



First Place Grand Parade Float, Chris Thornton with Pioneer Logging Camp at Horse Rock

Pioneer Picnic 2025: Brownsville's Heart Beats at Pioneer Park

June 20-22, 2025 | Brownsville, Oregon

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer

As the clouds amassed and the rain began to fall over the Calapooia River, the sleepy town of Brownsville awoke with purpose. From every corner of Linn County and beyond, families, history buffs, and old friends made their way to Pioneer Park for the 138th Annual Linn County Pioneer Picnic, Oregon's oldest continuous celebration.

The **Pioneer Kiddie Parade** in Brownsville, Oregon, kicked off at 1 p.m., launching from Poppi's Place parking lot on Main Street. Young participants dressed in pioneer attire or decorating wagons and bicycles—parade through town under the watchful eye of judges from the local Pollyanna Club. The streets close briefly as charming homemade floats, pint-sized pioneers, and enthusiastic waves from the crowd bring the spirit of Brownsville's pioneer heritage to life.

By Friday afternoon, the grassy fields of the park were alive with activity. Tents popped up like spring mushrooms, the aroma of sizzling hot dogs and kettle corn wafted through the air, and laughter rang beneath the towering firs. Children darted between booths; their arms painted with glittering butterflies and old-time mustaches.

"This is more than a festival," said longtime resident Cheryl Hayworth, setting up lawn chairs at the Brownsville Times booth. "It's a family reunion for the whole county."



The Linn County Pioneer Picnic Princesses and Queen placed first in the Court float category of the Grand Parade.



Overton Valley Ranch was a Blue Ribbon Winner in the Kiddie Parade

Luci Kennedy Crowned Queen at 138th Linn County Pioneer Picnic

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer



Princess Luci Grace Kennedy is crowned by outgoing Queen Rhian Hollister.

A hush fell over the crowd at Pioneer Park on Friday evening as anticipation grew for the crowning moment of the 138th Linn County Pioneer Picnic. Beneath the towering firs and in the heart of Brownsville's historic celebration, escorted by her younger brother, Miss Luci Kennedy was crowned the 2025 Pioneer Picnic Queen — a moment of pride, tradition, and honor that brought cheers and applause from all corners of the park.



Boy Scout leader, Richard Chandler with scouts, Wyatt Ramshur, Mason Rathack and Matthew Carter.

early timber workers. The legacy of hard work, family, and community echoed throughout the evening, from the introductory remarks by the Linn County Pioneer Association to the heartfelt recognition of the 2025 Grand Marshals — the Overton Family, pioneers of the region's ranching history.

The spotlight then turned to the Pioneer Picnic Court. Ashlie Duncan introduced the Junior Court of 11 local children, including Abigail Davis, Addilynn Carter, and Naomi

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Darren & Mindy Perry's Lick-A-Scoop Ice Cream truck's Sherbet cone!

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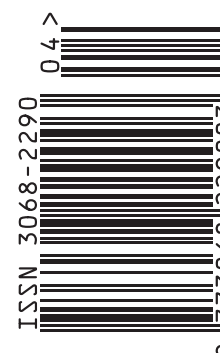
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\$2.00



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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>

Widows’ Brigade

Third Thursday every month 1:30 p.m.
Central Valley Church, Halsey

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>

Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast

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

Fourth of July Fun & Food Trucks

Friday, July 4, 1–5 p.m. Pioneer Park
Food trucks open at 1, family games in the ball field start at 2 p.m.
Ice Cream and Fireworks
Friday, July 4, Pioneer Park
Ice Cream 8:30 p.m. free for kids age \$12, \$1 over 12
Fireworks: about 9:30 p.m.



Come Celebrate Fourth of July With Us!



by Kathleen Swayze
Start your Fourth of July off right with a Pancake Breakfast in the park Friday morning from 8–10 a.m. Not only do you get delicious pancakes, sausage, eggs, orange juice, and coffee, you get music, wild aerial pancake flipping, general entertainment, and dancing. If you are lucky enough to have your birthday on the fourth of July (or close to it) we all sing Happy Birthday to you! All funds go to support our fantastic fireworks.

Breakfast costs \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 years old and under.
For those who may forget about the breakfast or just want to sleep in, fair warning: We will continue the wake-up tradition by driving the fire truck around town, with the speaker on, to remind you to come to Pioneer Park for breakfast.

Come for the Fun!
Fourth of July BREAKFAST
8–10 a.m. | Pioneer Park

Aerial Pancake Acrobatics
Music & Fun with the Egg Man, the Eggettes, the Back Sink Boys, and the Coffee King & Don Ware with the kitchenware

Proceeds support the Brownsville fireworks display

MENU
• pancakes
• sausage & eggs
• coffee & orange juice
Adult \$10 • Kids \$5

Spend the rest of the day enjoying the park with friends and family. From 2–5 p.m., join the fun down on the ball field and enjoy family games. This year, we will have food carts available from 1 p.m., where you can grab lunch or snacks. As the sun sets, gather your blankets and pillows and head down to find your spot on the ball field. Fireworks don’t start until dark, about 9:30 p.m. There will be free ice cream cones for kids age 12 and under beginning about 8:30 p.m. Cones for older “kids” are \$1 each.
Remember, no personal fireworks or alcohol are permitted in the park. A donation of \$10 per car is requested at the park entrance.
Stay safe and enjoy the show, Happy Independence Day!

Linn County Fair Announces 2025 Concert Lineup
Uncle Kracker, Phil Vassar, and Hunter Hayes to headline grandstand stage July 17–19

by Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer



ALBANY — Get ready for three unforgettable nights of live music and summer fun!
The Linn County Fair in Albany is thrilled to announce its 2025 concert lineup, bringing top-tier national talent to the Grandstand Stage from July 17–19, 2025. This year’s headliners include genre-crossing rocker Uncle Kracker, country hitmaker Phil Vassar, and Grammy-nominated superstar Hunter Hayes.
Whether you’re a fan of laid-back anthems, piano-driven country, or modern pop-country flair, there’s something for everyone at this year’s fair!

Thursday, July 17 – Uncle Kracker
Kicking off the concert series is Uncle Kracker, known for smash hits like “Follow Me,” “Smile,” and “Drift Away.” With a style that blends country, rock, and pop, his feel-good sound has made him a favorite for summer music lovers everywhere.
Whether you’re reminiscing about the early 2000s or discovering his music for the first time, Uncle Kracker brings a party to every stage.



Friday, July 18 – Phil Vassar
Singer-songwriter Phil Vassar brings his high-energy show and piano-powered country tunes to the Main Stage on Friday night. With a catalog that includes fan favorites like “Just Another Day in Paradise,” “American Child,” and “Carlene,” Vassar is known for heartfelt lyrics, dynamic performances, and a deep connection with his audience.

Saturday, July 19 – Hunter Hayes
Closing out the concert series is the incredibly talented Hunter Hayes.
Known for his Grammy-nominated hit “Wanted,” along with “I Want Crazy” and “Invisible,” Hayes is a multi-talented instrumentalist who puts everything into his live performances. Expect a dynamic, emotional, and high-energy show to wrap up the weekend in style.



Reserved seating tickets starting at \$20 are on sale at www.linncountyfair.com.
The Linn County Fair & Expo Center is at 3700 Knox Butte Road East, Albany, Oregon.
From thrilling rides and local food vendors to livestock shows and family-friendly entertainment, the Linn County Fair is the place to be this summer. Don’t miss three nights of epic music under the Oregon sky!



