



HOMETOWN HERO

Lieutenant Travis Weger — From Brownsville Roots to Global Impact

By LTC Sharon Banks (Ret), staff writer

BROWNSVILLE — From the quiet streets of Brownsville to the frontlines of international military missions, Lieutenant Travis E. Weger's path through the U.S. Navy has been one of distinction, innovation, and historic achievement.

A 2001 graduate of Central Linn High School and a fourth-generation Oregonian, Lt. Weger is deeply connected to his roots. His great-great-grandfather, Thomas M. Weger, homesteaded along Gap and Priceboro Roads in 1848. Raised in a close-knit family steeped in service, Travis is one of four siblings — Charise of Roseville, California; Brittany and Alyssa of Brownsville — and now lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with his wife, Sharnay, and their two sons, Grayson and Anders.

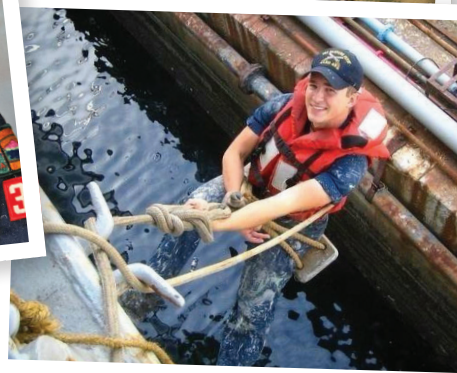
Travis enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 2003 and began his career aboard the USS Harpers Ferry out of Sasebo, Japan. As a Boatswain's Mate, he logged over 5,000 operational hours and conducted more than 100 high-stakes Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) missions. His early deployments placed him in elite roles with Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, including Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit One, Naval Special Clearance Team One, and Coastal Riverine Squadron Ten. He completed six deployments supporting Operation

TRAVIS continued on page 2

Travis' current official military photo



Travis in third grade wearing his Cub Scout uniform



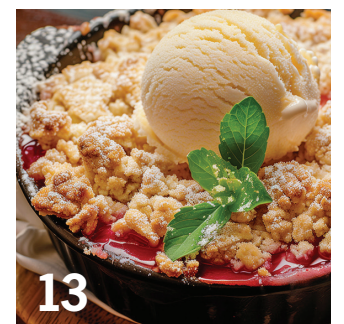
Travis using a boatswain's chair to paint the side of the ship aboard USS Harpers Ferry (LSD-49).



Long Before Brownsville

Discover the rich and often overlooked history of the Kalapuya people, original stewards of the Willamette Valley. From seasonal lifeways to forced relocation, their story is deeply tied to our land.

See page 8 for **Legacy of the Land: The Kalapuya Indians of Brownsville and the Willamette Valley.**



Kick off your Independence Day with one of Brownsville's favorite traditions: the Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast in Pioneer Park! Join us Friday morning from 8 to 10 a.m. for a hearty, all-American breakfast featuring pancakes, sausage, eggs, orange juice, and coffee — plus live music, dancing, and the always-entertaining aerial pancake flips!

If your birthday falls on or near the Fourth, don't be shy — we'll sing a big, joyful "Happy Birthday" just for you. All proceeds help fund our spectacular fireworks display.

Breakfast Prices:

- Adults: \$10
- Children (10 & under): \$5

And just in case you forget or decide to sleep in, our traditional fire truck wake-up call will be making its rounds through town — loud and proud — to remind you to head to the park for breakfast.

Afternoon Fun & Brownsville Rural Fire Dept. Fireworks

Stick around for a full day of fun in the park!

- 1 p.m. — Food carts open for lunch and snacks
- 1–5 p.m. — Special Appearance by Tow Mator
- 4–7 p.m. — Family games on the ball field
- 8:30 p.m. — Free ice cream cones for kids 12 & under (\$1 for everyone else)
- 10 p.m. (at dark) — Fireworks light up the night sky!

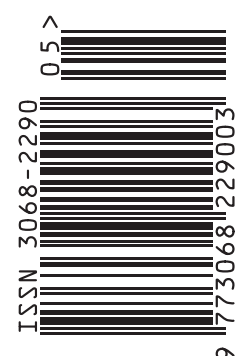
Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and good vibes — but please leave personal fireworks and alcohol at home. A \$10 donation per vehicle is requested at the park entrance to help support this beloved community celebration.

Let's make it a safe, festive, and memorable day for all.
Happy Fourth of July!



MAILING LABEL BELOW

\$2.00



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Brownsville Thursday Market

Thursdays, 3–7 p.m.

Held on Main Street just off Highway 228, this weekly market offers local produce, crafts, and more.

<https://www.calapooiafoodalliance.org>

Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast

Friday, July 4, 8–10 a.m. Food Pavilion, Pioneer Park

Fourth of July Fun & Food Trucks

Friday, July 4, 1–7 p.m. Pioneer Park

Food trucks open at 1, family games in the ball field 4–7 p.m. Tow Mater appearance 1–5 p.m.

Ice Cream & Fireworks

Friday, July 4, Pioneer Park

Ice Cream 8:30 p.m. free for kids age 12, \$1 over 12

Fireworks: at dark: about 10 p.m.

Oakville Presbyterian Church 175th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, July 5, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Car show, quilt show, historical tours and exhibit

Sunday, July 6, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

worship service, picnic, games, quilt show and historical artifacts exhibit

29970 Church Dr • Shedd 541-758-0647

<https://oakvillechurch.org>

Albany Regional Museum — Meet the Director

July 10, 4–6 p.m. • 136 Lyon Street SW, Albany

Welcome Val Van Alstyne to her role as Albany Regional Museum's new Director! This is a casual meet and greet open to the community, light refreshments provided.

Free Nitrate Screening

Thursday, July 10, 3–7 p.m.

Brownsville Thursday Market

Bring a ½ cup of untreated well water in a container. Testing only takes 10 minutes. Nitrate has been associated with both short and long-term health issues. It is also a great indicator if your water is susceptible to surface contamination. Testing provided by the Oregon State University Extension Service. Other events at <https://wellwater.oregonstate.edu>.



Local Color

TRAVIS

continued from cover

Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, serving in several combat zones performing security reaction force missions, civil affairs, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief. His advanced training included surveillance and detection, Blackwater tactical programs, and even marine mammal handling.

In 2016, Travis made Navy history by becoming the first Chief Boatswain's Mate ever to commission as a Public Affairs Officer. He holds a B.A. in Communication Studies and Marketing

from the University of San Diego, where he also studied abroad at Hong Kong Baptist University, focusing on imagery and influence. Since his commissioning, Lt. Weger has shaped the Navy's strategic messaging in leadership roles with the Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and the U.S. 7th Fleet.

As Public Affairs Officer, he has led communications for Carrier Strike Group 5 and Task Force 70 aboard the USS George Washington and Ronald Reagan, and during multinational operations such as Cobra Gold, Talisman Sabre, Balikatan, and RIMPAC. Based on his operational experience, he was selected to lead a joint communications team embedded with U.S. special operations forces, including the 160th SOAR, the elite unit responsible for the Bin Laden operation.

His videography and storytelling work has been featured globally on Associated Press, NBC, Reuters, Fox News, Forbes, and many other outlets and partner nations. He has earned several military awards, including the Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, multiple Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Expeditionary Warfare Specialist designation. As a creator and media strategist, his awards include the Platinum Viddy Award, Best Documentary from the National Association of Government Communicators, and an Official Selection at the GI Film Festival, along with the American Advertising Award for Best in Show.



Commissioned aboard the USS Midway in San Diego Bay in 2016, Travis was joined by his father Jim, mother Linda, and wife Sharnay, who proudly took part in the ceremony.



Travis making Chief Boatswain's Mate while serving with Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training (MCAST). The rank of Chief Petty Officer is a highly respected and significant promotion.

Despite his global impact, Lt. Weger remains steadfast in his pride for Brownsville. "Growing up in Brownsville gave me humble beginnings to help shape who I am today," he says. "It taught me the value of hard work, community, and service — values I've carried with me throughout my two decades in the Navy."

To explore more about Lt. Weger's service and award-winning media work, visit <https://travis-weger.com>.

Brownsville proudly salutes Lieutenant Travis E. Weger — a true Hometown Hero and global ambassador of courage, leadership, and legacy.

Breaking News Volunteers Wanted

The Brownsville Times is building a team of trusted local reporters to help cover breaking stories in the Central Linn area.

We need volunteers who can respond quickly, gather facts, take photos, and send updates.

No experience needed. Just commitment, curiosity, and a strong sense of accuracy.

Training and support provided.

editor@brownsvilletimes.org | 458 • 266 • 0511

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WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Brownsville Assembly of God

313 Washburn St · 541-466-5030
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Services 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Classes Wednesday 7 p.m. all ages

Brownsville Christian Church

117 N Main St · 541-466-3273
<https://brownsvillechristianchurch.com>
Sunday Service and Children's Church 11 a.m.
Adult classes 10 a.m.

Brownsville Community Church

198 Washburn St · 541-936-9131
<https://hislifeinbrownsville.com>

Brownsville Mennonite Church

34795 OR-228 · 541-466-5622

Central Valley Church

657 American Dr · Halsey · 503-602-6796
<https://www.cvchalsey.com>
Sunday Corporate Service 8 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. (during school year)
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
Monday Prayer 7–8 p.m.

Crawfordsville Calvary Chapel

38353 Glass St · 541-730-4519
<https://www.crawfordsvillecc.org>
Sunday Service 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Brownsville

27910 7 Mile Ln · 541-642-3000
<https://www.fbcbrownsvilleoregon.org>
Sunday Services and Nursery 9 and 10:45 a.m.

Halsey Mennonite Church

910 E 1st St · 712-432-8773
<https://www.halseymennonite.org>
Sunday Service 10 a.m.
1st & 4th Sunday evening 6 p.m.
Prayer meeting 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

Harvest Reformed Baptist Church

411 W 2nd St · Halsey · 541-220-1902
<https://harvestrbcb.org>
Sunday School 9 a.m.
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Fellowship Meal Noon

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

104 W Blakely Ave · Brownsville · 541-367-2530
holytrinitybrownsvilleor@gmail.com
Weekday Mass Wednesday Noon
Sunday Service 11:30 a.m.

Oakville Presbyterian Church

29970 Church Dr · Shedd · 541-758-0647
<https://oakvillechurch.org>
Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Riverside Christian Fellowship

(360) 880-4734
Sunday Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service 10 a.m.
Sunday School 11 a.m.

Spirit of the Valley
United Methodist Church

611 W 3rd St · Halsey · 541-654-8144
spiritofthevalleyumc@gmail.com
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints

1111 North Main St · 541-570-2903
Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Valley Christian Fellowship

690 W 2nd St · Halsey · 732-434-3592
<https://vcfhalsey.com>
Sunday Service 10 a.m. & Wednesdays 7:15 p.m.

It Isn't Every Day a Church Founded in the Oregon Territory Turns 175 Years Old.

by Staff Writer, Craig E. McKern

The Oakville Presbyterian Church, located between Tangent, Shedd, and Peoria Road, south of Highway 20, is now on the calendar for its July 9, 1850, anniversary date, and the celebration is underway. On July 5 and 6, the Church will host a variety of events to commemorate its founding by early Oregon pioneers.



Oakville congregants gather outside the church on a spring day, circa 1928.

The original families of the Church traveled by covered wagon from Iowa in 1845. Available land and a healthier climate were also inducements, as was the absence of slavery. After the many trials of the Oregon Trail but always observing the Sabbath as a day of worship and rest for all on the Presbyterian wagon train, they arrived at the north end of the Willamette Valley in November 1845. The first families, including those named Hamilton, Mealey, McCoy, and Kendall, soon traveled south and settled in Linn County, where they found the oak and fir grove-studded prairie.

