"It's really hard to have a bad day when you see babies that depend on you and love you," she said.

This spring and summer, Blankenship and her two pet cats have had a houseful of kittens. Two mothers and their litters moved in to their home in May. By mid-June, eight kittens were tumbling around the house, exploring everything that moved and climbing everything that didn't.

They've since reached the critical

See **CARE, A6**

Fire truck parade to honor late chief

The News-Register staff

Fire equipment will roll down Third Street Wednesday afternoon in honor of the late Jerry Smith, longtime McMinnville fire chief, and a new scholarship will be dedicated to his memory.

Current and former volunteer firefighters will gather at Third and Galloway streets. About 3:30 p.m., they will follow fire trucks from eight Yamhill County cities west on Third Street, then south on Cowls and west to the McMinnville fire station.

A ceremony in Smith's honor will follow the parade, with dedication of a plaque, refreshments and information about the new scholarship.

An anonymous donor made the scholarship possible. It will

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INSIDE
Yamhill Derby Days **A4**

