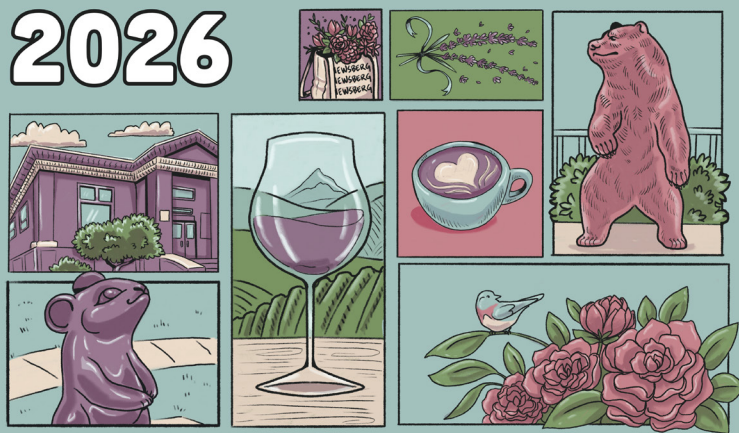


NEWSBERG

YOUR FAVORITES 2026



2026 Newberg's Favorites Winners

You all nominated. You all voted. And now, the results are in! See who took the top prize from the 2026 Newberg's Favorites competition.

By Branden Andersen
Founding Editor

NEWBERG, Ore. — More than 1,000 people had opinions about where to eat a taco, where to take a stroll, and where to get that last second gift in Newberg (and this year, Dundee). And boy do you all have some strong feelings.

A total of 1,084 people cast votes across 51 categories — from Best Burger Spot to Best Place to Watch a Sunset — contributing 32,177 individual votes in all. The average voter filled out nearly 30 of the 51 categories. And 153 people — about 14% of the total — answered every single one.

Just for reference, last year this competition saw 8,000 votes total. We saw a 400% increase in participation from one year to the next.

I want to quickly thanks three incredible local businesses who sponsored categories this year: Old Town Bar & Grill, Bronco Kelly's, and Cornered Escape Rooms. These sponsorships mean I get to run this contest each year and surface all of our great local businesses, places, and organizations.

The Winningest Favorite

I wanted to try something new this year and figure out the top favorite of Newberg's Favorites. Using a points system — three points for first place, two for second, one for third — one business pulled away from the field entirely.

Dos Mundos, the food cart operating out of Gills Point S Tire in Newberg, finished in the top three in five separate categories: Food Cart (first), Tacos (first), Mexican Food Spot (first), Lunch Spot (second), and Affordable Eats (second). That's 13 points total — more than any other business in the competition.

For context: the second-place finishers, JEM 100 and Chapters Books & Coffee, each finished with 11 points. Both are beloved fixtures in their own right.

The Blowouts

Some categories weren't contests.

The 99W Drive-In Theater won the Uniquely Newberg Experience category by 460 votes over second-place finisher Newberg Old Fashioned Festival. With 570 votes total, the Drive-In collected more than five times the votes of the runner-up. It's the single most dominant first-place finish in the entire competition, and honestly, it makes a lot of sense as there isn't another drive-in theater in this corner of Oregon.

Champoeg State Park ran away with Spot for a Picnic in similar fashion — 470 votes, a gap of 393 over second-place Rogers Landing. Champoeg is technically a state park outside Newberg's city limits, but Newberg people clearly consider it their own. I know I take my family there every few weeks.

JEM 100 won the Burger Spot category by 270 votes. Rosmarino Osteria Italiana swept both Fine Dining and Date Night Spot. Bald Peak dominated Place to Watch a Sunset (again, a little out there but many Newbergians live up the hill). Pulp & Circumstance took Place to Grab a Gift with a 214-vote cushion.

The Photo Finish

Then there were the categories that gave us a recount, including one category that was victorious by — I'm not kidding — ONE VOTE.

