

MORE MILL LAYOFFS

Cascade Steel trims another 20 jobs / BUSINESS, D7



DRAMA IN DAYTON

Thespian looks for a home for live theater

Connections, D1



Yamhill Valley News-Register

SATURDAY April 4, 2009 • \$1

Keeping you connected since 1866

McMinnville, Oregon 144th year, No. 34

From the playing field to the front lines

Former Mac High teammates now Guard buddies



Marcus Larson/News-Register

McMinnville National Guardsmen Matthew Lewis and Josh Armstrong talk with their wives, Angela Armstrong, foreground, and Melissa Lewis, background. Family members and friends gave the two a going away party Thursday in honor of their upcoming deployment.

By STARLA POINTER
Of the News-Register

Matthew Lewis and Josh Armstrong played football together during their four years at McMinnville High School. A year after their 2007 graduation, they teamed up again, this time for basic training with the Oregon Army National Guard.

Next week, the two young men will leave for more training, in preparation for deployment to the Middle East.

The McMinnville residents are part of the 41st Infantry Brigade, 11th Bravo Infantry Co., which is based at the Corvallis Army. However, an artillery unit based in the McMinnville Armory is also part of the

statewide deployment.

"Josh and I, we're side by side," Lewis said. "It's really cool having someone you know right there with you."

Armstrong agreed. "It's good knowing somebody who's going through the same thing," he said.

They will undergo three months of additional training in California and Georgia before leaving the country for a deployment expected to run a year.

"The hardest part is thinking about being gone so long," Lewis said. "No one looks forward to being gone."

Both are newlyweds, which makes it all that

See FRONT, Page A11



Marcus Larson/News-Register

Newberg Firefighters discuss how to approach the wreckage of a plane that crashed Wednesday morning, killing two people.

Plane just missed man walking dog

Pilot and passenger, both from Salem, died in the Newberg crash

By PAUL DAQUILANTE
Of the News-Register

NEWBERG — A single-engine Piper with two Salem residents on board fell from a fog-shrouded sky Wednesday morning and slammed into the front yard of a home perched atop Chehalem Mountain, killing both occupants of the plane.

No one on the ground was injured, but a resident walking his dog had to dive out of the way as the plane hit the ground, narrowly missing the home.

The Yamhill County Sheriff's Office identified the victims as pilot Steven Robert Fordyce, 49, who owned the 1959-model PA-22-150,

MORE INSIDE

Neighbors heard plane hit / A10

and passenger Pamela Jean Lusardi, 53, who lived in Newberg before moving to Marion County. The bodies were taken to Attrell's Newberg Funeral Chapel.

Fordyce and Lusardi took off from an airstrip at Lusardi's home, off Silverton Road N.E., bound for the Hillsboro Airport.

The two flew almost daily to their high-tech jobs in Washington County. Fordyce worked at NVIDIA in Beaverton and Lusardi at Intel in Hillsboro.

"It was a horrific crash,"

See PLANE, A10

County puts off landfill decision

Commissioners to ask consultant to study competing claims first

By DAVID BATES
Of the News-Register

Yamhill County's epic public hearing on Riverbend Landfill's proposed expansion grew in scope this week, as commissioners finished taking rebuttal testimony from the company and moved to have the claims of both sides investigated more thoroughly by a third party.

It represents an unusual and unexpected move. It came at the conclusion of Wednesday's five hours of testimony, during which Commissioners Leslie Lewis and Kathy George peppered state environmental regulators and company

officials with dozens of questions, some of which clearly exhibited incredulity about what they were hearing.

At one point, upon hearing a lengthy explanation from the applicant why trash couldn't be shipped out of the area by rail, George termed the argument "ridiculous." Lewis, meanwhile, gently admonished a Riverbend attorney, taking an exception to his explanation of the community's need.

"We have a policy decision to make," she said. "We're not just looking at it from a land-use perspective."

On a 2-0 vote, Lewis and George directed the staff to hire a consultant who will evaluate the arguments

See LANDFILL, A9

136-year-old house gets a lift



Marcus Larson/News-Register

Mark Pederson climbs down an 8-foot ladder to exit his home, which was lifted off its crumbling foundation so a new one could be built.

Company raises it seven feet for a round of retrofitting

By STARLA POINTER
Of the News-Register

With snaps, crackles and pops, an 1873 home on First Street lifted off its crumbling foundation and took to the air Friday morning.

