

NEWSBERG



Current and former firefighters gather at Newberg's Station 20 for one last coffee break before the building is demolished and rebuilt. (Branden Andersen / Newsberg)

The Last Coffee Break at Station 20

Retired and current firefighters gather around the break table one last time before the building is torn down and rebuilt.

By Branden Andersen
Founding Editor

NEWBERG, Ore. — For more than a century, the rhythm of firefighting in Newberg has included two constants: answering calls and drinking coffee.

The coffee came at 10 a.m. and again at 3 p.m., marked so faithfully that someone once notched the station wall clock to remember the hours. It was about both caffeine and ritual. One former firefighter remembers it as “firehouse coffee,” which “poured like mud.”

“If you had a cup of that, you weren’t sleeping the rest of the night,” said retired volunteer firefighter Bob Harding.

But beyond the coffee cups, it was a time for firefighters to connect. They talk-

ed about the day, discussed the news, and traded light-hearted jabs — often revisiting the time someone made a mistake.

It became such a part of their social fabric that many retired firefighters continued the tradition weekly after hanging up their turnout gear.

On Wednesday, Feb. 18, that tradition returned home one last time.

A group of retired and current firefighters gathered around a large table inside Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue’s Station 20 on Second Street, sharing stories and gentle ribbing over cups of strong coffee. It marked their final coffee break at the station before the building is scheduled for demolition and rebuilding as part of a long-planned modernization.

“In TVF&R, Newberg is the longest-standing city fire department in our history,” said TVF&R District Chief Alex Haven. “I couldn’t think of a better way to honor it than to have you here for coffee.”

Haven started as a volunteer with the Newberg Fire Department in 2000 and long called Station 20 home. He said the connection between generations is unique and helps recruit and retain younger firefighters who may feel intimidated or overwhelmed.

“I think this is a great testament to how much history there is in the Newberg Fire Department,” he said. “I can’t think of another fire department where there is this much engagement over multiple generations.”

Tim Craig, a former Newberg firefighter now serving as deputy chief of the Sisters Fire Department, traveled from Sisters that morning to enjoy one last cup of coffee at Station 20.



Tim Craig embraces John Tish during the last coffee break at Station 20 on Feb. 18. (Branden Andersen / Newsberg)

Oregon’s Housing Crisis Burdens Nearly Half of the State’s Renters

People paying more than 30% of their income in rent face a higher risk of premature death.

By Khushboo Rathore
Oregon Journalism Project

SALEM, Ore. — Gov. Tina Kotek and state lawmakers have tried to solve Oregon’s affordable housing crisis with hundreds of millions of dollars in funding and new programs, including a bill moving through the Legislature that would expand mobile home communities for older residents.

“Too many older Oregonians are one emergency away from losing their housing,” Kotek told lawmakers earlier this month.

In all, half of Oregon’s 620,000 renting households are “rent burdened,” meaning tenants pay more than 30% of their pretax income for housing. Far worse, 1 in 4 rental households spend 50% of their income on housing, according to a 2021 report by the Oregon Law Center.

People who are rent burdened not only struggle to make ends meet, but they suffer in other ways, including higher rates of premature death, according to a report by Princeton University’s Eviction Lab.

“As rents rise, families cut back on other spending, including on essentials for health and well-being,” the researchers wrote.

Oregon’s affordable housing crisis, caused by renters’ income not keeping up with rising housing costs, plays out differently across the state.



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LOCAL JOBS/VOLUNTEER

IN-HOME CAREGIVER

Visiting Angels Full-Time
Come join our amazing team at Visiting Angels. We are looking for experienced Caregivers with a heart for seniors to provide in-home care in Yamhill, Clackamas, Washington and Marion Counties. \$20.50 - 21.50 per hour.

VOLUNTEER AT THE NEWBERG RESTORE

Newberg Habitat for Humanity, Volunteer
ReStore volunteers assist with sorting donations, helping customers, and organizing merchandise

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

Police Investigate Overnight Thefts from Mailboxes, Vehicles in Newberg

NEWBERG, Ore. — The Newberg-Dundee Police Department is investigating multiple overnight thefts involving mailboxes and vehicles in several south Newberg neighborhoods.

Police said areas along South Ninth Street, South Dayton Avenue, and South Pennington Drive have been identified as impacted.

Officers have recovered mail belonging to several residences, as well as key lock boxes believed to have been taken from the front doors of homes.

