



THE BROWNSVILLE TIMES

VOLUME 137, NO. 3

SERVING CENTRAL LINN COUNTY, OREGON SINCE 1889

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025



Linn County Pioneer Picnic Returns for 138th Year

June 20–22, 2025 | Pioneer Park | Brownsville

Dust off your boots and mark your calendars: the 138th annual Linn County Pioneer Picnic is set to return to Brownsville's scenic Pioneer Park this weekend from June 20 through 22. With a theme of "Pioneer Logging Camps," this year's event promises a weekend full of family-friendly fun, rich history, and small-town charm. The Pioneer Picnic holds the distinction of being the oldest, continuous annual celebration in Oregon.

The festivities kick off Friday, June 20, at 1 p.m. with the beloved Kiddie Parade, sponsored by the Pollyanna Club. Children are invited to dress as pioneers or loggers and join the fun, with the lineup beginning at Poppi's Place, 522 N. Main Street. Businesses are also encouraged to decorate their storefronts in theme.

Saturday's highlight is the Grand Parade at 10 a.m., welcoming vintage car and tractor enthusiasts to "Cruise In" and then "Cruise Out" post-parade. This year's Grand Marshals are the Overton Family, representing one of the area's long-standing pioneer families. Pioneer descendants are encouraged to walk in the parade carrying signs of their family names.

Throughout the weekend, enjoy the Flower Show and Student Art Show in the Log Cabin flower building. The park will be alive with food and craft vendors, live music, activities, and contests.

Evening events include the Coronation and Raffle at 7 p.m. Friday, followed by the Queen's Dance at 8:30 p.m. Saturday night features Country Line Dancing Lessons at 7:30 p.m., with open dancing until 11 p.m.

Have Breakfast both Saturday and Sunday mornings. Additional entertainment includes a Spelling Bee, Summer Reading Kickoff, and a Pie Eating Contest. The 2nd Annual Beard and Mustache Contest on Saturday at 7 p.m. Contestants can register online or at the information booth.

Sunday wraps up with the Pioneer Dam Run at 8 a.m. and a Community Church Service at 10 a.m. in the grandstand.

For more information or to get involved, visit www.pioneer-picnic.com or follow the Linn County Pioneer Association on Facebook.

See our Pioneer Picnic pullout on pages 7-10

MORE ROYAL SMILES: Junior Princesses Add Joy to the 2025 Court

We introduced this year's High School and a few Junior Pioneer Picnic Princesses in the last issue. Here are five more Junior Princesses who bring even more spirit and sweetness to this treasured tradition.



Mercy Ann Randklev is nine and home schooled by her mom. She's the daughter of Candice and Ryan Haddock and lives in Brownsville with her siblings Kaelyn, Ellie, and Isaiah. Mercy loves science, the color pink, and watching "Tangled." Her favorite food is spaghetti, and she's a fan of birds and pop music. Volleyball is her favorite sport, and she enjoys family movie nights. Mercy says the bravest thing she's ever done was jumping off a rock, and the kindest was helping her baby brother. She looks up to her mom and describes herself as fun to be around.

Nine-year-old **Maya Rose Geider** is a third grader in Ms. Kline's class at Central Linn. She's the daughter of Karly and Ryan and has an older sister, Rubie. Maya's favorite subject is Language Arts, and she loves the color red, the movie "Moana," Mexican food, and cats. She enjoys drawing, gymnastics, and long walks with her family. One of her bravest moments was singing a solo in concert, and the kindest was caring for her injured dog. Maya describes herself as athletic, artistic, and kind—with a deep love for animals.



Kennedy Rein Hamblin is eight and a third grader also in Ms. Klein's class. She's the daughter of Jacey and Todd (Big Al) and lives in Brownsville. She enjoys PE, music, and math, and loves the colors blue and teal. Kennedy's favorite movies include "Harry Potter" and "Finding Nemo." She's a fan of whales, turtles, bearded dragons, and anything sweet — especially candy and ice cream. She enjoys volleyball, softball, and arts and crafts. She once bravely rode a bucking horse and says her proudest kind act was sticking up for her friends. Kennedy looks up to many family members and describes herself as fierce, kind, and adventurous.

Jean Clementine Rush is eight and a third grader at Central Linn. She's the daughter of Lily and Jonathon Rush and has two younger siblings, Hudson and Magnolia. Jean loves PE, the color baby pink, and "Star Wars." Ava Max is her favorite musician, and she enjoys drawing and eating sushi, tacos, and nachos. Jean's favorite Picnic moments include being in the parade and the car show. She bravely jumped into a river from a high rock and says helping classmates finish their work was one of her kindest moments. She calls her dad her hero and sees herself as kind, smart, and always ready to help.

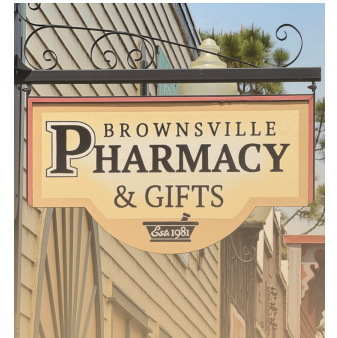


Jasmine Della Abell is home schooled in the third grade by her Grammie. She's the daughter of Ryan and Amy Abell and has three younger sisters: Daphne, Holly, and Alyssa. Jasmine loves red, elephants, and the movie "Spirit." Her favorite treats are pineapple and chocolate. She enjoys dancing to any kind of music, taking bal-

let, and playing games with her family. Her bravest moment was going down a tall slide, and the silliest thing was dressing as a Minion for Halloween. Jasmine says she once cleaned Grammie's house as a kind gesture. She enjoys painting and describes herself as imaginative and artsy, with admiration for her cousins.

ALL PRINCESS PHOTOS BY SAYDEY JOHNSON

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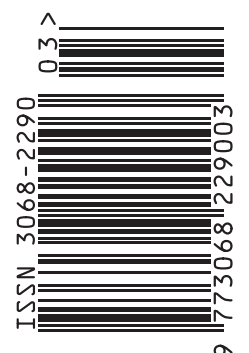
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\$2.00



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>

Linn County Pioneer Picnic

Friday-Sunday, June 20-22
Oregon's longest-running celebration features a parade, dam run, car show, and various activities at Pioneer Park. This year's theme is "Pioneer Logging Camps."
<https://www.pioneerpicnic.com>

Widows' Brigade

Thursday, June 19, 1:30 p.m. Central Valley Church

Halsey Spring Clean-up Day

Saturday, June 21, Items placed for pickup by 7 a.m.
Tires, lumber under 4' long, metal, and bundled plastics. Large furniture, appliances, and mattresses, all under 4x4x4' and less than 150 lbs (limit 2 per household max). Sweet Home Sanitation: 541-367-2535

Linn Benton County chapter of the Weston A. Price Foundation Meet & Greet

Saturday, June 21, 4-7 p.m.
Nourished with Nature Farm, 34847 Bond Rd, Lebanon OR.

Bring your lawn chair, tableware and a healthy food dish to share. Enjoy an Organ Meats & Dental Health presentation. Membership not required. Contact WAPFlinnbenton@gmail.com

Rege Rippee <https://www.flatearthherbs.com/>

Silver Screen Cinema

"The Snows of Kilimanjaro"

Friday, June 27, 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30)
The American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184 at 339 N. Main. \$2 per ticket, Concessions will be available

Brownsville City Council

Monday, June 30, 7 p.m.
Fisher Hall, upstairs at City Hall 255 N Main
<https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/citycouncil>

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://brownvillechristianchurch.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://harvestrbc.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
holytrinitybrownvilleor@gmail.com
Weekday Mass Wednesday Noon
Sunday Service 11:30 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.

Is Your Church Listed? We want to keep our Worship Directory accurate and complete. If your place of worship is missing or your service times have changed, send updates to editor@brownsvilletimes.org



Early office location of The Brownsville Times circa 1900.



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BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

LEVEL UP @ YOUR LIBRARY

2025 Summer Reading Program Theme

The Brownsville Community Library Summer Reading Program is gearing up for some summer fun! Our program will be held on Thursdays in July from 4–5 p.m. Turn in your reading log each week for a chance to win one of our unique baskets of goodies. On their first visit, they will have the opportunity to choose a book as a gift from the Friends of the Brownsville Community Library. Summer is a great time to build, create, and have fun with friends! Your local library is the Perfect place to LEVEL UP @ YOUR LIBRARY!

Normal Library hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thursday, 1–7 p.m. • Saturday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Library Summer Schedule

Friday, June 20, 11 a.m.– Noon
Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Saturday, June 21, 1:30 p.m.
Summer Reading Program Kick-off Performer at Pioneer Picnic Main Stage with **Let's Make Some Noise**. Please join Anne-Louise with a joyful program of songs and stories to keep you chuckling, laughing, singing, and tapping those feet! And of course — finding your voice!

June 24–28 • Library Closed for Maintenance

July 1–5 • Take-and-Make 'Out and About Bingo'

Friday, July 4 • Independence Day Holiday Closure

Thursday, July 10 • Kelli Welli Performer
Kelli Caldwell writes and performs for children and been called "The Pixar of Children's songwriters" for her award-winning work and commitment to keeping even the silliest of songs super smart, with full respect for kids' brains.

Saturday, July 11, 11 a.m.– Noon
Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Thursday, July 17, 4–5 p.m.
I-Spy With My Little Eye
Let's make I-Spy bottles together. This fun craft can be played over and over all summer long!

Friday, July 18, 11 a.m.– Noon
Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Thursday, July 24 • Library Olympics

Friday, July 25, 11 a.m.– Noon
Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Thursday, July 31
2nd Annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Friday, August 1, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Pick up your stuffed animal from the Library

Friday, August 1, 11 a.m.– Noon
Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Friday, August 8, 11 a.m.– Noon
Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Friday, August 15, 11 a.m.– Noon
Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Friday, August 22, 11 a.m.– Noon
Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Friday, August 29, 11 a.m.– Noon
Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Bring your weekly reading logs to enter for a weekly prize!

All programs are free of charge. Join us each Thursday and participate in our weekly activity, then stock up on books to read. Library manners are expected. No childcare provided.

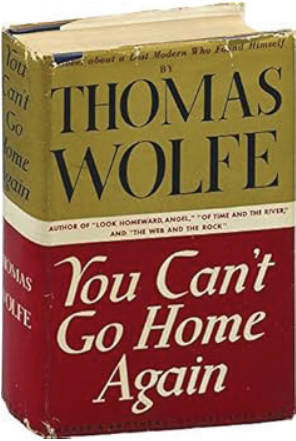
For more information, come by 146 Spaulding Avenue, call the library at 541-466-5454 or visit our website: www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org or find us on Facebook @BVORLibrary.

BOOK REVIEW

by Nancy Diltz

You Can't Go Home Again

What is your favorite book ever? One might say that is an impossible question to answer. Yet, if I absolutely had to narrow down my top ten to just one, it would be "You Can't Go Home Again" by Thomas Wolfe (1934) not to be confused with Tom Wolfe, a popular 1980s writer, author of "Bonfire of the Vanities".



"Genius", 2016, starring Jude Law as Thomas Wolfe, tells the biographical story of young Wolfe and his friendship with editor Maxwell Perkins who recognized Wolf's literary genius.

Wolfe himself said he was a "Big novelist, capturing the essence of America" though he often struggled with self doubt. Although Wolfe was criticized by some of his peers including Hemingway, he remains an influential American author and, if I may say, the writer of my favorite book. "You Can't Go Home Again" is suggestive of an autobiography in that Wolfe's main character, George Webber, returns to his fictional town of Libya Hill, North Carolina after becoming a famous author and spending time in New York City as Wolfe himself had done. The story takes place in the 1930s, post-World War I, amid the Great Depression and rapid changes to American industry. Webber is seeking to understand how his childhood home has changed while friends and family shun him (believing his writing to be about themselves).

