

For Immediate Release

April 21, 2026

Oak Knoll Golf Course Gets New Life as Community Space Under Local Ownership

Portland, Ore. – The Oak Knoll Golf Course off Highway 22, near Salem, will remain an open space for recreation and community gatherings under the property’s new local owners, Wandering In Time Productions, producer of the Oregon Renaissance Faire and other immersive events.

The Pacific Northwest-based event production company is committed to maintaining the scenic property as an open, usable space for the public benefit. There are no current plans for any major developments on the land.

“This is one of those rare places that already has a deep civic footprint; it has been part of people’s lives for generations,” said Tracy Nietupski, executive producer of Wandering In Time Productions. “Our intent is not to reinvent the property but to support what it already is: a place where the community can come together to connect and have fun.”

Nietupski co-founded the company in 2018 with David Day, and it has grown to include popular immersive events such as the Oregon Renaissance Faire set to take place as usual in Canby in 2026, and the Washington Midsummer Renaissance Faire in Snohomish. With the spirit of these events in mind, Oak Knoll offers accessible, open space for new and exciting future events.

The Oak Knoll property operated as a golf course for 100 years and hosted both casual recreation and organized athletic events, including cross-country meets for local schools and colleges. Wandering In Time Productions plans to work with local schools, athletic programs and community organizations to continue supporting recreational needs across the region.

“There is real value in preserving places like this,” Nietupski said. “We see this as an opportunity for land stewardship, not redevelopment. Oregon communities need spaces where people can be together outdoors. Our focus is on making sure Oak Knoll continues to serve that role for the region.”

Local officials welcomed the transition, highlighting the importance of preserving established recreational spaces for community events.

“This project has strong potential to attract visitors from across the region, providing meaningful support to our local businesses and helping to further establish Independence and the surrounding area as a vibrant and welcoming destination,” said Kate Schwarzler, mayor of Independence. “We look forward to seeing how this property evolves and the many ways it will contribute to the energy, character and long-term vitality of our community.”

Wandering In Time Productions intends to engage with community stakeholders in the months ahead as it explores long-term stewardship and public-use opportunities for the property. Details regarding future access, programming and community coordination will be shared as those conversations continue.



Wandering In Time Productions™

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About Wandering In Time Productions

Wandering In Time Productions creates immersive, themed events in the Pacific Northwest that bring thousands of people together to celebrate history, culture and fantasy. Co-founded by David Day and Tracy Nietupski in 2018, the company produces premier events – including the Oregon Renaissance Faire and Washington Midsummer Renaissance Faire– that transport attendees to different times and places. Our extensive experience and attention to detail ensure each event is not only a spectacle but also an immersive journey filled with magical and memorable experiences.