

Marys River Messenger



Vol. 8, Issue 1

September/October 2025

Harvest Fest is Here!

Marys River Grange Happenings

BINGO, 2nd Friday – Sept. 12, 6-8:30 pm,
\$10 for 10 games (3 cards each), \$1 blackout tickets;
drinks & snacks for sale, free door prizes

Bluegrass Monthly Jam/Workshop, 2nd Weds. – Sept. 10. Workshop will be presented by Starr McMullen, fiddle contest winner at multiple national fiddle contests over the years. She will share her historical musical life's story, demonstrate various genres, and play a few tunes. This special evening with Starr is not to be missed as we contemplate our own musical journeys, past, present and future. \$7 adult/\$5 youth, listeners donate as desired.

Fundraising Dance at the Rodeo Grounds – Friday Sept. 26, 7-11 pm

Harvest Fest – Saturday Oct. 4, 10-4

Moonlight Country Mixer – Mondays, 7-10 pm,
Sept. Restarting Oct. 20; \$5, host/instructor Jamie Lee

Quarterly Social – Oct. 25, potluck starts at 5:30 pm, followed by a song circle. Everyone is welcome.
Thanks to Wren Community Center for songbooks.

Wood Carving Circle, 3rd Weds. – Sept. 17, 5:30-8:30 pm, no fee; bring tools & green wood

Yoga at the Grange – Tuesdays, 6-7 pm, Sept. 9, 23, 30, Oct. 21-Nov.18; \$10 for Grange members, \$15 for non-Grange members

Contact marysrivergrange@gmail.com or
541-829-2907. See also: marysrivergrange.org
facebook.com/Marys-River-Grange-Hall-288171007887164/
To rent the Grange Hall, see Rental at marysrivergrange.org

Marys River Grange #685 regularly meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at 24707 Grange Hall Road in Philomath. Potluck at 6:30. Join us!

*Tis time to Celebrate and Gather
for the growing time has passed.
Bring forth your bounty to share
amongst your family and friends.
A scene full of colors and brisk air.
Scents of changing foliage.
Welcome Autumn.* - Susan Stogsdill



Come to Harvest Fest 2025: lots of artisan vendors, food, cider pressing, raffles for quilt, gift baskets, gift certificates...

Main Hall Floor to be Refinished in October

At our meeting on August 6th, members approved our Steward Kurt's proposal to refinish the floor in the Main Hall during the first two weeks of October, right after Harvest Fest. Otherwise it would have to wait until the weather warms again in spring. Please note: Bingo, Bluegrass Jam, Spoon Jam, the first two Moonlight Country Mixer dances and two sessions of Yoga are cancelled for October.

A professional contractor will sand and prep the floor, then Grangers will apply the finish. Donations, fundraising, and savings will pay for it.

Oct 5 - Sunday - work day to remove everything off the wood floor and stage.

Oct 6 & 7 - Contactor sands and preps floor for finish

Oct 8 - Grangers apply first coat of sealer

Oct 9 - Grangers screen floor and apply second coat of sealer

Oct 10 - Grangers screen floor and apply first coat of satin finish

Oct 11 - Grangers apply second and final coat of finish.

Oct 12 - 19 floor cures, no use on the floor



Amazing Grange Day was AMAZING!

Our annual fundraiser for the Hall brought in \$3,800 toward remodeling the kitchen next year! Though the sale lasted only five hours, many more were spent publicizing the event, receiving and transporting donations, setting up, and distributing what remained. Grange and non-Grange workers helped make it successful, with support by and for the whole community. It's amazing what we can do together! The benefits extended far beyond the monetary income. It turned out to be a community service all around, with innumerable contributors and plenty of goodwill. Members participated who don't come to meetings, and several new people were interested in becoming members. Friendship was cultivated. Delicious pies were auctioned, too! People paid what they could afford, and buyers turned out to be very generous. Items found new homes, one way or another, and made people very happy.

Leftovers were shared with St. Vincent DePaul, the Arc, Heartland, Habitat for Humanity, Philomath Community Services, and free to passers by. A few things were recycled, yet none went to the landfill. PCS took all they wanted and had a special distribution day for families. It was heartwarming! We fulfilled the Grange mission of "in all things, charity." You never know where all it goes, because it keeps on going.

Fundraising for the kitchen will continue with our annual Harvest Fest at the Hall on Oct. 4. May it, too, be amazingly successful. Dances, bingo, yoga, bluegrass jam, and occasional rentals help pay the bills in the meanwhile. So many people – past, present, and future – contribute to and are touched by these happenings. Love is interconnectedness. The Grange gives it a place to be.

