

NEWSBERG



Newberg-Dundee Chief of Police Jeff Kosmicki loads up with more bags filled with food and goodies for local seniors during It's Party Time Catering's Senior Giveaway on Feb. 12, 2026. (Branden Andersen / Newsberg)

Catering Company, Police Deliver Valentine's Meals to Seniors

Community effort led by It's Party Time Catering continues tradition started during the pandemic to support isolated older residents

By Branden Andersen
Founding Editor

NEWBERG, Ore. — A generally quiet building on the west side of downtown Newberg was bustling with energy as the team from It's Party Time Catering prepared more than 500 bags of food and valentines for its annual senior giveaway.

"It's all hands on deck," said It's Party Time Catering and It's BBQ Time PDX owner Viki Dyrdaahl. "My daughters are out here, my staff is here, my mom is giving out snacks. It's a very busy day."

On Feb. 12, the catering team packaged 545 bags for Newberg-Dundee seniors as a way to support them during Valentine's Day. They partner with the Newberg-Dundee Police Department to distribute the bags from Friendsview to Springbrook and private residences around town, reminding seniors that the community cares about them.

Each bag includes a light lunch, a box of candy, a bottle of sparkling apple cider, and Valentine's Day cards made by local churches and elementary school-aged students. Recipients are limited to seniors living in the Newberg-Dundee area who are age 60 or older and have no income.

"The valentines are so cute, and it seems like people especially love the ones from the little kids," Dyrdaahl said. "Even the ones you can't quite read all the words on."

The senior giveaway began during the COVID-19 pandemic, when It's Party Time Catering owner Viki Dyrdaahl said her business slowed to a crawl and she was looking for ways to support her community.

Dyrdaahl said she was delivering groceries to make ends meet and quickly saw that older residents in Newberg were especially struggling with social isolation. She saw an opportunity to help and created a senior-focused giveaway.

She posted on Facebook asking who might need extra support, and said about

125 people participated in the early years. That number has since grown to 545 deliveries this year.

"We had no idea what we were signing up for when we started," Dyrdaahl said. "It's so heartwarming to know we're making a difference in their lives, but also staggering to see how many people can use this help."

She knew she would need some help to deliver and needed a nonprofit organization to assist. In 2020, late city councilor Denise Bacon connected her with Newberg-Dundee Police Department chief Brian Casey, who helped deliver the meals, starting an annual tradition.

On Feb. 10, department vehicles rolled out with trunks filled with bright red bags of food and bottles of sparkling cider, along with a list of names and addresses.

At one point, the event expanded to four holidays throughout the year — Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's — targeting times when seniors may be missing family and friends.

However, multiple delivery days became too difficult logistically for the catering company and its partners, so Dyrdaahl scaled the effort back to Valentine's Day beginning in 2025. She said Valentine's Day was chosen because it can be an especially lonely holiday for some seniors.

"I heard from a person who lost her husband of 65 years last year," Dyrdaahl said. "Valentine's can be really tough for elderly people who have lost their spouse. If I can make a difference and help them feel cared for, that makes all this chaos worth it."

Recipients sign up for themselves or are nominated by friends and family through an online form that Dyrdaahl and her daughters post on Facebook in February.



▶ Read the rest of the story online

Newberg-Dundee School Board Refers Five-Year Levy to May Ballot

District says \$4.5 million gap could mean staff cuts, fewer school days without new local funding

By Branden Andersen
Founding Editor

NEWBERG, Ore. — Voters in the Newberg-Dundee School District will decide May 19 whether to approve a five-year local option levy that district leaders say is needed to address a projected \$4.5 million funding gap for the 2026-27 school year.

The school board voted unanimously, 7-0, on Feb. 10 to refer Measure 2026-11, titled "5-Year Levy to Preserve Neighborhood Schools, Teachers, Class Sizes," to the ballot. If approved, the levy would raise \$1.20 per \$1,000 of assessed property value annually for five years, beginning in the 2026-27 school year, according to the district.

Currently, district taxpayers pay \$1.28 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which includes the capital improvement bond that enabled construction of Dundee Elementary School and improvements at all schools, according to the district. Approval of the levy would increase the total rate to \$2.48 per \$1,000, with the additional \$1.20 expiring after five years. The levy is estimated to generate \$32.5 million over five years.

In a Feb. 13 email to parents, Superintendent Dave Parker said the district is facing "a significant funding gap of approximately \$4.5 million for the 2026-27 school year," citing rising costs, flat state support, and efforts to restore a full academic calendar.



▶ Read the full story at newsberg.org

LOCAL JOBS/VOLUNTEER

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

Newsberg Media, Volunteer
Newsberg is seeking a few volunteers to deliver the physical print newspapers around town each week. Cover a route or three as available.

DOWNTOWN EVENTS VOLUNTEER

Newberg Downtown Coalition, Volunteer
The Newberg Downtown Coalition is seeking community-minded volunteers to support events, beautification efforts, and other activities that help keep downtown Newberg vibrant, welcoming, and active.

