

Residential Care Facility:

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June 2025

Dear Elite Care Family & Friends,

Before the hot weather sinks in for summer, we want to cast a spotlight on some of our inspiring Residents and Staff members at Elite Care. We have started a new program at Oatfield Estates that highlights a star employee every quarter. This star is truly special because they are voted into this wonderful role! Look inside for a special shout out to this quarters winner- Dee!

Stay cool and hydrated! We will be taking a month off from the newsletter in July as we plan some extra special events that you will not want to miss! Stay tuned!

Elite Care Management Team



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Mothers day

High tea with fancy treats on the Cascade Lawn. Fresh strawberry and whipped on top of waffles. Assorted tea pots from all over the states. We had a photo shoot with all the moms and grandma's of OE!



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Tattoo Tuesday

This May, we applied tattoos and shared stories. Chef Eliene served up some special treats – fresh deviled eggs and ham canapés! It is so fun picking out which temporary tattoo to use!



Fun & Games

Such a fun time combining both sister houses – Helens and Rainier – for a game or two of Bingo. Some new faces joined us so that was awesome to have held!



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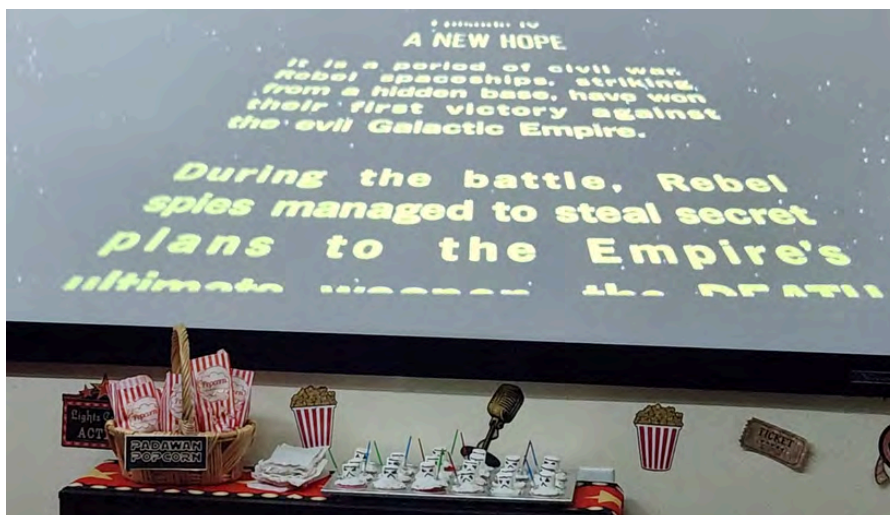
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May the 4th Be With You

"May the 4th" is the perfect day to celebrate all things Star Wars! We blasted off to a house not so far, far away and snacked on "Jabba's Grub," "Han Rolos," "Wookie Cookies," and Stormtrooper-topped cupcakes that were as delicious as they were adorable. Then we enjoyed watching the original 1977 Star Wars on the big projector screen, before channeling the Force in our own Lightsaber duels. We had so much fun!



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The third annual Royal Rosarian Rose Dedication Ceremony took place at Oatfield Estates this month. Lydia, cofounder of Elite Care and a 25 year member of the Royal Rosarians, was the VIP. Oatfield Estates now has a "Strike it Rich" rose bush growing in the community rose garden.



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Fanno Creek outing

We took a wonderful trip to our sister community Fanno Creek! They hosted a wonderful Hawaiian themed party which included a real sand beach! The chefs went out of their way to make sure the food was amazing and we even were treated to a concert. We love seeing our friends at Fanno Creek!





Resident Spotlight



Kaia is a resident living in Rainier house – she's such a joy to have around. She was born in Portland, OR. Has traveled to a few places and gone on some pretty cool sightseeing trips and just such fun journeys altogether. She'd love to talk all about her adventures! Kaia is always ready to relax and have a good time. Such a bright light in the house, always friendly and ready to have a conversation. She loves Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, Vampire Diaries, and more misc. shows and movies. If you have any recommendations – she's always ready to try a new show!