Land claims of 640 and 320 acres were established under Oregon Territory law, and a first log cabin was built in the winter of 1845, located where the Oakville Cemetery is now. Nearby runs Muddy Creek, and Dr. Washington Mealey named the site “Muddy Creek Settlement” (which became Oakpoint and a few years later, Oakville). In 1850, a log structure was built by John and William McCoy, among others, and served as the first location for a schoolhouse and church services.

Jump forward in time to 1879, when the present church building was constructed through the donations and subscriptions of church members. At that time, the name “Willamette United Presbyterian Church” was in use. There have been several additions since then, including relocating the sanctuary over an excavated basement. Additionally, a replacement steeple was installed after the 1962 Columbus Day storm.

Over the decades, the church has had many pastors. Currently serving for the past 30 years is Rev. John S. Carpenter. The Office Manager is Mary Kathleen Harmon.

Now, on the occasion of the 175th year, the Oakville Church is welcoming the interested public for activities including:

Saturday, July 5

- 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Car Show on grounds
- 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Quilt Show in Sanctuary
- 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Historical Artifacts Exhibit in Fellowship Hall
- 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Historical Tours at Oakville Cemetery

Sunday, July 6

- 10–11 a.m. Worship Service on North Lawn
- 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Hosted Picnic following service on South Lawn
- 2–3 p.m. Games on the south lawn
- 12–3 p.m. Quilt Show in Sanctuary
- 12–3 p.m. Historical Artifacts Exhibit in Fellowship Hall

Join us in this celebration. Period costumes are encouraged but not required. For more information, check out <https://oakvillechurch.org>



Early photo of Oakville Presbyterian congregation, circa 1920.



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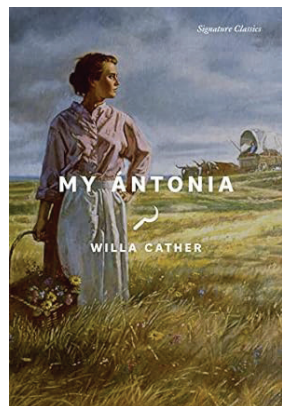
The Brownsville Times is a small, independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit weekly newspaper sharing real local stories that reflect, inform, and uplift our community.

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BROWNSVILLE BOOK CLUB

Connecting Books & People

by Barbara DeRobertis



June's Book Club meeting discussion centered around Willa Cather's masterful 1918 novel, "My Antonia," a memorable story about a young Bohemian immigrant girl whose family came to America and settled on the Nebraskan prairie. Some consider this piece of work to be autobiographical, drawn from Cather's earliest memories. As a young girl herself she moved west from Virginia with her family to Nebraska. The author incorporates characters, ideas, feelings and plot from her own real-life experiences. The main character, Antonia, is based on Cather's childhood friend, Anna Povelka, a strong, hard-working pioneer immigrant girl, who was her neighbor and friend. The narrative, however, is told in the first-person male voice of Jim Burden, an American orphan who meets Antonia on the train to Nebraska, not knowing at the time that he will be her neighbor and become her close friend.

"My Antonia" is an important work of fiction. It is a book about friendship, immigration and the realities of life on the frontier, through the passage of time. This title is on the Library of Congress's list of "Books That Shaped America."

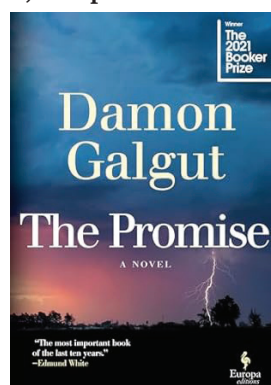
While many club members appreciated the author's writing style, noting Cather's command of the English language, and applauding her descriptive, skillful prose and choice of words, our conversation focused on the immigrant experience. Most importantly, we discussed how difficult it was for people to leave their home country, their people, their language and customs in search of the "American Dream," often facing unbearable hardships while trying to hold on to their heritage in a country so very foreign to them. Members shared tales about their own European ancestors, who came to America by ship. One member told a remarkable story about her Swedish great-grandfather, who lost

both of his parents to cholera on their passage to America. They were buried at sea. He and his two siblings were orphaned. Upon arriving in America at Ellis Island, he was separated from his siblings and never saw them again. He was taken in by a family who was aboard ship and traveled west with them by wagon for 6 months, arriving in The Dalles, Oregon in 1852. His courageous story continued. He was captured by Indians one winter while cattle driving and then escaped that spring. He eventually went on to become the captain of a steamboat on the Columbia River. He and his wife (who was the daughter of the family he traveled with) raised 12 children together. This family tale reminds us to ask questions of our living forbearers and listen to the stories they have to tell so that we can pass them to our descendants and if we are fortunate enough, have them preserved in a book.

After discussing the current month's book selection, it is customary for members to share titles of books that they have recently read and highly recommend. This month, members spoke with enthusiasm about the following titles: "Friends" by Fredrik Backman; "Orbital" by Samantha Harvey; "The Light Eaters" by Zoe Schlanger; and "Wish You Well" by David Baldacci. Perhaps you'd like to put one or more of these titles on your TBR (to be read) list. Some members also are hoping to read some of Cather's other works, in particular: "O Pioneers!"; "Song of the Lark;" and "Death Comes for the Archbishop."

Book Club meetings take place the third Wednesday of every month, at 7 p.m. in the Kirk Room of the Brownsville Library. On July 16, we will be discussing "The Promise" by Damon Galgut. New members are always welcome to join us.

Have any questions? Feel free to email me at: bderobertis@yahoo.com.



BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

Stories, Games, and Summer Fun for All Ages

by Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville librarian

The Brownsville Community Library's Summer Reading Program kicks off Friday, July 11, from 4-5 p.m., with weekly events for preschoolers through age 99 and beyond. This year's theme is LEVEL UP @ YOUR LIBRARY!

Library Summer Events:

- **Now-July 5: Take-and-Make Out and About Bingo** – Pick up your bingo kit and enjoy this fun game all summer long!
- **July 10: Kickoff Party with Kelli Welli**— Award-winning children's performer known for her smart, silly, and heartfelt songs. Celebrate the start of the program with games, snacks, and pick up your reading log and learn about the weeks ahead!
- **July 18: I-Spy With My Little Eye** — Make your own I-Spy bottle to take home
- **July 25: Library Olympics** – Compete in fun book-themed games like Standing Book Jump and Library "Skiing"
- **July 31: Stuffed Animal Sleepover** – Drop off

your favorite stuffed friend for an overnight library adventure! Pick-up is Friday, August 1, during open hours. Plan on joining us at Story Time from 11 a.m.–noon.

All programs are free and open to children of all abilities. **Turn in your reading log each week for a chance to win a themed basket of goodies.**

Bonus Fun

Waldo is back! Search for Waldo and his friends on their summer travels — right inside the library.

Story Time

Join us every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon, featuring songs, rhymes, and special crafts with Librarian Sherri and guest crafter Lisa Jager.

Library Hours:

- Tue, Wed, Fri: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Thu: 1–7 p.m.
- Sat: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

For more info, visit www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org, find us on Facebook @ BVORLibrary, or call 541-466-5454.

HALSEY LIBRARY

"Level Up" Summer Reading Program

Get ready to read, play, and win — Halsey's Summer Reading Program is back! This year's theme is "Level Up @ Your Library," and registration is now open for early readers and children of all ages.

Each week brings a new reason to visit the library, with snacks, prizes, and engaging activities designed to spark imagination and encourage a love of reading. While the program is geared toward younger readers, all ages are welcome to attend the events.

Saturday Summer Reading Events (All at 11 a.m. at the Halsey Community Center):

- **July 12:** Kick-off with Caesar the No Drama Llama
- **July 19:** Lego Derby Car Races
- **July 26:** The Museum of Natural and Cultural History
- **August 2:** Game Day
- **August 9:** Program finale with The Magic of Reading and an ice cream party

The top three readers in each age group will win prizes at the final event on August 9.

To sign up, stop by the Halsey Library or register online: form.jotform.com/251697389253168

Learn more about this year's iRead program theme at <https://www.ireadprogram.org>.

Questions? Contact the library at library@halseyor.gov or call (541) 369-2705.

Let the reading adventures begin!

POEM SELECTION

"IF"

by Rudyard Kipling, English journalist and novelist

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream — and not make dreams your master;

If you can think — and not make thoughts your aim;

If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings — nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And — which is more — you'll be a Man, my son!

POLLYANNA CLUB

A Helping Hand From Your Neighbors

by Nancy Diltz

If you live in Brownsville and are having trouble running errands and shopping, we can help! The Pollyanna Club Volunteers are here for you. We can pick up your groceries, shopping, pet supplies, and pharmacy orders locally in Brownsville or from Walmart in Lebanon. A volunteer will arrange a pick-up and delivery time with you, and then you can place your order online with either the Lebanon Walmart or a local Brownsville store. If needed, our volunteer can assist you in setting up an online account and ordering from Walmart. All payments are made directly to the store online. Our Volunteers do not handle money, and our services are always at no cost to you. Please feel free to contact Jimie Nousen at (503) 734-9855 for further information or to get started with your volunteer shopper. We look forward to meeting you!

Halsey Council Appoints New Member, Approves Budget and Utility Rate Increases

by Editor, Mikayle Stole

At its regular meeting on June 10, the Halsey City Council approved its 2025–2026 budget, adopted several resolutions related to utility rates and state revenue, and appointed a new councilor to fill a vacant seat.

Public Hearings Receive No Comment

Three public hearings were held during the meeting — one each for state-shared revenues, the city budget, and proposed utility rate increases. No public comment was received.

New Councilor Appointed

Following the resignation of Councilor Gillson, the Council unanimously appointed Derek Voyez to serve the remainder of the term. Voyez introduced himself to the Council before the vote.

Utility Rates Going Up

The adopted budget includes increases to water and sewer rates. Residential sewer rates will increase by \$1 across all tiers, while commercial sewer rates will increase by \$2.50 for the base tier. Water rates will increase by between \$0.03 and \$0.10 per 1,000 gallons, depending on usage tier.

Council Actions

- Council unanimously approved the following:
- Minutes from the May 13 meeting
 - April 2025 financial reports
 - 2025–2026 wage scale with a 2.5% cost-of-living increase for staff and 1.25% for the city administrator
 - Updated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) matrix for 2025–2030
 - Updated camping and RV residency ordinance
 - Multiple resolutions, including:
 - Adoption of the 2025–2026 budget
 - Certification and declaration to receive state shared revenues
 - Updates to City Hall and utility service fees

Sheriff’s Report and Community Events

Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan reported no crimes in Halsey for May and 39 incidents total. The Sheriff’s Department is hiring a total of nineteen patrol deputies. There will also be changes to the jail to accommodate more beds for females. City Administrator Briana Parra highlighted the success of the city-wide garage sale, which drew approximately 25 participants, and the “Party at the Park” event, which registered six children for the summer reading program.

Mayor Jerry Lachenbruch reported meeting with other mayors to discuss statewide funding cuts affecting small cities. He also attended a town hall hosted by Councilwoman Bynum in Albany.

AMERICAN LEGION

What We Do on Tuesday Night

by an ordinary seaman

Well now, folks, gather ’round and lend an ear, for I’m about to spin a yarn about what transpired at the American Legion, Travis Moothart Post 184, on a recent Tuesday evening. It was the kind of night when the scent of coffee mingled with a faint aroma of history, and good citizens gathered to conduct the Post’s business.