Board Chair, Sharon Banks, and folks from the American Legion



Paul and Lauren (staff writer) Sinz and Jeff Brown, member at-large

A Heartfelt Thank You from The Brownsville Times

by Editor, Mikayle Stole

We want to extend our deepest thanks to the incredible writers, board members, and community supporters who stopped by our booth during Pioneer Picnic weekend. Your help, encouragement, and presence meant the world.

A special thank you to the many folks who shared their stories, memories, and kind words—we were truly overwhelmed (in the best way!) by the outpouring of support for bringing The Brownsville Times back to life.

Your belief in the power of local news keeps us going. We're honored to be part of this community. Thank you for welcoming us home.

— The Brownsville Times Team



Two happy children that stopped by our booth, and Billy with his face painted by The Face Paint Fairy, Demetri



Two happy children that stopped by our booth, and Billy with his face painted by The Face Paint Fairy, Demetri



Two happy children that stopped by our booth, and Billy with his face painted by The Face Paint Fairy, Demetri

THE BROWNSVILLE TIMES

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

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TAKING ROOT

Your Forever Garden of Delights — Perennials in the Vegetable Garden

by Staff Writer, Donald Lyon

Every spring, I'm inspired to start germinating seeds and planting my vegetable garden. Sometimes I fail to appreciate the hard-working perennials that I planted years ago that keep chugging along, surviving the winter and springing up with fresh tasty treats year after year. Not just the fruit trees and raspberries, but there is also asparagus, artichokes, rhubarb, chives, parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme, not to mention oregano.

Asparagus can be started from seed, but the surefire way is with a bare-root plant or crown from a nursery or catalog. Plant in the early spring. Select a well-drained spot and thoroughly weed the soil before spading and mixing compost or aged manure into the soil. Dig a trench about six inches deep and twelve inches wide with a mound of amended soil in the center. Spread the roots out like an octopus to encourage them to grow down and away from the center. Cover the plant with two inches of soil. As young spears appear in the spring, keep adding soil so that the young spears are constantly just emerging. Now comes the hard part! Don't harvest the first year, let the roots get established, and keep weeding. Harvest a few spears for a few weeks in the second year. Then, in the third spring, you can harvest until mid-June. After that, let the spears and fronds grow through the summer. With proper care, asparagus can produce for more than a decade. One Oregon seed company lists four different varieties of asparagus at \$43 for 25 crowns.

Artichokes divide and send up volunteers every spring, so if you have a friend with artichokes, ask if you can help them "weed" their plants. With the ground quite moist, dig up the plant and break off the newly rooted side shoots. You may get two or three new plants from the parent plant. Artichokes are heavy feeders, so amend the soil with compost and aged manure now and every year. Water deeply.



Perennial Herb Garden with rosemary, chives, oregano, thyme and dill

Rhubarb is another plant that you may be able get from a neighbor. Remind them that the plants should be dug up and divided every few years. As with artichokes, you don't have to be gentle here. Dig most of the soil away from the plant. Then, during the dormant period, chop the crown into quarters and replant each quarter as a new plant. Feed with aged manure and/or compost every spring and after harvest. The leaves are toxic to humans and animals; it is the stems, either green or red, that you'll be eating.

Chives and the other herbs mentioned are no-brainers. Rosemary is best grown from cuttings, but the other herbs are very easy to start from seeds. Option B is to buy a six-pack or four-inch plant and place it in your herb or kitchen garden for easy access while cooking. Give them room to grow. They may die back in the winter but most likely will bounce back in the spring. To start rosemary from a cutting, strip the lower three-fourths of growth from the short branch you cut and stick it in potting soil — couldn't be easier. Questions, comments, suggestions? I'm all ears at phototraveler02@gmail.com.

Donald Lyon is a retired international photography tour guide who has lived in Brownsville for 15 years. He serves on the Calapooia Food Alliance and the Thompson's Mills Preservation Society boards. He is an at-large board member of The Brownsville Times.

HALSEY LIBRARY

Borrow & Preserve:
Tools for the Modern
Homesteader

Now Available at the Halsey Library

Thanks to the OSU Extension Service, the Halsey Library is now lending out specialty kitchen tools to help you preserve the harvest and explore home food preparation. Each item includes instructions and helpful information to get you started. Below are the items available to borrow:

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

Visit the Library to explore the Lending Library and try something new this season.

Summer Fun Every
Saturday

2025 Summer Reading Program

Join us for action-packed Saturday mornings at the City Hall Community Center, all part of our “Level Up @ Your Library” Summer Reading Program. Programs begin at 11 a.m. and are free to attend.

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

Register at the Library. Keep reading for weekly chances to win prizes. Call 541-369-2522 or visit www.halseyor.gov/services/library.

Help Your Library Thrive

Teens and Adults: Volunteer at the
Halsey Library

Looking to make a difference in your community? The Halsey Library is seeking volunteers age 14 and up to help keep our services running smoothly.

- Adults may work independently
- Teens (14+) volunteer under the supervision of the Librarian
- Training provided — no experience necessary

Interested? Visit www.halseyor.gov/services/library, scroll to the bottom of the page, complete the volunteer form, and return it to the Library during regular hours.

POEM SELECTION

Slow Down
Is it strange to long for
slow days
filled with quiet moments
of joy.

The world seems to be
in a rush,
but I choose
to remain still.

~ a.b.

BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

Books, Baskets & Big Adventures Await!

by Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville librarian

The Summer Reading Program Kick-off Performer was a great hit! We really appreciate Anne Louise coming to the Pioneer Picnic this year and helping us get ready for a great Summer. The Brownsville Women’s Study Club sponsored this program. The Library appreciates their dedication to our programs and the children of this community. The Library is closed for some maintenance this week, but we will be back and ready to go next week! The first week of July, drop by the Library and pick up a take-and-make activity. We are offering this activity in celebration of Independence Day on July 4. On Thursday, July 10, we will host our first in-person program from 4–5 p.m. **Please turn in your reading log each week for a chance to win one of our unique baskets of goodies!** Join us this summer for books, activities, and fun... together we can 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

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

June 24–28 • Library Closed for Maintenance

July 1–5 • Take-and-Make ‘Out and About Bingo’
Stop by the Library during normal business hours and pick up your kit to play Out and About Bingo! This fun game can be played all summer long!

Friday, July 4 • Independence Day Holiday Closure



The Summer Reading Program team—Sherri Lemhouse, Sarah Glenn, and Carol Humphreys—recently painted a fabulous hopscotch path along Menafee Path. Instead of numbers, each square features an empowering “I AM” phrase, moving through kind, smart, fearless, and ending with ENOUGH.

BOOK REVIEW

by Staff Writer, Nancy Diltz

THE TREASURY OF ENGLISH SHORT STORIES
Five Centuries of Classic Short Fiction

Reading is, as Tigger from “Winnie the Pooh” by A.A. Milne says, “What Tiggers love best!” However, there is a slight problem with finding enough reading time in a busy day. When I was young, I had a genuine fear that I would never be able to read all of the books available to me. That was a valid fear. Now something new has happened, and the time I assumed would be spent leisurely reading in my retirement years (yes, in a rocker with a cat in my lap) has turned into time spent with family and friends, caring for a home, pets, and driving (this is Brownsville). If a reading opportunity comes up during a quiet day, I ruin it by falling asleep two pages in. Forget bedtime reading, as it’s the same problem. Yet there is a solution, the short story! Knowing it is a quick read, there is a better chance to fit it into one’s waking hours. Short story anthologies abound and a favorite collection is “The Treasury

Thursday, July 10, 4–5 p.m.
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.

