

B6

SATURDAY

August 2, 2008

McMinnville, Oregon

# Yamhill Valley BUSINESS

INSIDE

Oregon rancher mulls  
biodiesel / B5

## Kamper appointed laboratory manager

Karl Kamper has been named laboratory manager at the Willamette Valley Medical Center in McMinnville.

He earned a bachelor's degree in clinical laboratory science from Brigham Young University and master's degree in business administration from the University of Utah.

He previously served as laboratory supervisor at Intermountain Healthcare in Salt Lake City, where he was responsible for the transition of physician-based laboratory testing from seven regional medical centers to a new central laboratory serving more than 1,800 offices and clinics. In that role, he coordinated marketing, support services, information systems, patient services, billing, call center operations and courier services.

He was also involved with the opening of the Intermountain Medical Center, a 450-bed flagship facility, developing laboratory support for outpatient women's services and an outpatient cardiac transplant program.

He holds a membership in the American College of Healthcare Executives and medical technologist membership in the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. He is accredited as a clinical laboratory scientist. Fluent in written and spoken Spanish, he has provided translation services for medical and business operations.

Kamper lives in McMinnville with his wife, Laura. He enjoys gardening, photography, music and musical theater.

## Yamhill Basin Council needs volunteers

The Yamhill Basin Council needs volunteers to help collect water quality data in the basin watershed during the months of August, September, October and November.

The council's monitoring technicians will be accompanying volunteers to collect data on temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, turbidity, ammonia and total phosphorus. Please note that return times are estimates.

Trips are planned for 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9; Sunday, Aug. 10; Saturday, Sept. 6; Sunday, Sept. 7; Saturday, Oct. 4; Sunday, Oct. 5; Saturday, Nov. 1; and Sunday, Nov. 2.

On each of those dates, four to six volunteers are needed, including two willing to drive. A typical schedule would feature a driver and two to three other volunteers accompanying each technician.

Volunteers will hook up with the technicians in the council parking lot at 800 N.E. Second St. To sign up, e-mail [ycb\\_monitoring@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:ycb_monitoring@co.yamhill.or.us) with your name, phone and e-mail contact information.

Field monitoring involves walking on uneven and steep terrain, wading into or walking near moving water and coping with potentially adverse weather and other hazards associated with fieldwork.

Volunteers under the age of 18 need a parent/guardian permission waiver signed in advance. Volunteers willing to drive need proof of current licensing and insurance.

For more information, call 503-474-1047.

## Townhouse project nearing completion

Phase two of the Pemberly Townhomes project, off Northwest Hill Road south of West Second Street, is nearing completion, according to Scott Hakola, broker with Westhills Realty in McMinnville.

The new units are larger than those in Phase one — between 1,763 and 1,840 square feet.

The outside units have the master bedroom on the main floor and a family room upstairs. The middle units have a big master bedroom upstairs and a two-car garage.

All units feature upgrades, including granite countertops, vaulted ceilings, covered patios and big back yards.

Westhills Realty is the exclusive marketing team for the project, which is being developed by Pat and Sarah West and their son, Tim. Features include two off-street parking areas, front yard landscaping and maintenance, low association fees and lots of green space. For more information, call 503-434-7980.

## Insurance company now covering pets

Farmers Insurance Group is now offering automobile coverage for the four-legged members of the household.

Oregon customers carrying collision and comprehensive coverage can add coverage providing up to \$600 in

# OnlineNW reaching for the heights

Internet backbone project  
sends climber high in the sky

By YVETTE SAARINEN  
Of the News-Register

One could say that Phil Lopez works with his head in the clouds.

The network administrator for OnlineNW, a sister company of the News-Register sharing its downtown quarters, Lopez also serves as the telecom's chief climber.

Company offerings include high-speed wireless Internet service provided through a network of 31 towers, with four more on the way. So he spends a lot of time in the air.