CERAMIC STUDIO TECHNICIAN

Chehalem Cultural Center, Part-Time
The Chehalem Ceramic Studio Technician position is intended to provide support to our studio by assisting in kiln firings and studio maintenance for 5-7 hours a week. Part-time, non-exempt, \$16-17.00/hr,



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NEWBERG NOTICES

Newberg Old Fashioned Festival Opens Applications For 2026 Royal Court

NEWBERG, Ore. — Applications are now open for the 2026 Newberg Old Fashioned Festival Royal Court, offering local students ages 16 to 18 an opportunity to represent the community and develop leadership skills.

The Royal Court program invites female students to serve as ambassadors for Newberg, participating in community events and representing the city throughout the year. Court coordinator Maria Kerr said the program helps students build confidence, foster connections, and make a positive impact locally.

Applications are available at local high schools and online. Interested students can access the application and find additional information at the NOFF Royal Court website or through their school administration.

The application deadline is March 6.


Benjamin Road Reopening In March, Barring Additional Setbacks

NEWBERG, Ore. — After 10 months, contractors are preparing to open the East Jory Street-to-Benjamin Road connection in early March, barring additional setbacks.

According to City of Newberg Engineering Technician Mike

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Grimes, the contractor experienced delays due to supply chain challenges and subcontractor scheduling.

The OR 99W intersection to Benjamin Road was closed to through traffic on May 5, 2025, to allow for sewer line installation for the new Crestview Greens neighborhood development. Contractors initially said they would reopen the road after installation was complete, but later planned to fully close the road in July.

The Allison Named No. 1 Hotel And Resort In Oregon By U.S. News & World Report

NEWBERG, Ore. — For the third consecutive year, The Allison Inn & Spa has been named the No. 1 Best Hotel in Oregon by U.S. News & World Report, according to a Feb. 11 announcement from the resort.

The Newberg luxury hotel and spa was also ranked the No. 1 Best

Resort in Oregon in the publication's 2026 rankings. Nationally, The Allison placed No. 19 among Best Hotels in the United States and No. 10 among Best Resorts.

ODOT Restarts Curb Ramp Work In Newberg

NEWBERG, Ore. — The Oregon Department of Transportation, or ODOT, announced plans to restart curb ramp work in Newberg this week.

The work may include minor fixes, such as correcting slopes, or major updates, such as complete reconstruction. In December, ODOT began curb ramp work in Newberg, largely downtown along First Street and Hancock Street. Construction is expected to continue into 2027.

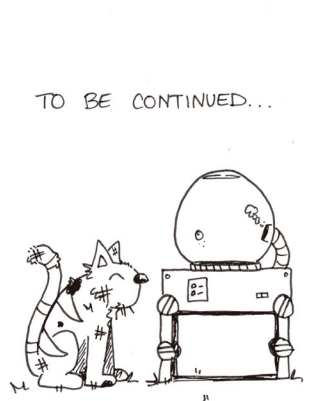
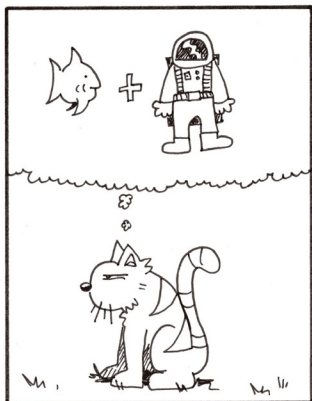


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Melon Collie Ep. 75

Created by Joseph Hampton

MELON COLLIE BY JOSEPH



See more of the Newsberg Funnies at Newsberg.org

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 17

7 p.m. — Finish the Lyrics Trivia *Stumptown Taps, 2401 E Portland Rd, Suite A6*

FEBRUARY 18

10 a.m. — Discover Healthcare: An On-Ramp to PCC *PCC Newberg Center, 135 Werth Blvd*

4 p.m. — Fireside Chat with Ponzi Vineyards *The Allison Inn & Spa, 2525 Allison Lane*

FEBRUARY 19

10 a.m. — Station 21 Tour *TVF&R Station 21, 3100 Middlebrook Drive*

FEBRUARY 20

4 p.m. — Noir Nights: Wine and Live music Evenings at Balsall Creek *Balsall Creek, 18430 NE Calkins Ln*

6 p.m. — Dundee Hills Chardonnay Dinner at Tina's *Tina's, 760 Oregon Highway 99W, Dundee*

7:30 p.m. — Chehalem Symphony Pops Concert *GFU Bauman Auditorium, 1009 E North Street*

FEBRUARY 21

11 a.m. — International Syrah Day Celebration at Holloran *Holloran Wines, 8795 NE Worden Hill Road, Dundee*

11 a.m. — Pink Party Extravaganza: Rosé Release *Stoller Experience Center, 16161 NE McDougall Rd, Dayton*

1 p.m. — 2026 Oregon Chardonnay Celebration *The Allison Inn & Spa, 2525 Allison Lane*

4 p.m. — The Critter Club Party *Art Elements Gallery, 604 E 1st Street*

FEBRUARY 22

11 a.m. — Terrarium Workshop *Durant at Red Ridge Farms, 5510 NE Breyman Orchards Rd*

12 p.m. — Good Company, Great Cheese Pairings *Anacreon Winery, 17580 NE Dopp Rd*

FEBRUARY 23

4 p.m. — Dine Out for Schools at J's Restaurant & Lounge *J's Restaurant & Lounge, 2017 Portland Rd*

Scan me on your phone to see all local events this week