There is now a tax deductible way to donate funds toward Marys River Grange! Friends of Marys River Grange is now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which also allows us to apply for grants for which MRG would not otherwise be eligible. Friends of Marys River Grange supports the educational and community service activities and infrastructure of Marys River Grange. Donations may be mailed to Friends of Marys River Grange, PO Box 1301, Philomath, OR 97370. Questions? Contact Judy at 541-829-2907.



Ron Paddock made a new, beautiful sign for MRG! He and Jackie Weiner stopped by at Amazing Grange Day to see it.
- photo by Suzy Johanson

News from Philomath Community Services

Many thanks to the members of Marys River Grange for all that you do to support our programs. Many of our families are preparing for "Back to School" and the winter ahead. Here are some of our needs:

Junes Kids Kloset

Our most urgent need right now is **Pajamas & Nightgowns** of all sizes from Toddler to Adult S/M. We will be putting **winter clothes** soon and welcome **jackets, boots, scarves, hats & mittens**. We accept new and previously worn clothes & shoes in good, clean condition.

Nancy's Food Pantry

The USDA cuts earlier this year reduced the amount of protein foods we receive. We can use **canned or pouched meats & entrees** of all kinds. We are always short of **condiments and spices**.

Jammin for the Hungry

"Jammin" is a local program that makes jams in a licensed kitchen in Corvallis to be distributed by food pantries in our area. For every **half pint canning jar** we collect for them they bring us a jar of delicious jam made from local fruit, processed by volunteers. Please look around your pantry & cupboards and bring any extras you have.

Nancy's Food Pantry and June's Kids Klost Hours:

Tues. 4:30–7:30pm

Thurs. 9:00am–12:00pm

Third Sat., 12:30 to 3:30pm

(closed holidays)

Addresses:

Physical: 360 S 9th St Philomath OR 97370

Mailing: PO Box 1334 Philomath OR 97370

Where to donate surplus produce? Lots of info here:

https://sustainablecorvallis.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025_Garden_Guide.pdf



Tarweed Folk School has opened registration for its Fall 2025 season of classes beginning this September through November, with a range of half-day, full-day, multi-day, and multi-week classes taught by local educators, craftspeople, scientists, tradespeople, small business owners, and members of our Willamette Valley communities.

Participants can register for classes in basketry, fiber arts, foods, woodworking, and more. Tarweed Folk School classes take place at both their new brick and mortar location within Wade Hardware (400 SW 2nd St) in downtown Corvallis, and across other partner locations in Corvallis. Class costs range from \$65 to \$670, full and partial tuition scholarships are available to all.

<https://www.tarweedfolkschool.com/classes>

Health Care for Farm Workers

Farm Clinic is expanding services to uninsured & underinsured agricultural workers in Benton, Linn, & Lincoln Counties.

Any small-scale & family-run farms (vineyards, tree farms, dairy, ranching, etc.)

Contact: Lisa Quick, Community Outreach & Farm Clinic,
 541-758-3000

"Washington Grange cooperative ventures of the 1920s and 1930s included a plant to manufacture stumping powder to dynamite stumps, the Grange Milling Company producing Pomona brand flour, the Grange Cooperative Livestock Marketing Association and the Grange Cooperative Printing Association. The latter survived the longest, until the 1980s, getting its start printing *The Grange News*, the official newspaper of the Washington State Grange, and the Oregon State Grange Bulletin." — *People, Pride and Progress*, c1992

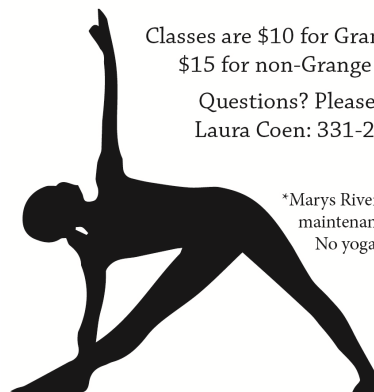
Yoga at the Grange Fall 2025

Tuesdays 6pm - 7pm

September 23rd - November 18th, 2025*

Classes are \$10 for Grange members,
 \$15 for non-Grange members.

Questions? Please contact
 Laura Coen: 331-201-5458



*Marys River Grange is closed for
 maintenance October 5-15.
 No yoga Oct 7 & 14.



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Airbnb Farm Stay

www.windyhill-familyfarm.com

Philomath, Oregon

Philomath Farmers' Market – Sundays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, through Oct. 19, at Philomath Community Library. Fresh local produce, baked and prepared foods, hand-crafted goods. See friends and neighbors!



We will be at the Philomath Farmers Market through Oct. 19th, sharpening knives and garden tools.