However, none of the company towers in Marion, Polk, Washington and Yamhill counties rivals the 515-foot KGON tower, perched atop a hill in Portland. And Lopez just put in a 10-hour day installing 2-, 3- and 4-foot microwave dishes on it at levels ranging from 125 to 225 feet.

"Once you're up, you're up until the job's done," he said.

**OnlineNW, known as OnlineMac** before it expanded from its McMinnville base into surrounding counties, has licensed a new frequency with the FCC enabling it to triple its capacity, said Chief Operating Officer Kathy Tate. The dish installations in Portland and construction of four additional towers in its four-county service area are all elements of the project, she said.

In addition to high-speed wireless, the company offers high-speed DSL, old-fashioned dial-up and both conventional and Internet-based telephone service to a mix of residential, commercial and industrial customers. It also offers web design, web hosting and technical support services.

Additional information may be obtained at 503-883-9200 locally, 1-866-876-4052 toll-free or [www.onlinenw.com](http://www.onlinenw.com) on the web.

The company currently depends on fiber-optic cable for its primary Internet connection, but is in the process of establishing its own Internet backbone. "We're building a licensed microwave link from the main hub in Portland all the way down here," she said.

That's been keeping Lopez up in the air in a 40-mile radius stretching from Grand Ronde to Hillsboro, Silverton to Forest Grove and Wilsonville to Newberg. And he has to be available on a 24-7 basis.

**The KGON tower**, dubbed Stonehenge, is located on Council Crest Drive in Portland. It's base stands 1,000 feet above sea level.

It was built in 1990 at a cost of \$7 million. Fashioned of steel and concrete, it hosts nine FM radio stations and an array of telecom providers.

To install the 4-foot dish, Lopez had to climb an internal ladder to the 225-foot level and snap himself into a safety harness moored at three separate points. The harness allowed him to lean back, taking the pressure off his legs, when he needed a break.

OnlineNW recently purchased a 4-foot, 150-pound electric winch that mounts on a hitch on the back of one of its work vans, and used the winch to lug the dish up to Lopez.

"It was a lifesaver," he said. "Without it, it would have taken three men to get that antenna up there."

Tate ferried Lopez' lunch up from

See **LOFTY**, Page B5



Submitted photo

**Above: OnlineNW network administrator Phil Lopez recently spent 10 hours at the 225-foot level of the 515-foot KGON tower in Portland. He was installing antennas that will help the company triple its capacity. The tower is 1,000 feet above sea level on Council Crest in Portland. It is home to nine FM stations and other organizations.**

**Left: Lopez wears a safety harness that is moored to three different places when he's climbing.**



# Mid-Valley building new group homes



Marcus Larson/News-Register

**David Wiegman of Mid-Valley Rehabilitation Services tells future resident Cindy Miller, center, and her caretaker Myra Robles about the features of the house which is still under construction.**

**Rehabilitation organization nearing completion of housing for its clients**

By YVETTE SAARINEN  
Of the News-Register

Cindy Miller carefully descended the steps of the big, boxy van, her white cane in her right hand, her left hand outstretched to feel the boundaries of the stairwell.

She and her pals in Mid-Valley Rehabilitation's Quest program, which provides outings and social events for clients with developmental disabilities, stopped by to check out the progress of two new group homes being built on Valley's Edge Street in McMinnville's west hills.

Companion Myra Robles of the Quest support staff let her know when she was one step away from the ground.

David Wiegman, Mid-Valley's executive director, was on hand to give her a personal tour. He told her the driveway was rocky, and there were some building supplies lying about, but she could

See **BOTTOM LINE** Page B5

See **HOMES**, Page B5

# BUSINESS

## Bottom Line: savings

Continued from B6

compensation if their household pets are killed or injured in a collision or theft. Farm animals do not qualify.

For more information, visit [www.farmers.com](http://www.farmers.com).

### McMinnville woman helps cancer society

Charity Forster of McMinnville recently helped Home & Garden Party raise \$1 million for the American Cancer Society.