Sharon Banks, Jeff Brown, Norm Simms, Carl Frank, and Jim Weger

The evening commenced with a touch of solemnity, as Jerry Patton, District 3, Department of Oregon, 1st Vice Commander, stepped up to install the Post 184 officers for 2025/2026. There’s something comforting, ain’t there, in the orderly turning of the calendar, ensuring the wheels of good works keep spinning.

Then came our very own Post Commander, Norm Simms, who, I reckon, could charm a cat off a fish truck. Norm reported grand success with those scholarship collection jars. Seems his remarks at the high school graduation hit just the right note, loosening the purse strings of our generous townsfolk. He then put forth a motion for something truly close to a community’s heart: twenty-plus street flags. Imagine Old Glory fluttering proudly from every lamppost, a silent, colorful testament to our shared spirit. A discussion ensued, as it always does, about matters of coin and upkeep — chipping away at the mortgage and the ever-present grumble of a boiler in need of a bit of persuasion. These are the small battles, mind you, that keep a community humming along.

Our Adjutant, Jeff Brown, a practical mind, then unveiled his “go bag.” Now, for those of you who haven’t yet felt the warm breath of a wildfire season on your neck, this here go bag is a mighty important contraption. Jeff explained its contents, no doubt planting a seed of preparedness in the minds of all present. It’s a thoughtful gesture, a reminder that even in the quiet hum of a Tuesday meeting, the real world, with its unpredictable ways, is never far off.

And then, Chaplain Jim Weger took the floor. Jim, a man who has seen a bit of the world, shared a tale from his military days that revolved around the humble Brownsville Times. Imagine getting your hometown paper, week after week, no matter how far flung you were. His buddies, he recounted with a chuckle, would tease him mercilessly about the characters and the goings-on depicted within those pages. But, and this is the rub, they’d devour every word, those somewhat gossipy snippets of Brownsville life, eager for the next week’s installment, eager to joke and kibitz about the folks back home. It’s a powerful thing, a newspaper, binding us all together, no matter the distance.

Summer is the height of the social season in Brownsville, and the Post, ever ready for action, is gearing up for maximum involvement. Pioneer Picnic, Stand by Me Day, Senior Potluck, Movie Night, Bingo — the list goes on, a testament to the Legion’s commitment to community. And if you’ve got a spare moment and a love for the sweet tang of blueberries, Post 1st Vice Commander Sharon Banks is seeking helping hands to conjure up fifty blueberry pies for our Stand By Me visitors — a noble cause, indeed, and one that promises a delicious reward.

Our next regular meeting will be Tuesday, July 8, at 7 p.m. So, I ask you, gentle reader, what do you do on Tuesday nights? Perhaps, just perhaps, you ought to consider spending it with the good folks of Post 184. You might just find yourself a story or two to tell.

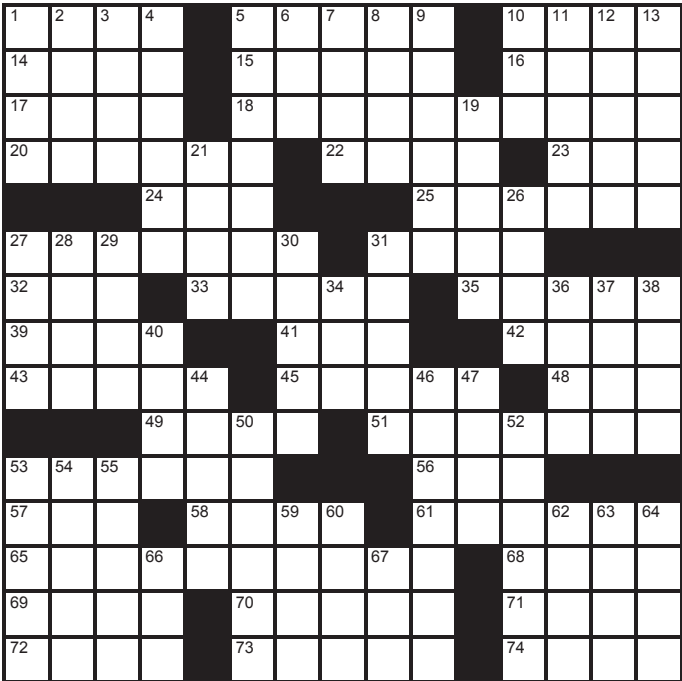
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 In the middle of
- 5 Draws close
- 10 Expel
- 14 Trademark
- 15 Cow name
- 16 ___ of Green Gables
- 17 Molecule
- 18 Restricted info
- 20 Med. specialist, to some
- 22 Anjou
- 23 Stale
- 24 Pecan
- 25 For the most part
- 27 Pastoral
- 31 Tennis units
- 32 Alias inits.
- 33 Smallest
- 35 Singer John
- 39 Give temporarily
- 41 Feel remorse
- 42 Roof part
- 43 Important question
- 45 Humiliate
- 48 Salome actor Reason
- 49 Orient
- 51 Abnormal
- 53 Baked good
- 56 Family room
- 57 Age
- 58 Despot
- 61 Bracelet type
- 65 Paying your own way at dinner
- 68 Rope fiber
- 69 Retired



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- 70 Writer Zola
- 71 God of love
- 72 Young lady
- 73 Asian starlings
- 74 Camping accessory
- 10 Klutz
- 11 Workers' group
- 12 Fishhook attachment
- 13 ___ bear
- 19 Angry
- 21 Void's partner
- 26 Cay
- 27 Indonesian island
- 28 Island strings
- 29 Containers
- 30 Jeweler's weight unit
- 31 Behalf
- 34 Hero
- 36 E. Ireland village
- 37 Kitchen appliance
- 38 Adjacent
- 40 Twosome
- 44 Terra firma
- 46 Tranquilizes
- 47 Level
- 50 Method
- 52 Printer
- 53 Organ part
- 54 Netherlands Antilles island
- 55 Repletes
- 59 Military service
- 60 Harness
- 62 Entice
- 63 Brit. school
- 64 Exam
- 66 Time deposits (Abbr.)
- 67 ___ carte

Down

- 1 Woeful word
- 2 Lightbulb visitor
- 3 Stravinsky, for one
- 4 Game piece
- 5 Mens wear
- 6 Annex
- 7 Quick! (Abbr.)
- 8 Ascend
- 9 Oil or seed

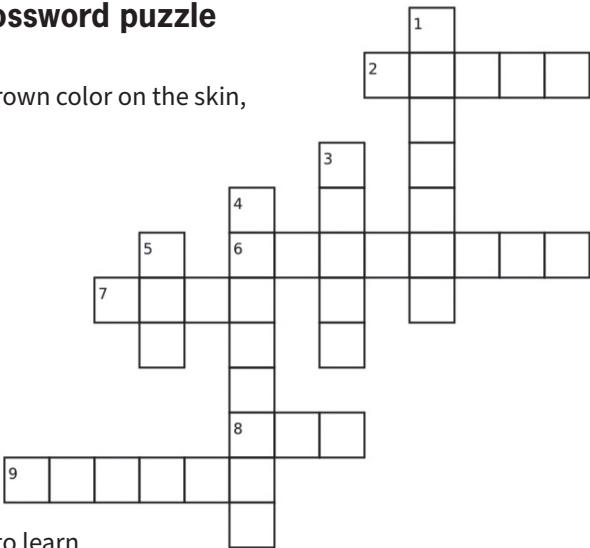
ALL ABOUT KIDS crossword puzzle

DOWN

1. A patch or spot of light brown color on the skin, often from sun exposure
3. Common ranch animal
4. America's Favorite Sport
5. Common family pet

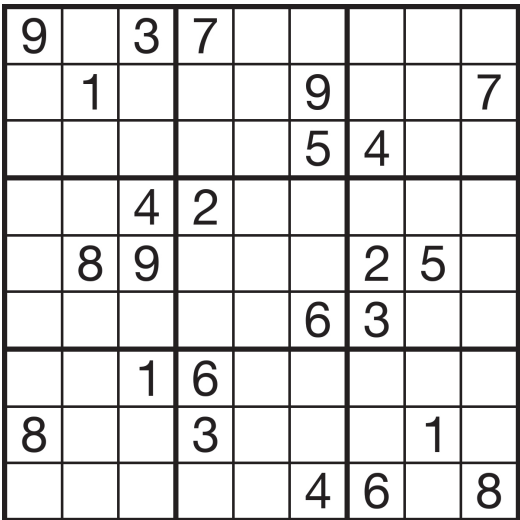
ACROSS

2. Common hair color
6. A vehicle with wings that moves through the air
7. Children's playthings
8. Drawing, painting playing music
9. Place where children go to learn



SUDOKU

FIENDISH



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Solution on page 12

DEAR GERTRUDE Practical advice from a turn-of-the-century housewife by Jaime Flynn



Dear Mrs. Gertrude,
My neighbor has a child who is attempting to learn the horn or some other noisy instrument of racketmaking that plays at all hours. Must I simply endure the trumpetry, or may I lodge a complaint?
Sincerely,
Sensitive To Obtrusive Musical Penance

Dear STOMP,
Oh golly, it is quite a terrible conundrum to be at the mercy of a neighbor's whims, let alone such a noisy one as all that! We must hold with patience, so it may seem like your cross to bear.

However, I say that offering a friendly nudge might not be amiss.

I will tell you a short story from my own experience: When I was a young newlywed (a lifetime ago, I need not mention) my husband and I rented a small room in the boarding house above one of the stores while we fixed up a place of our own in town. When I tell you those walls were near paper thin, it is not an exaggeration. We had to bear many noises and bumps in the night, however we began to have weekly meetings to ensure we could agree on a schedule that would work for everyone without having to tiptoe around at all times. You need to find some comfort in your home, even if you have



A young musician focuses on his sheet music as he plays the horn, captured in this vintage image. Credit: Photograph by Nino F. Scholten, via Wikimedia Commons.

differing needs and hours when you need to make noise! This skill set us up well as newly married folks at the start of our journey to raise ten children — let me tell you plain that it is no easy feat to have a dozen people stomping around the house — however we made it work for us. Especially when two of the boys began to work the paper circuit on their bikes, they needed to go to bed earlier than the rest to get up before dawn. It was rough at first yet we found a way forward so the others could have their evening radio time and musical practice without disruption. The remedy is to use communication and compromise on a regular

basis, check in occasionally to make sure all is well or if any adjustments need to be made. It is certainly never easy and yet — it is possible. *Bonne Chance!*

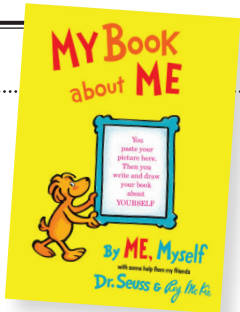
P.S. Fred Blanchard, darling, it is not above you to come to me directly about such complaints. We are friendly neighbors, are we not? Your lovely wife Teresa brought over a delectable rhubarb tart the other day, thus I ask you to please thank her kindly for me. I will make sure to send our little Joey out into the woods beyond the house to practice from now on and will try to keep him to a regular schedule. Stop on by for lunch after church on Sunday and we can discuss the best time amongst ourselves. He has already driven us all up a wall, let me tell you — we all must endure so that he may succeed!