If you enjoy "You Can't Go Home Again", you may like "The Web and The Rock" and "Look Homeward Angel" which continue exploring complex themes such as 'what is home?', 'finding one's place in the world,' and the 'passage of time' as experienced by Thomas Wolfe.

Thomas Wolfe, an American writer and University of New York English Professor who only lived 38 years, authored seven profound works of literature. "Wolfe wrote as one inspired. No one in his generation had his command of language, his passion, his energy," said Clifton Fadiman, The New Yorker. A movie,

HALSEY LIBRARY

Summer Reading at the Halsey Library

Get ready for another exciting season of reading, creativity, and community fun. The Halsey Library's Summer Reading Program is back with four weeks of engaging Saturday events for kids and families. All events begin at 11 a.m. at the City Hall Community Center.

Schedule of Events

- **July 12** – Kickoff with Caesar the No Drama Llama
- **July 19** – Lego Derby Car Races
- **July 26** – Museum of Natural and Cultural History presentation
- **August 2** – Game Day and Ice Cream Party

Register in advance at the library. For details, call 541-369-2522 or visit www.halseyor.gov/services/library.

More Than Books: Check Out the Halsey Lending Library

Thanks to support from the OSU Extension Service, the Halsey Library now offers hands-on learning tools for home use. Each item comes with instructions and helpful information to guide you.

Now available to borrow:

- Turbo Steam Canner
- Presto Pressure Canner
- Kenley Fermentation Crock
- Presto Food Dehydrator
- Nesco Vacuum Sealer

Visit the library to learn more and check out something new.

TEENS & ADULTS Volunteer at the Halsey Library

Both adult and teen (age 14 and older) volunteers are needed to run the library. New volunteers will work with the Librarian to learn how the Library works. Adults can run shifts by themselves, and teens can run shifts under supervision of the Librarian. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit <https://halseyor.gov/services/library> and fill out the new volunteer application form at the bottom of the page, sign, and return it to the Library during normal business hours.

Support local journalism and gain real-world experience! The Brownsville Times is seeking friendly volunteers to help with advertising sales. Training provided. Make a difference in your community while building valuable skills.
Email Jeff Brown at advertise@brownsvilletimes.org to learn more.

Albany Summer Passport Program Returns for 14th Year on June 21

by Lonna Capaci, Historic Resources and Visitor Services Manager at Albany Visitors Association

ALBANY — The 14th Annual Albany Summer Passport Program kicks off Saturday, June 21, at the Albany Historic Carousel & Museum, 503 W 1st Ave. Families can register at the launch event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., or anytime throughout the program's duration.

Running through Friday, Aug. 8, the free passport encourages children to explore Albany by visiting local businesses and attractions, collecting stamps, and completing fun challenges like trivia, puzzles, and games. Each location is listed on a map included in the passport, and participating sites will display posters to welcome young adventurers.

The program is designed for elementary-aged children, but siblings, parents, grandparents, and caregivers are all invited to join in the fun.

Weekly prizes will be awarded throughout the summer, with grand prize winners announced at the Carousel Carnival on Saturday, Aug. 16.

The Passport Program is a collaborative effort between the Albany Visitors Association, Albany Downtown Association, Albany Regional Museum, Albany Historic Carousel & Museum, and the Monteith Historical Society.

For more details and information, visit online at albanyvisitors.com, call 541-928-0911, or email info@albanyvisitors.com.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Gone Fishin'

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

ACROSS

3. Flat fish that tastes delish!

4. Sandwich fare

7. Swimmin' Apaloosa

10. Not on Porpise

11. Holy ___?

12. Pacific Coast Soft Flounder

- DOWN
1. Slippery Fella

2. Mammal, not a fish

5. Whitefish for Fish 'n Chips

6. Get Out of the Water!

8. On your pizza... or not!

9. Swims both directions

SUDOKU

				7				4
	9		4	1		3		
	5		2		6			
1		5	9			6	7	3
3								8
8	7	9			2	1		5
			1		9		3	
		7		3	8		5	
6				2				

Sudoku puzzles are provided by www.sudokuoftheday.com. Visit them and get a new Sudoku every day!

EASY

Solutions on page 15



KIDS' KORNER

by Staff Writer, Nancy Diltz

Roald Dahl

“Don’t forget to believe in yourself”, *Roald Dahl*.

Do you know about the author Roald Dahl? Roald (pronounced Roo-all) Dahl (sounds like doll). Roald Dahl wrote “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”, “The BFG”, “James and the Giant Peach” (have you seen the movies?), and many more. Dahl was born in Wales near England to Norwegian parents. He was named after the famous Norwegian Polar Explorer Roald Amundsen, the first explorer to reach the South Pole in 1911. Dahl wrote 49 books, 21 of them for children. Give one a try!

Quiz

In Which Roald Dahl Books Will You Find These Sentences?

1. “It’s a delicious sensation”, Mr. Wonka said.

2. “No giant is knowing that.”

3. “Quick!” said Mr. Fox. “Hide!”

4. “You’re plotting something,” Mrs. Twit said.

Answers: (1) *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, (2) *The BFG* (Big Friendly Giant), (3) *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, and (4) *The Twits*

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



Dear Mrs. Gertrude,

My wife has been after me for the past few months to replace our old buggy and aged horse with a flashy, electric motorized vehicle to run into town. I am a little uncertain of this newfangled technology, but as we have come into a little money... 'tis possible 'twould be a fine investment for my business, I reckon. Do you have any notions of these flivvers driving around town? My wife complains that fuel engines are noisy and smell something awful, 'cept a Ford Model T would be far cheaper. Are the electric carriages safe enough for her and worth the higher cost?

Sincerely,

Figuring Out Right Design –or– Electricity Decidedly Inspires Spouse Over Noise

Dear FORD or EDISON,

Indeed, it is a quandary! Alas, not one to take lightly, as the high expense of such a purchase is not for the faint of heart. Take courage, as I can absolutely help you — it just so happens that my brother Art is a mechanic in Albany. He’s a nut about all automobiles great and small; I was not kidding when I boldly said I had the correct connections for every query! Ahem, so we proceed:

The factors he proposed to consider before purchasing one of these auto-mob-iles are thus:

- 1) The electric batteries will need an exchange every now and again (which is covered by a monthly subscription fee for the service). Artie did mention they are developing batteries that can recharge, which would be a boon for the in-dustry. Simply magic!

2) Not only are combustible fuel engines noisier, but the price of oil & petrol can change willy-nilly depending on the market. If you are a gambling man, I withhold my judgment, yet it may be necessary in order to place your bets here.

3) Safety is of great importance: they both can be quite dangerous in the wrong hands or without enough care taken — the greatest danger is the high speed and rough roads causing all sorts of mayhem & accidents. All on top of spooking the poor horses with that racket! My poor old Nelly had quite a fright the other day when one of those Model Ts came rushing up behind her when I was taking our buggy into town; she nearly ran me into the ditch, and just yonder was the river — so mind your manners on the road, please and thank you!

It may be in the eye of the beholder: combustible fuel and electric are a tad green on the market (for the general public at least), only a rare few putter around our small town as it is. Why, I recall when the steam-powered carriage engines were wafting clouds behind them like tiny railway locomotives just a few years ago and now they have all but faded away. I reckon an electric railway is not far off in the future from us now. How the times are a’changing, and oh, how fashions come and go!

All that said, you did mention that this is your beloved wife’s idea, and even Henry Ford himself has stated that his wife, Clara, drives one of those electric vehicles in lieu of his own Model T. As their marketing goes, they do seem ideal for more sensitive folk and have put extra effort into highlighting that, without having all that smoke and revving of engines going on, it is a much pleasanter ride. However, who can forget the poor elephant whose demise by Edison was heard around the world? It was shocking (in actual fact) and it goes to show just how dangerous electricity can be! Which rates more highly for you: would the pros of electric vehicles outweigh the cons for you? Not to put another wrench in the works, yet I would hold in the back of your mind that the saying does go “happy spouse, happy house”. *Bonne chance!*

Word Scramble

Can you figure out the scrambled word?

- EACPH

DNAYC

UNF

KBSOO

YPLA

UOTSH OLPE
- _____

Answers: (1) Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, (2) The BFG (Big Friendly Giant), (3) Fantastic Mr. Fox, and (4) The Twits

TAKING ROOT

Seed Starting, part 2

by Staff Writer, Donald Lyon

Last week, we discussed starting seeds both in pots and in the ground. This week we'll continue with transplanting, thinning and fertilizing. When I moved back to Oregon, I realized I needed a greenhouse, which I built with recycled sliding glass doors. It's my "happy house" in February, even when a cold wind blows outside. With just a bit of sun, it's warm and cozy inside. An inexpensive maximum/minimum thermometer told me that the air temperatures drop to 40° F at night in early Spring, so I needed a way to warm the soil for the seeds I was starting. The solution was a shallow box filled with sand, with heating cables from the Territorial Seed Company installed beneath the sand. They warm the sand to 80° F, which is very encouraging to the six-packs of seeds that sit in watertight, shallow trays, with six six-packs per tray.

To further encourage germination and emergence, I put clear plastic lids over the six-packs (recycled from supermarket produce containers). Once the seedlings emerge, it is best to water them by adding warm water into the trays rather than watering from the top. This encourages deep root growth. After a few weeks, the seedlings develop true leaves, that is, leaves in addition to the two cotyledons that are the first growth to emerge. After a few weeks, it's time to transplant from the six-packs to four-inch pots, especially if more than one plant is emerging from each small container. To transplant into a larger container, I set the six-pack in a tray of water, then pry the seedlings and potting soil out of the six-pack and place them in a tray of warm water. The seedlings will come free from their siblings and can be picked up by the leaves and inserted into the larger pot that is to be their new home. That larger pot has been filled with dampened potting soil. I create a small crevice in the soil, pick up the seedling by its leaves, not the stem, and insert it into the crevice at the same height as it was initially planted. I press the sides of the crevice together and, presto, the deed is done. Once a plant has developed true leaves, it can be fed with a liquid fertilizer once a week and watered regularly.



DONALD LYON

Transplants spaced for maximum growth.

spacing between plants. If you are careful, you can probably transplant some of the seedlings you remove to a section of the row that needs filling in. A light watering beforehand will make this task easier and more successful.

Fertilizing: Potting soil is typically low in nutrients, so if you have started seeds in potting soil, it is crucial to begin adding fertilizer, which can be either organic, such as compost or manure, or synthetic. Fertilizer can be mixed with the garden soil or spread in a band alongside the growing plants. Organic fertilizers release nutrients gradually over an extended period. Synthetic fertilizers, for the most part, are made up of just three macro nutrients — Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium. Those three nutrients are expressed on all fertilizer packages as percentages. "Miracle-Gro", for example, is 20-20-20, that is 20% Nitrogen, 20% Phosphorus, and 20% Potassium. Nitrogen fosters green, leafy growth. Phosphorus is essential for photosynthesis, root growth, and fruit development. Potassium also aids in photosynthesis, water uptake, and growth. Salad greens generally are going to thrive with a Nitrogen-heavy fertilizer but tomatoes and squash, for example, once they are established, will produce more fruit (and less greenery) if you cut back on the Nitrogen.