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!

Thursday, July 24 • Library Olympics
Join your friends in playing some fun Olympic-style games around the Library including Standing Book Jump, Book Tower, and Library 1“Skiing.”

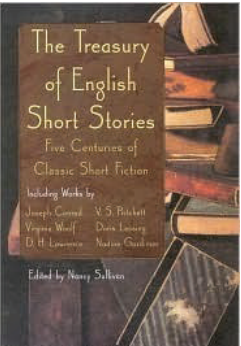
Thursday, July 31 • 1–7 p.m.
2nd Annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover. Our theme this summer is all about playing games and having fun at the Library, but why should you have all the fun? Drop off your stuffed animal and they will have a camp out experience of their own overnight. Pick them up on Friday and check out some pictures of their experiences!

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

All programs are free of charge. Join us each Thursday beginning July 10 from 4–5 p.m. for some summer fun. For more information, please call the Library at 541-466-5454, visit our website at www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org, or find us on Facebook at @BVOR Library.



of English Short Stories, edited by Nancy Sullivan” (1985). Included are works by Joseph Conrad, Virginia Wolfe, Doris Lessing, and even Roald Dahl. A collection of this sort will turn anyone into a reader of a wide variety of major writers without the time commitment required for their longer works. Flip through the vast index and select a story of interest to you or start at the beginning with Chaucer (the 1300s) through Jordan (1950s). As you finish this anthology, be sure to sample The World’s Greatest Short Stories, The Best American Short Stories, Greatest Russian Short Stories, Great Short Stories by African-American Writers, Great Short Stories of the Masters... well, you get the picture.



WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Brownsville Assembly of God

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

Brownsville Christian Church

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

Brownsville Community Church

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

Brownsville Mennonite Church

34795 OR-228 · 541-466-5622

Central Valley Church

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

Crawfordsville Calvary Chapel

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

First Baptist Church of Brownsville

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

Halsey Mennonite Church

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

Harvest Reformed Baptist Church

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

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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

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

MOUNTAINTOP REFLECTIONS: A FAITH PERSPECTIVE

Hey, Neighbor!

by Jacquie Hoekstra

We live in a society divided by a multitude of issues. We feel pressure to hold strong opinions and position ourselves on a pole, as the middle ground fades in the light of extremes. It feels like we measure people on their stances before we know their hearts. It was much like this during Jesus’ days on earth, when he taught his followers, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself” (Matthew 22:39b). The term “neighbor” here refers to the person standing next to us, living next door, and those in our community. Very simply, it means loving everyone the way we love ourselves.

I wonder if Jesus’ disciples thought it was easier said than done, as we might? We all have bad days and have been subjected to someone else’s bad day. Recent history has seen division in families, friendships, and communities, and it sometimes feels like there might be no end in sight. A few minutes on social media supply ample examples of and opportunities for debate and discord. Yet, Jesus, by his call for us to love our neighbor as ourselves, also reveals it to be possible.

How do we love in a world filled with hate and division? The answer is revealed in the story of creation, in the first chapter of the Bible’s first book. “So God created humans in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female” (Genesis 1:27). I have heard the phrase “image bearers” often lately.



HATCHED:STORK REPORT

Welcome, Cole Jacob Koontz

Cole Jacob Koontz was born on May 8, 2025, weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces. Proud parents are Stephanie and Kyle Koontz. Cole is welcomed by his older brothers Aiden, Titus, and Adley.



The truth is, every human is created with the image of God set upon them, and they bear his image whether they follow him or not. If he set his image in us, he also set value on us.




When we are intentional about loving our neighbor, we look past differences to the image of the holy within, call out the value of each individual, and love our neighbor well. God said to Samuel when he sent him to anoint David, the next king after Saul, “Humans look at outward appearances, but the Lord looks into the heart” (2 Samuel 16:7b). When we take time to know our neighbor based on their intrinsic value instead of an outward stances, we love our neighbors well and see a community transformed.

Today, our community is not merely where we live, but also the cyber communities we engage with through social media. Opportunities abound to look past what might offend and respond with love. Perhaps the key phrase in Jesus’ statement is not ‘neighbor,’ but ‘love.’ The word for love in the original language is a verb, which speaks to the giving of ourselves. We love our neighbors and want to serve their best interests. There is a nuance of breathing life into their atmosphere.

While being a good neighbor is on my mind this month, I also want to say what a joy it is to live in this community. There is tremendous good and kindness here. I express no judgment in my words and want to express what delight I have found in being your neighbor.

Jacquie Hoekstra has been a Bible study teacher, speaker, and writer for thirty years. Her latest study, Nehemiah Build That Wall, was published after moving to Linn County. Jacquie volunteers in various capacities at her church, including discipleship and biblical counseling. She has enjoyed living in Brownsville for three years.

Scripture is taken from “GOD’S WORD®”. © 1995, 2003, 2013, 2014, 2019, 2020 by God’s Word to the Nations Mission Society. Used by permission.



HATCHED, MATCHED, & 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.

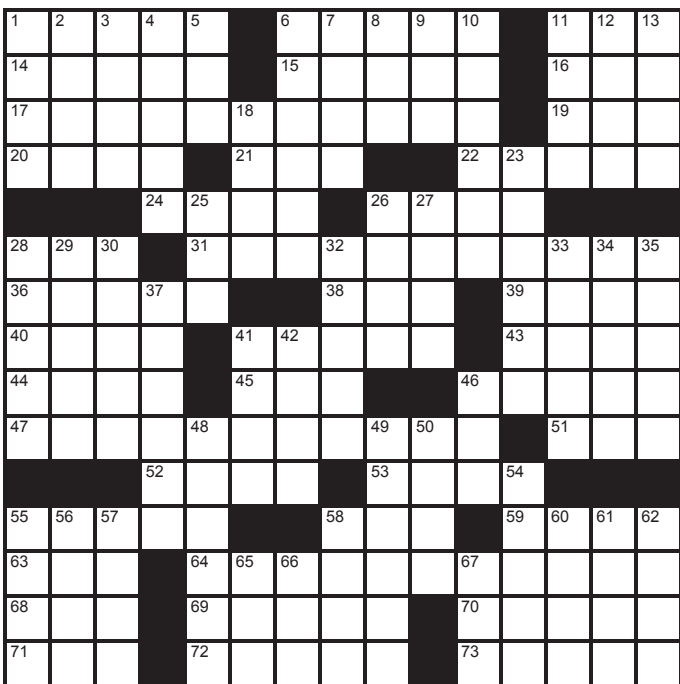
Kindly send particulars to the editor:

editor@brownsvilletimes.org

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

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- 14 Musical drama
- 15 Flexible joint
- 16 Quarrel
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- 71 Golfer Ernie
- 72 Pulls hard
- 73 Transmits

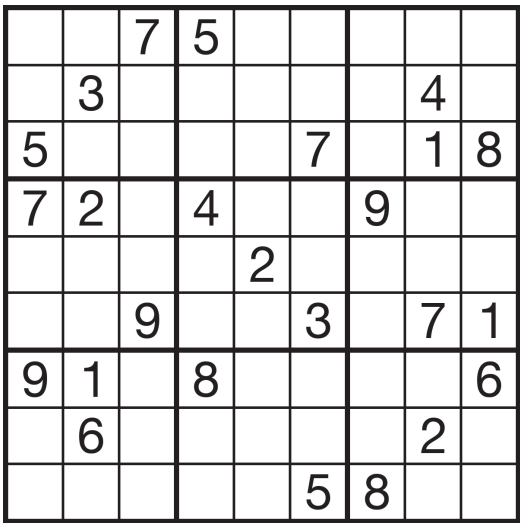


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- 10 Peruse again
- 11 Penal facility
- 12 Time past
- 13 Pitcher
- 18 Vault
- 23 Birthplace of St. Francis
- 25 Definite article (Sp.)
- 26 Football's Starr
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SUDOKU

TRICKY



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Solutions on page xx

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



Dear Mrs. Gertrude,

Is it proper for a lady to ride a bicycle, and if so, must she wear bloomers or may she remain in a skirt? My daughter has taken it into her head that bloomers are the only way one rides a bicycle these days. I reminded her that fashions pass, we needn't pursue every one as they come our way. Yes, I am a bit concerned about her respectability being called into question—she says I am being prudish and uptight. Golly, I don't know what to do!