Barley & Vine edged Old Town Bar & Grill in Newberg's Favorite Bar category by one vote, 174 to 173, winning the category for the second consecutive year. I think this will be an increasingly competitive category each year.

Read the full recap and see all the winners at newsberg.org

Yamhill County Transit Cutting Dial- a-Ride, Adjusting Routes Countywide Starting May 11

Agency cites nearly \$700,000 budget gap as it eliminates general-public demand-response service and restructures commuter schedules

By Branden Andersen
Founding Editor

MCMINNVILLE, Ore. — Yamhill County Transit is overhauling its bus network beginning Monday, May 11, eliminating general-public Dial-a-Ride service in McMinnville entirely and sharply curtailing the on-demand service in Newberg, while also restructuring schedules on all four of its intercity commuter routes.

In late April, YCT said they received messages from the community asking whether the agency was closing. Rumors circulated online and they received messages inquiring to the future of the public transportation agency, they said.

"Modifying services and routes is a natural part of providing transportation services," the agency posted on its Facebook page. "We are working diligently to right-size our service in an increasingly difficult financial environment. Our goal is always to make the service we provide more efficient for our riders."

The changes, which the agency describes as the first of two planned rounds of adjustments, are driven by a nearly \$700,000 annual budget shortfall, according to YCT's website.



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Home Energy Spotlight: How Oregonians Can Breathe Easier This Allergy Season

Here are five simple, no- or low-cost ways to improve the air inside your home while keeping your 2026 energy budget intact.

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Castaneda Breaks Oregon State 400-Meter Record

NHS senior sets new Oregon mark at 52.17 seconds, ranks seventh nationally

By Branden Andersen
Founding Editor

BEND, Ore. — In an interview on Dec. 23, 2025, Newberg High School senior Sophia Castaneda was celebrating an official commitment to the University of Michigan when she was asked about her goals for the upcoming season.

“I’m looking forward to a big personal-record race time, and I really want to chase down the state record,” she said in the December story.

During the Secure Storage Summit Invitational on May 2, she did just that.

Castaneda is now Oregon’s record holder in the 400-meter dash, clocking 52.17 seconds. The previous record — 52.83 seconds — was set by Josie Donelson of Lake Oswego High School in 2024.

“I remember watching [Donelson] break the record when I was an underclassman and thought to myself that I’d like to break a record one day,” Castaneda said. “I was about a second behind her, so I felt like I could do it.”

The time also ranks her seventh among women’s 400-meter sprinters nationally this year.

“It’s a super special feeling,” she

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said. “I know a few of the girls that are ahead of me, and I’m racing against a few of them [at the Brooks PR Invitational in June].”

Newberg Track and Field coach Brandon Ramey said Castaneda is a special talent not only for her natural gifts but also her work ethic — and that’s what makes her a state record holder.

“I think what a common misconception is to just assume she is just naturally fast and doesn’t have to work to get where she is,” Ramey said. “It’s completely the opposite. Sophia is the hardest-working, most disciplined athlete I’ve ever coached. Combine that with a humility that is sometimes lost with great athletes, and you get Soph.”

Castaneda is quick to return the praise. The two have been working together since her freshman year, with Ramey coaching her in both track and field and weight training.

“He’s been such a huge help and always been with me for the past four years,” she said. “He’s my

weights coach, he’s my running coach — he’s my GOAT (an acronym for Greatest of All Time).”

She will have more opportunities to chase a sub-52-second time in the coming weeks. Newberg High School’s track and field schedule includes three meets before the OSAA State Track and Field Championships, set for May 28–30 in Eugene at Hayward Field. Nike Outdoor Nationals follows June 18–22 at the same venue.

After accomplishing her big milestone for the season with a handful of races left in her high school career, she said she’s focused on one theme.

“My dad and I were just talking about this and I think I really just want to go out there and have fun,” she said. “But, of course, I’m going to try and PR again. Let’s see how low I can go.”