The company markets tabletop stoneware, candles, framed art, gourmet food mixes and home decor items through home parties.

Customers were invited to add \$1 or more to their orders, or to purchase special products, with the proceeds going toward cancer research and treatment.

Forster can be reached at 503-472-0771 or [charityhgp@gmail.com](mailto:charityhgp@gmail.com).

### Myers elected to Junior Angus board

Robert Myers of Yamhill has won a seat on the board of directors of the National Junior Angus Association.

He was elected to a two-year term at the 2008 National

Junior Angus Show in Des Moines, Iowa.

### Safety program yields savings

Construction firms participating in a workers' compensation program offered through SAIF Corp. and Associated General Contractors are receiving a \$12.3 million return on last year's premiums, largest in the partnership's 18-year history.

Participating contractors ended with a total return of \$13.3 million, counting other discounts in addition to the retrospective rating return. That works out to almost one third of the total premium paid.

"The retro return is a welcome boon coming at a time when the economy continues to cool, especially in the construction markets," said Colette Evers of AGC. "Lower insurance costs enable employers to invest in making their workplaces safer and support the economy."

"The real success story here is that these savings reflect the thousands of Oregon construction workers who went home injury-free," said Christy Witke, SAIF's marketing and groups director.

The return will be divided



Submitted photo

OnlineNW crew's view of the ground from a tower in Banks. The snow was so deep the work van got stuck. The crews agree that climbing in winter leaves something to be desired.

## Lofty: Weather place a big part in the experience

Continued from B6

McMinnville. It had to be winched up by pulley.

When the work took longer than expected, she headed back up with a dinner entree. It also had to be winched up.

Day Wireless, which provides the tower's electronic infrastructure and installs radio equipment on it, had a safety crew on hand in case Lopez ran into trouble. Even with that safeguard, it made Tate anxious to see Lopez dangling that far up.

"For a network our size, it's necessary to have someone stand by on site," she said. "But that doesn't make it any less worrisome."

**The fact that** the KGON tower was struck by lightning earlier this year — an event captured by a digital camera — did nothing to ease Tate's

nerves. "I know his family — his wife and three daughters," she explained.

In fact, Lopez said he practically had to beg Tate to let him handle the climbing himself rather than sub it out.

It penciled out financially, to Tate and the principals in the 14-year-old McMinnville company finally relented. They sent him to a training school last fall, and he's been climbing towers ever since.

Lopez said he loves the work. And he has absolutely no fear of working at such heights.

"I'll be able to tell my grandchildren about sitting in a harness, looking at a spectacular view of Portland, and eating a pudding cup," he said, flashing a big grin at the thought.

Weather often complicates OnlineNW's tower work. Unfortunately, braving the

elements is a necessity if the firm is to continue providing uninterrupted service. Only so much tower redundancy can be built in.

Last winter, the company needed to work on a tower located atop a snow-covered hill near Banks.

Drifts were running so deep, the company van got stuck trying to make its way up. But Lopez had to climb the tower and get the work done anyway.

"Winter absolutely leaves something to be desired," he admitted.

OnlineNW recently landed another project where the key component is engineering creativity rather than climber deriding-do.

Slayden Construction, general contractor on McMinnville Water & Light's \$31 million expansion and upgrade at the

Scott Water Treatment Plant, needs to maintain high-speed telecommunications contact among various crews at several Coast Range sites during the two-year construction period. And it hired OnlineNW to get the job done.

That required linking a company tower atop High Heaven to both the main Slayden construction site and its project headquarters office, tucked into the timber about 500 yards down the hill. Water & Light contributed by providing engineering services and allowing OnlineNW crews to camp on its power poles.

Lopez said three separate links had to be established, given the project office's almost subterranean location. But it's all in a day's work to a guy who climbs towers for a living.

## Homes: grants and gifts

Continued from B6

make it if she took it easy and listened to Myra.