KIDS KORNER

by Staff Writer, Nancy Diltz

MY BOOK ABOUT ME

Have you ever written a Book About You? Dr. Seuss has made one called (can you guess?) "My Book About Me!" Inside are blank pages you can fill in to answer questions like "How many teeth can you count in your mouth?" and "How many pictures are on your walls at home?" Yes, you can write and color in this special book (but not in any others, of course). If you want, you can try a project where you ask questions about yourself or a friend and answer them on paper, adding pictures such as what your hair or the street where you live Looks like. Put the pages together and you have a Book About You. Sounds fun to me!



"Life Is"

An inspirational poem by Mother Theresa, humanitarian

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.	Life is sorrow, overcome it.
Life is beauty, admire it.	Life is a song, sing it.
Life is bliss, taste it.	Life is a struggle, accept it.
Life is a dream, realize it.	Life is a tragedy, confront it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.	Life is an adventure, dare it.
Life is a duty, complete it.	Life is luck, make it.
Life is a game, play it.	Life is too precious, do not destroy it.
Life is a promise, fulfill it.	Life is life, fight for it.

BETWEEN EARTH AND SKY

Definitions of The Divine

Stephen A. Brenner

What could be more daunting than defining the concept of a Divine Creator of the universe? Physicists attempt to describe the creation event (the Big Bang Theory) and the way the universe is expanding. Recent advances in orbiting telescopes are providing us with insights into how stars and galaxies form. We're also learning that massive black holes are the hubs for the rotation of all the galaxies, but that literally doesn't shed light on the subject (in fact, light can be trapped by the black hole's event horizon :-). While these insights are interesting to contemplate and help us understand that life on earth is not the center of the universe, none of this gets close to defining God or the purpose of our existence.

trine. Buddhism, meanwhile, generally views the Buddha as an enlightened human being, although some branches, such as Mahayana Buddhism, offer a more transcendent perspective. These differences highlight how spiritual authority can manifest as either a call to worship, a model to emulate, or a truth to protect, shaped as much by theology as by culture.

Returning to the Council of Nicaea, I tend to agree with the Arian dissenters because I believe that Jesus was asking his followers to undertake an inner spiritual journey, similar to his own (“The Kingdom of God is within you”). I think that is more impressive and inspirational as a role model. His human struggle with his own imperfection and his opening up to his

divine nature is the same struggle and the same potential that we all have. We are all connected to the same Divine source, and we are all children of God. How much we open up to it is the difference. We may not have his powerful healing ability, but love at any level is life-affirming.

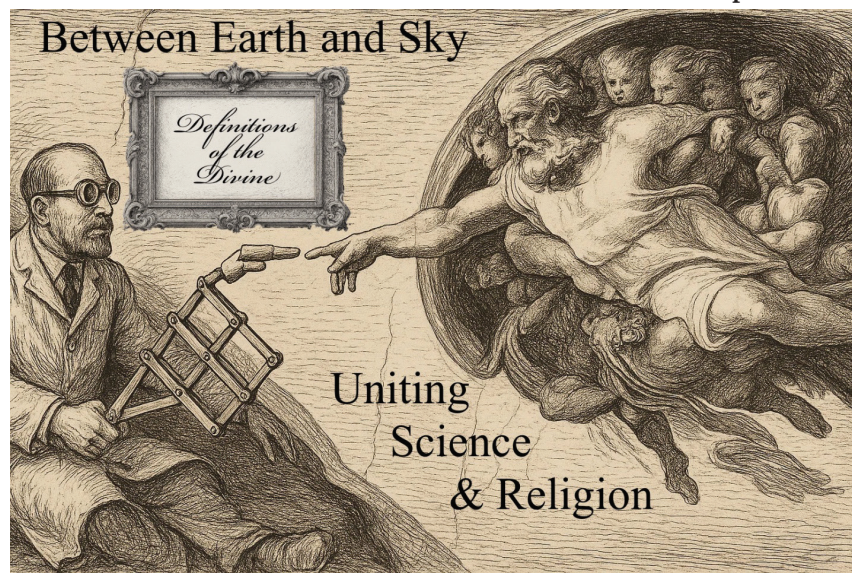
As far as the concept of the Trinity is concerned, it is compelling because it aligns with a tripartite reality that we all intuitively feel: that we are a union of Body, Mind, and Soul. If

physics could define these concepts and how they relate to each other, it wouldn't unveil the greatest of all mysteries — the true nature of God — but it would give us insights into how the Divine Laws of Nature work within all life.

I have my own theory about the purpose of our existence on this planet. The idea is that we are vessels for the Divine Spirit. When we let the inner light shine, we are becoming one with the Holy Spirit. It may sound strange, but I believe that when we find that union, a part of the Divine is celebrating this manifestation with us.

Perhaps one of the most fruitful paths toward reconciling science and spirituality lies not in learning more about the cosmos or the fundamental atomic particles, but in inner human exploration. Carl Jung's work on the collective unconscious and archetypes suggested that there are universal patterns embedded in the human psyche — symbols, narratives, and instincts that surface in dreams, myths, and spiritual traditions across cultures. These archetypes may not define God, but they give form to our relationship with the sacred. Jung's vision helps us see the spiritual journey not just as an act of faith, but as an unfolding of consciousness. The Divine is a living presence we come to know through self-realization, compassion, and shared humanity. If we are ever to approach a deeper understanding of God, it may be by evolving together, one soul, one insight at a time.

After living in Eugene for 20 years, building his home in Brownsville in 2000 turned out to be a great decision. He has enjoyed the opportunity to get involved in the community with the CFA, City Council, Meals on Wheels, and now The Brownsville Times. In his spare time Steve researches metaphysics and hosts a monthly dream work group.



The Hebrews had a word for God that could not be pronounced (“YHWH,” with no vowels). The idea was that the name of God was so sacred that it shouldn’t be spoken in vain. I tend to agree that we don’t need to define a concept that is so far beyond our ability to comprehend. Still, it behooves us to have a sense of awe and gratitude regarding just how miraculous life itself really is, and that we are all children of God.

Of course, religions have taken up the challenge that science has been unable or unwilling to take on. Christian, Buddhist, and Muslim traditions have attempted to partially define God by seeing the Divine through the lens of saints or divine messengers and their teachings. They aren't defining God per se, but rather the righteous path to spiritual development. In the early 4th century, the Christian world was shaken by the Arian controversy, which questioned whether Jesus was of the same divine nature as God or merely the most exalted of His creations. Arius claimed the Son was created by the Father and thus subordinate. The Council of Nicaea in 325 AD declared this heretical, affirming instead that Jesus was "of the same substance" as the Father, establishing the doctrine of the Trinity and marking a turning point where theology and imperial politics became deeply entwined.

While Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism each place great reverence on their founders and sacred texts, they differ sharply in how the divinity of the spiritual teacher is understood. While Christianity formally identifies Jesus as divine, in contrast, Islam strictly affirms the oneness of God, and the Prophet Muhammad is revered as the final messenger, but explicitly not divine. Still, the intense devotion to Muhammad and the Qur'an in some Muslim societies can result in social and legal consequences for perceived blasphemy, blurring the lines between veneration and sanctification in practice, if not in doc-

**CENTRAL LINN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Cobra Booster Club Used the 2025 CLCF Grant

by Don Ware

Over 150 students from Central Linn High School and Jr High School were served by the Central Linn Community Foundation grant this year. Johnna Neal, President of the Cobra Booster Club, reports that the grant was used to purchase a new laptop and accessories. With the latest equipment, the Club was able to immediately record and use the results from races for report-



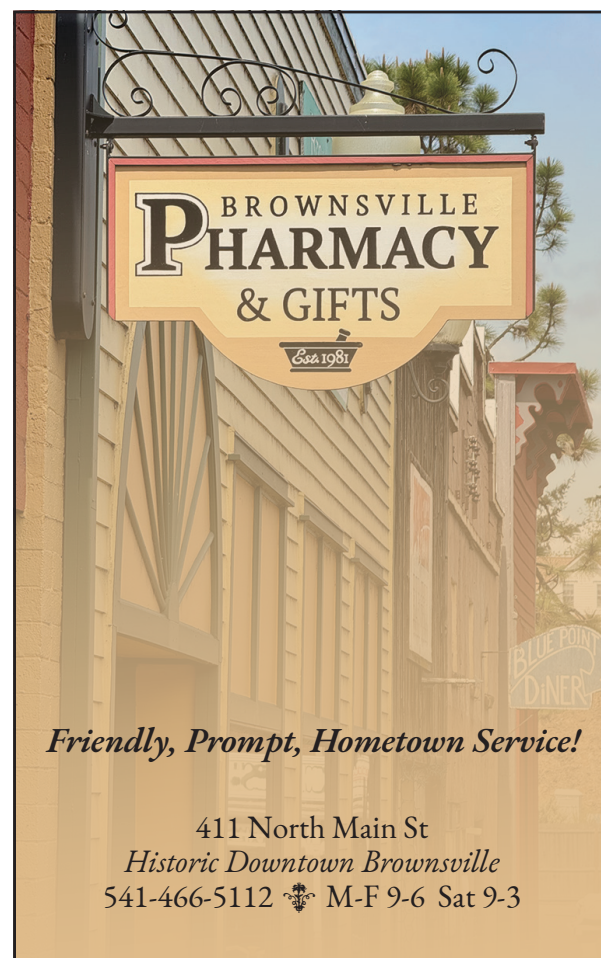
2024-25 Central Linn High School Track Team

ing purposes. The results showed photo finish results much more accurately than manual tracking methods.

In the past, the Club used borrowed systems from the school and other sources. The Club members and volunteers host three home meets each year. The Club also assisted in the refurbishing of the track several years ago, raising funds through the annual Pioneer Dam Run and other events.

The officers are President Johnna Neal, Vice President Sarah Neuswander, Secretary Chriszma Erickson, and Treasurer Connie McManus.

The CL Community Foundation has been offering grants to local organizations annually since 2002. This year, the total grant amount was \$8,000. Grant requests for 2006 will be accepted next year from February through March. Service organizations are encouraged to apply next spring.





MIKAYLE STOLE

Calapooia River at Pioneer Park in Brownsville



DAVID G. LEWIS, PHD

David G. Lewis, PhD



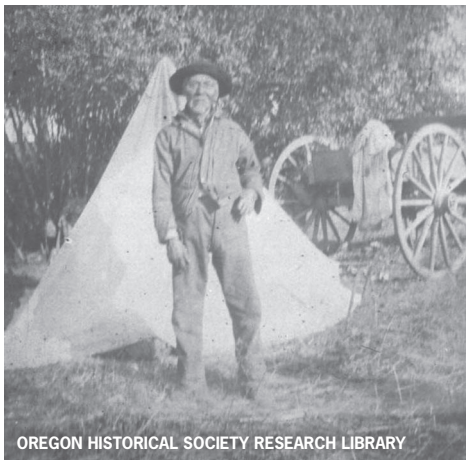
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. (2015, NOVEMBER 9). SMITHSONIAN LEARNING LAB

William Hartless (Chepenafa Kalapuya of the Saint Mary's River), stands behind Abe Hudson (Santiam Kalapuya) and Joe Hartless (William's son) in this 1877 photograph. The Chepenafa and Santiam were among the bands of the Kalapuya people, the original inhabitants of the Willamette Valley.



PIONEER PICTURE GALLERY

Eliza Young sits on the porch of her cabin, surrounded by the tools and fruits of her daily life, including her handwoven baskets, a head of cabbage and a bowl of gathered produce. Circa 1905-1910.



OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH LIBRARY

Chief Halo (Halito). Courtesy Oreg. Hist. Soc. Research Library, 022580

LEGACY OF THE LAND: The Kalapuya Indians of Brownsville and the Willamette Valley

By Staff Writer, Sharon K. Banks

As told by David G. Lewis, PhD, Oregon State University

Before settlers carved farms from the forests and prairies of the Willamette Valley, before wagons rolled down the Oregon Trail, the land around present-day Brownsville was home to the Kalapuya people — indigenous stewards of the valley's rich soil, rivers, and prairies for thousands of years.

The Tekopa/Chankupi band of the Kalapuya, one of several regional groups, lived along the rivers and creeks that now border our town. Their lives followed the rhythm of the seasons. In spring and summer, they traveled and camped to gather camas bulbs, hunt deer and elk, and fish Calapooia Creek. In winter, they settled into cedar-plank longhouses, where they shared stories, wove baskets, crafted tools, and practiced ceremonies passed down through generations.

Kalapuya society was highly attuned to the environment. The people practiced controlled burns to promote the growth of food-bearing plants, such as tarweed and camas. Their knowledge of the land — its

cycles, plants, and animals — allowed them to thrive in the Willamette Valley for millennia. Archaeologists have evidence of at least 9500 years of habitation, but Kalapuyan oral histories document them living in the valley during the Missoula floods, at least 16,000 years ago.

Everything changed in the early 1800s.

With the arrival of European and American fur trappers and later settlers traveling the Oregon Trail, the Kalapuya were exposed to waves of devastating diseases such as smallpox, malaria, and measles. Anthropologist Robert Boyd estimates that up to 90% of the Kalapuya population died in just a few decades, from malaria. By the time pioneers began settling the Brownsville area in the 1840s, the native population had dwindled to a remnant of about 1,000 people in the valley.

As settlers claimed land and disrupted traditional Kalapuyan lifeways, they were often viewed as a nuisance by many settlers. The U.S. government signed a treaty with the Kalapuya in 1855, known as the Treaty of Dayton. The Kalapuya ceded their ancestral lands — including what would become Linn County — in exchange for promises of food, protection, and education. The promises were rarely fulfilled.

In March 1855, the local Santiam and Tekopa/Chankupi Kalapuyans were placed on temporary reservations at Thomas Creek, Lebanon, and Brownsville in preparation for their permanent placement on a reservation. The remaining Kalapuya people were forcibly removed from their homelands and relocated to the newly created Grand Ronde Indian Reservation in 1856. Nearly all Kalapuyans were at the reservation by May 1856. A few families remained off the reservation, notably two local residents, Eliza Young also known as 'Indian Lize' or 'Liza' at Brownsville, and Chief Halo at Yoncalla. Indian Eliza spent the majority of her life



"Costume of a Callapuya Indian," 1841, by Alfred T. Agate. Courtesy Oreg. Hist. Soc. Research Lib., OrHi 104921

in and around the city of Brownsville working for local townsfolk and weaving baskets. Eliza's baskets are on display in many museums in the region, including the Linn County Museum. Stories about Eliza are scattered throughout the museum's collections.

Conditions on the reservation were harsh. The people struggled to survive in unfamiliar terrain, suffering further losses through disease, poverty, and cultural suppression. Boarding schools attempted to erase their language and traditions.

Despite these hardships, the Kalapuya legacy endured.

In the 20th century, many tribal members worked to preserve their identity, even as the federal government terminated recognition of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in 1954. It wasn't until 1983 that tribal sovereignty was restored, allowing descendants of the Kalapuya and other western Oregon tribes to reclaim their heritage and rebuild their community.

Today, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde lead efforts to revitalize the Kalapuya language, reclaim sacred sites, and teach new generations about their rich cultural heritage. To this end, an exhibit about the Kalapuyans was installed at the Linn County Museum in 2019. Their ancestors' voices echo in the land, from the rolling hills of Brownsville to the camas meadows along the river.

As we celebrate our town's pioneer past, we must also remember the people who lived here long before it was called Brownsville. The Kalapuya are not just a part of our history — they are part of our present. Their story is etched into the soil beneath our feet and carried forward by the descendants who continue to honor their legacy.

David G. Lewis, PhD, is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, a descendant of the Takelma, Chinook, Molalla, and Santiam Kalapuya peoples of western Oregon. David has conducted research on the tribal histories of Northwest Coastal peoples, with a specialization in the Western Oregon Tribes. David served as the director of the Southwest Oregon Research Project Collection at the UO and was the Culture Department manager of the Grand Ronde Tribe for eight years. David has a PhD in anthropology from the University of Oregon (2009) and teaches full time in Anthropology and Indigenous Studies at OSU. David's research essays on the histories of the tribes are published on the blog site The Quartux Journal: ndnhistoryresearch.com. David lives in Salem with his wife Donna and sons Inatye and Saghaley.



Camas blossoms in spring in Brownsville.

Eliza 'Indian Liza' Young

by Jay Swofford

Eliza Young, also known as "Indian Liza," c. 1830s–1923, was one of the last of the Kalapuya to live off the reservation. Oral history holds that her mother was of the Winefelly tribe (McKenzie River region) and her father likely of the Peyu tribe (Mohawk River region), born sometime in the 1830s. She survived the reoccurring malaria epidemics that were devastating to the Indians.

After losing her parents, and perhaps the whole tribe in the early 1840s, she was taken in as a teenager by Jacob Spores of Coburg. She later married a Peyu man, but the relationship was abusive. During one of her escapes, she encountered Jim Young (also known as Indian Jim), who reportedly purchased her from her husband for 10 ponies, one rifle, and \$15 in gold and they move to the Brownsville area.

Eliza had two children, Alva (Albert) and Susan, both of whom died before having children. Both are buried in the Brownsville Cemetery.

The Kirk family took her in early on. Throughout her life, Liza supported herself by making and selling handwoven baskets and purses, and performing day jobs such as cooking and laundry. Even after she went blind, she continued to weave. Her work is still collected by museums and private collectors.

Additional insight into her life comes from a 2017 Facebook post by Kathy Downing, a Spores descendant:

"One of the stories my mother told me as a young girl was that there were two orphan Indian children — one a girl (Liza) and one a boy (Enoch, if I remember correctly) — and they were climbing up the hill near G. Grandfather's home, trying to get away from the 'white man.' Just as Grandfather reached them, the boy pulled out a knife and was going to kill the girl, then himself, to keep from being caught. But Grandfather got to him first and got the knife away from him.

He had to have had assistance here, as he took the two children home with him, cleaned them up, gave them clothing to wear, and took care of them. The boy's father had been a 'chief.' Mother didn't think they were brother and sister, but who knows?

Remember, my G. Grandfather had raised 16 children. These Indian children were older than some of his younger ones. Both of the children used Spores as their last names.

My great-great-grandmother was Elizabeth (Liza) Spores, Jacob's wife and mother of his 12 children. When he took in the young Indian girl, he named her Eliza after his first wife, who had died in Illinois. 'Indian Liza,' as she was called, is buried in the Brownsville Pioneer Cemetery."

Read more about Eliza Young at <https://ndnhistoryresearch.com/2019/06/08/eliza-young-brownsville-basketweaver>.



Eliza Young poses with young Ica L. Cushman (Crawford) in a studio portrait, circa 1912.



Alva poses with his sister, Susan, for a formal studio portrait, likely taken in the 1870s or early 1880s. His suit, hat and watch chain reflect the Western fashions of the era.



Eliza Young stands with Violet Kendig in 1915, the year Violet interviewed her for a senior thesis titled "The Last of the Calapooians." The article was published in The Brownsville Times on June 4, 1915.



Eliza's daughter, Susan, poses for a formal tintype portrait in the late 1870s or early 1880s. Her tailored jacket, high-necked blouse, and feathered hat reflect Victorian-era fashion. Tintypes like this one were a popular and affordable form of photography in the post-Civil War era, especially among working-class Americans and rural communities.

Experienced Educator Rob Hess to Lead Central Linn as Interim Superintendent

by Sravya Tadepalli

Last month, the Central Linn School District School Board appointed Dr. Robert Hess as interim superintendent for the 2025-2026 school year as the district conducts a search to replace Dr. Candace Pelt, who resigned in February.

Hess served as superintendent of the Lebanon Community School District from 2009 to 2018. Since then, he has worked as a human resources administrator for the Eugene School District and started his own company, Breakthrough Consulting, which supports school districts in executive searches and leadership development.

“Rob is a self-motivated individual who has dedicated his career to educational service,” said David Karo, chair of the CLSD School Board. “His reputation precedes himself.”

Hess was motivated to apply for the position at Central Linn for the opportunity to work in a small school district. His main goal for the 2025-2026 school year is to restore confidence in Central Linn public education.

“The last few years have seen really declining enrollment,” said Hess. “People are going to other places with their choices in public education. One of my goals is to restore the confidence that we can do a good job there and to see people come back who have left.”

Russ McUne, a former board member of the Lebanon Community School District, hailed Hess as a superintendent whom he would “hire again in a heartbeat.” When Hess first started, he said his first goal was to meet with 100 people in the community, and he quickly made appointments for conversations about what was going on in the district.

McUne also pointed out the significant improvement in LCSD’s graduation rate since Hess came on board. LCSD had a 42 percent graduation rate in 2009 (https://www.oregonlive.com/education/2009/06/high_school_dropout_rates).



Superintendent Rob Hess

html) when Hess started and an 80 percent graduation rate in 2018 (<https://www.ode.state.or.us/data/ReportCard/Reports/Index?id=688>), when Hess left, a trajectory of improvement that has continued (<https://www.lebanonlocalnews.com/state-report-lebanon-high-graduation-rates-on-upswing>). Hess also worked with the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific Northwest (COMP Northwest) to create opportunities for K-12 students to engage with medical students.

“He’s a great guy, really loves education, really loves working with kids,” said McUne. “You can’t have anybody who cares more about the kids than Dr. Hess.”

Hess’s tenure in Lebanon was not without contention. Hess’s departure was initiated by the Lebanon School Board voting 3-1 to enter into a resignation agreement with Superintendent Hess. The sudden removal happened without any public discussion (<https://www.lebanonlocalnews.com/superintendents-departure-raises-questions-but-presents-opportunities>), and Hess said that he has never received an explanation about why he was asked to resign.

Hess said he is eager to meet with the Central Linn community and said community members should feel free to reach out if they want to chat or voice concerns or suggestions for improvement. He also stated that if the position is a good fit, he would be interested in assuming the permanent superintendent role.

“In public education, everyone is a stakeholder, which means if we have healthy public schools, the community is going to be better off,” said Hess. “My goal is to have healthy and strong public schools because it’s going to make the community stronger and help us have a better future.”

Rob Hess can be reached at rob.hess@central-linn.k12.or.us

LONG GRAY BRAID

Aye Yai Yai Ai

By Annie Swensen

Long-time Brownsville resident Annie Swensen is a lover of dogs and writing. Her Long Gray Braid Musings offer an elderly woman’s humorous perspectives on everyday life.

Recently, I had to update my cell phone and earned a free Samsung. I’m not technology-smart, but by sticking with my Macs over the last 15 years, I have become comfortable with the features. I was anxious about transitioning to a new breed of phone. The experience justified my fears. Within a day, the object in my hand was insisting I download or install a variety of programs, one of which was Gemini. With pretty little stars around its name, it randomly pops up, covering the bottom third of my screen and asking a very human question... “Would you like to talk to text?” No. I fiddle with buttons and arrows to make it go away.

