

Marys River Messenger



Vol. 8, Issue 2

November/December 2025

Warming Up for Winter

Marys River Grange Happenings

BINGO, 2nd Friday – Nov. 14, Dec. 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. – Nov. 12, Dec. 10, \$7 adult/\$5 youth, listeners donate as desired.

Craft Night/Wood Carving Circle, 3rd Weds. – Nov. 19, Dec. 17, 5:30-8:30 pm, no fee; bring tools & green wood or any unfinished craft project

Grange Leadership & Operations Conference – Sat. Nov. 8, 9:30am-4:30pm; comprehensive, open to all Grange members, no fee, lunch provided. RSVP to president@orgrange.org Come for part or all.

Moonlight Country Mixer – Mondays, 7-10 pm, \$5, host/instructor Jamie Lee; first Monday – swing lesson starts at 6:30 pm, \$10

MRG Thanksgiving Potluck – Thurs. Nov. 27
Family & friends welcome! Time TBA.

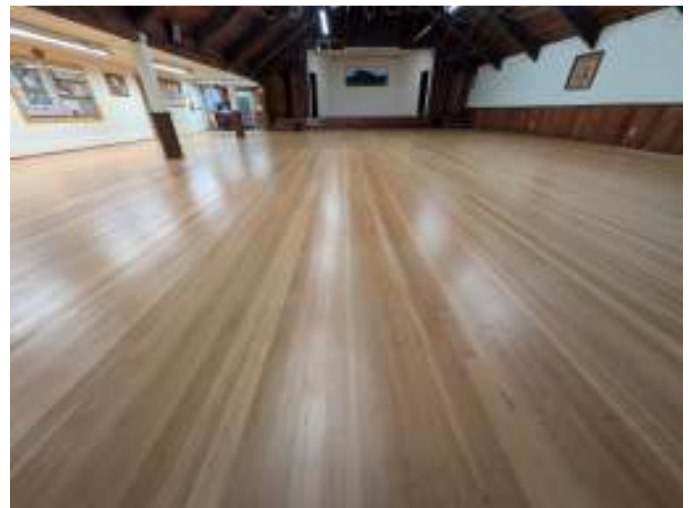
Restorative Yoga – Tues. Nov. 25, 6-7:30 pm
Through the use of props for support, many of the postures are held almost effortlessly. Limited to 10 participants, pre-registration required, \$25 can be prepaid via [Venmo](https://venmo.com/lauraploeg) or in cash day of practice. Sign up [here](#), or email Laura at lauraploeg@yahoo.com

Winter Wonderland Dance – Sat. Dec. 6, 6:30-10:30 pm, \$5, country swing & line dance

Wreath Making – Sun. Dec. 7, 1-3 pm, free!
Everyone, all ages invited. Make an extra wreath to share with residents of Corvallis Manor.

Yoga at the Grange – Tuesdays, 6-7 pm, thru Nov. 18, \$10 for Grange members, \$15 for non-Grange members

MRG Hall Floor Refinished in October!



The main floor and stage floor were refinished in Oct. and look fantastic. The total cost for the project came in at approximately \$4,300, which included professional sanding by American Hardwood Floors, and 6 gal. of sealer and 10 gal. of finish. Many thanks to those that helped during the project: Nate, Jessie, Jim, John, Greg, and Kurt. And a thank you to the country dancers for their fundraising efforts and donations, as well as to members!

How to Help Philomath Community Services

Contribute Funds

Become a monthly donor. Contact PCS for information to set it up.

Donate through

<https://www.philomathcommunityservices.org>

Remember Philomath Community Services in your estate planning.

Mail your donation to: PCS, PO Box 1334, Philomath, OR 97370

Write a check and stop by for a quick tour.

We recommend calling ahead.

Volunteer

We currently need volunteers in June's Kids Klostet and Holiday Cheer.

We are seeking a volunteer to manage our volunteers.

Donate to our programs. We accept:

Non-perishable foods & fresh produce of all types. Check out our website for a list of Most Needed Foods.

Children's clothing & shoes, infant through High School.

Adult clothing in very limited amounts.

All clothing needs to be in good condition, clean, mold & smoke free.

Organize a food, diaper or new clothing drive

Work with your church, civic organization, workplace or neighborhood to Organize a donation drive.

Contact us for suggestions, support & publicity.

Donate to local food drives.

Join the Philomath Community Services Board

PCS is looking for motivated individuals who are committed to our mission and who would like to share their time, talent and resources to support our organization.