Yours truly,

Can You Conceive a Level Explanation?

Dear CYCLE,

A mother's concerns never end, yet she finds some solace in the fact that we can learn as much from our children as they can from us. It is their will and determination that give us strength, even as the challenges they lay at our feet seem heavy to bear at times. It is perfectly natural to ponder new fashions, especially when children are quick to embrace them without a moment's thought! As mothers, we take more time in our decisions, and it can seem a lifetime to the child to have their parents come round to fresh ideas. The balance is somewhere in between. I find we were likely the same when we were young, and now we are much like our own parents. Oh, the horror!

Now for a fact of etiquette: it is that as long as no bare ankles are shown, there is no definite moral objection, and foremost, the safety of the rider is paramount. I myself have worn bloomers under a buttoned skirt so that I may release my legs for greater freedom of movement. My daughters now wear both bloomers and a shorter skirt, yet if the day is too hot or too wet, they eschew the skirt in favor of the bloomers. After far fewer mishaps came from this compromise, I was quite content to allow my children that freedom despite having some doubts at the outset. Now think back to when you were a child, around her age now. What newfangled shiny fads caught your eye? What did your parents believe and were they eventually allowed? How dangerous did they turn out to be?

I recall that when I was a young lady (we will not say how long ago that was), I was wildly taken with the Rational Dress Movement. Inspired as it was by Renaissance romanticism, long gone would be the days of restrictive corsetry and in its stead natural forms & colors... then puffed sleeves. Oh, how I adore a puff sleeve. Anne Shirley of LM Montgomery's recent novel "Anne of Green Gables" shares the passion for that fashion — and just like her mother figure, Marilla, my own mother could not stand it. "A waste of money & fabric if you ask me, frivolous nonsense!" It made me yearn all the more for what I could not have... is it not true that we crave that which is forbidden? The novelty, the freshness, the knowledge of something unknown until we experience it ourselves? Eve was not tempted by the apple without reason.



"Queen of the Bicycle Girls" — an illustration from the early 20th century celebrating the spirit of female cyclists. Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons, originally from the Digital Public Library of America. [Public Domain]

KIDS' KORNER

by Staff Writer, Nancy Diltz

"Having fun is definitely how you're going to keep yourself loose and be at your best." —Mookie Betts, Los Angeles Dodgers Baseball Player

AT HOME SCAVENGER HUNT

Collect several objects around the house. (A spoon, a piece of paper, a toy.) Hide the objects out of sight and write down clues for your friends or family to use to find the hiding spots! Take turns hiding and finding objects.

RIDDLES FOR FUN

- What goes up and never comes down? Your age.
- What travels faster: heat or cold? You can catch a cold, so heat travels faster!
- A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed in town for three days and rode back out on Friday. How is this possible? His horse's name was Friday.
- What fruit can you never cheer up? A blueberry.
- What type of cheese is made backward? Edam.
- What invention allows you to look through a wall? A window.

MAKE EASY PLAY DOUGH

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup table salt
- Water

Mix flour and salt in a bowl. Add water a little bit at a time. Knead ingredients together on a flat surface until it has the consistency of play-dough.



PICNIC

continued from page 1



Linda McCormick poses with her book, "Linn County Pioneer Association Minutes From the Meetings of July 30, 1887 to June 18, 1926."

Heritage and Tradition

The weekend unfolded like a tapestry of tradition. Saturday's Pioneer Parade wound down Main Street, where classic cars, horse-drawn wagons, and horseback riders greeted cheering spectators. Picnic royalty — this year's Royal Court waved from atop a float covered to protect them from the rain.

Back at Pioneer Park, the Picnic celebrated the rich heritage of the Pacific Northwest with a Logging Camp theme, paying tribute to the hardworking men and women who helped build Oregon's early timber industry. From the scent of fresh-cut wood to the clang of axes and saws, the event echoed the spirit of the historic logging camps that once dotted the region's forests. Visitors enjoyed themed displays, vintage equipment, and stories passed down through generations that highlighted the grit, camaraderie, and resilience of early loggers. It was a nostalgic nod to the backbone of Brownsville's past, wrapped in fun, history, and hometown pride.



Kids took part in games and races, an old-fashioned penny scramble and a pie-eating contest while the older crowd browsed craft booths featuring everything from hand-made jewelry to hand-sewn quilts. Men competed in the mustache contest and contestants of all ages participated in the talent show.

Sunday's Sendoff

Sunday morning kicked off with a Wagon Train Breakfast followed by a nondenominational church service held on the main stage. Strangers became friends over plates of comfort food, and descendants of early homesteaders shared their family legacies with pride.



Bill Sattler sharing all the Lumber Jamboree participant signatures.



Winners of Georgia Pacific's Toilet Paper Toss game



Children dive into piles of wood shavings donated by Bear Mountain in search of candy, coins, and the occasional gold dollar during the long-standing Penny Scramble. Stacy Barnes coordinates the event and family games, while Marilee Frazier of the Brownsville Senior Center oversees the collection of the 20 pounds of donated pennies.



Forged service ware by Tymon Teichroeb, Double TT Fab & Forge



Quilts of Valor show

Enduring Spirit

For 138 years, the Pioneer Picnic at Pioneer Park has honored the values that built Brownsville — resilience, generosity, and community. As families hugged goodbye and volunteers swept the grounds, it was clear that this cherished celebration is more than just a yearly event — it's a living tradition, rooted deeply in the soil of Linn County.

As one child said while skipping rocks in the river: "Can we come back next year?"

You sure can.



Third place parade float winner, Hocus Pokie Dancers' Log Camp Laundry Shack

A Rain-Soaked Spectacle: The Grand Parade Marches On

by Editor, Mikayle Stole

Neither wind nor rain could dampen the spirit of the 2025 Linn County Pioneer Picnic Grand Parade. With umbrellas in hand and jackets zipped tight, spectators lined the streets of Brownsville on Saturday morning, braving the chill to witness the beloved community tradition.

This year's theme, "Pioneer Logging Camps," inspired a hearty procession of floats adorned with flannel, timber tools, and red, white, and blue bunting. Despite the downpour, participants brought creativity and cheer, waving from beneath plastic ponchos and tossing candy into the soggy hands of onlookers.

The Georgia-Pacific Mill of Halsey made a memorable appearance by handing out rolls of toilet paper, each one a little soaked, but it met with laughter from the crowd. Meanwhile, the Pioneer Picnic Court rode in style under matching clear umbrellas, smiling and waving through the storm. Their float, though drenched, remained regal and festive.