Synthetic fertilizers, available in powdered or granular form, are concentrated and should not be brought into direct contact with young plants. Add a sprinkling of artificial fertilizer in a band next to the plants so that the fertilizer is washed down to the roots with watering. One way to think about organic versus synthetic fertilizers is that organic fertilizers are absorbed slowly by the plant over a prolonged period, while synthetic fertilizers are quick-acting and require replenishment more frequently. I prefer to use organic aged cow manure when I can get it, but make do with 40-pound bags of Chicken manure pellets when I can't. Questions, comments, suggestions? I'm all ears at phototraveler02@gmail.com

If you have planted seeds directly in the ground and they have reached the stage of having true leaves, it is probably time to do some thinning, so that the developing plants have enough room to reach their optimum size. Seed packets typically indicate the ideal

TABLE TALK — DINING IN AND AROUND BROWNSVILLE

Harpers Wine House

by Staff Writer, Jeff Brown

You'll find Harpers Wine House at 320 N Main Street in Brownsville, where it has built a solid reputation over the last nine years for its incredible selection of wines, ciders, and deliciously prepared seasonal food. Owned by Michelle Smith-Harper, Harpers Wine House offers a large selection of wines from across the Northwest and beyond, along with several local ciders. The establishment also serves delicious small plate meals, making for a wonderful dining experience.

I asked Michelle how she got started in the restaurant business. "I owned a food business prior, but that was never my plan with Harpers. It's a wine shop that serves a small menu of seasonal food. I have always cooked. I really got into being more creative with food and wine when my late husband and I were part of a dinner club where we lived. We hosted parties often and cooked using fresh herbs and vegetables from our large garden. That is what makes Harpers Wine House (named after us) what it is today. Also, I played music at wineries and wine bars, which led to some first-hand knowledge of really good Oregon wine."

Michelle mentioned that she enjoys the freedom to create dishes seasonally, working with farmers and local markets. Almost all organ-



PHOTOS BY JEFF BROWN

ic and all handmade. The wine pairing dinners are her favorite. She creates constantly and never uses recipes except for baking. "Customers from all over the valley have made these years so memorable. Friendships made over food, wine, and music are a wonderful part of what I do," said Michelle

During our recent visit, I tried the angel hair pasta with creamy Alfredo sauce, spinach, and bacon, while my wife went with the roasted mushroom personal pizza. My pasta was a delicious choice — noodles cooked to perfection, accompanied by creamy Alfredo sauce. The crispy bacon added just the right touch. My wife also really enjoyed her pizza. The crust was just right, and the roasted mushrooms blended well with the cheese, giving it great flavor. It was clear that the care Michelle puts into her dishes makes a difference.

Michelle is known for being friendly and approachable, always available to discuss her extensive range of wines and ciders. In the end, Harpers Wine House is a cozy spot in Brownsville that's worth checking out, especially if you enjoy a good glass or bottle of wine with your meal. It's a welcoming place where you can enjoy a variety of great wines, quality food, and connect with others in the community.

CALL FOR SPONSORS:

Help Make Stand By Me Day a Success

by Linda McCormick

The highly anticipated Stand By Me Day event is just around the corner, attracting fans from across the globe to celebrate this beloved occasion! This year, in an effort to encourage greater local attendance, we have moved the event to Saturday, July 26. (The last Saturday in July from now on.)

Organizing an event of this magnitude requires substantial support and we rely on the generosity of our corporate and personal sponsors to cover the associated costs. As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, all contributions made to Linn County Museum Friends are tax-deductible, making your support not just beneficial for the event, but also for your tax returns.

We invite you to join us as a sponsor and help create an unforgettable experience for the community and our visitors. Your support can make a significant impact, and we would love to have you on board!

If you're interested in sponsoring this year's event, please make checks payable to Linn County Museum Friends and mail them to: LCHM Friends, PO Box 607, Brownsville, OR 97327. Don't forget to indicate "SBM" on your checks!

Together, let's make this year's Stand By Me Day an extraordinary event!

AMERICAN LEGION

Saturday Night Calling: When Chance and Community Comingle

by an ordinary seaman

The fluorescent lights at the American Legion Hall cast a familiar glow as Saturday evening settles over our valley. You can hear the gentle hum even from the street parking out front, a comforting sound that signals the start of our weekly gathering. Inside, folks are finding their usual spots, those sturdy cardboard bingo cards clutched in hand, ready for a bit of friendly competition and good company. It's Bingo night, a tradition that feels as much a part of our community as the annual Pioneer Picnic.

Now, this isn't any fly-by-night entertainment. Bingo has a history that stretches back further than most of us can recall. They say it started across the big pond, a lottery in Italy that then traveled through Europe before making its way to America. Back in the day at carnivals, they even yelled out "Beano!" before someone, likely just a regular Joe like us, stumbled over the word, and "Bingo" stuck. Funny how things like that happen.

But tonight isn't about history lessons; it's about who's here. You'll see a lot of familiar faces: maybe Charlotte, our retired postal worker, always with a smile and a story or two; Cindy, ready to answer a question about Bingo or senior benefits; and of course, Commander Norm. Now, Commander Norm, he's the heart and soul of this Legion, always lending a hand at community events, and he runs our bingo nights with real warmth. He knows just about everyone by name and always has friendly words for all. No silly jokes or one-liners with Norm, just genuine kindness and an absolute dedication to bringing folks together.

What brings us out on a Saturday night? Well, a chance at a bit of extra cash is always nice, but it's more than that. It's about seeing neighbors, sharing a moment of anticipation, and that little spark of excitement when your number is called. It's a simple game, where everyone has the same odds when those numbered balls start rolling. It doesn't matter what you do for a living or where you live; tonight, we're all just hoping for that lucky line.

And the feeling in the room is just... comfortable. You hear the quiet murmur of folks catching up on the week, a collective sigh when someone is just one number away, a soft chuckle at a shared memory. In a world that sometimes feels too busy, this is a chance to slow down and connect with the people around us. We're all in it together, waiting for that line, that diagonal, that satisfying "Bingo!"

Commander Norm likes to keep things interesting, too. We have our regular bingo, of course, including vertical and horizontal options. But then he'll announce a special game — maybe "Walking Nine" or "Standing Six" — just to mix things up a bit. The veterans here know the rules, and they're always happy to give a gentle explanation if you're new to the fun.

And then comes the big one: Black Out! That's when things get really exciting. You must cover every single number on your card within sixty calls. It sounds straightforward, but it can be a real nail-biter! And if nobody manages to do it (which happens quite a bit), that prize money just keeps building, giving us all something to look forward to next week.

So, if you're looking for a relaxed Saturday evening, a chance to see some friendly faces, and maybe even win a little something, come on down to the American Legion Hall. Bingo starts at 6 p.m., but you can come around 5:30 p.m. for a hot dog and some good conversation with your neighbors. Cards are just a dollar a game, and with eleven games on the schedule, there are plenty of chances to shout that winning word. Join Commander Norm and the rest of us for our Saturday night bingo — it's a little bit of tradition, a whole lot of community spirit, and a genuinely nice way to spend an evening.

WIDOWS' BRIGADE

Laughter, Support, and New Experiences

by Mary Canaday

The Widows' Brigade is up and going strong in our community. For those who aren't aware that there is a widows' group in our area, we welcome all widows regardless of how long you have been a widow.

The purpose of the group is to connect widows and offer opportunities to go places together that you may have wanted to do with your spouse and never had the chance. We have lots of meals together.

We meet once a month at Central Valley Church in Halsey on the third Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

All our meetings are filled with laughter and lots

of chatter. We play games or make a craft. So far this year, we have done jewelry making together, made door mats, and had a Bunko tournament with door prizes. We also offer an opportunity to share your needs and often come up with a solution or the name of a person who may be able to help.

We have been to the coast together, visited Mount Angel Abby, and gone out for Mexican food.

We recently went to dinner and a play at the ACT theater in Albany.

Six of the ladies will be taking a cruise together in the fall and hope to plan more trips in the future.

Upcoming events: A hike up Iron Mountain with family and friends on July 5.

We're having an Unbirthday party on July 26, and several ladies are taking a side trip to the Renaissance Faire on July 19. If you would like to join us, please purchase a ticket and let us know you're interested.

For all questions and more information about our upcoming events, please get in touch with Mary Canaday at 541-401-4738, Group Coordinator.

Upcoming regular meetings: June 19, July 17, and August 2, 1:30 p.m. at Central Valley Church in Halsey

EAST LINN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

A First in 41 Years: East Linn Duo Earns Triple State Honors

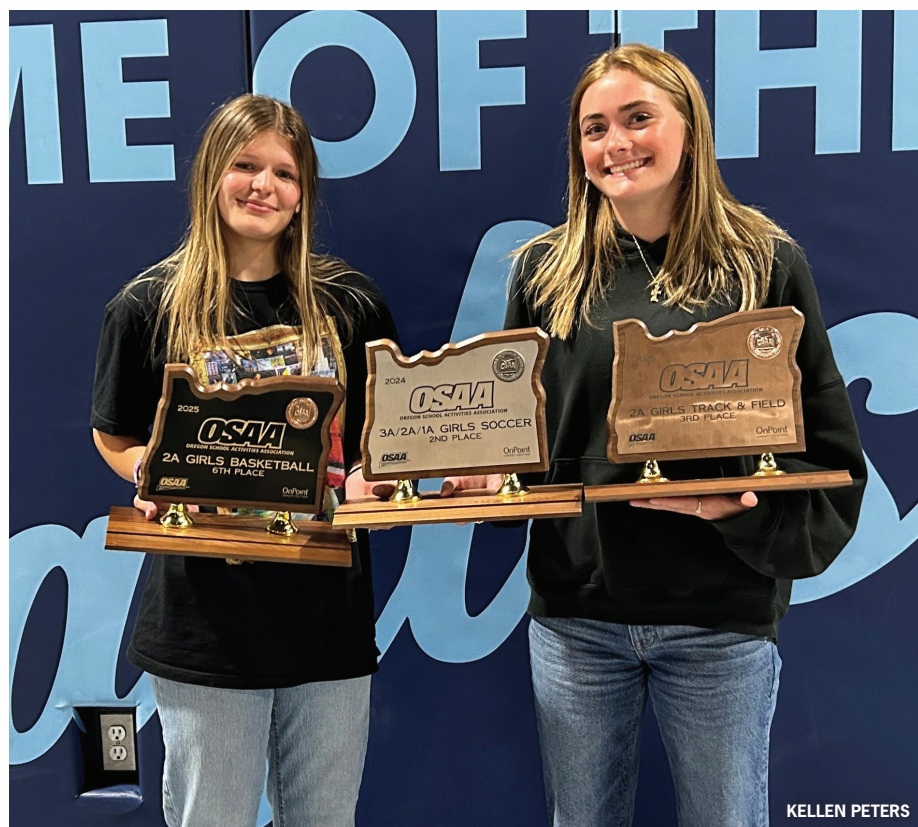
Grunerud and Runyon Make History
with Triple State Podiums

by Kellen Peters, PE Teacher, East Linn Christian School

Since East Linn Christian began competing in interscholastic sports in the spring of 1985, the school has achieved numerous individual and team accomplishments, including district and state championships, breaking school records, and earning all-state honors, state medals, and state tournament berths. However, this spring at the State Track & Field Championships at historic Hayward Field, two athletes accomplished something that no East Linn athlete has achieved in the past 41 years.