Most Wanted Foods, Etc:

- Canned Meat (corned beef, hams, Spam, chicken, etc.)
- Canned Fish (tuna, sardines, salmon, clams, etc.)
- Condiments: (mustard, ketchup, mayo, pickles, soy sauce, hot sauce, etc.)
- Herbs and Spices of all kinds, Herb and Spice Packet Mixes, Salt and Pepper.
- Boxed entrees: (Rice-a-Roni, Hamburger Helper, etc.)
- Ready-to-Eat Soups, Stews, Chili, etc.
- Dessert and Baking Mixes (cake, cornbread, biscuits, masa etc.)

- Jams, Jellies, Syrups
- Personal Hygiene Products: Menstrual, Adult pads, toilet paper, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, disposable razors, etc. Laundry Soap: Powdered, Pods, or Sheets

Additional Donation Items:

- Pasta, Rice, various types
- Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
- Canned Vegetables and Fruit
- Peanut, Almond and other Nut butters
- Canned and Dried Beans, various types
- Gluten-free and Vegan Items

Please Note:

- Prefer individual/small family-sized items, rather than large, bulk-sized items.
- Cannot distribute perishables, home-canned foods, food without original labels, or previously opened packages.

It is best to call us before stopping by with donations:

(541) 929-2499

Physical Address: 360 S 9th St. Philomath

Mailing Address: PO Box 1334, Philomath, OR 97370

PCS is Powered by People. We greatly appreciate your donations.

Website: <https://www.philomathcommunityservices.org>



Quince Tree

Our young orchard here at Marys River Grange produced a beautiful crop of apple and quince this year.

Working together as a team, we harvested the quince and cooked them into a quince and pear butter. We made thirty-nine eight-ounce jars. The beautiful "quince pear butter" will be shared with the garden caretakers and others that are involved. And the rest will be given away at Thanksgiving dinner as we celebrate our community.

Quince in many ways represents the individual's experience of community here at Marys River Grange. The quince fruit by itself would not be the most flavorful, but added to other fruits it is a taste of delight

We as individuals are like the quince; we perform better when we're with our friends. Community activities and work here at the Grange brings us together and this creates a unique and vibrant environment.

During this changing of the season, we are fortunate to have each other. Projects, conversations, and meaningful work all are provided by the community here at Marys River Grange.

We are blessed.

- Mark Files, MRG Chaplain



Welcoming ceremony in September for new MRG members.

Veterans Day

Veterans Day is distinct from Memorial Day, a U.S. public holiday in May: Veterans Day commemorates the service of all U.S. veterans, while the older Memorial Day, which grew out of Civil War commemorations, specifically honors those who have died while in military service.

Veterans Day (originally known as **Armistice Day**) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or because of wounds sustained in battle. While those who died are also remembered, Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor **ALL** those who served honorably in the military – in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank **LIVING** veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served – not only those who died – have sacrificed and done their duty.

How to thank a veteran.

By combining these approaches, you can effectively express your gratitude and honor the sacrifices made by veterans on Veterans Day and beyond.

Sometimes, small gestures can make a big difference. Consider flying the American flag, sharing a post on social media to honor veterans, or simply saying "thank you" when you meet a veteran.

Volunteer at an organization that supports veterans. Examples include the American Legion, Wounded Warrior Project.

Make a monetary donation to a veterans organization or an organization that supports veterans. Examples include veterans law school clinic, veterans scholarships, Homeless veterans project through the US Dept of Veterans Affairs.

Donate your time to support a veteran organization. Help to build a house, feed a family etc.

Hire a veteran or veteran spouse if you are in a position to do so.

Visit a VA hospital. Spend time with Veterans in hospitals or care homes. Your presence will brighten their day

Know a veteran? Consider taking them out for a meal as a sign of appreciation. Write a note of thanks for their quiet strength, bravery, sacrifice, service etc.

- Karen Hudspeth

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.

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

Veteran Services Contacts

Department of Veterans Affairs

Benton County (541) 368-7100
Linn County (541) 967-3882
Salem (971) 707-4400
Lane County (541) 682-4191
Lincoln County (541) 265-0570

Elks Lodge - Corvallis #1413 (541) 758-0222

Salem (503) 364-6839
Keizer (503) 390-5716
cbwhitso83@gmail.com
Sweet Home (541) 367-3559

American Legion

Philomath (541) 929-3898
Corvallis (503) 685-5006
Lebanon (541) 451-1351
Albany (541) 926-0127
Newport (541) 265-9017
Salem (503) 364-0261
Brownsville (541) 401-0675
Junction City (541) 234-4785
Eugene (541) 689-5451
Sweet Home (541) 367-2814

VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars)

Corvallis (541) 928-7925
vfwpost12214@gmail.com
Eugene www.vfwpost293.org

DAV (Daughters of American Revolution)

(202) 628-1776

OPVA Oregon Paralyzed Vets of America

(503) 362-7998

Vietnam Veterans of America

Corvallis (541) 368-7100
Albany (541) 619-2887
Newport (541) 270-0569
Salem (541) 527-2722
Portland (503) 558-2970
Brookings (541) 698-3456
Bend (541) 306-9207
Roseburg (541) 229-3456
Springfield (541) 948-2839
LaPine (503) 267-0222

The Maggots Motorcycle Club (Facebook)

Combat Vets Motorcycle Club

Quilts of Valor (Brownsville Chapter) – Judy Clay

judyclay51@gmail.com

- Ron Paddock,
MRG Veterans Committee

Willamette Grange Happenings

We have a lot going on at the Hall in the next month. People can contact me for more information.

Work at the Hall is progressing... starting to put things back up on the walls! Our floor restoration is scheduled for late January! We are fundraising for a lift and installation work for one of our bathrooms. I hope people come out for the weekend of music Nov. 15 & 16. Interested vendors for our Holiday Fair can call or text me at 541-609-8335 - \$10/table.

Thur, Nov. 6 (6 - 8 PM) and Dec 4th

BINGO fundraiser for Willamette Grange Restoration Project at the Greenberry Tavern

Enjoy a delicious dinner at the Greenberry Tavern and play BINGO! Proceeds support the Willamette Community and Grange Hall restoration project. \$10.00 per pack (3 cards per page), plus a Blackout card \$1.00 each.

Sat, Nov. 15 (6 - 9 PM)

Benefit Concert "Music Heals - Money Helps"

Fundraiser - Proceeds support three local people fighting cancer. Bring some change and come for music, dancing and fun – all ages. Contact: Cheryl 541-766-8196. Sponsored by local friends, musicians, kicking-cancer.org & WG.

Sun, Nov. 16 (2 - 6 PM)

Grange Benefit Folk Music

Come out and watch some amazing local bands and support the Willamette Grange. \$10 per person and kids are free! Snacks and drinks will be available at the event. Additional donations are welcome. Become a member, support your local Grange! Build community! The line-up: Sweet Patina, The Garden Gate, The Tappets, and Rusty Hinges.

Sat. Dec. 6 (10:00AM-4:00 PM)

Holiday Fair

FREE craft activity for kids making holiday wreaths and gnomes. * Local Craft Vendors * *Treats* *Music*

- Toni Hoyman, willamettegrange@gmail.com

MRG Kitchen Remodel Fundraising Update: The big news is that the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund awarded the Friends of Marys River Grange \$5,384 for our kitchen remodel! Many thanks to Sonny for submitting the grant application for consideration.

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.

Hog Shares available from Bluerock Farm. Hereford and Large Black Heritage Breed hogs are raised on all organic feed and get extra produce scraps from our garden and our good friends at Sunbow. They have almost an acre to forage on and the best possible life. They are finished on acorns. The butcher date is 11/22.

We charge \$6lb hanging weight. There are also fees of \$.95/pound paid to the butcher, Four Star Meats. Please contact Tim at Bluerock Farm if you are interested gotschtim@yahoo.com

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www.gatheringtogetherfarm.com

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www.windyhill-familyfarm.com

Philomath, Oregon

A California Connection...

The trees here have turned to reds, golds, and evergreens. At least in town. Out in the fields, their churned dirt browns are more dreary. Their saving grace are the migrations of birds heading south. Flocks and mesmerizing murmurations capture the eye. The sounds of geese, ducks, swans, herons, blackbirds, egrets, sandpipers, and doves are all around. Our house is well decorated for fall, but driving through the countryside is the better feast for the eyes.

- Mike Terry

Share Your Hack

I had a thought that the Messenger could have an ongoing column for farmyard or household tips (or hacks), a la Heloise, but for a broader audience.

I stumbled onto this idea when I found that my "go-to" garment storage solution had disappeared.

I had reluctantly gone to the dry cleaners to see if I could buy a thin plastic garment bag to protect stored garments, mostly from dust. Guess what?! Our efforts to stave off plastics production is working! Plastic garment bags are no longer available!

I returned home and glanced at an old sheet that was queued up waiting for a place to be reused. Voila! Being a lazy soul, I cut it into rectangles to get the most out of my sheet, I folded the rectangles in quarters, snowflake style, and cut across the inner corner to make a 1-2" hole out of the center for the hanger(s).