Cindy eventually negotiated the one big step into the home, which still is in the framing stage. Wiegand then painted a picture in words for the blind middle-aged woman, whose glossy, black hair sets off an engaging smile.

Wiegand told her the bedrooms are angled, the doors are extra wide to accommodate wheelchairs and there are no narrow hallways. The spacious kitchen opens onto a great room or living room, where residents can relax or socialize. "Can my piano come along?" Cindy asked.

**Wiegand said** the two bathrooms are sized to accommodate wheelchairs.

"Are they ready yet?" Cindy asked. "I need to use one!"

Wiegand said the unit also features a Jacuzzi whirlpool. Asked if she knew what that meant, she said, "If I put on my swimming suit, I can go in the Jacuzzi!"

Wiegand pointed out the five skylights embedded in the pitched ceilings and the commercial-level laundry room. He told her about the patio in the back yard, where they can sit in the sun. He said each house is completely fenced, but a neighborly gate connects them.

The two houses are mirror images of each other, but they feature distinctive exteriors, so look quite different. Lisa Stonebridge of Design Alliance chose color schemes that would give each its own personality.

The houses were designed by architect James Ruggles of rural McMinnville, who used a

group home in La Grande as a model. Each unit encompasses 2,300 square feet, not counting the garage. John Mead of Cellar Ridge Custom Homes handled the construction.

In the entryway to the house where Cindy will live, the walkway will be paved with more than 100 bricks, each imprinted with the names of its donors. Mid-Valley was able to raise \$10,000 through the sale of personalized bricks.

The new homes will house Mid-Valley clients who were never able to hold or can no longer hold, due to medical issues, one of the many jobs the organization provides.

The new homes replace two aging ones that presented physical challenges to the residents. One, on Evans Street, will be sold to help pay for the new ones.

The new residences are designed to respect privacy while keeping the residents as independent as possible, Wiegand said.

**Mid-Valley's board** decided at its annual retreat of 2005 to commit to the project. The board members themselves donated more than \$22,000 to the cause.

With the help of several grants and donations, Mid-Valley had raised \$894,000 by February — enough to proceed.

Cindy wondered if her new home would be ready by her birthday. She turns 51 later this month.

Wiegand told her the homes won't be ready until October.

"It's still going to be neat!" Cindy said as she headed back to the bus.

## Court official: Trial off in Comair crash in state of Kentucky

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — A judge called off a trial Friday to hear lawsuits stemming from a 2006 plane crash that killed 49 people in Kentucky after family members and the airline reached settlements in most of the cases.

Mark Armstrong, chief deputy clerk for U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, confirmed the Monday trial was canceled. Details of the settlements have not been released.

The lawsuits claimed Comair was negligent because its pilots steered the plane in the pre-dawn darkness to the wrong runway, one that was too short for a proper takeoff. The jet hit trees and a perimeter fence before crashing in a farm next to Lexington's Blue Grass Airport.

Families of the two crew members who died in the crash

as well as the lone survivor, co-pilot James Polehinke, had filed their own suits against the federal government and other parties, but not against Comair. Those cases also haven't been resolved, said Susan Baker, a court clerk handling the case.

"Since the day of the accident, Comair has committed itself to treating the passenger families fairly and respectfully," Comair spokeswoman Kate Marx said. "It is comforting to come so far in this process and know we've honored our initial commitment."

One Kentucky case filed against Comair by a victim's family remained pending Friday, but no trial date has been set for it because of a recent change in attorneys, said Baker. A separate case was filed in federal court in Florida. Marx said the Florida case hadn't settled as of Friday morning and he didn't have any update.

## Oregon rancher sees biodiesel where some see weeds growing

The Associated Press

CENTRAL POINT — In calloused hands, rancher Mark Wiest held up a bunch of what some folks would call weeds.

Not Wiest. He sees a growing opportunity.

"At some point, we will use up all our fossil fuel, but this will still be here," he said. "This is renewable."