The lift, which will leave the home seven feet above the ground for about three weeks, is part of a renovation that includes a new foundation, a more useable basement and other improvements designed to give the 136-year-old structure renewed life.

Homeowners Mark and Robin Pederson were walking on air over the project. And they will literally be walking on air as they continue to live in the house during the work.

"They're going to build us a tall set of stairs," Mark said.

The house, located at 540 S.E. First St., was originally built as a parsonage for the Methodist Church across the street.

The Pedersons bought it when they moved to McMinnville and Mark became pastor of Trinity Lutheran

Church, then located on 21st Street. Trinity Lutheran subsequently moved downtown, and it now shares the Methodist Church's quarters under the banner of McMinnville Cooperative Ministries.

So once again, the house is home to the minister of the church across the street.

The Pedersons purchased the house from Dick Easterday, who had already undertaken some extensive

See LIFT, Page A10

Mac cheerleaders win national title

19-member co-ed team bests squads from across the west

By STARLA POINTER
Of the News-Register

McMinnville High School won the National Cheerleading Association's co-ed national championship last weekend in competition held at Southern California's Knott's Berry Farm. It also won a special showmanship award.

The 19-member Mac High team beat out 53 other high school and all-star squads from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California and Texas.

It missed winning grand champion honors overall by just .41 of a point.

"Our team members really put their all into it," said coach Traci Brandt. "They perform well under pressure. They had worked hard all year on their stunting and showmanship, their dance, jumps and tumbling."

Brandt said judges consider all of those elements, along with technique, enthusiasm and the ability to lead a crowd during 2 1/2-minute competition routines.

Mac High cheerleaders flew

See CHEER, Page A10



Photo Submitted by Robson Muzel

McMinnville High School cheerleaders beat 53 other co-ed teams to win the national championship at Knott's Berry Farm in California.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

YAMHILL COUNTY EMMAUS/CURSILLO GATHERING, Saturday, April 4th 7:00-9:00 pm McMinnville Covenant Church, 2155 NW 2nd St. Bring "nibbles" to share with others. FMI 472-8163 or 472-6404.

WALNUT CITY KIWANIS CLUB meets on Friday mornings at 7:00 am at Cooperative Ministries, 1st and Ford, McMinnville. Guests welcome.

PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION kick-off event for Child Abuse Prevention Month, Thursday, April 2nd 12:15 pm in courtyard of Yamhill County courthouse. Help distribute pinwheels to heighten awareness of child abuse.

ANNUAL PANCAKE FEED, Saturday, April 11th at McMinnville Senior Center, 2250 McDaniel Lane, 7:00am - 10:00 am. Hosted by Walnut City Kiwanis Club. All proceeds go to youth in area. \$6 adults and \$3 children. Tickets for sale at door.

FRANK MESSINA BAND playing a benefit concert for Y-C Grad Night Saturday, April 25th from 7:00-9:00 pm in the UCHS Cafeteria. Fun for the whole family! All ages welcome! \$6 students; \$10 adults; \$25 family.

HANGING BASKETS BY COUNTRY GARDEN NURSERY, 9th annual fundraiser for American Cancer Society. 12-inch pot filled with variety of sun or shade loving plants. Price \$34 per basket (prepaid orders) \$37 on May 9th and available for pickup on Friday, May 8th 2-5 pm or Saturday May 9th 9:00-1:00 at Citizens Bank, 435 NE Baker St. Contact Citizen Bank.

A service of
Macy & Son
Funeral Directors

Serving Since 1903

SELECTED Independent Funeral Homes®
Second & Evans, McMinnville • (503) 472-6151
www.macyandson.com



Starla Pointer/News-Register

Workers place one of the huge steel beams used to lift the Pederson house. The house was lifted seven feet, inch by inch over a period of three hours, so a new foundation could be built.

Lift

Continued from A1

retrofitting. They continued that process, remodeling the kitchen, upgrading the electrical system and refinishing the fir floors.

But it was obvious the house also had structural problems that needed to be addressed. Mark said the southeast corner had dropped several inches,

indicating the foundation was failing.

Cellar Ridge Custom Homes of McMinnville is doing the foundation and basement work. Steve Hoskins Construction of Salem did the lifting, a three-hour process that involved raising the house a few inches, adding bracing, then raising it a few more.

When the house was fully off the ground, workers reconnected the phone, gas,

electric, sewer and water lines so the Pedersons could continue to live there.

Carson Benner and John Mead of Cellar Ridge said this is just the type of project in which their company specializes.