I’ve adjusted to my new Samsung by keeping it simple. As long as I can answer the calls from my daughter, it’s a perfect phone. Since she was a teenager, this now 45-year-old little girl has called me nightly. Now that I’m old and living alone, when I don’t immediately answer, she panics a bit. I’ve learned to be available and carry my phone between 7 and 8 p.m. to spare her the worry.

And so it was, several nights ago, when the prediction was rain. I thought my lawnmower would appreciate staying dry. It was getting late, so I grabbed my phone, holding it against the handle as I pushed the mower to the doorway of the garage. It’s a high human step. I tipped back, getting the front wheels over the step. I lifted the handlebar high, raising the body and back wheels above the threshold to avoid injuring the blade, then rolled in. Before we cleared, I accidentally dropped the handle just enough to cause the last of the mower and rear wheels to hit the step. I immediately corrected and rolled it into the garage, exclaiming, “I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to hurt you.”

Out of the dark of the garage, a clearly concerned, loud male voice asked, “Are you okay?” I peered into the dark around me. He went on, “It sounds like you’re hurt... do you need help?” I could not see anyone... I glanced down. My phone screen was bright with Gemini, its little stars blinking, as it offered more help. I hit the button to turn it off. I was laughing when I explained to my mower, “I think he was talking to you.”

When I turned the phone back on, the entire speech from Gemini was on my screen. It had continued after I stopped listening... words of encouragement, suggestions for engaging with friends, and the number of a Suicide Prevention Hotline. This confirmed for me that the intelligence is indeed artificial. I wanted to ask how they got my number, but I decided I’d rather talk to my lawnmower... she doesn’t talk back.

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541-915-9322

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Information in the Sheriff's Report is provided by The Linn County Sheriff's Daily Media Log of Dispatched Calls and Cases. Incident details may be limited or delayed depending on agency availability prior to our weekly publication deadline. Addresses typically reflect the location of the incident or arrest, though in some cases they may indicate the origin of the call.

An individual's arrest or citation reported here does not imply guilt. Guilt or innocence is determined only through the judicial process. The Brownsville Times makes every effort to follow cases as they progress through the court system.

June 22

12:41 p.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 200 Templeton St, Brownsville. No public narrative was provided.

4:42 p.m. — Shots heard reported at block of 31200 Allen Ln, Tangent. Deputies responded to the Pirate Festival after attendees grew nervous over nearby target shooting. The area was checked and the shooter was not located. No pirates were harmed. Non-criminal.

June 23

12:31 a.m. — DHS referral reported at block of 31900 North Lake Creek Dr, Tangent. Information was logged.

9:59 a.m. — Animal complaint reported at block of 32400 Tangent Dr, Tangent. Deputy conducted a welfare check on a dog. No crimes were observed.

12:27 p.m. — Suspicious circumstance reported at block of 33100 Hwy 228, Halsey. Deputies investigated a suspicious circumstance. No criminal activity was found.

2:42 p.m. — Animal complaint reported at block of 34800 Northernwood Dr and Gap Rd, Brownsville. Deputy attempted to locate a loose cow but was unable to locate it.

5:59 p.m. — Disturbance reported at block of 32900 Blackberry Ln, Tangent. Caller heard yelling from a neighboring property. Deputies contacted a woman who said she was yelling at her chickens.

9:11 p.m. — Illegal camping reported at block of 29900 Peoria Rd, Shedd. A person was warned for camping at a local boat ramp and moved along.

9:43 p.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 29300 Abraham Dr and Peoria Rd, Shedd. Deputy stayed with a disabled vehicle until a tow truck arrived.

9:54 p.m. — Sex offense reported at block of 900 Filbert St, Brownsville. Incident involved two juveniles. Investigation is ongoing.

June 24

9:55 a.m. — Citizen contact reported at block of 33600 McFarland Rd, Tangent. Citizen asked deputy about a possible phone scam. Information documented.

11:44 a.m. — Civil dispute reported at block of 33900 McFarland Rd, Tangent. Deputy responded to a dispute between neighbors about a property line. Non-criminal.

4:57 p.m. — Non-injury crash reported at block of 29800 Brownsville Rd, Brownsville. Single vehicle crash. No other vehicles involved.

7:43 p.m. — Extra patrol requested at block of 32700 Hwy 99E, Tangent. Deputy provided extra patrol.

8:58 p.m. — Domestic disturbance reported at block of 35400 Washburn Heights Dr, Brownsville. Verbal argument between mother and juvenile son. Non-criminal. Parties agreed to stop arguing.

June 25

7:08 a.m. — DHS referral reported at block of 900 Filbert St, Brownsville. No public narrative provided.

7:13 a.m. — DHS referral reported at block of 400 W F St, Halsey. No public narrative provided.

8:04 a.m. — 911 hang-up call reported at block of 27400 Halsey St, Halsey.

Deputy checked area but could not identify the caller.

12:57 p.m. — Injury crash reported at block of 28100 Brownsville Rd, Brownsville. Alix Osinga, 19, of Lebanon, was cited for careless driving.

1:02 p.m. — Civil standby reported at block of 400 Hume St, Brownsville. Caller requested standby related to a protection order.

2:46 p.m. — Civil dispute reported at block of 900 N Main St, Brownsville. Ongoing neighbor issues.

3:38 p.m. — Theft reported at block of 31800 Fayetteville Dr, Shedd. Caller reported stolen tools valued at \$250.

4:32 p.m. — Phone harassment reported at block of 1100 W 3rd St, Halsey. Caller received repeated unwanted phone calls.

8:16 p.m. — Traffic complaint reported at block of W 2nd St and Hwy 228, Halsey. Caller reported incident that occurred on I-5; referred to Oregon State Police.

8:36 p.m. — Traffic complaint reported at block of 800 N Main St and Depot Ave, Brownsville. Deputies searched for a vehicle driving erratically.

10:58 p.m. — Extra patrol at block of 200 W Park Ave, Brownsville.

11:15 p.m. — Extra patrol at block of 200 W O St, Halsey.

June 26

3:04 a.m. — Extra patrol at block of 200 W Park Ave, Brownsville.

3:56 a.m. — Overdose reported at block of 400 Kay Ave, Brownsville. Deputies responded to an overdose.

6:25 a.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 32000 Diamond Hill Dr, Halsey. Deputy contacted the vehicle.

6:50 a.m. — Traffic stop at block of 1100 S 6th St and Priceboro Dr, Halsey. Gabriel Hawk, 46, of Junction City was cited for failure to renew vehicle registration.

11:49 a.m. — Criminal mischief reported at block of 31000 Parker Rd, Shedd. Deputy documented damage to a mailbox at the request of the homeowner. No known suspects.

12:08 p.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 37600 Northern Dr, Brownsville. Kolby McBeth of Brownsville was cited for traffic violations.

1:58 p.m. — Harassment reported at block of 400 N Main St, Brownsville. Deputy spoke to caller regarding stalking order process.

9:00 p.m. — Extra patrol at block of 200 W Park Ave, Brownsville.

11:29 p.m. — Theft reported at block of 33100 Hwy 228, Halsey. Deputies investigated a theft. Report taken.

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Pool & Water Safety Tips & Fencing Requirements

For Residents of Halsey & Brownsville, Oregon

With the arrival of warm weather, it's time for pool fun — but also a time to stay alert and compliant with local safety rules. Here's what you need to know:

Water Safety Tips

- Always supervise children around water — never leave them unattended.
- Learn to swim and teach children early. Non-swimmers should wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets.
- Install anti-entrapment drain covers in pools.
- Check the water first if a child is missing.
- Get trained in CPR and first aid.
- Share pool rules with guests, family, and babysitters.

Fencing Requirements in Halsey

- Per HMC 9.15.040:
- Pools, ponds, or artificial bodies of water a minimum 4-foot-tall fence or wall must enclose deeper than 18 inches.
 - Fences must prevent access by small children.
 - Violations may result in fines up to \$500 per day.

View Halsey Code 9.15: <https://www.codepublishing.com/OR/Halsey/#!/Halsey09/Halsey0915.html>

Fencing Requirements in Brownsville

- According to City of Brownsville Code Chapter 15.87 and state guidelines:
- Minimum Height: 4 feet (48 inches), measured one foot out from the fence base on the outside ground.
 - Clearance: Bottom of fence must be no more than 4 inches from the ground.



- Openings: Must not allow passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.
- Gates: Must be self-closing and self-latching; latch must be at least 54 inches above ground.
- Climb-Resistant: No footholds, handholds, or horizontal rails that can aid climbing.
- Approved Materials: Wood, chain link, brick, stone, masonry, or other durable materials. Unacceptable materials include tarps, razor wire, or thin plywood.
- Ponds: Must also be fenced or covered to prevent child access.
- Permits: A building permit is required for pools and for fences over 6 feet in height. Final inspection is required before use.
- Fence Maintenance: Must be in good condition and not overgrown.
- Vision Clearance: Required near driveways and intersections.

Full Fence Standards – City of Brownsville (PDF) at <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/planning/page/fence-standards>.

Fire Marshal Urges Safe, Legal Fireworks Use this Fourth of July



SALEM — As fireworks sales begin across Oregon, the State Fire Marshal is reminding residents to celebrate the Fourth of July safely and legally. Fireworks may be purchased from permitted retailers from June 23–July 6.

In the city of Brownsville, fireworks are permitted for use from June 27–July 4, with specific hours allowed: 3–10 p.m., and on July 4, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. In unincorporated areas of Linn County, fireworks are generally allowed on July 3 from 9 a.m.–10 p.m. and July 4 9 a.m.–11 p.m.

Consumer fireworks are never allowed on public lands, including national and state parks, beaches, and areas protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Use is limited to legal fireworks purchased from licensed stands.

To prevent fires and injuries, fire officials recommend following:

- Be prepared: Keep water nearby.
- Be safe: Supervise children and stay clear of dry grass.
- Be responsible: Soak used fireworks before disposing of them.
- Be aware: Use only legal fireworks in permitted areas.

Illegal fireworks include any that explode, fly into the air, or travel more than 12 feet. Violators face fines of up to \$2,500 and may be held liable for any resulting damage.

For more details on fireworks laws and safety, visit the Oregon State Fire Marshal’s website at <https://www.oregon.gov/osfm/pages/default.aspx>

Keep it legal. Keep it safe.

Oregonians Urged to Stay Vigilant Amid Heightened Threat Alert

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) is urging all Oregonians, including those in rural areas such as Central Linn County, to be aware and prepared in light of a new National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The bulletin warns of a heightened threat environment nationwide through September 22, 2025, due to international tensions related to the conflict involving Iran. While no specific threats have been identified in Oregon, residents are being advised to remain vigilant.

“We all have a role in keeping our communities safe,” said OEM Director Erin McMahon. “Awareness, vigilance, and timely reporting of suspicious activity are key to preventing threats from escalating into harm.”

The DHS bulletin highlights several potential concerns:

- Cyber-attacks by pro-Iranian hacktivists or state-affiliated actors
- Retaliatory violence following political or religious provocations
- Violence motivated by anti-Semitic or anti-Israel sentiment
- Threats to government personnel or critical infrastructure

How to Respond:

- Report suspicious activity — in person or online — to local law enforcement or the FBI.
 - Call 911 in an emergency.
 - Report cyber incidents such as phishing, ransomware, or unusual system behavior to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) at: www.cisa.gov/reporting-cyber-incident.
- OEM continues to share preparedness tips and updates through its newsroom and social media channels. For more information or to read the full DHS bulletin, visit: www.dhs.gov/advisories.
- Rural communities are not exempt from national concerns, and even in small towns like Brownsville, Halsey, and Shedd, awareness and preparedness remain essential.