Behind him were 26 acres in Sams Valley planted in camelina sativa, which produces an oil seed touted as the latest affordable source for biodiesel.

"There was not one drop of fertilizer used on this crop," he said. "No irrigation applied. No herbicide treatment."

The plants represent the first camelina crop in southwestern Oregon. The test site is a partnership with Willamette Biomass Processors Inc. of Rickreall, a small town west of Salem.

The commercial oil seed processing firm took root last year shortly after Gov. Ted Kulongoski signed into law the state's new Renewable Fuels Initiative, which encourages Oregonians to produce renewable energy.

Wiest, 55, who has a degree in biology from what is now Southern Oregon University, has worked for Oregon State University's agricultural experiment station as well as several state agencies in southwestern Oregon. However, he has always kept a hand in agriculture, doing everything from bucking hay to working cattle.

**With the growing** interest in alternative fuels sparked by the high cost of diesel and gas, Wiest began researching camelina. The test crop is planted on acreage owned by Dalton Strauss, a longtime rancher in the Rogue Valley who previously grew alfalfa in the field.

Planted early in April, the camelina was ready to harvest. Wiest spent most of a recent morning operating a swather, a machine used to cut the camelina. A combine will be used to gather up the plants with their oil-rich seeds.

Local farmers and ranchers are waiting to see if the camelina crop turns a buck, he acknowledged.

"People ask if this crop is feasible," he said. "This crop is directly related to your pump. The feasibility of this crop is dictated by the number that shows up on the pump. The higher the price at the pump, the more feasible this is."

**Wiest estimated** it takes 50 percent less fuel to plant and harvest a camelina crop than hay.

He estimates the 26 acres will produce between 1,200 and 1,500 pounds of seed per acre. The price he can expect for the seed will be 17 cents a pound, perhaps as high as 19 cents, according to Tim Parker, president of Willamette Biomass.

The Sams Valley acreage is among the nearly 2,500 acres of camelina growing under contract between Oregon farmers and ranchers with most in the northern and central part of the state, Parker said. The firm with its new large-scale crushing facility can process more than 100 million pounds of oil seeds each year, he said.

"The oil is needed for biodiesel," he said. "And that's a good thing for Oregon farmers, actually Northwest farmers."

A third-generation Oregonian who decided to produce oil for biodiesel after the cost of fuel skyrocketed, Parker said he wants to see Oregonians making money off the fuel rather than giving money to foreign-owned firms.

Rotary Club of McMinnville's  
*Environmental Tip*  
of the week

**Water Bottles**

In the U.S. we dispose of about 70 million plastic water bottles each day. These bottles are not biodegradable. Fewer than 15% are recycled.

Reusing your plastic water bottle is a good idea. Here is a better idea: use a reusable metal bottle. In this area, bottled water isn't any purer than your faucet water. At the same time tap water is less expensive and readily available.

Preserve Planet Earth...Published as a public service by the News-Register

**WEEKLY REVIEW**  
Bringing Wall Street to Yamhill County  
compliments of Edward Jones

Stocks of Local Interest

Company	Friday's Close	Change from Previous Week
DOW JONES INDUSTRIALS	11,326.32	-44.37
NASDAQ COMPOSITE	2,310.96	+43
INTEL	22.35	-.34
IBM	126.64	-1.89
NIKE	59.40	+1.23
HEWLETT PACKARD	43.96	+25
NORTHWEST NAT GAS	45.10	-1.40
US BANCORP	30.80	+1.90
SCHNITZER STEEL	83.45	-.22
MICROSOFT	25.44	-.72
CISCO SYSTEMS	21.99	-.44
ORACLE	21.50	+55
BOEING	62.01	-1.82

Prices effective August 1, 2008 • Subject to change

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Thad Brill 715 NW Adams, McMinnville • (503) 472-0444 Kristi Brill

Your News-Register classified ad is in the paper and on the internet, one low price