Josie Grunerud and Avery Runyon, residents of Brownsville, became the first athletes in school history to win three state trophies in a single academic year. In the fall, they secured 2nd place as part of the East Linn/Central Linn co-op soccer team. Avery received 1st Team All-League and 1st Team All-State honors, while Josie was named 2nd Team All-League and Player of the Game in the State Championship. This winter, they finished 6th in basketball at Pendleton. Avery was recognized as 2nd Team All-League and 1st Team All-Defense, while Josie earned 1st Team All-League, 2nd Team All-Tournament, and 3rd Team All-State distinctions. This spring, they placed 3rd in Track & Field at Hayward Field in Eugene. Avery and Josie were part of the 4th place 4x100 meter relay team, and Josie also finished 5th in the 100 meters and 6th in the 200 meters.

Congratulations to Avery and Josie on this achievement; it will surely be a school year they look back on with joy for the memories and successes they created.



Josie Grunerud and Avery Runyon, residents of Brownsville, became the first athletes in school history to win three state trophies in a single academic year.

138th Linn County Pioneer Picnic

1887—2025



In 1887 the first Linn County Pioneer Reunion was held in a still standing grove of trees east of the Crawfordsville Union Cemetery.

What is the Big Deal About the Linn County Pioneer Picnic?

by Linda McCormick

Back in the 1800s, local Oregon Trail homesteaders discussed having a reunion and finally managed to accomplish it in 1887. By then, many of the original homesteaders had passed away. The first two reunions of pioneers were held in Crawfordsville. At the second annual reunion, the constitution of the Linn County Pioneer Association was adopted. Membership requirements were as follows: "All emigrants, male and female, before the first day of January 1855, and now residents of Linn County are eligible to be members of the association." The 3rd, 4th, and 5th annual reunions were held in South Brownsville, while the 6th was held in a grove near Halsey. All subsequent meetings have been held in Brownsville on land that is now the Brownsville City Pioneer Park. The original Pioneers' Reunion board members were George Colbert, Robert Glass, Wilson Glass, James Gay, William McCaw, Dr. G. Gray, J.H. Scott, James Norval Rice, and Rev. Robert Robe.

With the passing of time, and the actual pioneers, the membership requirements have been revised to include all Linn County residents, and other entertainment and activities have been added to keep pace with changing times and tastes. The Linn County Pioneer Association continues to manage the picnic, which is funded by local businesses, vendor fees, and ticket sales for the games.

At the early picnics, families from all over Linn County came by horse, buggy, and wagon. They pitched their tents in the park and settled in for three days of fun, worship, and fellowship. They entertained each other with recitation, plays, and musical numbers. Picnic cloths were spread beneath the trees. Over the years, many well-

known speakers from across Oregon were invited to address the crowds. Some were well known for their oratory abilities, some were politicians, and some of them were asked to speak because of what they had experienced or had learned. Poems were read and songs were sung. Music was always important at the reunions. Around the turn of the century, they brought in a carnival with rides, etc., but today the cost and space have made that option unfeasible. Inflatable bounce apparatus, fundraiser games and vendors selling fun and interesting items have taken the place of the carnival.

The Linn County Pioneer Picnic has never been canceled, although it was nearly rained out a few times. The event was modified during the pandemic, so it was not canceled. In 2012, the Picnic was named an Oregon Heritage Tradition by the Oregon Heritage Commission and was designated by the state as the oldest, continuously held annual event in Oregon. This is a high honor that we are thrilled to carry. The Linn County Pioneer Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and the Linn County Pioneer Picnic is a fundraiser for the association.

The association also owns the Pioneer Picture Gallery in Brownsville. The gallery is a repository of thousands of photographs of locations and people in Linn County on display for viewing. They are in the process of scanning every photograph to create a database of all the photos, allowing them to be stored and used for the long term. Copies can be made for a nominal fee. The Pioneer Picture Gallery is run by volunteers visit Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday 1-4 p.m. during the Picnic and open by appointment.



GRAND MARSHALS

The Overton Family — Seven Generations Rooted in Brownsville

by Staff Writer, Sharon Banks



This year's Grand Marshals of the Linn County Pioneer Picnic honor a family whose deep roots have helped shape the Central Linn Valley for more than 160 years—the Overtons.

George Albert Overton (b. 1872), the third of seven brothers, was a prominent stockman and a dedicated director of the Linn County Pioneer Association for many years. In 1874, he married Musezetta Huston, and the couple built their family home in South Brownsville. They had one daughter, Faye E. Overton (Warren), whose legacy has been carried forward through five additional generations. Faye's daughter, Shirley A. Warren (Koontz), raised two children: Sherrie S. Koontz (McIntyre) and Tony J. Koontz. Tony and his wife, Barbara A. Whisenhunt (Koontz), have continued the family tradition, raising two children, Kyle J. Koontz and Kalyssa A. Koontz (Carroll). Kyle and his wife, Stephanie, are raising four sons — Aiden, Titus, Adley, and Cole — in the very Overton house built in 1910. Meanwhile, Kalyssa is raising daughters Ellyana and Aliyah in Redmond, Oregon.



George Daniel & Mary Keeney with sons

The family legacy began with George Daniel Overton, born in 1830 in New York City. He made the long journey west and established the Overton Valley Ranch in 1860, the same year he married Mary Keeney, daughter of the pioneering Irish Keeney family. Their homestead, situated 5.5 miles south of Brownsville on Gap Road, encompassed land acquired through a Donation Land Claim of 640 acres, as well as additional parcels purchased over time. Today, more than 800 acres of the original holdings remain in the family, still worked and cared for by sixth- and seventh-generation Overtons. Sherrie, Tony, and Barb all reside on the ranch, continuing the Overton commitment to land, legacy, and community. The Overtons exemplify the spirit of the Pioneer Picnic — hard work, heritage, and a sense of home.

OVERTON continued on page 10

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, June 19

5:30-7 pm Flower & Student Art Show entries accepted *Log Cabin*

Friday, June 20

8-10 am Flower & Student Art Show entries accepted *Log Cabin*

9 am-4 pm Pioneer Picture Gallery opens

1 pm Kitchen Opens *Pavilion*

11 am-6 pm Quilt Show *Community Arts Bldg*

Noon Kiddie Parade Assembly *Poppi's Parking Lot*

1 pm Kiddie Parade *Main Street - Pollyanna Club*

1:30-7 pm Flower & Student Art Show *Log Cabin*

1-7 pm Food, Arts & Crafts Booths, Inflatables
Pioneer Park

2 pm Spelling Bee *Stage*

3:30 pm Penny Scramble *Family Games Area*

7 pm Opening Ceremony, Coronation, Raffle *Stage*
Queen's Reception *Stage*

8:30-11 pm Queen's Dance *Dance Hall*

Saturday, June 21

Sign-up: Beard and Mustache Competition *Info Booth*

Sign-up Talent Showcase *Info Booth*

7-9 am Wagon Train Breakfast *Pavilion*

8 am Parade Entrants Assemble *Templeton & Hwy 228*

9 am Parade Judging *South of Hwy 228*

9 am-5 pm Picture Gallery Opens *Picture Gallery*

10 am Sign-Up: Horseshoe Tournament
Horseshoe Pits

10 am Grand Parade *Through Town - Central Linn Lions Club*

11 am Kitchen Opens *Pavilion*

11 am-6 pm Quilt Show *Community Arts Bldg*

After the Parade Cruise-in *Pioneer Park*

12 pm Horseshoe Tournament *Horseshoe Pits*

12-7 pm Flower & Student Art Show *Log Cabin*

12 pm "One More Time Band" *Stage*

11 am-7 pm Food, Arts & Crafts Booths, Inflatables
Pioneer Park

12:45 pm NW Scots Honor Guard Presentation by
Colonel Daniel Gepford, Commander *Stage*

1:30 pm Summer Reading Program Kick Off presents
"Let's Make Some Noise" featuring Anne-Louise *Stage*

2 pm Square Dance *Dance Hall*

3 pm Pie Eating Contest *Stage*

4 pm Talent Showcase *Stage*

7 pm Quilts of Valor Presentation *Stage*
Beard and Mustache Competition

7:30-8:30 pm Country Line Dance lessons

8:30-11 pm Social Dance *Dance Hall*

Sunday, June 22

7-7:45 a.m .Sign-in/Sign-up Pioneer Dam Run 5K/10K
Museum Park

7-10 am Wagon Train Breakfast *Pavilion*

8 am Pioneer Dam Run 5K/10K *Museum Park*

10 am Church Service *Stage*

11 am Horseshoe Tournament *Horseshoe Pits*

11 am Kitchen Opens *Pavilion*

11 am-4 pm Quilt Show *Community Arts Bldg*

11 am-3:30 pm Flower & Student Art Show *Log Cabin*

11 am-4 pm Food, Arts & Crafts Booths, Inflatables
Pioneer Park

12:30 pm Penny Scramble *Family Games Area*

1 pm 64th Linn County Loggers' Jamboree
Logging Arena

1 pm Family Games/Races *Family Games Area*

1-4 pm Picture Gallery Open *Picture Gallery*

3:30-4 pm Pick-up Flower and Art entries/ribbons/
prizes *Log Cabin*

FRIDAY

Kiddie Parade at Noon

One of the sweetest traditions of the Linn County Pioneer Picnic is the annual Kiddie Parade, themed this year "Pioneer Kids." Proudly organized and sponsored by the Brownsville Pollyanna Club.

Lineup begins at Noon behind Carlson's Hardware at the old Baptist Church parking lot at 515 N Main St. Judging starts promptly at 12:30 p.m., with the parade starting at 1 p.m.

Kids compete in six entry categories:

1. Floats
2. Bicycles
3. Small Pets
4. Little Wheels
5. Dress-Up
6. Motorized Ride-Ons
(must be accompanied by an adult)

Sweepstakes prize is \$50, First Place for each category is \$20, Second Place for each category is \$15, Third Place for each category is \$10. So, choose your category and create your entry to be a part of this fun event! See you there!

FRIDAY NIGHT

Opening Ceremony and Queen Coronation

The Pioneer Picnic kicks off Friday at 7 p.m. on the main stage with a flag presentation by the local Boy Scouts and the crowning of this year's Queen. Join the celebration and enjoy complimentary cake following the ceremony!



2025 High School Court Princesses: Luci Kennedy, Dakota Ramshur, and Gracie Droback



2025 Jr. Court: Top Row: Jean Rush, Esther Neal, Maya Geider, Abigail Davis, Morgan Leigh, Emily Steele. Bottom Row: Naomi Whittam, Jasmine Abell, Kennedy Hamblin, Mercy Randklev, and Addilynn Carter

RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE:

Scenic Railroad Adventure on the Oregon Coast

This year's Pioneer Picnic \$1/ticket raffle Grand Prize includes a \$100 gift card to the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad plus a \$200 Visa gift card to help cover travel expenses. Enjoy a heritage train ride along Oregon's stunning North Coast behind vintage locomotives, with guided tours that share the region's rich logging and railroading history.

The Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad combines education, preservation, and adventure. With efforts underway to improve accessibility and restore historic equipment, it's a destination the whole family can enjoy. Don't miss your chance to support the Picnic and win this unforgettable experience!

RAFFLE PRIZE LIST:

- \$25 Armando's Mexican Restaurant gift certificate
- \$25 Brownsville Rx & Gifts gift certificate
- \$25 Chipotle Mexican Grill gift card
- \$30 The Home Depot gift card
- \$25 Bi-Mart gift card
- \$25 Jamba Juice gift card
- \$25 J & S Supply gift card
- \$25 Locals Dontus gift card
- \$25 Randy's Main Street Coffee gift certificate
- \$25 Rio Theater gift card
- \$25 Shedd market gift card
- \$25 Subway gift card
- \$25 Sugar Vibes Donut gift card
- Pasta Diner basket
- The Sand Ranch basket
- Pasta Salad basket
- Summertime Lemonade basket
- Baking Treats basket
- Movie Night basket
- Pioneer Picnic T-Shirt gift certificates (10)

Donated Prize List:

- Kirk Glenn Dentistry - dental basket
- \$20 Latte Da Coffee gift certificate s (2)

The drawing will be held on Friday, June 20, in the Park after Coronation.