Equally undeterred was the spirited announcer who kept the commentary flowing long after much of the audience had sought cover.

Motorbikes revved, vintage tractors rolled, and horses clip-clopped down the slick pavement as young and old alike celebrated the legacy of Linn County's timber pioneers. In true Oregon fashion, it wasn't sunshine that made the parade memorable; it was the resilience of a community that shows up, rain or shine.



ANNE CLARKE



STEPHEN BRENNER

Chafin Farm and Belgian Draft Horses escort the Grand Marshals, the Overton Family.



STEPHEN BRENNER

Stand By Me Boys (Kerry Travis as Teddy, Kevin Hahn as Chris, Isaiah Jeffrey as Gordy, and Ansel Karo as Vern along with Jaime and Karmel from the Benevolent Order of the Antelope took First Place for walking entries. PEZ girls are Ellye and Sloan.

Grand Parade photos continued on page 8

KIDDIE PARADE
“Don’t Rain on my Parade!”
by Staff Writer, Nancy Diltz

The 86th annual Kiddie Parade hosted by the Pollyanna Club carried on through wind, thunder, rain, and... hail! A freak hailstorm hit while kids and their folks lined up, their parade entries ready for judging in this year’s ‘Pioneer Kids’ themed Kiddie Parade. The judges had just begun the process of reviewing entries when the storm unleashed. Everyone was soaked in the heavy rain and pelted by hailstones. Yet, in true Oregon pioneer fashion, the entrants waited patiently for the judges to arrive. Also waiting patiently through the outburst were several babies, chickens, and pets. Though in years past the names of prize winners were carefully recorded by the judges, unfortunately, the rain-soaked paper and ink were rendered about as useful as wet tissue. Congratulations, nonetheless, to all the prize winners, and a huge thank you to the members of the Pollyanna Club, representatives from the Scouts, judges, families, entrants, and all who helped make this parade truly memorable. A special mention to Mother Nature, who dried up the area as quickly as possible, allowing the parade to continue without further ado.

Kiddie Parade Sweepstakes Winner
Congratulations to the float “Hard at Work,” which took home the Sweepstakes Grand Prize in this year’s Kiddie Parade! With the theme “Pioneer Kids,” this creative entry captured the spirit of the past with charm and teamwork.



Grand Prize Sweepstakes Winner “Pioneer Kids Hard at Work” float. Cook: Nya Farris, shack: Teylar Farris, Dakota Lehnstorf, Annibelle Bruckner, oxen: William Lawrence, hauling: Attel Farris, logs: Connor Wolfe



Pioneer Christian Academy’s “Kiddie Train”



Antique Vehicle 1950-1959 First Place winner, Vaughn and Carri Combs’ 1952 Willys Pickup Jeep Rat Rod & Trailer



Dubbed “Riders on the Storm” doing tricks despite the wet roads.



Second place Bands winners, One More Time Marching Band



Grand Marshals, the Overton family, Sherrie McIntire, Tony and Barbara Koontz



Pie-eating contest



Brownsville Mayor, Adam Craven



Tom Marquette, Linda Walker and their Belgian Draft Mules escort Hackleman descendants.



Benton County Fair 2025 Rodeo Queen



Brownsville Volunteer Fire Department, 2nd place for Fire Engines



Kathleen Swayze takes all the candy



QUEEN continued from cover

Whittam, Emily Steele, Esther Neal, Jasmine Abell, Jean Rush, Kennedy Hamblin, Maya Geider, Merci Randklev, and Morgan Leigh who charmed the crowd with their enthusiasm. The High School Court — Dakota Ramshur, Gracie Droback, and Luci Kennedy — took the stage next, representing the future of this beloved community tradition.

The emotional highlight of the evening arrived

when outgoing Queen Rhian Hollister placed the crown on the head of Miss Luci Kennedy, passing down a legacy of leadership, grace, and hometown pride. With tears in her eyes and a bright smile, Luci accepted the honor to a standing ovation and a flurry of camera flashes.

The program also included a stirring group rendition of “America (My Country, ’Tis of Thee),” and

the awarding of the 2025 Kurt Riemer Memorial Scholarships to Coen Schneiter, Gracie Droback, and Olivia Howard.

As families gathered for photos and the light faded behind the hills, the newly crowned Queen Luci Kennedy stood at the heart of it all — a symbol of community spirit and the bright future of Oregon’s oldest continuous celebration.



Queen Luci Grace Kennedy escorted by her brother Joshua



Princess Dakota Grace Ramshur



Princess Gracie Lynn Droback

Junior Princesses and Their Escorts



Addilynn Joy Carter



Esther Joy Neal



Jasmine Della Abell



Jean Clementine Rush



Maya Rose Geider



Mercy Ann Randklev



Morgan Mae Leigh



Naomi Raelynn Whittam



Abigail Elizabeth Davis



Emily Faith Steele

ALL PRINCESS PHOTOS BY STEPHEN BRENNER

Junior Princess Kennedy Rein Hamblin not pictured.

Spelling Bee

Division 1 – (4th grade to 6th grade)

- 1st Jean Rush, Brownsville
- 2nd Morgan Leigh, Halsey
- 3rd Emily Steele, Albany

Division 2 (7th grade to 12th grade) - CANCELED

Division 3 (Adults)

- 1st Stephanie Looney, Albany
- 2nd Carla Steele, Albany
- 3rd Kate Looney, ALBANY

Pie Eating Contest

8 & under

- 1st Alicen
- 2nd Niko
- 3rd Louie & Lily

9-13

- 1st Trayce
- 2nd Connor
- 3rd Ellie

14 & up

- 1st Queen Lucie
- 2nd Josie
- 3rd Elijah

18+

- 1st Cole
- 2nd Bailey

Queen’s Court

- 1st Queen Lucie
- 2nd Chaperone Saydey
- 3rd Maya

Horseshoe Tournament

Men’s Doubles

- 1st Kevin Williams & Rockie Morse
- 2nd Cody Sells & Wayne Sells
- 3rd Shane Musgrave & Alex Adams

Women’s Doubles

- 1st Nellie Norris & Charity Tucker

Co-Ed Doubles

- 1st Tyler Harden & Melissa Miller
- 2nd Scott Dimick Nellie Norris

Grand Parade

Court –

- 1st Linn County Pioneer Picnic Princesses and Queen
- 2nd Sweet Home Sportsman’s Holiday Court
- 3rd Central Valley Church Vacation Bible School

Bands –

- 1st Central Linn High School
- 2nd One More Time Marching Band

Commercial/Industrial

- 1st NW Natural Gas
- 2nd Walker Heating and AC

Walking Entries

- 1st Stand By Me Boys w/ the Benevolent Order of the Antelope
- 2nd Central Linn High School Cheerleaders

Antique Vehicle before 1930

- 1st Boyd Family, 1929 Ford Model A

Antique Vehicle 1930-1939

- 1st John King, 1935 Ford Hot Rod Truck

Antique Vehicle 1940-1949 (None Entered)

Antique Vehicle 1950-1959

- 1st Vaughn & Carri Combs, 1952 Willy’s Pickup Jeep/Rat Rod & Trailer
- 2nd Carlson’s Hardware, 1953 Chevy