Linn County Wraps Up Fire Hardening Grant Program

Final payments issued to Santiam Canyon homeowners rebuilding after 2020 wildfires

Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — Linn County officially concluded its wildfire fire hardening grant program at the end of June, marking the close of a three-year effort to help Santiam Canyon residents rebuild homes using materials more resistant to wildfire damage.

The program, which launched in 2021 and was funded through a State of Oregon grant, provided financial assistance to homeowners who chose fire-resistant building materials during reconstruction or new home construction after the 2020 wildfires.

Planning and Building Director Steve Wills told county commissioners in June that the final payments were being processed, including a \$3,950 disbursement issued in May. In total, the county awarded 43 grants amounting to \$166,000.

The subsidies varied by improvement. For instance, homeowners who installed fire-resistant roofing could receive up to \$2,200, while non-combustible decks or porches qualified for \$550. Fire-resistant windows were also eligible for \$550 reimbursements.

The program helped promote the concept of “fire hardening,” which involves building methods that reduce a structure’s vulnerability to wildfire, such as replacing cedar decks with concrete or using specially rated glass for windows.

Although the grant period has ended, residents with questions were encouraged to contact the Linn County Planning & Building Department at 541-967-3816.

Commissioners Address Traffic, Contracts, and Budget Items

During the June 18 meeting, the Linn County Board of Commissioners also discussed a number of other county matters:

- **Linn County Fair Traffic Detours:** Roadmaster Wayne Mink reported that with Goldfish Farm Road still closed for bridge replacement, electronic message boards and signage were in place to direct traffic during the July 17–19 Linn County Fair.
- **Sheriff’s Office Contracts Renewed:** The board approved three-year contracts between the Linn County Sheriff’s Office and the cities of Brownsville, Halsey, Harrisburg, Lyons, Mill City, Millersburg, and Scio.
- **Building Permit Totals for May:** A total of 296 permits were issued, including six for new single-family homes and three for manufactured homes. Fifty-eight of the permits required plan review.
- **Juvenile Detention Agreements:** Linn County renewed its two-year contract with Marion County to provide juvenile detention beds at \$175 per day. A separate agreement with Benton County — covering four beds — was valued at over \$480,000 annually.
- **County Janitorial Contract:** The county awarded a \$130,968 contract to Willamette Valley Rehabilitation Center to provide janitorial services for several buildings during the 2025–2026 fiscal year.
- **Policy Updates:** Commissioners approved revisions to the county’s personnel policy, including updates to definitions and terms related to leave without pay and longevity pay.
- **Upcoming Meetings:** No board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 1. An Elected Officials meeting was set for noon on Wednesday, June 11, at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

For more information on county actions and upcoming meetings, visit www.co.linn.or.us or contact Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer at 541-967-3825 or apaul@co.linn.or.us.

CROSSWORDS & SUDOKU KEY

Puzzles on page 6

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Calendula, Calendula, How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways...

by Rege Rippee, Herbalist at Flat Earth Herbs

Perhaps a corny way to begin an article about an herb, but still true. Calendula is an annual, also known as the pot marigold, in the Asteraceae/Compositae family of plants, from the Asterales order. The medicinal part of the plant is its brightly colored orange/yellowish flower. Flowers and leaves are edible and can be added to salads or used to decorate a cake with their brightly colored petals. I love this flower/herb. Here's why:



First, it's so easy to grow! The cute, curly little seeds are easy to plant and germinate fairly quickly, usually within one to two weeks, and flower in approximately six weeks. They need moist potting soil, but don't drown them. After the second set of leaves are well established, feel free to transplant the Calendula start into a larger pot or directly into your garden. Regular watering and plenty of sunshine will produce happy calendula plants. Gifting a potted Calendula plant is a great way to introduce someone special to this amazing herb. It also attracts a variety of pollinators, which is another reason it is a great

addition to your garden.

Second, the more you harvest the flowers, the more they produce! (Remember to leave a few blossoms to go to seed for next year's garden.) Dry-harvest flowers away from direct sunlight for a few

days and store in air-tight glass jars. Use flowers to make infused oils, tinctures, and teas.

Third, the constituents this herb offers are impressive. Rich in naturally occurring flavonoids, some of its benefits include anti-inflammatory, antiviral, and deep-cleansing actions on the lymphatic system, as well as antimicrobial properties. That's a significant list of benefits. Traditional herbal literature suggests Calendula for treating various skin conditions, such as eczema, dermatitis, diaper rash, wound healing, vaginal yeast infections, and more.

Do not confuse Calendula with ornamental marigolds, commonly grown in vegetable gardens. Do not use Calendula if you are pregnant, nursing, or have a known allergy to ragweed, daisies, marigolds, or other plants in the Asteraceae/Compositae family.

A New Twist on Nutrition and Exercise

by Staff Writer, Nancy Diltz

We know exercise and eating 'well' are essential for everyone, but do you know it is a priority for all of us, especially for senior citizens? (And what is a senior citizen, anyway? Anyone older than I am?)

Have you seen the guideline of 150 minutes of exercise per week? Or the 10,000 steps a day recommendation?

Personally, I have no problem with lofty goals, but the feeling of failure is not my favorite emotion. It's my left knee's fault, not mine. Therein lies the key for senior exercising, as our individual bodies have unique challenges that can often change from day to day.

A sensible rule of thumb is 'Do what feels good and doesn't set you back'. Yet, doing as much as you can do is just as important. There is a gym in town, the Brownsville Fitness Center, which offers evening yoga classes, yum! Adapted yoga in a chair can be very beneficial and does not impact the joints (plus you don't have that "Help! I can't get up off the floor!" problem). There are many options for all levels of yoga and other exercises online. If you have a SilverSneakers membership available through your insurance plan, you have access to hundreds of live classes and videos to support your exercise needs. If you walk, there are endless areas of natural beauty nearby. Start with a short, leisurely stroll and work your way up to your personal level for distance and speed, listening to any aches and pains that persist after a bit of rest. Be sure to consult your doctor if you are starting a new exercise program or have any concerns. Most of all, enjoy movement of any type!

Now, on to eating. The recommendations here are "eat anything you like and as much of it..." Unfortunately, we know that not to be the case. The best advice for senior eating, and, in fact every age, is consuming a varied diet of fruit, vegetables, legumes, nuts, seeds, whole grains, olive oil and small amounts of lean meat and dairy products, targeting enough daily protein, fiber, iron, healthy fats a wide array of vitamins and minerals plus an appropriate calorie count based on your personal needs. Don't forget the importance of staying hydrated by drinking about eight glasses of non-caffeinated fluids per day. I personally use an app to look at my hydration and macro-nutrient balance of carbohydrates, protein and fat to be sure my food choices are supporting good nutrition. Maintaining good nutrition and exercise habits can be challenging as we age, but the lifetime benefits are clearly supported.

SEASON'S EATINGS

Mixed Berry Crisp

by Lisa Keith

Hello again, my Friends and family! If you know me, you'll know I'm a bit of a stickler for word usage and pronunciation. (Refer to the previous article re: Scone vs Cake) This time, we will compare the crisp, cobbler, buckle, grunt, slump, fool, sonker, and clafoutis. Yes, those are all names for similar desserts that use fruit at its peak. Depending on where you come from, whether in the country or the world, you may have different names for these treats. Now, this information I am sharing with you has been gleaned over the years from old newspaper articles, family debates, and friendly conversations. If your opinion differs, if you have another addition to the list, or if you'd like a recipe for any that I didn't include here, please send me an email directly at iamcheflisa@gmail.com.

First up is a dessert called "Crisp." Traditionally made with apples, this is a mixture of warming spices, sugar, and fruit, topped with a streusel, and baked until the topping is crisp. Almost like a pie with no crust... my personal favorite. Some recipes call for rolled oats to be included in the topping. Either way, it is delicious.

Next is the "Cobbler." Most commonly, we are familiar with a peach cobbler. This is a mixture of fruit and sugar baked with biscuits on top, emulating a bumpy "cobble" street. I like to brush my biscuits with milk, then sprinkle them with coarse sugar before baking to give them a bit of extra crunch.

"Buckle," "Grunt," "Sonkers," and "Slump" sound like cartoon characters from a troll movie! They are actually regional names for a cobbler. Grunt comes from parts of New England and refers to the sound the fruit makes while baking. Slump is also from the New England area. A friend from the New York area calls it a Buckle. She says it came from her grandmother, who used cake batter over the blueberries with added



streusel topping. Hence, creating a "buckled" appearance. Sonker is yet another form of cobbler. A celebrated Southeastern deep-dish version, sometimes made with sweet potatoes and almost always topped with a huge scoop of ice cream.

A Fool is a classic British dessert made with three simple ingredients: heavy cream, sugar, and mashed fruit. The fruit is folded into the sweetened, freshly whipped cream and generally scooped up with shortbread biscuits as an alternative to a boring old spoon.

Clafoutis (pronounced: clauw-foo-TEE) is a rich French dessert made with cherries suspended in an almost pancake-like custard, served warm and dusted with powdered sugar.

Mixed Berry Crisp

Use any combination of berries in any amount you like. This is a fantastic way to use up those berries that are on the verge of being thrown out. I usually make this in an 8-inch square baking dish. Place clean, dry berries in the bottom of a greased baking dish, 2-4 inches deep. Sprinkle ¼ cup of sugar over berries, then sprinkle a few dashes of cinnamon over that. Gently mix together. In a separate bowl, cut 1 cup brown sugar, ½ cup flour, ½ stick of butter (NOT MARGARINE), and 1 ½ tsp cinnamon until the butter is the size of peas. Sprinkle streusel mixture evenly over the top of the berries. Bake at 350°F for 30-40 minutes (until you can smell it!).



SHERIFF'S REPORT

continued from page 11

JUNE 27

9:57 a.m. — Juvenile complaint reported at block of 32000 Birdfoot Dr, Tangent. Deputy investigated a report that a daughter was contacted online; found it was another juvenile. Non-criminal.

3:40 p.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 32200 Seven Mile Ln, Tangent. Deputy warned Casey Tatum of Brownsville for speeding.

7:26 p.m. — Juvenile complaint reported at block of 1000 Pine St, Brownsville. Report of juveniles riding an ATV on the street. Deputy checked the area but was unable to locate them.

8:33 p.m. — Dog complaint reported at block of 36600 Courtney Creek Dr, Brownsville. A dog was returned to its owner, who was warned for dog at large.

June 28

7:30 a.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 33500 Glaser Dr and Seven Mile Ln, Tangent. Driver warned for speeding.

7:45 a.m. — Animal complaint reported at block of 25800 Gap Rd and Ranch Dr, Brownsville. Deputy removed a deer carcass from the roadway.

8:25 a.m. — Unlawful entry into a motor vehicle reported at block of 31900 North Lake Creek Dr, Tangent. Vehicle was entered overnight and \$20 was stolen.

4:40 p.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 31900 Seven Mile Ln, Tangent. A 17-year-old male was cited for speeding, 72 in a 55 mph zone.

11:36 p.m. — Suspicious person reported at block of 34100 Hwy 99E, Tangent. Deputy contacted the person. Non-criminal.

JUNE 29

12:37 a.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 300 W 1st St, Halsey. Vehicle was broken down; help was on the way.

1:04 a.m. — Hit and run reported at block of 32700 Diamond Hill Dr and North Coburg Rd, Halsey. Deputy was advised of a hit and run that had occurred earlier.

1:16 a.m. — Foot patrol at block of 100 American Dr, Halsey.