"The Pedersons want to preserve the architectural integrity," Mead said. "And as green builders, we want to have a small carbon footprint. You can do both while preserving a home."

The Pedersons are pleased with the green building techniques used by Cellar Ridge, as well as the idea of having a structurally sound place to live.

But Mark is most excited about the basement, which will have a 9-foot ceiling instead of the old one, which was as low as 5-foot-11 in some places.

"Yay!" he said. "That's the last time I'll smack my head on that beam."

Plane

Continued from A1

Sheriff's Capt. Ken Summers said. "It's a horrendous event. There were a lot of Newberg firefighters, many of whom are volunteers, and deputies on scene. But there are two families who lost loved ones this morning. Our hearts go out to those families. That's our concern."

The crash, occurring amid million-dollar homes just northeast of Newberg, was reported about 7:30 a.m.

The fixed-wing, four-seater plummeted to the ground in front of the 5,500-square-foot residence of Ronald G. and Jennie K. Bernt, 16416 Mountain Home Road. Their two-story hillside home features a front-yard fountain, which sits just feet away from where the plane came down.

Frank Douglas of the Newberg Fire Department said emergency medical personnel quickly determined no one on board had survived and no one on the ground had been injured.

"People were standing

around," Douglas said. "One of them said he was walking his dog. He heard an aircraft. He thought he heard it sputter, possibly lose power. It circled around and then basically came on approach to a crash landing pretty much directly at him."

The individual dropped to the ground to avoid being struck by the plane, according to Douglas. The crash happened right in front of him.

Douglas described it as a steep approach and a violent crash, with the plane hitting hard enough to leave a large impact crater in the yard.

A door, tires and a tail section stood among shards of mostly unrecognizable wreckage. Debris was scattered over a wide expanse.

The Newberg-Dundee Communications Agency immediately began receiving 911 calls about the crash and dispatched response crews.

Douglas said the crash ignited a small fire that threatened to spread across ground saturated with jet fuel. However, he said crews quickly put it out.

By the end of the day,

officials from the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board arrived to begin an investigation. They hope to determine the cause eventually, but it's anticipated their work will take months to complete. The wreckage was taken to Vancouver, Wash., where it will be inspected.

"Fortunately, there were some witnesses right there to give first-hand accounts of what they heard and saw," Douglas said. "Anything we say about the cause would be pure speculation."

Weather potentially played a role, however. It was foggy, overcast, rainy and windy at the time, with a ceiling of just 500 feet.

"One of the first things we thought about was the availability of a Life Flight helicopter in case anyone was alive," Douglas said. "But the weather conditions were bad enough that we would not have been able to use any air ambulance transportation."

Eight pieces of Newberg fire equipment and more than a dozen personnel responded to the scene. Douglas said

incidents like this have an impact on those people, but dealing with the situation is part of the job.

"We have good days and bad days," he said. "This is a bad day."

These were the first fatalities as the result of a plane crash in Yamhill County since 2005, when three people died in two separate crashes at the Flying M Ranch, about eight miles northwest of Yamhill.

A 79-year-old Sandy man died in March of that year when he had to crash-land an experimental kit plane.

Three months later, a flight instructor from Hillsboro and student pilot from Portland died when their Cessna crashed during an attempted landing. A woman passenger survived.

— *The Associated Press* contributed to this report.

Cheer

Continued from A1

to California on March 27 to prepare for the competition. They returned Wednesday, following visits to Knotts Berry Farm, Disneyland and the Santa Monica Pier.

Brandt said the team competes almost every week during the winter. It has placed first or second at numerous competitions this year, including the Oregon state cheerleading contest in February, where it claimed second-place honors.

It also performs at Mac

High assemblies, football games and basketball games. It consists of:

■ Seniors Melissa Acevedo, Will Hagen, Brittney Husted, Joel Maldonado and Kylan VanHooser.

■ Juniors Katie Cinnamon, Adriana Dykes, Kymberlin Hoggard, Ronna Huntley, Jessica Munkres, Chelsea Root and Jordan Wright.

■ Sophomores Jaqueline Lozano, Chelsea Obrist, Cesar Perez and Stephanie Sulak.

■ Freshmen Madie Bertagna, Megan Looney and Breana Williams.