Antique Vehicle 1960-1969

- 1st Jason Jump, Green Ford Mercury

Antique Vehicle 1970-1989

- 1st Tow Mater, World’s Best Backup Driver
- 2nd Ryan Greeley, 1973 Jeep CJ5

Vehicle 1990 & After

- 1st Collin Meadors, Toyota Pickup
- 2nd Garrett Vian, “Thing” Wheeler Crawler

Auto Clubs

- 1st Red, White & Blue Old School Cruisers
- 2nd 1956 Black, Gray & Blue Chevies

Floats

- 1st Chris Thornton, Pioneer Logging Camp
- 2nd Georgia Pacific Brawney Man
- 3rd Hocus Pokie Dancers Log Camp Laundry Shack

Fire Engines

- 1st Halsey Sheds RFD Engine 50
- 2nd Brownsville RFD Fire Truck

Antique Farm Equipment

- 1st Wayne Grant, 1954R John Deere, 1946D John Deere & 1949M John Deere
- 2nd Casey & Emerson, Baler & Tractor
- 2nd Wayne Grant, 1946 Case Tractor & Trailer Show & Tell
- 3rd Logan Fетters, 1951 John Deere

Horse Individual

- 1st Morgan Young, Benton County Fair & Rodeo Queen
- 2nd Hasenyager Horses

Horse Group

- 1st Linn County Sheriff’s Mounted Posse

2025 Art Show

Elementary

- 1st Sloan Leach - 2nd Grade
- 2nd Maddison Chance - 5th Grade
- 3rd Ally Brady - 5th Grade



Pioneer Girl with Pony by Sloan Leach placed first.

Middle

- 1st Jazzi Carter - 6th grade

High

- 1st Kaylee McMillen - 9th Grade

2025 Flower Show

Division I Clubs – Church – Businesses - Displays

- 1st Garden Club
- 2nd Brownsville Christian Church

Division II – Arrangements and Bouquets – with or without accessories

4th of July

- 1st Julie Reed
- 2nd Joyce Nelsen
- 3rd Debbie Bearnson

Symphony of Colors

- 1st Julie Reed
- 2nd Tyler Reed
- 3rd Amieca

Splendor in the Grass

- 1st Julie Reed
- 2nd Joyce Nelsen
- 3rd Tyler Reed

My New Hat

- 1st Cathy Ader
- 2nd Julie Reed
- 3rd Kim Clayton



My New Hat by Cathy Ader

For the Roses

- 1st Kim Clayton
- 2nd Mary Canaday
- 3rd Vicki Kirk

Anything Goes

- 1st Tammy Thibedee
- 2nd Tyler Reed
- 3rd Julie Reed



Pioneer Logging Camp by Joyce Nelson

Pioneer Logging Camp

- 1st Joyce Nelsen
- 2nd Julie Reed

Division III Men’s –

Anything Goes

- 1st Elijah Jefferson

Pioneer Logging Camp

- 1st Mark Bateman

Division IV Pee Wee – 8 years and under

Toy Story

- 1st Jaxon Farris
- 2nd Nya Farris

Animals or Animal Container

- 1st William Lawrence

Anything Goes

- 1st Paisley Cone
- 2nd Riley Cone
- 3rd Ember Yonker
- 4th Dakota Lengstore



Anything Goes by Riley Cone

Pioneer Logging Camp

- 1st Axel Farris

Division V Juniors – ages 9-12

Take a Sip — Favorite Beverage Container

- 1st Maddie Chance
- 2nd Mason Rathsack

Straight from the Beach

- 1st Taylor Farris
- 2nd Sophia Richardson

Anything Goes

- 1st Mason Rathsack
- 2nd Maddie Chance
- 3rd Sara Williams

Pioneer Logging Camp

- 1st Chance Adder
- 2nd Connor Wolfe
- 3rd Maddie Chance

Division VII Potted Plants

- 1st Nettie Reed
- 2nd Jan Goranson
- 3rd Jan Goranson

Division VIII Potted Plants - Sedums

- 1st Tammie Thibedein
- 2nd Vicky Kul

Division VIII - Roses

Single Bud –

- 1st Riley Cone
- 2nd Georgia
- 3rd Elijah Jeffery

Fragrant –

- 1st Sue Geeting
- 2nd Sue Geeting
- 3rd Riley Cone

Cluster

- 1st Sue Geeting
- 2nd Paisley Cone
- 3rd Sue Geeting

Named Rose

- 1st Mary Canaday
- 2nd Joyce Nelsen

Miniature

- 1st Riley Cone
- 2nd Mary Canaday

63rd Lumber Jamboree

Axe Throw

- 1st Spencer Stenmark - 15’
- 2nd Angus Nicholson - 14.5’
- 3rd Mike Johnson – 14’

PV Log Roll

- 1st Joey Rademacher
- 2nd Spencer Stenmark
- 3rd Zane Sandburg

Tree Climbing

- 1st Scott Hyde – 0:12.59
- 2nd John Orm – 0:23.65

Underhand Chop

- 1st Joey Rademacher – 0:08.65
- 2nd Spencer Stenmark – 0:11.44
- 3rd Zane Sandburg – 0:12.66

Standing

- 1st Mike Johnson
- 2nd Zane Sandburg
- 3rd Angus Nicholson

Choker

- 1st Mike Johnson
- 2nd Zane Sandburg
- 3rd Angus Nicholson

Single Buck

- 1st Scott Hyde – 0:31.47
- 2nd Zane Sandburg – 0:36.82
- 3rd Joey Rademacher – 0:38.78

Cross Saw Double Buck

- 1st Mike Johnson & Angus Nicholson – 0:10.94
- 2nd Nick Bywater & Joey Rademacher – 0:16.66
- 3rd Scott Hyde & John Orm – 0:17.46

Cross Cut Jill & Jill

- 1st Olivia Schmidt & Makayla Greany – 0:35.50

Pioneer Dam Run

10K Men’s

- 1st Elisha Hahn – 41:28.8
- 2nd Harrison Satterthwaite – 43:41.8
- 3rd Jeffrye Barbisan – 52:30.4

10K Women’s

- 1st Sarah Skelton – 1:04:38.7
- 2nd Kelsey Looper – 1:08:02.7
- 3rd Kayla Jones – 1:16:45.0

5K Men’s Over 18

- 1st Jason Curtis – 18:46.3
- 2nd Bret Bellingham – 19:20.5
- 3rd Tanner Murray – 19:46.3

5K Men’s Under 18

- 1st Callum Plahn – 19:14.2

2nd Ethan Denison – 20:11.3

- 3rd Wyatt Smith – 20:33.9

5K Women’s Over 18

- 1st Deanne O’Neil – 18:59.9
- 2nd Mary Coordt – 22:11.8
- 3rd Nicole Bourne – 25:51.4

5K Women’s Under 18

- 1st Isabelle Curtis – 23:09.9
- 2nd Eleanor Curtis – 24:31.8
- 3rd Alexa Day – 24:34.1

Beard and Mustache Contest

Mustache (all)

- 1st Steve Brown

Mid Beard (5-8 inches)

- 1st James Parker

Dedicate Beard (8+ inches)

- 1st Zach Adam

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 16

7:28 a.m. — Parking complaint reported at block of 33000 Hwy 99E, Tangent. Caller had a complaint about vehicles parked on the shoulder of the road. The vehicles are lawfully parked and do not qualify as abandoned vehicles.

11:43 a.m. — Abandoned vehicle reported at block of 33300 Tangent Loop, Tangent. No public narrative provided.