Kaia is a big animal lover as well, especially working with horses. One of her favorite activities, other than hanging out with the roommates and watching her shows, is getting flowers on Monday for her room. Please take the time to have a conversation with her and get to know Kaia, she's such a good person to have a conversation with and have a good laugh. Such a fun person and positive spirit! SO happy to have you here in Rainier house!

Staff Spotlight



Although born in California, Dee was raised in the Klamath Basin, by 3 generations of women: she lived with her mother and grandmother, while her great-grandmother lived across the street. Her family encouraged her to be proud of her heritage as a member of the Wailaki Tribe, but growing up in this small town, with their old school ways of life, Dee admits that she felt like an "odd ball out."

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Staff Spotlight continued:

From a young age, Dee loved art and generally liked different things from most of the people around her. School wasn't an especially supportive environment for her, but she loved choir, and her favorite teacher was a math teacher literally named Mr. Boring. However, Dee loved college. She moved to Portland in 2002 to study animation and art, which took through her courses on storyboarding, concept art, 2D animation, and 3D modeling. Dee cites the special effects in films like Star Wars as what made her want to get into this world, and currently some of her main artistic influences are The Quay Brothers, Jim Henson, and Hayao Miyazaki.

While most of us know Dee as the extraordinary housekeeper at the Larch and Tabor houses, prior to this she had been a photo editor for almost 10 years and had been a caregiver for four years. Starting last year, every two or three months Dee contributes her time, knowledge, and experience to help us with our Art & App event, during which she helps residents paint and create beautiful art. Dee does custodial work by day and continues her art at night (or at least when not at work!), and she currently sells her products at Made in Milwaukie, The Beer Store, and on the weekends the Milwaukie Masonic Lodge. She makes jewelry, prints, crochet items, and more— which you can also find on her Instagram page, @creativerequiem.

When asked why she likes art, Dee thought carefully about her response before replying, "It's therapeutic. It can be healing. It's a great way to express your emotions and how you see life. It tells a story." The residents of the Larch and Tabor houses recently selected Dee to be the first recipient of our new Star Employee of the Month program, in recognition of her hard work and excellent rapport with everyone who lives here or works here.

Thank you Dee, for all you do for us!



A month of Spring blooms, gardening, Hawaiian Luau preparation, crafts and wellness at Fanno Creek

An invigorating May has been a beautiful bloom season for both our residents and staff at Fanno Creek. We are incredibly grateful for the meaningful connections formed and the enriching experiences shared throughout May. The month was filled with opportunities for residents to connect, collaborate, and take the lead in a wide array of multicultural activities, fostering a spirit of togetherness and creativity.

We are proud and loud to say the Elite Care at Fanno Creek as in its essence a wonderfully diverse community with residents from all parts of the world, May began with a heartwarming Hawaiian Luau Festival. Bringing the Flavors from the Pacific Islanders and their vibes to Fanno Creek Residents were genuine connections that were fostered with the visit of other facilities, the magical theme was inspired by the tropical rainforest admirer a delightful inspiration to our creative Team making the possibilities of bringing the Beach to Fanno Creek, A beautiful Made tropical Flower and plant wall representing the Variety of tropical Flowers and Plants Hawaii has to offer bringing to the residents the ability to feel in Hawaii and the great interactive photo booth making every visitor to experiences the Hawaiian grove to the fullest.



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The amazing kitchen services getting everyone craving the most delicious kalua pork and not to mention the exotic and moist watering Hawaiian deserts all of this made by our amazing kitchen staff

Not to mention the exciting trip to the Oregon zoo where the residents had a blast, they had a beautiful day seeing the baby elephant, flamencos, a walk in the thematic rain forest and the amazing Jiraftas. So many memories in May that we can't forget creating a long-lasting memory to keep the excitement of Spring doing the magic, which set a positive tone for the month ahead, one filled with healthy habits and an energetic outlook for more outdoor sunny fun activities and interaction.