It isn't pretty. Someone handy with a sewing machine might stitch up the sides or make something more official looking, but it works! And I don't have that old sheet nagging me for a job to do...



- Camille Hall



Learn about **Tarweed Folk School's upcoming Fall and Holiday Classes** here:

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

Winter Preparedness

There are a few major reasons why being prepared for winter storms is so crucial, and they all begin with safety. First and foremost, winter storms can be dangerous for those who are unprepared - from slipping on ice to getting stranded in a snowstorm. Having the right supplies on hand can make all the difference in protecting yourself and your loved ones during these extreme weather events.

Steps to Preparedness from United Way

Here are 5 low- or no-cost steps to prepare yourself, your family, your business, and your community for disaster. Acting now will give you peace of mind – and may save you recovery time, energy, and money when disaster strikes. No one can predict the future, but each of us can take steps to prepare for the unknown.

1. Identify your support network and key emergency contacts. Add their numbers to your mobile device (smartphone or tablet) – categorized as an emergency contact – and make sure they have yours.

2. Get connected. Make sure your phone is enabled to get local alerts and warnings. When emergencies strike, public safety officials use these systems to alert you.

3. Assess your needs. This includes the needs of your family and friends. Take action to meet those needs now. Add your medical information to your phone.

4. Build an emergency essentials kit for your home and a "go bag" for your car. Keep a (charged) power bank in each. Remember medications.

5. Safeguard key documents and document valuables. Use your phone to take photos of key documents and document valuables. Save the video and images in the cloud or external storage. Engage your support network. Now that you've taken these steps, make sure your family has done the same. Check in with your closest friends and extended family to share these tips.

- Karen Hudspeth,
MRG Deaf Awareness & Family Health



Cranberry Shortcake – One generous pint of flour, two small teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one egg, one cup of milk, one tablespoonful of melted butter, one-half cup of sugar. Sift together the flour and baking powder. Beat the egg; add milk, butter and sugar and mix all together as quickly as possible. Bake in a shallow cake pan. Split while warm and spread with butter and cranberry sauce.

The Daily News Cook Book, c1896



Together Rise Up Singing

“Don’t worry, about a thing
 Cause’ every little thing, gonna be alright
 Singin’ don’t worry, about a thing
 Cause’ every little thing, gonna be alright
 (Three Little Birds – Bob Marley)

These words rang through the youth room as voices joined in unison and companionship. “Danny Boy,” Blowin in the Wind,” and a loud, raucous rendition of “Bottle of Wine,” lifted the rooftop of the Marys River Grange at the October potluck and song circle.

Plates full of autumn harvest cuisine was appreciate by eighteen participants along with scintillating conversation. Vickie Nunnemaker provided colorful pumpkins and Halloween decorations which adorned each table and added to the festive atmosphere.

Andrea Davis and John Simonds led the song circle with their strong voices and talented guitar playing. Andrea handed out the lyrics to her touching composition titled “The Horses,” which described the use of horses before the days of the automobile.

“In the days before the automobile
 The horses transported with carriage and wheel
 And sometimes if you look with the edge of your eye
 You can see the old ghosts of those horses walk by.”

Elizabeth Dob, of Wren Community Hall, provided comprehensive songbooks to each person. “I appreciate Marys River Grange for helping to build that community feeling. We all need it in the country at this time,” commented one singer.

The joyous evening ended with “Moonshadow,” by Cat Stevens.

“I’m being followed by a moon shadow
 Moon shadow, moon shadow
 Leaping and hopping on a moon shadow,
 Moon shadow, moon shadow.”

Keeping rising your voice in joy and song.....
 - Stacy Moore



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361 SW 2nd St
 Corvallis Or 97330

M-F
 10a-6p

541-286-4661
 stpcyrano@gmail.com



Susan Stogsdill, Owner



MRG's own Philomath Pheasant Pluckers performed for customers and vendors at Harvest Fest on Oct. 4th.

Harvest Fest was a success thanks to hardworking coordinator Susan Stogsdill and other Grangers who helped: Sonny, Yvonne, Jackie, Nancy, Suzy, Karen, Kalim, Jim and Camille and fellow cider pressers, and Kurt! Harvest Fest brought in \$1,472 to go to MRG's 2026 kitchen remodel.