3:44 p.m. — Non-injury crash reported at block of 36700 Hwy 228, Brownsville. A 40-year-old Sweet Home resident was cited for failure to maintain lane after their vehicle left the roadway and struck a guide post.

4:21 p.m. — Neighborhood dispute reported at block of 400 Moyer St, Brownsville. Deputy responded to an ongoing neighbor dispute. No crime was committed.

5:35 p.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 31700 Lake Creek Dr, Halsey. Operator was cited for failing to obey a traffic control device at Lake Creek Dr and Hwy 99E.

5:35 p.m. — Traffic hazard reported at block of 24600 Gap Rd, Brownsville. Citizen reported an animal in the roadway. Deputies attempted to contact the proper owner.

5:45 p.m. — Overdose/poisoning reported at block of 34200 Powell Hills Loop, Shedd. A 66-year-old female was taken to a hospital on a Police Officer Hold.

June 17

1:41 a.m. — Noise disturbance reported at block of 200 E A St, Halsey. Deputy responded to a noise complaint. The homeowner was issued a verbal warning.

2:38 a.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 300 W D St, Halsey. Deputy contacted a suspicious vehicle in a business parking lot after business hours.

12:25 p.m. — Verbal domestic disturbance reported at block of 100 Sage St, Brownsville. Deputy responded. No physical altercation occurred.

2:17 p.m. — Non-injury crash reported at block of E 1st St and Hwy 228, Halsey. A logging truck struck lowered railroad crossing arms. No injuries reported.

7:06 p.m. — Domestic disturbance reported at block of 200 W Blakely Ave, Brownsville. Anthony Williams Jr., 23, of Brownsville was arrested for Criminal Mischief in the 2nd Degree and Parole Violation.

9:52 p.m. — Traffic hazard reported at block of 33400 Eagle Rd, Tangent. Deputies responded to the hazard.

June 18

9:06 a.m. — Harassment reported at block of 33600 Hwy 99E, Tangent. Deputy responded to a report of harassment.

12:17 p.m. — DHS referral reported at block of 600 Averill St, Brownsville. No public narrative was provided.

12:37 p.m. — Extra patrol requested at Pioneer Park, Brownsville. Deputy conducted additional patrol.

2:12 p.m. — City ordinance violation reported at block of 700 W 3rd St, Halsey. Deputy addressed a parking issue.

4:13 p.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 29900 Parker Rd, Shedd. Driver was warned for speeding.

4:19 p.m. — Extra patrol requested at block of 32200 Old Oak Dr, Tangent. No public narrative provided.

June 19

2:12 a.m. — Domestic disturbance reported at block of 31900 C St, Shedd. Dylan Pendergrass, 39, of Shedd was arrested for Assault in the Fourth Degree–Domestic and Strangulation–Domestic.

5:09 a.m. — Traffic hazard reported at block of 100 Stanard Ave, Brownsville. A vehicle was blocking the lane of travel. Deputies towed the vehicle after being unable to contact the registered owner.

7:03 a.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 31800 Lake Creek Dr and Hwy 99E, Halsey. Amanda Bellamy, 36, of Harrisburg, was cited for speeding 87 mph in a 55 mph zone.

9:59 a.m. — Suspicious person reported at block of 28600 Seven Mile Ln, Brownsville. Subject was walking down the road but not engaged in criminal activity.

2:42 p.m. — Disturbance reported at block of 33100 Hwy 228, Halsey. Incident stemmed from a historical civil issue. A turn signal was damaged, but no criminal charges were pursued.

5:02 p.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 37600 Mountain Home Dr, Brownsville. Tenant allowed people to abandon a vehicle on private property. Property owner was advised of tow policy.

6:54 p.m. — Traffic hazard reported at block of 29500 Tangent Dr and Peoria Rd, Tangent. A barricade was blown over by wind; deputy repositioned it as best as possible.

June 20

12:31 p.m. — Fraud reported at block of 36300 Northern Dr, Brownsville. Caller reported a scam; deputies were already aware of the issue.

2:57 p.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 33000 Hwy 99E, Tangent. Vehicle left prior to deputy's arrival. Homeowner confirmed all was well. Nothing criminal.

3:24 p.m. — Dog bite reported at block of 33200 Hinck Rd, Tangent. Deputy responded to report of a juvenile bitten by a dog.

4:43 p.m. — Suspicious person reported at block of 500 W 4th St, Halsey. Deputy was unable to locate anyone upon arrival.

6:15 p.m. — Traffic complaint reported at block of 400 Depot Ave, Brownsville. Complaints included speeding and failure to stop. Extra patrols will be conducted as time allows.

6:34 p.m. — Traffic hazard reported at block of 29400 Peoria Rd, Halsey. Oak tree branch fell into the road and was removed by deputy.

continued on page 12

WATER SAFETY

Stand-up Paddle boarding Safety: Wear a Life Jacket. Leash for the Type of Waterway

The Oregon State Marine Board is urging people who recreate on stand-up paddle boards (SUPs) atop moving water (primarily rivers) always to wear a life jacket and never wear a Velcro ankle or leg leash designed for general flat water use or the surf zone.

“There’s an emerging trend when we look at the causes for fatalities in recent years, where a person, otherwise well outfitted, died because their leash to the SUP became entangled in brush or other debris on area rivers,” said Brian Paulsen, Boating Safety Program Manager for the Marine Board. “Most ankle leashes used by SUP users are not designed for quick release. If you get it tangled on rocks or downed trees, the leash can make escape nearly impossible.”

Most stand-up paddle boards (SUPs) are equipped with a leash, allowing the paddle board to stay within reach if the user falls off. On moving water, though, the leash can be deadly. “Quick-release leashes are available and designed specifically for moving water. It’s worn around the waist or can be attached to the life jacket. Leashes attached to a jacket are easier for the paddler to grab and deploy,” says Paulsen.

Stand-up paddle boarding incidents and fatalities were infrequent before 2019. Between 2020 and 2024, there were three SUP injuries beyond first aid and 10 deaths, where either a life jacket wasn’t worn, or the person became entangled in an obstruction on moving water without a quick-release leash. Entanglements do happen with life jacket straps as well; however, the chance of survival from drowning is

greatly improved. Paddlers need to make sure the straps on their life jackets are tucked back into the jacket itself, and the slack is not allowed to dangle (as shown).

Life jackets are required to be “readily accessible” on stand-up paddle boards. Another thing to keep in mind is that if a jacket is sitting at the bow of the board and the paddler falls off, the board can easily float out of reach. No board and no life jacket to help the paddler in need. This is why the Marine Board advocates that all paddlers wear their life jackets. There isn’t time to put one on in an emergency.

Belt-pack inflatable life jackets are an excellent option for stand-up paddle boarders. It’s imperative to know how to wear this style of life jacket properly. The life jacket buckles in the back and inflates from the front, where the deployment tab is located.

“SUPs are very popular, available at big box stores, provide access to local waterways, and are a lot of fun,” says Paulsen. “But understanding the basics is crucial, “Paulsen suggested people review safety information for SUPs and visit the Marine Board’s Paddling page for trip planning, with safety in mind. There’s also a free on-line paddling course available in both English and Spanish, covering basic strokes, various environmental conditions to consider, and, of course, safety equipment. Brian Paulsen, Boating Safety Program Manager

Contact the Oregon State Marine Board, 503-378-2610 or brian.paulsen@boat.oregon.gov for more information.