The Old Woman in the Garden 2025

The old woman sits in the garden. She has time now, just to sit,
Bees buzz in the Foxglove, two crows argue in the distance,
No Breeze today, it is going to be hot.
The woman's mind wanders, She is sitting on the deck at
Coon Lake, the water is still, Her feet dangle
in the murky water, baby bullheads tickle her feet,

It is getting warm. She climbs into the green
rowboat. And rows out to the middle of
the lake. She stops, locks the oars, lets the boat drift.
Summer in Minnesota at
seventeen, cares are few, but nevertheless serious.

It is getting too
hot, she jumps into the water and swims around the boat.
Cold
springs feel good on her body. She rolls over onto her back
and floats.
What great thoughts fill the young girl's head?

Does she think about the future? Eighty years from
now? Probably not!
Perhaps what she will wear to the
dance Friday night. Time to get into the boat, no easy
feat. She rows over to the lily pads by the channel,
Once she teased little turtles
sunning on the pads by the lily blossoms.
With one oar she turns
the boat in half circle and heads back to the dock.

She rows past the dock and heads to the other side of the
lake. She smiles as she remembers fishing with her
dad when she was eight years old.

They were trolling in a neighbor's boat. To
her surprise and her dad's, she caught a fish,

An eight-pound Walleye! It won in a
contest, "Biggest Fish for the Week."

The prize? An out-board
motor! Picture in the paper, proud girl and father.

OUCH! An unfriendly critter stings her arm and awakens her
from her

dream. Sweet memories of long ago.

Now it's time to make new memories
for today.

- Marion Whitney



First harvest from Matt's Orchard: nectarines.

- photo by Laura Coen

Gratitude, compassion, and service to all our emotions that we carry in our heart. But how can we as individuals create a society that is better for all? The early Grange formation was exactly that. The Grange was formed in the time when outside cultural pressures were suppressing the individual, the family structure, and harming the greater good.

In our humble way, we at the Grange here in Philomath, Oregon, are fulfilling that early mission, and we as individuals are promoting this greater good by our participation and diligent work.

Our unity of common goals and service to community is the fulfillment of the Grangers' original mission. And we as members of Mary River Grange are the building blocks that create this benefit to humanity.

- Mark Files, MRG Chaplain

Would anyone know men or women Vets in all age groups who could have an interest in forming a fun group once or twice a month for conversation, coffee, cards, and just having someone who has the experience of hot and cold war? Contact Ron Paddock, 406-679-0404, MRG Veterans Committee.



Oregon State Grange will present a Grange Leadership and Operations Conference on Sat. Nov. 8th, 9:30-4:30 at Marys River Grange:

No fee. Lunch will be provided. In order to plan, please RSVP. Comprehensive, something to learn for everyone. Interactive exercises will help attendees put what they learn into practice. The goal is to help members gain familiarity with the many issues involved in a Grange, useful for all members with an interest in Grange.

The conference is focused on seven different areas.

1. Leadership traits and qualities and how you can increase your leadership skills.
2. How to Run a Grange meeting. Formal or informal, there are some basic requirements. Also, how to streamline your meetings to be more effective.
3. Operations. What is involved in running a Grange outside of the meetings, and some of the infrequent meeting tasks, such as elections. From filing necessary paperwork to holding events, best practices for handling cash to insurance and using modern technology for record keeping, the goal is to provide information on what is needed to run a Grange.
4. Engagement. Recruiting new members is a frequent Grange topic, but engaging your members and getting them invested in your Grange is paramount to long term survival. Onboarding new members, making committees useful, empowering members and making sure they feel heard, acknowledged, and useful, will be covered.
5. Representing your Grange. From answering the question of what is your Grange and what does it do to interviews with news outlets and posting on social media, the external face you put on your Grange will determine how your local community sees your Grange.
6. Additional Leadership Opportunities. Opportunities for seeking out leadership opportunities at the County (Pomona), State and National level will be presented.
7. Resources. Additional resources you may wish to consult to develop as a leader and assist your Grange.



Marys River Grange was on display, thanks to Suzy Johanson, at our Open House & Ice Cream Social on July 19th.

September is Suicide Awareness Month

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. [Call](tel:988) or [text](text:988) 988 or chat 988lifeline.org to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Thoughts of suicide can be frightening. But by reaching out for help or checking in with family and friends, we can avoid devastating outcomes.

[According to the CDC and NIMH](#), nearly 46,000 lives were lost to suicide in 2020 alone. Comments or thoughts about suicide, also known as suicidal ideation, can begin small — for example, “I wish I wasn’t here” or “Nothing matters.” But over time, they can become more explicit and dangerous.