FLOWER & STUDENT ART SHOW

The Flower House will be bursting with color, creativity, and community pride during this year's Flower Show and Student Art Show at the Pioneer Picnic! With divisions for clubs, businesses, kids, and even a "For Men Only" category, entries range from potted plants and roses to themed arrangements like "My New Hat" and "Tool Time." Flower Show and Student Art entries can be dropped off Thursday, June 19, from 5:30-7 p.m. or Friday, June 20, from 8-10 a.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Queen's Celebration Dance to Light Up the Night

June 20 • 8:30-11 p.m.
Pioneer Park Dance Hall

Attend a lively evening of music, movement, and celebration at the annual Queen's Celebration: Just Dancin' event. Open to all ages and completely free to attend, the evening promises high-energy fun with DJ music provided by Ashley of Songbird Sounds. Donations will be accepted at the door to support the ongoing efforts of the Linn County Pioneer Association.

For updates and more information, follow the Linn County Pioneer Association and Songbird Sounds on Facebook. Questions can be directed to lcpa1887@gmail.com or by calling 541-466-5656.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Start Your Weekend with a Hearty Breakfast

The Brownsville Chamber of Commerce invites locals and visitors to fuel up for the fun at the Annual Pioneer Breakfast, held at Pioneer Park during Pioneer Picnic weekend.

Breakfast will be served on Saturday, June 21, from 7–9 a.m., and again on Sunday, June 22, from 7–10 a.m. The menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee, and orange juice.

Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids, with proceeds supporting future community events organized by the Chamber.

SATURDAY'S GRAND PARADE

Rolling in with “Pioneer Logging Camps” Theme

The heart of the Linn County Pioneer Picnic is undeniably the beloved Saturday morning parade, a time-honored tradition that brings the whole community together. Each year, residents and visitors alike line the streets of Brownsville to enjoy a classic small-town spectacle brimming with color, character, and community pride.

This year's theme, "Pioneer Logging Camps," pays tribute to the hardworking legacy of Oregon's early timber industry—and participants are encouraged to bring it to life with creative floats, costumes, and displays.

The Grand Parade kicks off Saturday, June 21 at 10 a.m., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. at the corner of Templeton and Highway 228. Judging starts promptly at 9 a.m., so entrants should arrive early, fully decorated and ready to impress.



At the front of the parade will be this year's honored Grand Marshals—the Overton Family, recognized for their deep roots in the community and contributions to the region's heritage.

Spectators can look forward to a joyful procession of marching bands, vintage tractors, local clubs, costumed horses, historic vehicles, and more—all decked out to match the logging camp theme. The parade is a signature attraction of the Pioneer Picnic and sets the tone for a weekend full of music, contests, delicious food, and family fun in Pioneer Park.

Want to join the fun?

Parade entry is free for all local clubs, organizations, and businesses. Just show up by 9 a.m., dressed and decorated according to the theme. Bring your spirit, your creativity, and your community pride—we'll see you on the route!

PIONEER PICTURE GALLERY

The Pioneer Picture Gallery is a unique photo museum. Located in Brownsville on the corner of Park Avenue and Main Street. It houses a collection of donated photos that date from the late 1800s to the present time. The subjects of the photos feature Linn County communities, schools, people, buildings, homes, the Linn County Pioneer Picnic, and Brownsville. Take some time to enjoy a visual record of history.

SATURDAY

Cruise In and Tractor Show

Celebrate Brownsville's rich agricultural and automotive heritage at the annual Cruise In and Tractor Show, part of the 2025 Linn County Pioneer Picnic.

Festivities begin early on Saturday, June 21. Participants are invited to line up on Templeton Street starting at 8 a.m., where parade assembly will take place at the corner of Templeton and Highway 228.



Judging follows at 9 a.m. just south of the highway. After the parade, cruise on over to Pioneer Park to enjoy food, music, and a showcase of classic cars and tractors.

For more information or to participate, contact Karen Grant at 541-619-5428.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Boot Scootin' Fun: Line Dancing

Get your boots ready for a toe-tappin' good time as the 2025 Linn County Pioneer Picnic, in partnership with the High Steppin' Country Dance Club, presents A Boot Scootin' Time of Line Dancin' on Saturday, June 21.

This all-ages event kicks off with free line dancing lessons from 7:30–8:30 p.m., followed by a lively social dance from 8:30–11 p.m. Held at the Brownsville Park Dance Hall (200 West Park Avenue), the evening will feature DJ music by Ashley of Songbird Sounds.

No experience needed—just bring your dancing spirit! The event is free and open to the public, with donations accepted at the door to support the Linn County Pioneer Association.

For more updates, follow the Linn County Pioneer Association, High Steppin' Country Dance Club, and Songbird Sounds on Facebook. For questions, email LCPA1887@gmail.com or call 541-466-5656.

Dust off your dancing shoes and join the fun!

SUNDAY

Pioneer Dam Run Set for Sunday Morning of Pioneer Picnic Weekend

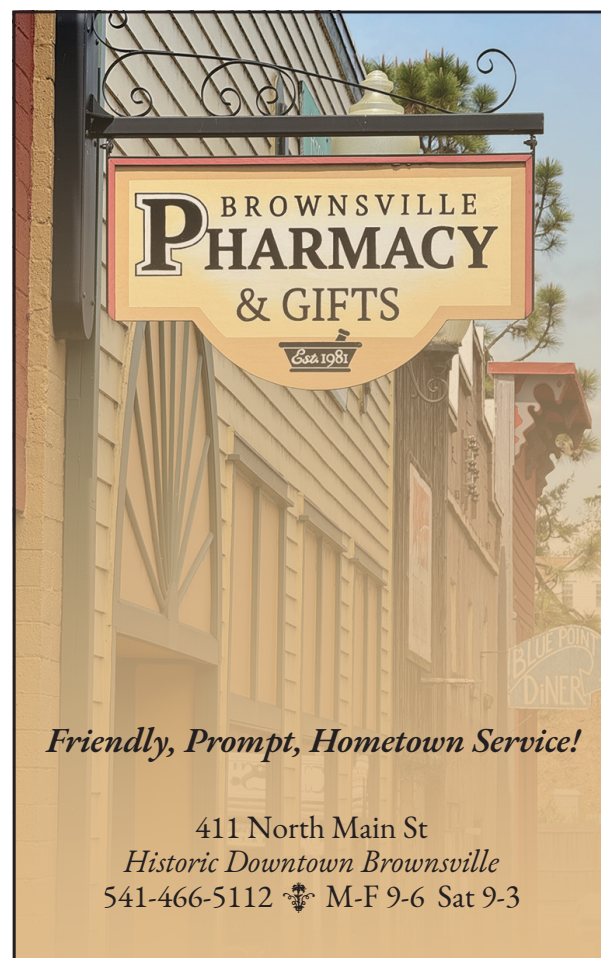
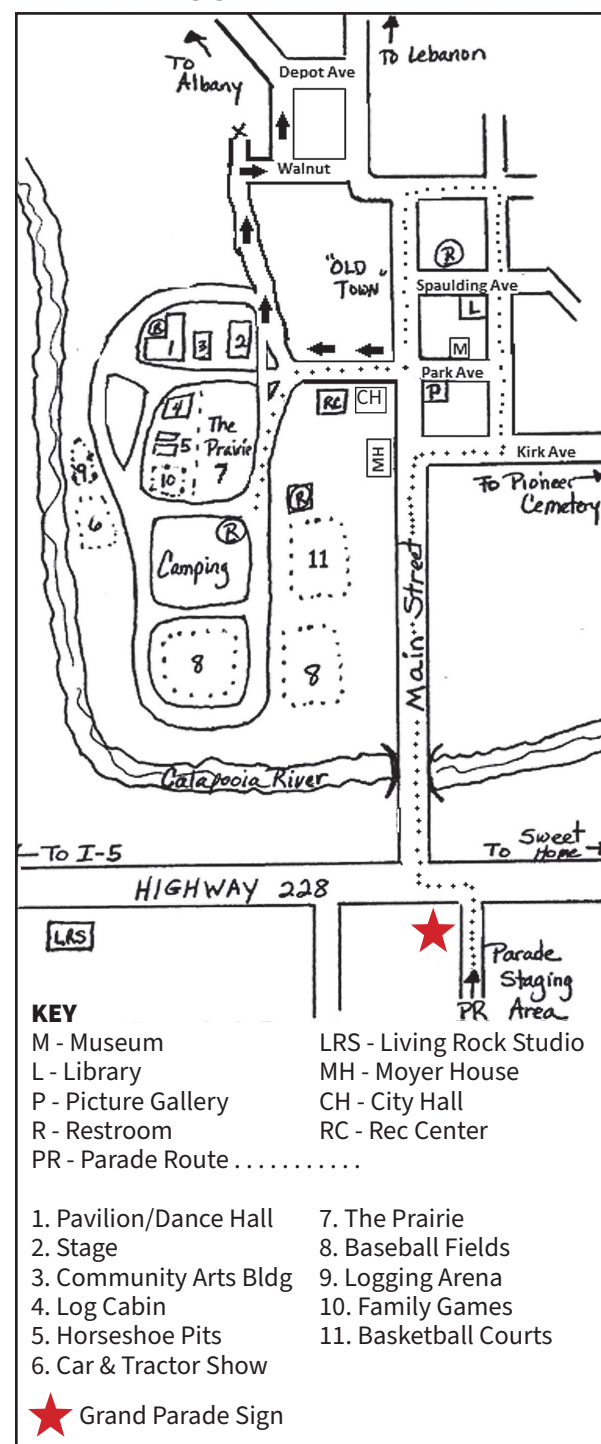
Lace up your running shoes for the annual Pioneer Dam Run, happening Sunday, June 22, at 8:00 a.m. This family-friendly event includes both 10K and 5K run/walk options, welcoming runners and walkers of all skill levels.

Participants will meet and register at the Museum Park. The fee is \$25 per person, with an additional \$5 charge for same-day registration.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Central Linn High School cross country and track teams, supporting young athletes in the community.

Pre-registration is available online at <https://eclecticedgeracing.com>. For more information, contact the Linn County Pioneer Association at 541-466-5656 or email lcpa1887@gmail.com.

PARADE ROUTE



OVERTON *continued from page 7***Dedicated to the memory of George Daniel and Mary Keeney Overton, and to the generations who have carried their legacy forward.***Story as told to Sharon Banks by Sherrie McIntire (5th generation) and Barbara Koontz (wife of Tony Koontz).*

The Overton family's roots trace back to the Oregon Trail, when George Daniel journeyed westward from New York. For years, I thought he must have come from Europe, but he was actually born in the United States. His pioneering path brought him to Brownsville, Oregon, where he met and married Mary Keeney. In 1860, they received a land grant and raised six sons.

Though details of the Oregon Trail journey are sparse, we know George Daniel came west with a wagon train, on his own. His diaries reveal more about his early life in Brownsville than the journey itself. He was a meticulous record-keeper, primarily documenting cattle and weather, but he also recorded dramatic events, such as a murder in town. The diaries provide a glimpse into the trials, rhythms, and dangers of life as an early settler.