▶ Read the rest of the story at newsberg.org

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY 5

6 p.m. — May 5th Tuesday VFW Chicken BBQ Dinner
VFW at Newberg Friends Center
200 S. College St

MAY 6

5:30 p.m. — Strategies to Prevent Financial Fraud
First Federal - Newberg Community Room, 121 N Edwards Street

MAY 7

5 p.m. — PGE Wildfire Ready Open House
Public Safety Office, 401 E 3rd St

MAY 8

5 p.m. — PGE Wildfire Ready Open House
Public Safety Office, 401 E 3rd St

6:30 p.m. — An Immersive Food & Film Experience
Domaine Lumineux, 115 North Washington Street

7 p.m. — Theater: Ordinary Days
Chehalem Cultural Center, 415 E Sheridan St

MAY 9

10 a.m. — Plant Sale
Herbs in Jars, 210 S College Street

11 a.m. — PACK 7196 Lego Pinewood Derby
The Scout House, 411 S. Howard St

11 a.m. — Mother’s Day Dessert Pairing with Trellis
Dobbes Family Winery, 240 SE 5th

12 p.m. — 5th Annual Pinots, Plants and Pots Spring Gathering
Olea Vineyards, 17406 Southwest Parrett Mountain Road

6:30 p.m. — The Harlem Wizards
NHS Gymnasium, 2400 Douglas Avenue

7 p.m. — Theater: Ordinary Days
Chehalem Cultural Center, 415 E Sheridan St

MAY 10 — MOTHER’S DAY

9 a.m. — Mother’s Day Brunch Buffet
Cherry Street Bistro, 1007 Fulton Street

10:30 a.m. — Mother’s Day Wine & High Tea Luncheon
Knudsen Vineyards. 9419 NE Worden Hill Rd.

11 a.m. — Mother’s Day Brunch
Duck Pond Cellars, 23145 Hwy 99W, Dundee

11 a.m. — Mother’s Day Brunch in Historic Newberg
Domaine Lumineux, 115 N Washington St

11 a.m. — Mother’s Day Sparkling Celebration
REX HILL Winery, 30835 North Highway 99W

2 p.m. — Mother’s Day Floral Arranging Workshop
Nysa Vineyard, 18655 NE Trunk Rd

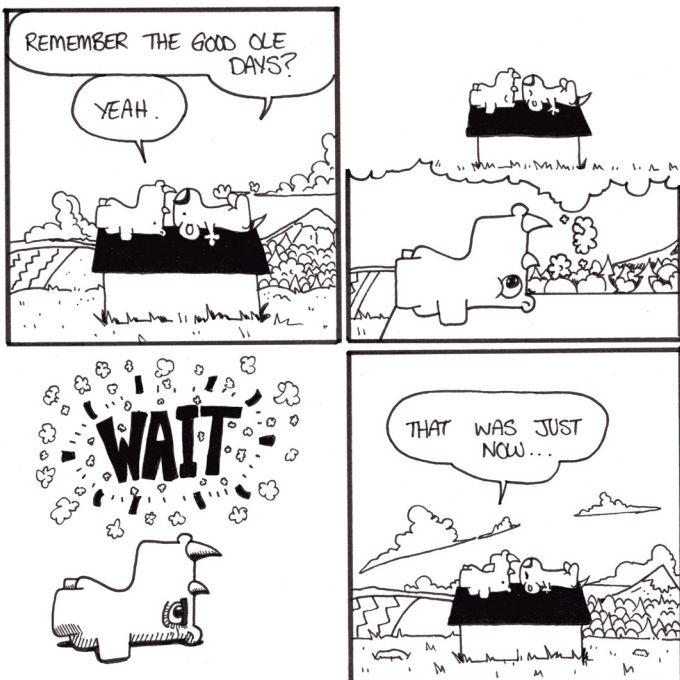
2 p.m. — Theater: Ordinary Days
Chehalem Cultural Center, 415 E Sheridan St



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Melon Collie Ep. 86

Created by Joseph Hampton



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