Warning Signs

Here are a few other warning signs of suicide:

- Increased alcohol and drug use
- Aggressive behavior
- Withdrawal from friends, family and community
- Dramatic mood swings
- Impulsive or reckless behavior

Suicidal behaviors are a psychiatric emergency. If you or a loved one starts to take any of these steps, seek immediate help from a health care provider or call 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:

- Collecting and saving pills or buying a weapon
- Giving away possessions
- Tying up loose ends, like organizing personal papers or paying off debts
- Saying goodbye to friends and family

If you are unsure, a [licensed mental health professional](#) can help assess.

September is Back to School

Awareness and extra vigilance is appropriate during this first month of school. Remember that a school bus stop sign is not a suggestion, it is a must!



Be extra cautious at cross walks and in school zone.

Get healthy and ready for back-to-school



Take advantage of non-school days to schedule your child's health appointments.

PHIP-027 08/2024

Health Checklist

- ☐ Well child checks
- ☐ Dental visits
- ☐ Immunizations
- ☐ Vision checks
- ☐ Mental health support
- ☐ Insurance coverage
- ☐ Food assistance
- ☐ Sports physicals
- ☐ After school care & activities



Benton County Health Services is accepting new patients.

Call 541-760-6836 or visit health.bentoncounty.gov for more info.

- Karen Hudspeth,
MRG Deaf Awareness & Family Health

Read more local news at
<https://philomathnews.com/>

Marys River Grange desires to remodel the kitchen in 2026 to achieve the following objectives:

- A simple, yet durable design that complements the historic character of the building, and that is functional and easy to clean and sanitize
- Maximize limited floor space
- Provide for sanitary food preparation and cooking areas
- Commercial dish washing capabilities
- Three basin sink with waste disposal system and a separate hand washing area
- Larger commercial styled electric stove/oven with ventilation hood
- Capable of hosting community educational classes for food preparation and cooking

The current kitchen area is 182 square feet (sf) in size with the possible expansion within the existing building of 75 sf, for a total remodel area of 257 sf. Building and other constraints are not conducive to expansion beyond this existing footprint.

The new design and remodel is proposed in three phases and will involve the following:

Phase 1, Estimated Cost \$7,278:

- Complete demolition and removal of existing kitchen, including cabinets, interior walls, ceiling and floor.
- Relocating current basement access out of the kitchen to provide more counter space.
- Relocating and installing new plumbing for two sinks, food waste disposal, and a commercial dish washer.
- Installing new electrical circuits for LED lighting and electrical outlets that meet Benton County building codes.
- Installing new insulation in walls (R-19 for 400 sf), ceiling (R-30 for 260 sf) and floor (R-30 for 260 sf).
- Installing new interior walls and ceilings that meet sanitary requirements.

Phase 2, Estimated Cost \$23,496:

- Installing new natural wood cabinets with stainless steel counter tops that are durable and complement the rustic character of the main hall.
- Complete trim work and painting.
- Installing new commercial grade vinyl or rubber sheet flooring suitable for public kitchens.

Phase 3, Estimated Cost \$19,476:

- Install new appliances: high temp dishwasher, stove, refrigerator and other kitchen related equipment
- Construct and install a new food serving station and food serving mobile island.

The anticipated cost of the remodel is \$50,250. MRG members will manage and accomplish the remodel with member volunteers.

Nearly \$9,000 has been raised so far, and several grant applications have been submitted.

A California Connection

Dear Marys River Grangers,

Greetings from the Golden State! This time of year in the Northern Sacramento Valley the term "golden state" may refer to our local gold rush history, but it may also refer to the turning color of local grain from a deep green to illustrious yellow. The water has been pulled from our rice fields to dry out the ground for harvest starting in mid-September. Until then, it is a waiting game. We eagerly look forward to driving the combine and grain cart to the fields and bringing our labors to fruition. When driving the country roads, I often think of Nate's ag reports and their prose in describing the beauty of agriculture and our connection with the land, each other, and ourselves.

Amanda and I have been settling in well and catching up with many family members and old friends (so has our little dog Kiki). We have been focusing on cleaning and repairing our new-to-us home which hasn't seen a loving touch in some time. Although the tasks are many, we persevere.

Our aim to join a local Grange is still in the works (with the dream of restarting our home town's Grange far off). We have contacted a few nearby Granges with some success and will likely join one to the north, but have also discovered a Grange tale of caution. One Grange we contacted said they were a small group, all of elderly status, and we should not apply. As Sonny will tell you, this is a recipe for disaster.