2:08 a.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 27600 Hwy 99E, Halsey. Nicholas Motellang, 31, of Corvallis, was cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, and failing to obey a stop sign.

2:12 a.m. — Welfare check reported at block of 200 E G St, Halsey. Deputy provided a courtesy ride.

5:32 a.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 24800 Hwy 99E, Halsey. Driver warned for moving violation.

2:55 p.m. — Harassment reported at block of 400 N Main St, Brownsville. Deputy spoke with a citizen regarding ongoing verbal harassment.

5:10 p.m. — Hit and run reported at block of 400 N Main St, Brownsville. Hit and run of a parked vehicle. Investigation is ongoing.

8:09 p.m. — Fraud reported at block of 31900 North Lake Creek Dr, Tangent. Caller reported a personal loan fraud. Investigation is ongoing.

9:54 p.m. — Business check at block of 33400 Eagle Rd, Tangent. All was secure.

Halsey Mayor's Corner

by Jerry Lachenbruch, Mayor of Halsey

The Fourth of July marks the founding of the United States as a sovereign nation, free from British rule. It stands as a powerful symbol of our commitment to liberty, democracy, and self-governance. Independence Day reminds us of the values enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, especially the ideal that “all men are created equal.”

It's a time to reflect on the sacrifices made during the American Revolutionary War and to honor the freedoms secured for all who call this country home, whether by birth or by choice. July Fourth encourages us to consider both how far we've come and the work still ahead to fully realize the promise of 1776: independence, resilience, and a better society for all.

On a more local note — have you met our librarian? Kaitlyn, our wonderful new Halsey Librarian, is leading this year's Summer Reading Program, filled with weekly events for all ages. The program kicks off Saturday, July 12 at 11 a.m. in the Halsey Community Center and continues every Saturday through August 9. It's a great chance to meet Kaitlyn and get involved in our community library.

Also, keep an eye out for updates on Halsey's annual Summer BBQ! In past years, we've enjoyed BBQ dinners followed by family-friendly outdoor movies under the stars — a true small-town summer tradition. July in Halsey blends hometown charm — think llama visits at the library — with nearby festivals and scenic getaways around Linn County and the Willamette Valley.

Enjoy all that July has to offer, and thank you for being part of what makes Halsey special. As always, I work for you. Feel free to reach out anytime with comments, concerns, ideas, or good news at mayor@halseyor.gov.

Want to support local businesses and boost our community? We need friendly volunteers to help sell ads. All profits support our mission to keep Brownsville informed!

advertise@brownsvilletimes.org | 541-657-8148

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

2025 Grass Seed Harvest: Will it Be a Reasonable Price and Yield?

by Bill Looney, Shedd Contributor

It came naturally for me to write with my agricultural background. I would volunteer to represent Shedd with some writing; however, I hope that Sheddites would contact me via email at loonpioneer1843@aol.com with tips. Shedd, in past years, had a coffee shop where people could share stories. That doesn't exist now.

I hope my story has some value to all the communities.

I'm a retired grass seed farmer. No matter who you talk to, as a non-active farmer, no active farmer will give an evaluation of crop quality, potential crop yields, or you never can seem to find out what prices the farmers will receive.

On our smaller farm, we grew perennial ryegrass to make a good living. Dealing with seed companies was usually frustrating. As a farmer, it looks like a moderate to less-than-average yield!

Why? We were hoping to receive a better price per pound for the crop. It was a cat-and-mouse game!

If you grew a proprietary grass for a seed company, you were locked into a high price that would increase if there was a shortage of seed but not an increase for the farmer. They were contracted to a ceiling price. A shortage of seed made the price rise above the ceiling price you, the farmer, would receive.

Fine-leaf perennial ryegrass was a specialty crop. Field burning rid the field of the harvested straw, killed excessive populations of rodents, and reduced the weed population that made your crop cleaner before your next year's crop.

Times have changed. The population and farmers in a community need to support public schools because consolidation will retire a community from its existence, let alone retire young people from the dedication needed to ensure future generations a future in their towns.

After all, not everyone can find jobs on a farm; the high school and early college summer harvesting jobs usually give way to employment in other fields.

The traditional practices of farming have undergone significant changes. I'm heading back to my rocker now! God Bless You, and I hope all of you have crops harvested with an abundance of quality and quantity!!



With a jolt of grassroots energy and a shockingly strong dose of community spirit, The Brownsville Times is alive once more! Thanks to the life-blood of the Central Linn community — our readers, writers, advertisers, and donors — we've been resuscitated with heart and humor. Like in the illustration above, it was the “Brownsville Community” who wielded the paddles and yelled “Clear!” — and now here we are, grinning on the gurney, full of stories and stronger than ever. Thank you for believing in our revival — we promise to keep the pulse of our towns beating proudly.

CRITTER CHRONICLES

Eva Goes to Jail

by Staff Writer, Sharon K. Banks

On a cool spring morning in the hills South of Brownsville, Oregon, a mischievous Siberian Husky named Eva watched her mom — coat on, keys in hand — head toward the car at the end of their long, forest-lined driveway.

Eva knew this routine. Her mom was going to town. And Eva, with all the boundless energy and determined heart of a true Husky, decided this was the day she was going too.

The driveway stretched for a mile through trees and past hidden critters, but Eva padded confidently behind her mom’s car as it disappeared down the gravel road. Tail high, ears perked, she trotted along, undeterred. However, her timing was just a little off, and by the time she reached the main road, her mom was already gone.

Enter: Mike — a kind-hearted man in a dusty green pickup truck.

Mike spotted Eva pacing near Gap Road, tongue lolling, coat glinting in the morning sun. His heart jumped. “That dog’s gonna get hit,” he muttered, pulling over. Eva, friendly and full of trust, hopped right in when he opened the door. “Let’s find your people, girl.”

At home, over twenty miles from where he found her, Mike checked her collar and tags. “Eva,” he read aloud. “Well, Eva, let’s get you someplace safe.” And off they went to the Sweet Home Police Department.

Inside, Eva made an impression — big blue eyes. Fluffy tail. Supreme confidence. The officers admired her before promptly booking her into a holding kennel, a.k.a. “doggy jail,” until her owner could be contacted.

Back at the house, her mom had just pulled into the driveway. Groceries in hand, she called out automatically, “Eva?” Silence. No happy howls. No galloping paws. No Eva.

Panic. She dropped the bags and started



searching. But then, the phone rang.

“This is the Sweet Home Police Department. We have Eva... your dog.”

She was out the door in seconds.

At the station, she found Eva behind bars, looking scared and caged. Until now, she was always allowed to run free. The officer chuckled as he unlocked the kennel. “She’s a great talker, and she does not like being locked up.” Eva let out a howl of relief and rushed to jump into the back of her CRV.

She signed the paperwork. They dismissed all charges — no leash law violation, no resisting arrest, no barking in a public building.

And Eva? She got a ride home with her mom, tail wagging all the way, delighted with her adventure and clearly unaware she’d just become the most notorious four-legged jailbird in Sweet Home.

The moral of the story? Never underestimate a Husky’s sense of adventure... or her ability to hitch a ride and charm the police.

Archiving The Brownsville Times

By Staff Writer, Daniel R. Murphy

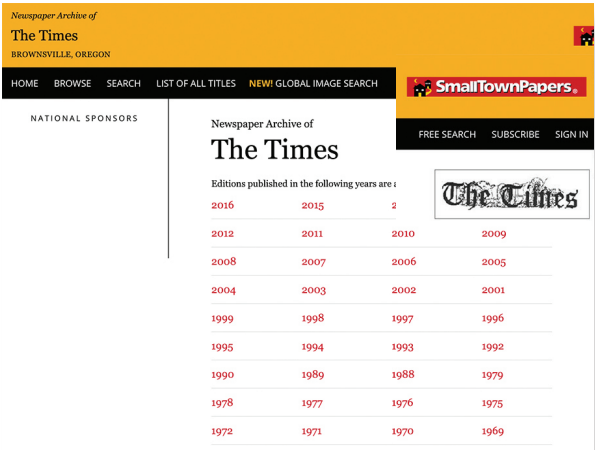
Whether you are engaged in serious genealogical research or just looking for an old article from The Brownsville Times, here is some information on where you may, or may not, find it.

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Newspapers.com — is the giant archive of thousands of newspapers in the world. Unfortunately, this archive does not contain copies of The Brownsville Times. They add papers frequently so that might change.

Small Town Papers — yet another archive for small-town papers is available at <https://tbv.stparchive.com/archives.php>. The Times is archived from 1893-216.

Brownsville Library — to see actual physical copies of The Brownsville Times you will find them bound by the year at the Brownsville Library. You’ll need to wear white gloves (provided) while you turn the pages. The archive dates back to 1895. There are some missing issues.



TAKING ROOT

July in the Garden

by Staff Writer, Donald Lyon

July, in the Garden, is the month for vigilance. Rainfall is probably over for the summer; the ground is drying out, and your vegetables and decorative plants will be calling for the water boy. To reduce evaporation, water in the early morning. Water the soil and not the leaves. Soaker hoses or drip irrigation may both be a pain to set up, but plants, especially tomatoes, will be healthier without wasteful overhead watering, as wet leaves invite insects and disease. Water deeply and infrequently to encourage root growth. If you have hanging baskets or plants in pots, they may require twice-daily watering in hot weather, especially if the pots are made of plastic. In the spring, we wanted the soil to warm before planting. Now it’s time to keep it cool (and moist) with mulch — wood chips, aged sawdust, and compost are ideal, but shredded paper and plastic will also do the job (though they tend to provide havens for insects). Grass clippings make a good mulch, too, but not if you have been using a “weed and feed” fertilizer. Your rhubarb and asparagus have retired for the year, so be sure to weed and fertilize both at this point. They deserve a mulch of compost and aged manure.

The hot weather brings out insect pests. Well-camouflaged cutworms often curl up around the base of plants and nibble all the way around, kill-

ing the plant. Look for holes in cucumber leaves, which indicate striped cucumber beetle — give them the pinch of death. There are certainly insect pests, but did you know that there are also many beneficial insects, which eat harmful pests or pollinate our vegetables and garden plants? If you have the PBS streaming app, watch “Bugs that Rule the World”. Incredible!

A bit about irrigation: I often see people hand watering. They think that because the soil is damp, they have done the job. You only must stick a trowel in the earth and pull back the soil to see that hand watering rarely penetrates more than half an inch. To be effective, the water must reach the roots. Drip or soaker hoses are about the only way for the home gardener to assure satisfied plants. My irrigation system may not be the fanciest, but it’s certainly the cheapest. One hose enters my fenced vegetable garden. It is connected to a brass manifold with four spigots. Each spigot has a valve that allows it to be turned off or opened partially. Each spigot is connected to a length of hose that extends from the spigot to the bed to be watered. These lengths of hose are made from old hoses that have been cut to the correct length and fitted with replacement male and female ends. Rubber soaker hoses attach to these short, custom-made hoses. If the soaker

hose is too long, you can cut off the extra length, insert a short piece of wood dowel, and fasten it with a hose clamp. If the soaker hose develops a leak that is too large, cut out the damaged section and insert a short piece of plastic tubing, secured with two hose clamps. Once I have my system in place and make a few repairs, it usually functions well for the rest of the season. Soaker hoses will last longer if they are not kinked. Connect a timer to the hose bib, and you can catch a few zzz’s while watering very early in the morning (so that by evening, the ground is dry again, which discourages slugs and snails). Got questions? Ask a Master Gardener, phototraveler02@gmail.com.



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