CASCADIA
LANDSCAPING

503-472-5897

LAWN CARE





◆ Landscape Design ◆ Sprinkler Systems ◆ Pathways
◆ Trees, Shrubs & Flowers ◆ Water Features ◆ Lawn Care
www.CascadiaLandscaping.com LLC#5285

Quality Care ... and Classes, Close to Home

New Moms Group

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to Noon
Location: Birthing Center Classroom
Cost: Free

Safe Sitter Class

Saturday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Birthing Center Classroom
Cost: \$45

Registration required

Participants must bring a sack lunch
Ages 11 and up

Breastfeeding Class

Monday, April 6 from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Location: Birthing Center Classroom
Cost: \$15

For registration forms, more information about the Birthing Center and other services, please visit www.wvmcweb.com.

Willamette Valley Medical Center

2700 SE Stratus Avenue • McMinnville, OR 97128
www.wvmcweb.com

Neighbors heard plane hit

By PAUL DAQUILANTE
Of the News-Register

NEWBERG — Jeff and Ann Roberg, who live across from the Chehalem Mountain home where a single-engine Piper crashed into the front yard Wednesday morning, were sleeping when the plane plunged to the ground, barely missing their million-dollar residence.

Pilot Steven Robert Fordyce, 49, and passenger Pamela Jean Lusardi, 53, both of Salem, died on impact.

They were en route to the Hillsboro Airport, and from there to jobs in Washington County's high-tech industry. They commuted by air on a regular basis.

"It sounded like someone slammed a car door right outside our bedroom window," Ann Roberg said. "I got up, looked out the windows and didn't see anything.

I went back to bed, but a few minutes later, I heard fire engines. I thought, 'Oh, something happened.' I looked out, and they were all parked in our front yard."

Jeff Roberg said it sounded to him like a bomb exploding.

The Robergs live on the flight path for planes heading in a northeasterly direction. They see light planes flying by all the time.

"We wave at them," Ann Roberg said. "They're close enough that you can wave at them — practically say hello. They come close."

She said they have wondered sometimes if a plane might be experiencing trouble, but crashes are so rare they've never become overly concerned.

The fixed-wing, four-seater plummeted to the ground in front of the 5,500-square-foot residence of Ronald G. and

Jennie K. Bernt at 16416 Mountain Home Road.

Built in 1959, the PA-22-150 belonged to Fordyce. It took off from a private strip on Lusardi's property in South Salem on a windy, wet and foggy morning, with limited visibility.

Chehalem Mountain resident Dawn Matney said she was returning home after dropping her son off at school when a series of emergency vehicles raced past. She said she spotted the wreckage when she pulled up at her place.

"Thankfully, it didn't hit any of the houses," she said.

Neighbor Steve Everley said this was the first crash he's heard of in the area.

"We have a lot of aircraft, typically small planes," he said. "And a lot of helicopters, too."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Campaign launched on STD testing

The News-Register staff

Planned Parenthood of the Columbia Willamette is participating in a nationwide campaign with the MTV cable channel and Kaiser Family Foundation on a campaign to foster increased testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases among those under 25.

The "GYT: Get Yourself Tested" campaign will feature a mix of on-air, online

and other forms of promotion throughout the month of April, which has been declared National STD Awareness Month. A website has been established at www.GYT09.org to provide comprehensive information about STDs and direct users to the nearest testing location on the basis of their zip codes.

A mobile counterpart, using the short code 49809,

offers details about local testing locations to those texting a zip code on the cell phones.

All of Planned Parenthood's Oregon and Southwest Washington centers offer STD testing and treatment, including its center on Adams Street in McMinnville.

The organization can be reached at 1-888-875-7820 or www.ppcw.org.

What is there to fear, anyway?

You don't have to be afraid to go to the dentist anymore. With **Sedation Dentistry** you can regain your health and have the fabulous smile you always wanted.

Call today for a free consultation ~ 503.472.1159

Dental Care **ADVANCED SMILE DESIGN**
James B. Nelson, D.D.S.
Yamhill County's Leading Complete Restorative Dentistry
821 North Highway 99W • McMinnville • 1smile@live.com
www.McMinnvilleDentalReports.com/11.htm





MEMORIAL DAY

observed Monday
May 25, 2009

- Granite grave markers of all types, flat to upright.
- Quality materials, craftsmanship and service.
- Complete arrangements for settings in any cemetery.

To assure placement by Memorial Day, place special orders by April 18; Place regular stone orders by May 2

Memorial Granite Co.

135 NE Evans St., McMinnville • macys@onlinemac.com

503-472-6151

Open 7 Days A Week