Marys River Grange should be extremely proud of their openness, their mindset for growth, and all the work they have already accomplished. Congratulations on a successful Amazing Grange Day, and best of luck in the future for Harvest Fest, your floor refinishing, and kitchen remodel! Grange on!

Missing you all, and fraternally yours,

Mike Terry

[For correspondence info for Mike, contact Judy at MRG.]

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Susan Stogsdill, Owner



Submitted 7/7/25, per MRG members' resolution on 7/2/25:

Dear Commissioners Wyse, Malone, and Shepherd,

This letter is submitted by Marys River Grange #685, in opposition to the proposed Coffin Butte landfill expansion and LU-24-027.

The members of Marys River Grange strongly oppose this expansion.

We feel the only appropriate response to this proposed expansion is to deny it, and we sincerely hope you will place the well being of those you represent above the financial benefits of the proposed expansion. Please consider the potential impact upon the people of Benton County, our natural resources, and our industries that rely upon them.

Marys River Grange is the second largest Grange in Oregon, and active in supporting Benton County, especially the rural area near Philomath. Our ranks include many farms, from large ones such as Gathering Together Farm and Green Gables Farm, to family farms such as Sunbow Organic Produce and Windy Hill Farm and many in between.

We recognize the need for a disposal site, but to have it serve as the landfill for one third of the state is a disservice to all.

Foremost among our concerns is methane generation and the accumulation and dispersal of PFAS (forever chemicals), especially as exacerbated by heavy rainfall in our area. PFAS threaten the health of all residents, certainly farmers, and all consumers of Willamette Valley produce. The failure of inadequate lining and the ongoing disposal of leachate into our waterways impact every downstream community, and beyond. We believe that expansion will ultimately lead to an EPA superfund site, and toxic exposure for all future generations.

Exposure to PFAS is so dangerous, the EPA has determined there is NO safe level of exposure.

Current estimates of toxic leachate production at Coffin Butte exceeds 40 million gallons annually. Expansion will increase that number dramatically. Republic Services claims to "capture" it, only to dump it at local facilities that can't remove the PFAS, and may in fact be concentrating the toxins in biosolids that may end up on farmland. Farmers elsewhere who have used such biosolids as fertilizer have been completely shut down. Industry groups suggest that as many as 70 million acres of farmland have been polluted by toxic biosolids. The recent rise in cancer diagnosis, especially among younger people, is often attributed to this practice. The state of Maine has banned the use of biosolids completely.

In 2021, Benton County was advised of some of these problems, and did not approve a similar application for expansion, yet the site has only grown, with no corrective action. The problems that resulted in denial in 2021 are still present and, according to outside monitoring, even worse.

Several of the key findings from the just released Waterkeepers PFAS Report Phase II indicate the dangers of

approving this expansion by exacerbating already existing problems.

2. Wastewater treatment plants and biosolids land application field discharges can be significant contributors of multiple types of PFAS to U.S. surface waters.

a. The overwhelming majority of WWTPs evaluated lack enforceable PFAS limits in their CWA NPDES and other permits—both for discharges to surface waters and for biosolids applied to land application fields—underscoring the urgent need for regulatory standards to control these releases.

b. 95% of downstream WWTPs sampling sites and 80% of downstream biosolids land application sites had elevated concentrations of multiple types of PFAS.

c. Out of 40 types of PFAS that can be detected by EPA Method 1633, in comparison to PFAS levels detected at upstream sampling sites, the sampling detected 19 types of PFAS at elevated levels downstream from WWTPs and 14 types of PFAS at elevated levels downstream from biosolids land application sites.

4. Current regulations fail to control PFAS pollution of U.S. surface waters, leaving communities at risk for toxic chemical exposure.

The lack of regulation should not be exploited for the purpose of profit when putting the health of people at risk.

The members of Marys River Grange would like to see better refuse management overall, as well as better monitoring of the site itself. We think Benton County could take a more proactive and forward-looking approach to refuse management. Lane County does this, and would be a quality resource. The Grange introduced the co-op to America, and in Philomath, Pioneer Telephone Co-op is an example of what we can accomplish. Perhaps a Refuse or Waste co-op would be a more beneficial solution than relying upon a corporation driven only to consider profit?

Whatever money the county may receive from this site, it is not enough to mortgage our future, our natural resources, our economy and our very citizens.

Sincerely,

Judy Hays-Eberts, President, and

The members of Marys River Grange #685.



Send items for the *Messenger* to Judy Hays-Eberts at marysrivergrange@gmail.com or mail to Marys River Grange, PO Box 1301, Philomath, OR 97370. Deadline for Nov/Dec *Messenger*: Oct. 27

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