Police are asking residents who believe they may be victims of vehicle break-ins, mail theft, or missing lock boxes to contact Newberg-Dundee Dispatch at the nonemergency number, 503-538-8321.


Officials said each affected resident should file an individual report, even if similar activity has already been reported by neighbors, to help officers document the full scope of the incident.


Police also said comments or messages on social media do not constitute an official report, and residents must contact dispatch by phone to ensure the incident is documented and investigated.

NPAC Launches Survey to Guide Public Art Planning

JOHN KNOWS NEWBERG

Buy, Sell & Invest





NEWBERG, Ore. — The Newberg Public Art Council has launched a community survey to gather public input as part of its strategic planning process.

The survey asks residents to share their perspectives on public art in Newberg and their awareness of the commission's work. Officials said the feedback will help guide priorities and future projects.

The commission began working together formally three years ago and is using the survey to reassess its direction and identify community priorities.

The survey does not have a firm deadline, though organizers hope to conclude the process by mid-March, depending on participation levels. It is available online.

The commission is also planning additional public art efforts. A public meeting for the Camellia Trail project is scheduled from 5 to 6 p.m. on March 18 in the Chehalem Cultural Center lobby. The meeting is required as part of the project process and is open to the public.

Newberg Christian Preschool transitions to Northwest Early Learning Academy

NEWBERG, Ore. — Northwest Christian Church announced the transition of its longtime Newberg Christian Preschool into Northwest Early Learning Academy.

Church officials said the preschool has served families in Newberg for more than 30 years and will continue operating with the same focus on preschool education in a faith-centered environment.

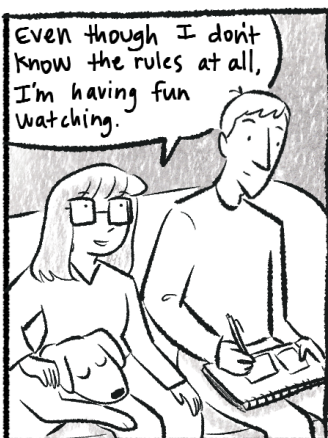
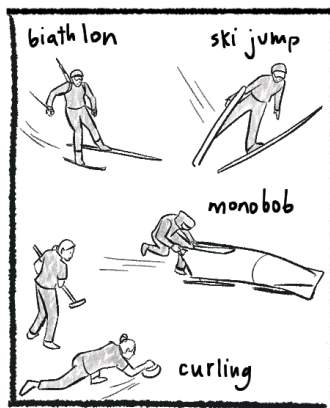
The new academy will expand its offerings to include childcare services, additional class options, and extended hours to better serve local families.



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Comic Diaries Ep. 46

Created by Brittany Long Olsen



BLO'26

See more of the Newsberg Funnies at Newsberg.org

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 24

7 p.m. — Language Exchange
Newberg Public Library, 503 E Hancock Street

FEBRUARY 25

7 p.m. — What to do in an ICE storm: Competing Visions for Local Response ICE
GFU Canyon Commons, 1400 E North Street

FEBRUARY 26

6 p.m. — Homebuying 101 Class
The Joyful Roberts Group, 700 Deborah Road, Suite 200

6 p.m. — Oregon Truffle Festival Grand Finale Dinner
LucidWild Estate, 9380 NE Worden Hill Road, Dundee

7:30 p.m. — Melancholy Play: A Contemporary Farce
Chehalem Cultural Center - Black Box Theater, 415 E Sheridan St

FEBRUARY 27

7 p.m. — Playing at the Cameo: GOAT
Cameo Theater, 304 E 1st Street

7 p.m. — Wood Copper & Tears Pop-up Show & Soft Release
Minthorn Mercantile, 518 E 1st Street

7:30 p.m. — Melancholy Play: A Contemporary Farce
Chehalem Cultural Center - Black Box Theater, 415 E Sheridan St

FEBRUARY 28

11 a.m. — Truffle Brunch @ REX HILL
REX HILL, 30835 North Highway 99W

1 p.m. — Stitch and Sip: A Community Craft Circle
GFU Bruin Den Lobby, 1400 E North Street

4 p.m. — Soup Night
Press & Barrel Wine Collective, 2761 E 9th Street

5 p.m. — 2026 Father Daughter Dance
Chehalem Armory, 620 N Morton St.



Scan to see the full event calendar at Newsberg.org