*George Albert & Musezetta*

One of those sons, George Albert, married a remarkable woman named Musezetta—a name as beautiful and unusual as she was. When it came time to build a home, Musezetta wanted to be closer to town, rather than the ranch, which was located five to seven miles away. George Albert would ride out to the ranch on horseback while Musezetta got her wish for a proper Victorian-style house on Kisling Street, built in 1910. She didn't want a fireplace—it was too messy. Always a refined woman, she was involved in many local clubs like the Women's Study Club and the Pollyannas, both of which still exist today. That house at 306 Kisling remains in the family today, now home to the seventh generation of Overton descendants. Just up the street is Mary Overton's house, built in 1909, and we still have cherished photos of the family gathered on those classic wraparound porches.

*Faye Overton Warren*

Musezetta had only one child, a girl named Faye. Faye was an independent woman and loved the ranch. She was instrumental in keeping the property in the family. Faye had one daughter, a girl named Shirley. She raised her daughter Shirley to love the place as much as she did. Together, they would take livestock to auction, but they had to take a man with them because the auctioneer would not allow women to participate.

Our family has preserved its pioneer roots through storytelling, heirlooms, photographs, and traditions. We have furniture, tools, diaries, and even clothes passed down through the generations, each piece with its own history. I remember my great-grandfather in his white leather rocking chair, welcoming neighbors for business, sealing the deal with a handshake. Those kinds of memories are treasures.

Brownsville isn't just a place—it's the heart of our family. Nearly every generation has stayed involved, and we've always valued community, civic service, and supporting one another. Brownsville is where we live, gather, remember, and build the future.

Our family has always been community oriented. From the earliest settlers to the present day, we've been involved in a wide range of activities, including civic organizations such as Eastern Star, local clubs, parades, and public service. Tony, for example, has been a coach and a teacher, deeply involved in the lives of local youth — the legacy of giving back runs deep.

From handshake business deals and horse rides to the ranch, to the current efforts to revive the local newspaper and support small businesses, Brownsville has evolved. It may be smaller or quieter in some ways, but its spirit is very much alive. The architecture may still be Victorian, but the rhythm of life continues to change. Still, the core values have stayed the same.

*George Albert Overton*

Being chosen as Grand Marshals of the Pioneer Picnic is an incredible honor. A photograph of Albert leading the parade on a white horse with the American flag is a powerful reminder of the pride and commitment that have been passed down to us. Barbara said, "My husband Tony is deeply humbled by this recognition and grateful that our children and grandchildren can be a part of the tradition and service." Tony stated, "To me, it is a recognition of what my original ancestors did so many years ago. They were pioneers! They risked all that they had to fulfill a dream of land ownership and a family legacy that successive generations would have the opportunity to grow and provide for. They had great courage, bravery, and a work ethic that was passed on from generation to generation, each doing their part to pass on the legacy. My sister Sherrie and I are proud to have done our part and now pass on to generation 6, who in turn prepare generation 7 to take over in the years to come."

Sherrie continues, "The Pioneer Picnic was the event growing up. We dressed up for the Kiddies Parade—my mom and her friends went all out. I remember being the princess in a little carriage made of chicken wire and napkins, pulled by a bike-riding cousin. There were timber events, rodeos, and even a tug-of-war across the river. It was enormous! The energy, the creativity — it was unforgettable."

While still beloved, the Picnic isn't quite as big as it used to be. Gone are some of the bigger competitions, but the heart of it remains. It's still a treasured tradition, and every year it draws us back to celebrate who we are and where we came from.



1. Tony Koontz and Sherrie McIntire, fifth generation. 2. Tony's son Kyle Koontz, his wife Stephanie, and their son Titus. 3. Granddaughter Elly in the Kiddie Parade. 4. Barbara and Tony Koontz with all of their seventh generation grandchildren. 5. Daughter Kalyssa, Tony, son Kyle, granddaughter Elly, grandson Titus, wife Barb and grandson Adley in front of an Overton barn built with square nails. 6. Grandsons Titus and Adley on a rock wall built by first generation Overton settlers.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF TONY KOONTZ

WHERE TO STAY

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 9

8:36 a.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 30500 Peoria Rd., Shedd. Deputy investigated suspicious vehicle.

10:44 a.m. — 911 hang up call reported at block of 29900 1st St., Shedd. Deputy was advised of 911 hang up call. Deputy was advised everything was fine.

2:24 p.m. — Traffic complaint reported at block of 33100 Hwy 228 Halsey. Deputy was advised of traffic complaint which was resolved before deputy arrival

8:44 p.m. — Welfare check reported at block of 33100 Linn West Dr. and Frontage Rd., Shedd. Deputy responded to a welfare check. Person was fine and was provided a

ride to a Residence.

9:46 p.m. — Report Pending. Original Call Type: Assault reported at block of 100 E Bishop Way,

Brownsville. Deputy responded to a report of an assault. Investigation ongoing.

11:34 p.m. — Motorist assist reported at block of 28400 HWY 99E/OAK PLAIN DR Halsey. Deputy contacts driver with overheating vehicle.

June 10

7:37 a.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 25300 HWY 99E, Halsey. Guillermo Tlehuactle Rason, 28 of Salem, was cited for driving 82 MPH in a 55 MPH zone.

7:44 a.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 32100 Seven Mile Ln., Tangent. Driver was cited for 85 mph in a 55 MPH zone on Seven Mile Lane near Albany.

10:27 a.m. — Counter traffic reported at block of 31800 Dahlia Ln., Tangent. Possible stalking violation. Deputy investigated and determined this was not a violation.

10:33 a.m. — Traffic complaint reported at block of 35000 Cochran Creek Dr. And Brownsville Rd., Brownsville. Warned for driving behavior.

11:03 a.m. — Traffic complaint reported at block of 800 N Main St., Brownsville. Citizen complaints about traffic. I will attempt to con-

duct stationary traffic the area as time permits.

11:11 a.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 700 N Main St., Brownsville. Warned for 36 in a 25

11:44 a.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 700 N Main St., Brownsville. Driver was warned for 35 in a 25.

11:46 a.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 25000 West Brush Creek Rd., and Brush

Creek Rd., Drove through the area and observed transportation trucks for silage for a nearby farm. NFA.

12:19 p.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 33800 McFarland Rd., Tangent. Suspicious vehicle. Vehicle left prior to deputies arrival.

1:33 p.m. — Dog complaint reported at block of 32700 Country Rd. And Tangent Dr., Tangent. Checked area for stray dog but did not locate it.

3:07 p.m. — Mail theft reported at block of 400 Kay Ave., Brownsville. Open mailboxes. Deputy was able to secure the mail and let the post office know of the box malfunction and the mail delivery driver forgot to lock it back up. NFA.

5:7 p.m. — Animal complaint reported at block of 32700 Country Rd. And Tangent Dr., Tangent. Deputy searched the area for an injured dog. Dog was not

located.

7:13 p.m. — Trespass reported at block of 1000 W 1st St., Halsey. Deputy responded to juveniles on the railroad tracks when a train was coming. Juveniles were not located.

9:05 p.m. — Child abuse report reported at block of 33100 HWY 228, Halsey. Deputy responded to a report of a child being injured. Nothing suspicious found and the child was safe.

June 11

7:39 a.m. — Traffic Stop Reported at block of 600 W 2nd St., Halsey. Operator issued speeding violation warning.

8:18 a.m. — Traffic Stop Reported at block of 25100 Hwy 99E, Halsey. Warning issued for speed.

10:27 a.m. — Dog Complaint Reported at block of 32700 Country Rd. and Tangent Dr., Tangent. Spotted the stray dog in the area but was not able to get close to it.

10:36 a.m. — Trespass reported at block of 500 Locust Ave., Brownsville. Caller reports trespasser on private property, person left the property prior to Deputy arrival.

12:11 p.m. — Welfare check reported at block of 300 W 4th St., Halsey. Caller wanted a welfare check on neighbor, however neighbor passed away months ago.

1:47 p.m. — Dog complaint reported at block of 31000 Tangent Dr. And McLagan Rd., Tangent. Checked area for stray dog again but did not locate it.

6:04 p.m. — Dog complaint reported at block of 31000 Tangent Dr. and McLagan Rd., Tangent. Deputies attempted to locate a reported dog in the brush.

June 12

2:28 a.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 700 Amelia Ave., Brownsville. Caller reported a vehicle sitting in the roadway. Vehicle ran out of gas and was later moved out of the roadway.

9:19 a.m. — Dog complaint reported at block of 32700 McLagan Rd. and Tangent Dr., Tangent. Continued efforts to capture stray dog.

9:34 a.m. — Park patrol reported at block of 200 W Park Ave., Brownsville. Park patrol, no suspicious activity discovered.

12:52 p.m. — Park patrol reported at block of 200 W Park Ave., Brownsville. Patrolled Pioneer Park and noted several visitors and a camper. Nothing further to report.

9:15 p.m. — Traffic complaint reported at block of 100 Spaulding Ave. and N Main St., Brownsville. Deputies responded to a traffic complaint.

Nighttime Ramp Closures Planned at I-5 Exits 209 and 216

Paving and Striping Work Late June and Early July

As part of the ongoing I-5 paving project, the Oregon Department of Transportation will temporarily close the on- and off-ramps at Exit 209 and Exit 216 to complete paving and striping work.

Ramp closures will happen during nighttime hours only, with one ramp closed at a time. Detours will be available via the exits before or after, depending on your route.

Ramp Closure Schedule

Exit 216 – OR 228 (Halsey-Brownsville):

- Ramp closures scheduled June 22–27
- Night work to install new striping on the on- and off-ramps

Exit 209 – Diamond Hill Road:

- Ramp closures scheduled July 7–11
- Night work for paving and striping on the on- and off-ramps

What to Expect

- Crews working primarily at night, Sunday through Thursday, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Some daytime work may be necessary
- Single lane closures between 7 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.
- Construction noise and possible delays
- Speed limit reduced to 55 mph in the work zone
- No lane changes allowed where double white lines are present

Stay Informed and Travel Safely. Sign up for project updates: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Regions/Pages/Get-Connected.aspx>

Plan ahead: Visit TripCheck.com or dial 511 for 24/7 road conditions and traffic alerts.

TRACTOR SAFETY 101

Safety First: Because Others Are Counting on You

by Clive Clarke, AG safety trainer and carer

When Anne and I were first married, she reminded me that it was no longer just me anymore. I now had a family that relied on me. Forty-three years later, I still think about that and how true it is. Many of us leave home every day to earn a living and support our families, making decisions throughout the day. To get home at the end of the day, we need to make the right decisions, with safety in mind, in everything we do. Accidents are just that and happen to the experienced and the not-so-experienced. Humans get distracted and complacent, and are in a hurry quite often, too. Don't — slow it down and think of what you're doing. Ask for help if needed — a person who is down (out injured) puts an added burden on your teammates.

An informed operator will be safer and better off for themselves, their families, their coworkers, the farm, and the equipment. Just like the mower you have at home, the best source for information is the operator's manual. On newer tractors, there's typically a place for the manual behind the seat. An operator should have access to this manual. Even the three-point implement is going to come with its own manual, sometimes in a black tube mounted on the implement.



SAFETY continued on page 12

State Officials Warn: Cold Water Can Be Deadly—Even on Hot Days

SALEM — As summer temperatures climb and people head for rivers and lakes, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) and Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) are reminding Oregonians to take cold water safety seriously. Despite the heat, most waterways remain dangerously cold due to snowmelt, increasing the risk of cold shock, hypothermia, and drowning.