Some Thoughts on Leadership

As we prepare for the election in December of 2026 officers for MRG, I reflect on the experience of being President during 2025. Other offices include Vice President, Secretary, Lecturer, Treasurer, Steward, Assistant Steward, Lady Assistant Steward, Chaplain, Greeter, Musician, Pomona, Ceres, Flora, and Executive Committee. I will share descriptions of these offices with members before the election and encourage everyone to consider volunteering to be nominated if capable and interested. Service is truly honorable and character-building. This organization is based on support for each other, and that takes many forms.

Of course leadership is challenging. We naturally bring into it our intentions and expectations, as well as previous experience, and then, like marriage and parenting, it takes on a life of its own and stretches us in ways we didn't anticipate. That's how we grow – by meeting those challenges and figuring out ways to cope and deal with each other. Humility helps. And patience. Yet we acquire those through practice. No one escapes criticism, even from the kindest people. All that is required is that we have integrity, don't make assumptions or take things personally, and above all do our best. This is an ongoing process. There is no promise of fun or convenience, there is no glamour, yet it is richly rewarding in ways previously unimagined. There is always something to learn. Anyone can benefit from the opportunity and responsibility. It takes time and attention, yet each will do it differently. In the end, it's a leap of faith.

Personally, as President, I am often the first to arrive and the last to leave, and am the default for what has to be done to make something happen. The decision-making can be tough for various reasons, and all my strengths are challenged. Humility is blessedly grounding, though, and opens the door for forgiveness and grace. Sometimes I and others need to ask for help, which can be difficult in itself. And, I regularly face considerable anxiety, which I've learned sometimes works for me or I must discern when and how to let it be. Leadership has taught me a great deal; it's been an incredible gift to learn about myself in ways that are always preparing me for something more. This is not my first rodeo, so to speak, yet it has made all the difference for what I carry on for the rest of my life. I am very fortunate to exercise such an opportunity and experience the perseverance, love and support from fellow Grange members. May we continue to inspire each other. Our community is well worth it.

- Judy Hays-Eberts,
Marys River Grange #685



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541.754.1413 fax
rmarek@peak.org

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JAN 28 - MAR 7, 2026

ATTEND CLASSES IN PERSON OR ONLINE!

- Week 1: Orientation
- Week 2: Conservation Planning and Invasive Species
- Week 3: Watersheds: Hydrology and Habitat
- Week 4: Agriculture, Upland Habitat and Pollinators
- Week 5: Wildfire Resiliency
- Week 6: Restoration Project Tour

SCAN ME

Apply now to learn about conservation planning, get expert guidance on land management, and learn about the funding sources that could help kickstart projects on your land!

More info at <https://mrwc.org/resources/pfvl/> or email Daniel@MRWC.org



Are you a landowner or manager of more than five acres of land? Apply to be part of this FREE 5-part workshop series to learn about conservation planning, get expert guidance on land management, and learn about the funding sources that could help kickstart projects on your land!

Plan For Your Land is a collaboration among five watershed councils in the mid-Willamette River basin, including the North Santiam, Luckiamute, South Santiam, Calapooia, and Marys River watershed councils. Together, we are working with local landowners and land managers who are curious about how they can be good stewards of the lands they care for.

Note: Participants will have the option to attend classes in person or virtually, based on their preference and availability.

Here is the link to our website as well:

<https://mrwc.org/resources/pfvl/>

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

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 Jan/Feb 2026 *Messenger*: Dec. 29

Marys River Grange #685
PO Box 1301
Philomath, OR 97370
marysrivergrange@gmail.com
541-829-2907



And when the ripened fruits and falling leaves of Autumn give place to Winter... Patrons of Husbandry, indeed – we can enter into the enjoyment of that rest from physical labor which gives us leisure for mental and social culture; and which, in our Order, brings us into that circle where unbounded confidence prevails, and where the welfare of each is bound up in the good of all. Let us treasure up the lessons we have learned, both by successes and failures, plan wisely and hopefully for the future, and strive to make our lives as harmoniously beautiful and bountiful as are the works of Nature's God.

- Closing of the Fourth Degree

The poster has a dark teal background with white snowflake patterns and silhouettes of evergreen trees. At the top left is a small logo with the text "Thank You" and "SYMPOSIUM". The main title "Winter WONDERDANCE" is in a large, white, serif font. Below it, a white oval contains the date and time: "DECEMBER 6TH | 6:30-10:30". The text "\$5 Event Entry" is centered below. The address "24707 Grange Hall Rd, Philomath, OR 97370" is listed. A "Register Now" button with a QR code is on the left. At the bottom, the word "COMPETITIONS" is in bold, followed by "J&J Country Swing | Line Dance | Strictly Country Swing | Line Choreography".

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!