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Outing to the Zoo



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Gardening and Horticulture

At Fanno Creek, we are deeply passionate about fostering a thriving gardening and horticultural environment for our residents. We believe that the act of planting and nurturing life not only enhances our surroundings but also promotes well-being, creativity, and a sense of accomplishment. As part of our commitment to being an Elite Care community, we continue to support and encourage our residents' gardening endeavors, offering them opportunities to connect with nature and develop their green thumbs.

This month, the garden has come alive with the addition of new and exciting projects. Residents have been busy growing flowers, a Liac was planted in the prayer garden, as a part of arbor day, Pollinating Gardens and watching their blooms begin to take shape, and learning the delicate art of bonsai care in our newly launched bonsai class. These new initiatives have provided residents with the chance to explore different aspects of gardening while connecting with one another over shared experiences.

The tropical plants, such as the vibrant Palms, Fidelity fig, Yuca plants and lush philodendrons, along with the stunning garden morning glories currently growing in the garden, are a testament to our residents' horticultural talents. Each plant tells a unique story of dedication and growth. Additionally, our recent introduction of hydroponic indoor vegetable and herb systems in the plant room has sparked curiosity and excitement. This innovative approach to gardening allows residents to cultivate fresh, healthy produce year-round, all while learning about sustainable growing methods that are both environmentally friendly and practical.

These exciting additions not only contribute to the beauty and sustainability of our community but also offer residents a rewarding hands-on experience, encouraging them to embrace new skills and expand their gardening knowledge. Whether it's nurturing a bonsai or experimenting with hydroponics, our residents are growing not just plants, but also their confidence and creativity.

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Arts and Crafts

This month, our community has truly flourished with the artistic spirit of our residents! From abstract Clay designs to hand-made jewelry, Flower pressing, Flower Arranging, Baking class with Sam where they learn how to make crust from scratch creating delicious lemon cheesecakes, Hawaiian Luau art painting, and pastel techniques to bohemian poetry, Creative Writing we've explored a rich variety of artistic expressions. Residents have embraced diverse art forms and honed their skills with new tools and techniques, creating stunning pieces to be admired by all.

The pride and joy were palpable as residents showcased their work, each piece reflecting unique creativity and personal flair. But the excitement didn't stop there! Volunteers and families joined us for a social hour throughout the month, where residents explored Games, Pet Therapy, coloring and more celebrating with a vibrant time together full of music, dance, arts, and flavorful experiences. We're so proud of the collaboration, learning, and creativity that continue to thrive in our community—making this month truly unforgettable!



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Music and Games

May was a month filled with music, rhythm, and lively energy at Fanno Creek, bringing warmth and festivity to our spring colorful days. We transformed spaces like the library and plant room into an intimate tropical feeling for performance venues, maximizing their acoustics to create a cozy atmosphere that invited music lovers to sit back, relax, and enjoy the sounds that filled the air.

Our residents were treated to a range of performances, with a special focus on acoustic music. From guitar, piano, Classical flute, Hawaiian tunes and trumpet, the performances spanned multiple genres and embraced diverse cultural traditions. Whether it was American classics, German folk tunes, Hawaiian rhythms, or the timeless favorites of Peru, the variety kept the atmosphere vibrant and inviting. We were thrilled to welcome both professional musicians and resident performers, who all brought their unique talents to the stage. The dynamic mix of styles enchanted our audience, with each note bringing joy and connection.

Notably, Gabe's guitar and trumpet performances of classic music resonated deeply with the audience for our annual Hawaiian luau celebration, while Monte's piano pieces left a lasting impression, showcasing the beauty of musical expression. The library's cozy setting turned into a haven of relaxing poetry readings, with some of the finest works from across the ages, offering a soothing retreat for those who enjoy the spoken word and a glass of wine when the social hour arrives.