“Many people underestimate the effects of cold water,” said Brian Paulsen, Boating Safety Program Manager for the Marine Board. “Being unprepared or inexperienced contributes to many accidents. Always wear a properly fitted life jacket, plan ahead, and never boat alone.”

Cold water can kill, even strong swimmers. Sudden immersion may trigger an involuntary gasp reflex and rapid breathing, leading to drowning. Hypothermia can set in quickly, as cold water pulls heat from the body much faster than cold air.

“We’ve seen an uptick in water rescues in recent weeks,” added Scott Lucas, OEM’s Statewide Search and Rescue Coordinator. “People see sunshine and assume the water is safe. But swift currents and floating debris from snowmelt make local waterways especially dangerous right now.”

Boating and Water Safety Tips:

- Choose waterways that match your experience level.
- Always wear a properly fitted life jacket.
- Check river levels, weather forecasts, and local regulations before heading out.
- Use the Marine Board’s interactive access map to find ramps, rules, and waterway conditions.
- Be courteous at launch sites—stage gear in designated areas and wait your turn.

Legal Reminders:

- Children 12 and under must wear life jackets when on boats.
- Life jackets are required on Class III white-water rivers.
- Motorboat operators (over 10 hp) need a boating safety education card.
- Non-motorized boats 10 feet or longer require a Waterway Access Permit.

If You Fall Into Cold Water:

- Stay calm to avoid gasping or panic.
- Try to get out of the water or keep as much of your body above it as possible.
- If rescue is not immediate, use the H.E.L.P. position (knees to chest, arms close, head above water).
- If with others, huddle to conserve heat.

Helping Cold Water Victims:

- Call 911 immediately.
- Move the person gently to a warm, sheltered area.
- Remove wet clothing and dry the person.
- Warm them slowly with blankets or warm compresses (never hot water).
- Focus on warming the chest and abdomen first.
- Avoid fast warming of arms and legs—it can cause shock.

Even on the hottest days, Oregon’s rivers and lakes can be dangerously cold. Boaters and swimmers are urged to stay alert, be prepared, and respect the water.

Brownsville Enhances Emergency Preparedness with New Supply Container

by Staff Writer, Sharon Banks

BROWNSVILLE — In a significant move to bolster community resilience, the City of Brownsville has installed a comprehensive emergency preparedness container. This initiative aims to equip the city with essential resources to respond to major disasters effectively.

The emergency container will be stocked with vital supplies, including non-perishable food, potable water, generators, first aid kits, and other critical items designed to support residents during extended emergencies. This aligns with Oregon’s “Be 2 Weeks Ready” program, which encourages individuals and communities to prepare for at least two weeks of self-sufficiency in the event of a disaster.

The project is a collaborative effort between the Brownsville Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), funded through the state’s Resilience Grants program. These grants are designed to enhance local emergency preparedness and ensure communities are better equipped to handle unforeseen events.



Brownsville Volunteer firefighter staff standing in front of the new supply container.

SAFETY

continued from page 11

Know the equipment you operate. Refer to the manual. Ask questions if you’re not sure.

Be responsible. You’re accountable. Remove the key, especially if there are children around, or when you’re servicing the tractor.

Dress appropriately. No loose clothing that could get caught in a driveline or other moving parts. Tie back long hair and avoid wearing jewelry. Wear closed-toe shoes with non-skid soles. Consider eye and hearing protection.

Complete a pre-inspection before starting. Some manuals might have this inspection in them — YouTube can also be a source. Walk around the tractor, ensuring there are no children or pets present and no leaks of any kind. Tires and pressures — wheel bolts for tightness. Are all guards and protective shields in place? Wheel spacing and ballasting, especially if you’re working on slopes. Check the engine oil level, transmission/hydraulic oil, and antifreeze level, and inspect the radiator screen. You don’t want your name associated with a failure because you didn’t check the oil level. Any leaks? Any damaged hoses? Fuel, remove the cap and look in (gauges lie sometimes). Running out of fuel on a diesel engine is way different than running out of gas in your car. You don’t want the embarrassment either. Lights are working, especially if you’re out on a public road—clear visibility through the cab glass. If you’re unsure about anything, please ask or refer to the manual.

Operator’s station. Clean steps. Ensure there is no clutter on the floor area and around the pedals. Adjust the seat so you’re comfortable (less fatigue) and can reach the pedals and controls. Adjust the steering wheel as needed. Wear your seatbelt in cab tractors and open-station tractors

equipped with a (Rollover Protective Structure) ROPS. Don’t wear a seatbelt if the tractor is not equipped with ROPS. Talk to your tractor dealer about retrofitting ROPS for the older tractors on your farm to make them safer. It’s a proven fact — **Seatbelts save lives. No riders** — if there’s only the one seat, it’s the operator’s. Saying no to the child who wants a ride on the tractor is easier than having to live with the consequences should an accident occur.

Tip: Steps up to the operator’s station are like a ladder, not a stairway. Three points of contact up and down, facing the tractor. You wouldn’t come down a ladder facing away from the rungs, now would you?

Clive hails from Kenya, with farm roots and a love for old farm equipment. After a career with equipment dealerships, he’s now retired and living in Brownsville. He refers to himself as a Trainer/Carer — teaching safety classes to youth and adults so they are better informed, and accidents are avoided. clive@farmsuponsafety.com

Hatched, Matched, and Dispatched

Mark life’s great passages in the pages of The Brownsville Times.

Share news of a babe’s arrival, a union newly forged, or a soul dearly departed.

Notices of birth, marriage, or passing may be submitted for publication.

Kindly send particulars to the editor: editor@brownsvilletimes.org

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thoughts on our Environment

by Staff Writer, Anne Clarke

I played in the (then) polluted Fanno Creek near Portland as a young child. Spent hours in the Willamette River while my friends patiently waited for me to get up on a pair of water skis. Dead fish and plastics floated on a film of dark yellow foam, all around me as I went up and down the river. I rejoiced when Oregon's bottle bill passed. Litter laws were enforced and the results were tangible. As a young adult, I travelled and met people along the way, always exclaiming, "If you think this is beautiful (pointing towards wherever I was), you have to come see Oregon!"

I returned to Oregon after being away for several years. I was astonished to find litter back along roadsides and debris skating along our waters. The early co-operatives I once shopped at now offer plastic bags. In the 70s, we brought our own containers and shopped from large bins. I put a pin in those thoughts and returned to live in Kenya, East Africa.

We stayed with my husband's family in Wales. We shopped once a week, bringing our own vessels to carry to the butcherer, "fruiterer," and the small grocery shop. It took time to unload all the individual items from out of the trolley into the trunk of the car. After a break at the pub, we stopped at the chemist for more supplies; all carried without a bag provided. After having unloaded it all into the house, I commented to my in-laws, "You know, in America we have bags and boxes for all this stuff!" Of course, I admired it at the same time and look back fondly on it still today.

In Oregon, our legislature is now placing more limitations on plastics. What role can I play in reducing, reusing, and recycling? In my cupboards, I keep reusable glass containers. We wash and repurpose any paper or plastic bags that make

their way home. We've substituted stainless steel and cast iron for aluminum or chemically-laden cookware. Various glass jars are filled with foods freed from their plastic vessels, although it's clear that the damage was probably done long before I brought them home.

The back of our car is filled with a large box containing freezer bags, mesh produce bags, and totes.

As a Master Gardener and Recycler, I developed composting habits. Eggshells are ground up into powder for the garden. Red wiggler worms love all kinds of melons, but they hang up a "No Trespassing" sign for citrus; rinds are used to clean with or tossed into the garden.

Why not just order larger garbage bins? Is it the spirit of Oregon? Or what I've seen possible in other cultures? People walk for miles, balancing huge baskets of food. They socialize in person, not in front of screens, waiting for delivery drivers.

Along a beach in Oregon last year, my husband and I were astonished to find it awash in tiny bits of plastic. Microplastics are everywhere. As humans, we are responsible for our own bodies, and for generations to follow.

I will take being teased about my habits. As lead cook at a hospice home, our son has transitioned the facility away from disposables. After tremendous push-back, he has been successful in changing the environment there. Perhaps we can affect our planet's health and future, one person or a small family at a time.

Anne Clarke is Treasurer of The Brownsville Times. She is a Horticultural Professional trained as a Master Gardener and Recycler. Anne can be contacted at alizettigardens@gmail.com for any questions or submissions related to Health and Wellness.



SELF-CARE IS NOT SELFISH

by Staff Writer, Nancy Diltz

Self-care comes in many shapes and sizes. I recently saw an interesting article that listed 50 self-care ideas for healthy living. Fifty! I am not sure what my own idea of self-care is these days. Still, I know that decades ago, when I was a high school teacher and a single mother, there were times when I absolutely had to lock myself in the bathroom and soak in a steaming tub of bubbles complete with a softly flickering Yankee Candle on the counter and my portable boom box nearby playing The Moody Blues "Days of Future Passed" album. I already feel relaxed just thinking about it. So, is self-care finding ways to

deeply relax? Or is it taking some time away from obligations and responsibilities to spend time on oneself, even if it seems selfish?

The article listing 50 self-care ideas includes "take a bath or a long shower" and "light an aromatic candle." Aha! I was on the right track, but mainly out of desperation. Other suggestions surprised me — "Indulge in a dessert" (well, maybe...), "Make a vision Board" (hmmm...), or "Experiment With a New Recipe" (this one I like!). If you are interested in reviewing the article, it can be found in the Blog Articles Section on mccaskillfamilyservices.com, titled "Fill Up Your

CRITTER CHRONICLES

The Aroma of Country Living

by Staff Writer, Jodi Gurtov



I'm trying to decide if the transient yet nauseating odor of skunks passing beneath our open window is more tolerable than theretch-inducing reek of a decaying animal carcass rising up through the floorboards. As it happens, we are enduring both this week here in our backcountry home. There is nothing subtle about these malodorous proclamations of Mother Nature. They are surely an insult to noses everywhere. If I owned pearls, I'd be clutching them.

Speaking of insults, after 22 years with husband Mel, I've grown used to hearing the phrase "you're imagining things" when it comes to my sense of smell. Meanwhile, my beloved can't distinguish a whiff of festering critter right under his own two feet, much less the foul calling card of our local Pepe Le Pew. He instead blames these inescapable odors on cabbages held over through winter in a root cellar beneath the house. I gently remind him that we don't have a root cellar under the house. As it stands, we barely have an under the house. And to put a finer point on things, it's been a few years since I grew any cabbage.

On the lighter side, Mel will occasionally claim that he could put me up against any bloodhound in the state and win big. This is his way of acknowledging my cosmic powers without coming right out and saying so. Unfortunately, his left-handed compliment elicits a disturbing image of Julie Andrews chasing a scent trail across verdant hills on all fours while baying "The Hills are Alive." Insert more pearl clutching here.

I told Mel he could pawn my wedding ring for beer money if I'm wrong about these latest wildlife affronts to our peaceful abode here in rural topia. Moreover, I've threatened to invite my girlfriends over for a little investigative sniffing. A heightened sense of smell does seem to be a hallmark of our sex. We could even do a potluck afterwards if anyone is left standing.

Gas Tank," posted by Jaclyn Rink, MSCP, LLP. There are many resources available for self-care activities and much information about why daily self-care is so important and not at all 'selfish'. My takeaway is that we cannot fully give to others if we are not healthy and balanced ourselves. By practicing self-care regularly, we are better equipped to maintain healthy relationships and contribute positively to our family, friends, and community. You cannot pour from an empty cup, as the saying goes. Healthy boundaries are key, and a balance between caring for oneself and for others is essential for a healthy, balanced life.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Some Sample Items from The Brownsville Times a Century ago.

