



## Out of Town

Just Out

ventures to

Yamhill County

For most of us passing through rural Oregon, Yamhill County is part of the two-hour car trip to the beach. It's the place we pull over to buy a cup of coffee, a basket of apples or

freshly cut daffodils on our way back home. We've learned it's home to a growing number of wineries, some that turn out a pinot noir growing in popularity around the world.

Lately we've slowed down while making our way

and its massive new home. And some of us pop in to try our luck at Spirit Mountain Casino.

But this county is also home to many men and women from our community. Some have struggled

to gain acceptance, while others have met with overwhelming support from their neighbors.

Surely, many stories could be told about life within the 718 square miles of this picturesque place. Here are just a few.

through Yamhill County to gander at the Spruce Goose

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Jonesing for Johnson A popul

SALEM:

Organizers prepare for Capitol Pride

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A popular band prepares its swan songs

PERTLAND:

Q & A with board member Linda Williams

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## BY ALICIA HEALEY

wamp Mama Johnson, the kick-ass funky-blues-groove lesbian typhoon that has stormed throughout the Pacific Northwest and across the country for a decade, is disbanding at the end of the summer. End of an era? Isn't that a bit dramatic?

## Not at all.

It's a bit daunting to write about a band that has as magical a history of performance, musicianship and, let me go ahead and say it, style. Swamp Mama Johnson has entertained, rocked and inspired at more than 1,400 gigs these past 10 years.

And in an industry and musical genre where it is almost impossible for women to be taken seriously as musicians and business owners, SMJ repeatedly has annihilated gender stereotypes. They have proven, through every performance, every CD sale and every booking, that women are completely capable of playing harddriving funky blues and running a highly successful band.

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