The month also included an exciting Music concert by our great Karen, our talented Flute Performer was an electrifying celebration of multicultural contemporaneous forms, including American classics like the foxtrot, rhythms like gentle international classics, and the passionate Argentinian tango that quickly became a favorite, focusing on creating monthly experiences that blend a sense of belonging, fun, and celebration.



Music and Games continued

And we can't forget about the Salsa class, a beautiful moment where residents discover the magic of movements where our instructors Leah and Jeff Velez bring a sense of positive possibilities challenging movement and diversities of discovering different music styles and incorporating them to tropical rhythms in combination with classical american traditional dances These sessions were not just about classical music but also a history lesson about celebrating our community's diversity with joy, music, and food incorporated into our monthly entertainment experience.

Alongside the music and dance, the month was filled with games and activities that brought residents together. From dominoes in various sizes to bingo, Monopoly where families were able to join and volunteer to help the residents with this complicated game, Racquetball, and games like bean bag toss and the fun was non-stop. Brien Games also made a grand return, adding an element of surprise and excitement to the mix. These games, alongside the music and dancing, created a month filled with laughter, connection, and a true sense of celebration.

May at Fanno Creek was a time for residents to connect through music, movement, and play—reminding us all of the power of creativity and community to lift spirits and bring joy to our days.



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Music and Games





Resident Spotlight



We are proud to highlight one of our extraordinary residents, Helena, whose life has been a remarkable journey through the world of performing arts. Born in Barcelona, Spain, and educated in Bristol, England, Helena began her theatrical training at the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London at just 15 years old, attending on a full scholarship. She later earned a drama diploma from the University of London and received multiple honors from the London Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Helena has worked as an actress, director, producer, and performer in theatre, film, television, and radio across 16 countries, touring throughout Europe, North and South America, and Southeast Asia. She is bilingual in Spanish and English, bringing a rich cultural perspective to her work and interactions.

A lifelong lover of the arts, Helena continues to express her creativity and passion at Fanno Creek. She has recently embraced new artistic outlets such as painting, flower arranging, meditation, yoga, and Zumba. She also enjoys Spanish and Italian language classes, nature walks, and participating in various community outings. Her openness to growth and exploration makes her a truly vibrant and inspiring presence in our community.

Helena remains enthusiastic about continuing her career in acting and is eager to share her knowledge and experience. She has expressed a heartfelt interest in teaching acting workshops for fellow residents—something we're excited to incorporate into our upcoming activities calendar. Her willingness to contribute her talents to our community is just one more reason she stands out as a beloved and exceptional resident.

We're thrilled to have Helena as part of the Fanno Creek family, and we look forward to seeing her creative journey continue to flourish.



Staff Spotlight



We are excited to shine the spotlight on Diane, one of our extraordinary caregivers! Originally from the martial islands, Diane has proven to be an important member of our team, consistently demonstrating an exceptional blend of understanding, patience, collaboration, fun and empathy. Her unwavering support during challenging times has been a source of comfort to both residents and staff, helping to foster a sense of appreciation, fast approach and mutual respect within our community.

With her warm charisma and infectious positive energy, Diane has quickly become a beloved figure, creating meaningful connections with both residents and staff alike. Her enthusiasm for teamwork and her dedication to community engagement make her an indispensable part of life at Fanno Creek.

Diane thrives on a lighthearted approach, approaching every situation with a calm, fun and steady hand. With over many years of experience in the caregiving field, she brings not only her expertise but also her innovative ideas to the table. From assisting with activities to delivering meals with a personal touch, Diane is always looking for ways to contribute in creative, impactful ways.

Join us in celebrating Diane's incredible journey as a caregiver and the positive contributions she continues to make to our community!