By Staff Writer, Daniel R. Murphy

The Glee Club of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles gave the people of Brownsville one of the best musicals ever given here.



Advertisement for Goodrich Silvertown Cord tires available from Callaway Hardware in Brownsville. Phone 27-C-5.

Wedding Announcements

Brown-Wolgammott Nuptials: Miss Gladys Jeane Wolgamot became the bride of the new year. [Interestingly the newspaper article goes into considerable detail about what the bride wore and how the house was decorated but never mentions the groom’s name.]

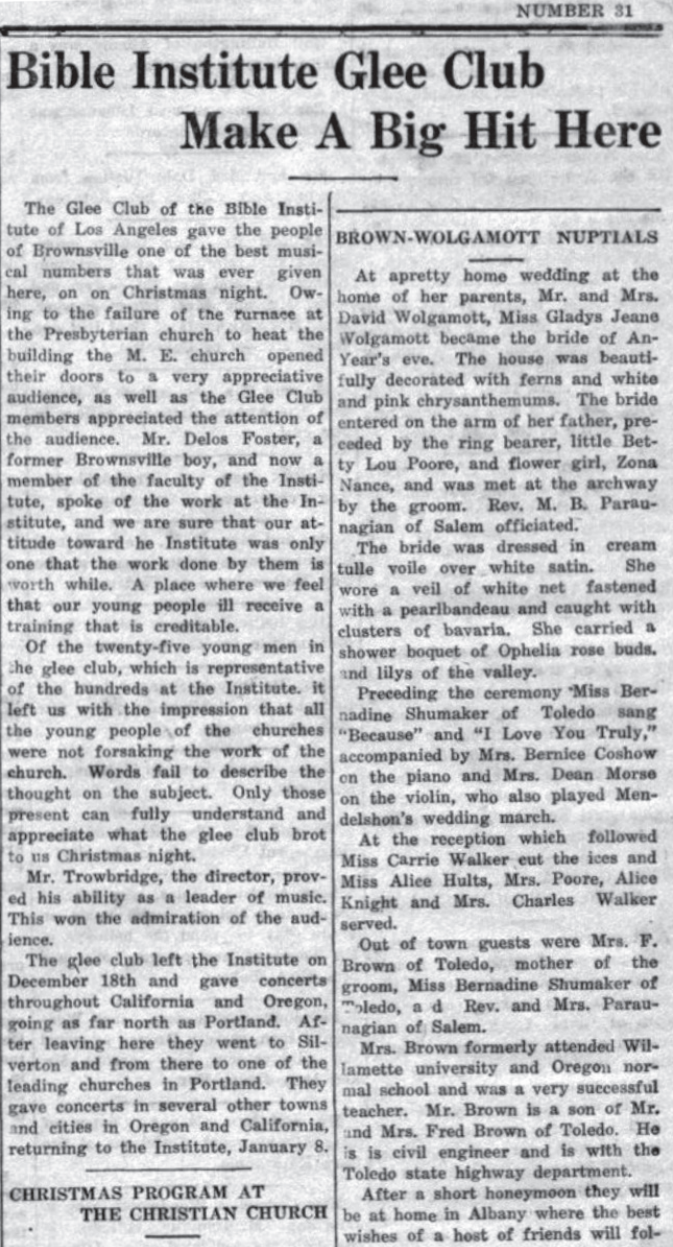
Death Notices

Mrs. Ella Dyson passed away on December 30, 1924. Her father built the hotel in town. He established the town’s first newspaper, but it does not say what it was called.

Owen Osborn passed away December 30. Was a pioneer druggist who for many years did business here.

William H. Averill passed away December 27. He built the first warehouse in Brownsville. He was living at the time of his death near Corvallis. He was 81.

This article is sourced from The Brownsville Times, Volume XXXVL, Number 31, January 1, 1925. You can view and read past issues of



Bible Institute Glee Club and Brown-Wolgammott nuptials articles

The Brownsville Times at SmalltownPapers® at <https://stparchive.com> or at the Brownsville Community Library.

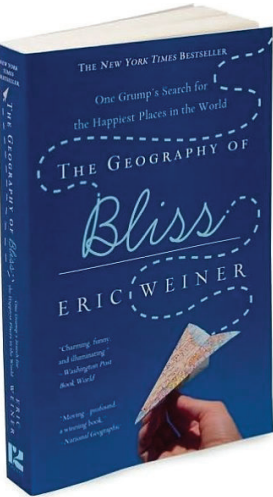
Daniel R. Murphy was born and raised in Brownsville. A retired attorney and Linn County Circuit Court Judge, he serves on the board of The Brownsville Times and contributes as a staff writer. He’s also a Linn County Master Gardener and Moyer House tour guide.

BROWNSVILLE BOOK CLUB

Connecting Books & People

by Barbara DeRobertis

I began attending the monthly meetings of the Brownsville Book Club on the third Wednesday of September 2013, a mere two weeks after I moved to the charming town of Brownsville. A few days after I moved in, a neighbor down the street came to introduce herself and just minutes into our conversation, she invited me (*more accurately, she insisted that I come*) to the local book club that she belonged to. I asked what they were reading, and her reply was “The Geography of Bliss.” The au-



thor, Eric Weiner, traveled around the world on a personal quest to explore whether (or not) the place where you live contributes to your happiness. What makes people happy across the globe? What countries are the happiest? Of course, I was interested and without hesitation, I accepted the invitation. I was faced with the obvious wonder: What does geographical location

have to do with happiness? More importantly, will I find happiness in Brownsville?

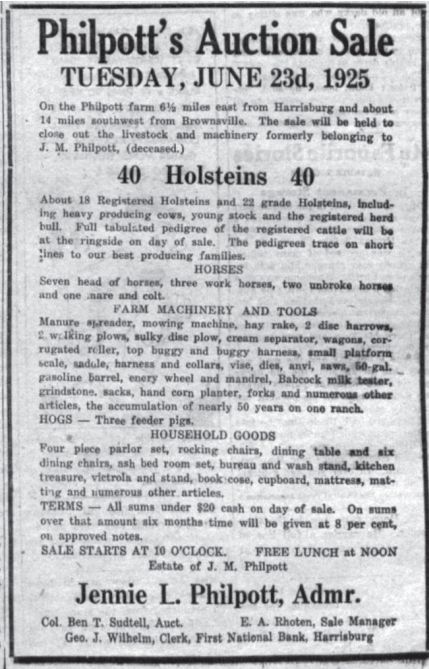
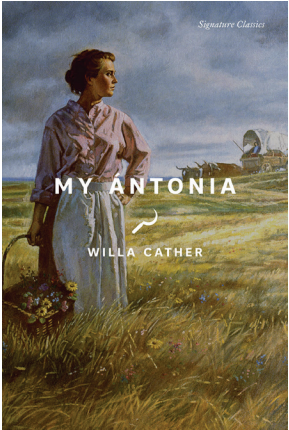
I obtained a copy, read it, and attended my first meeting, where I met the most welcoming, interesting, and intelligent group of people. I was hooked. Lively discussion of the book took place and at its end, I posed the question to the group: “I’d like to know what brought you to Brownsville?” Members of the group, in turn, went around the table and told their personal stories of how, when and why they came to Brownsville. I instantly became acquainted with everyone. I knew straight away that this was the place for me. Yes, without a doubt, I can say that (this) community contributes to (my) happiness.

I have been a member of the Brownsville Book Club for nearly 12 years now. I feel deeply connected to this group on a unique level. There is a certain inexplicable connection you share with others who drink up the same words on a page as you, often validating what you experienced as a reader or opening up your eyes to another point of view. I have come to know, care for, admire, and appreciate each and every member of this group. Many members I met that first night still attend these monthly gatherings. Over the years, members have come and gone. Some have passed. Some have moved away. Occasionally, a newcomer will walk in the door offering a fresh perspective... and they too, keep coming back.

Are you interested in joining us? New members are always welcome. Meetings take place the third Wednesday of every month, at 7 p.m. in the Kirk Room of the Brownsville Library.

This month (meeting of June 18) we will be discussing “My Antonia” by Willa Cather.

Questions? Email me at: bderobertis@yahoo.com.



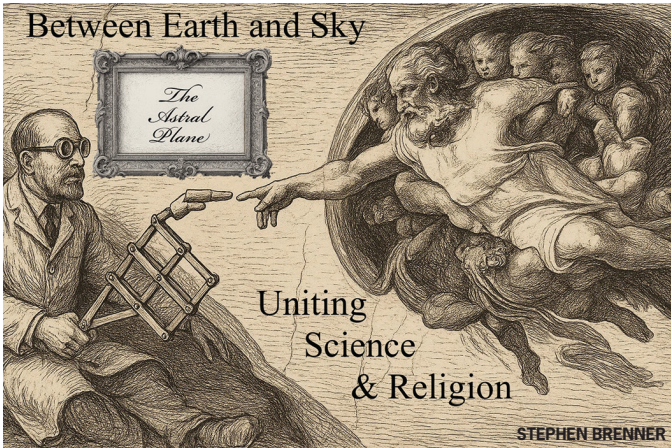
The Astral Plane

By Stephen Brenner

For centuries, mystics and religious traditions have spoken of the astral plane—a non-physical realm of existence where the soul journeys during dreams, visions, or after death. While science, particularly physics, has little to say on the matter directly, there are curious parallels worth exploring.

One potential link arises from quantum entanglement, what Einstein famously called “spooky action at a distance.” This phenomenon describes how two particles, once entangled, can influence each other instantly across vast distances. Some speculate this could hint at a deeper, non-local connectedness in the universe. Could the astral realm be an expression of such underlying unity?

At the fringe of physics and consciousness studies, some theorists propose that consciousness is a fundamental property of the universe (panpsychism)—not a byproduct of matter, but a force that helps shape reality itself through observation. I find the concept intriguing, but there is no scientific consensus of what consciousness is, let alone how it might relate to spirit or non-material planes. In fact, many scientists are still wondering if animals are conscious at all or even have a soul. That indicates to me a stark disconnect from the natural world and a very narrow perspective.



of these children described names, places, and events that were later corroborated through historical records or interviews. He continued this research for decades. While controversial, Stevenson’s work offers compelling evidence for reincarnation, a belief central to many Eastern spiritual traditions.

Yet, the astral plane is more than just an afterlife destination or a transitional state between lifetimes. We are material beings animated by a life force. Light is what binds our atomic structure, but it is also the energetic current that sustains us. Why do all living creatures sleep? It’s more than rest; sleep is a daily return to the astral source — an energetic reset where the light within reconnects with the greater light beyond.

In dreams, we glimpse this deeper layer. Dreaming can serve as a bridge between the physical self and the spiritual self. By remembering and reflecting on our dreams, we may uncover clues to our true nature and life’s purpose. As inscribed at the Temple of Apollo in Delphi: “Know Thyself.” This timeless call to inner discovery remains just as vital today—and dreams and the connection with the astral plane is one path to answer it..

*Dr. Ian Stevenson (1918–2007) was a Canadian-born psychiatrist who spent much of his career at the University of Virginia, where he became best known for his groundbreaking and controversial research into reincarnation and past-life memories, especially among young children. His work points toward an experiential and individualized version of the astral plane, grounded not in speculative theology but in meticulously documented human experiences — suggesting a kind of conscious continuity that survives bodily death.

To find firmer ground, we can turn to psychology. In 1966, Dr. Ian Stevenson of the University of Virginia published “Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation” detailing cases of young children who spontaneously recalled past lives. Many

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