SHERIFF'S REPORT

continued from page 11

7:11 p.m. — Found property reported at block of 29400 Peoria Rd, Halsey. A noose and a hammer-chain-handle type weapon were lodged as found property.

7:43 p.m. — Suspicious circumstance reported at block of 35400 Washburn Heights Dr, Brownsville. Vawna Young, 35, of Lebanon, and Bill Blanchat, 45, of Albany, were arrested for public indecency after engaging in sexual activity in and around a vehicle at a popular overlook.

11:02 p.m. — Fight disturbance reported at block of 400 N Main St, Brownsville. A male was trespassed from the bar after fighting with another patron.

June 21

12:04 p.m. — Welfare check reported at block of 31900

North Lake Creek Dr, Tangent. A female was found to be well; no assistance was needed.

12:48 p.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 27300 Ogle Rd and Hwy 228, Halsey. No public narrative provided.

3:07 p.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 400 W 2nd St, Halsey. Operator was issued an equipment violation warning.

3:58 p.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 000 NW 2nd St, Halsey. Operator was issued a moving violation warning.

6:58 p.m. — Firework complaint reported at block of 33100 Conser Pl, Tangent. Deputy was unable to locate the source.

8:28 p.m. — Firework complaint reported at block of 31900 North Lake Creek Dr, Tangent. Deputy was unable to locate the source.

June 22

2:50 a.m. — Prowler reported at block of 500 Fisher St, Brownsville. Caller reported a suspicious sound outside the home. Deputy found no suspicious activity.

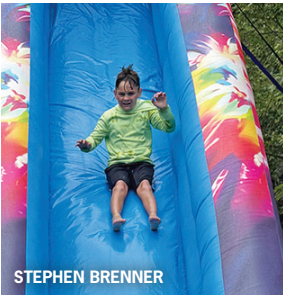
12:41 p.m. — Suspicious vehicle reported at block of 200 Templeton St, Brownsville. No public narrative was provided.

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

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



SHARON BANKS



STEPHEN BRENNER

The giant slide at the Pioneer Picnic was a bit more exciting this year, slipperier when wet!

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED

Is there an old Massey Ferguson 135 diesel in someone's barn that needs some TLC? Or even to sell or barter. Please call Clive, 360-424-9443.

HELP WANTED

Part-time caregiver for disabled man. Must be state certified. \$20/hr. 541-915-9322

FOUND

Found sports cards HWY 228 and I-5 on 3/7/25 Contact 541-917-6653

FOR SALE

2013 Honda CRV, one owner, in good condition. \$6000 or best offer. Call Sharon 541-915-9322

Vintage hand-made from kit 16' 2-Person FOLBOT Kayak. Crafted from kit manufactured in late 70s. Fair condition. Floats nearly effortlessly with one or two persons. Call 360.708.9939 for questions or directions to view the kayak in Brownsville. \$200 OBO. Rare vintage oars also available for sale or to negotiate with purchase!

SERVICES OFFERED

Farm Safety assistance, meetings and training. Tractor and Forklift Safety - for youth certification and adult refresher classes. Accidents can happen to anyone. www.farmsuponsafety.com for more, and some specials.



Ellen Fiducia's Youth Group shared the love of Jesus this week by placing hand-painted "Kindness Rocks" around town. Each rock carries words of love and encouragement — see if you can spot them and feel the blessing. From left to right; Sawyer Billington, Ava Marcoulie, Avery Morrow, Olive Miller, Henley McCord, Vivi Miller, Karter Billington, Jase Marcoulie

Write for Us!

We're looking for community correspondents in Halsey, Shedd, Tangent, and Crawfordville to help report local news and events.

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Melons, Memories, and Meaning in the Garden's Gifts

by Staff Writer, Anne Clarke

Summertime. Watermelons are everywhere and Sunflowers are soon to follow! As a young girl, I loved melons, but never thought much about why my mother seemed to be so obsessed with them. Now, I am beginning to get it and have been lugging them home year-round, if I can find them. Rather than just cutting them in half, or slices, leaving the rind on, I de-rind and store slices into a covered glass bowl in the fridge, ready for a quick snack. Or for when I feel thirsty. Or crave something sweet, or cold, or crunchy. But I think there is more to it than that. The vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, and more! Paying attention to one's cravings provides many clues about what your body is trying to signal to you that it needs.

Our Brownsville Book Club is reading "My Antonia," by Willa Cather. I started my copy last night in anticipation of our Wednesday meeting today, and am struck by the description of watermelons in pioneer gardens in Nebraska. Prompted to look up the nutritional value of melons gave me tremendous satisfaction (and justification for buying more!) to learn not only their nutritional value, but also how to replace other calorie-laden snacks with them, to hydrate with their juice, how to blend them into a smoothie, or evening drink, or freeze them in little ice cube trays. Pop them into a glass of seltzer water on a hot day!

"My Antonia" also describes the "Sunflower trails all across the land," with old lore about the Mormons, who spread them all along the trail as they headed West, where they could freely practice their religion. The sunflower seeds were left to grow and to guide their followers. This lore is not based in fact, as native sunflowers were, and



still are, spread widely across our land.

I have a particular fondness for sunflowers and incorporated them into my own business logo years ago while I was installing container gardens and landscaping. "Alizetti" means sunflower in Kiswahili. It is spoken in Kenya, where my husband and both of our children were born. Our daughter's favorite flower was the sunflower. It was

identified with her over many years, and after we lost her to brain cancer, our family was honored with many, many bouquets and vases full of them. We planted them to sell for a fundraiser in her honor. A life-size papier-mâché giraffe at Seattle Children's Hospital had a sunflower garland added to it in her memory, as she had served as an ambassador to their foundation at one time.

Now, it is simply impossible for me not to automatically reach out, to touch, or smell, or to gather sunflowers wherever I can. In the language of flowers. In therapeutic gardening. Flowers evoke (hopefully!) pleasant memories and can immediately take one back to another time, place, or remembrance of a special person or event.

We continue to plant sunflowers each year. As we also tend to other plants and flowers which have meaning or are somehow important for us to see return each season. I always recommend having at least one blooming plant for every season of the year. It can brighten your day to see hellebores flowering in the very dead of winter—or bright witch hazel blooms. Planting them in containers, they can be moved to where you can see them outside of your window.

Summer is such a wonderful time of year. As we enter into July Fourth celebrations, pick up a watermelon. Grab a bunch of sunflowers. Enjoy!

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Fall Prevention Not Just for the Elderly

by Staff Writer, Nancy Diltz

Thinking back over the years, I realized that I have taken a good spill nearly every decade of my life. Of course, toddler falls were numerous, as everyone experiences but other falls over the years stand out. At ten years old, I not only tripped on a guy-wire in a college gym while running, and fell with my arm straight out, causing rips and tears to my elbow ligaments, but a year later, I fell and rolled down a steep hill that was covered in tumbleweed and cactus. My patient mom, a nurse, picked hundreds of thorns and splinters from my poor body. Yet I saved the worst for later.

In my sixth decade, I was walking my dog, an exuberant Border Collie, who suddenly decided that the grass was greener on the other side of us. I tripped on the taut leash and went down on the sidewalk hard enough to shatter my shoulder. Most recently, I was again walking my pup, this time on a dark morning before work, when the tip of my shoe caught on a ridge of uneven pavement in the street, slamming me face-first onto the ground. I had a whopper of a concussion and two black eyes. It was then that I started to investigate resources for fall prevention.

Yoga classes, sturdy shoes, balance training exercises, and increased awareness were among the suggestions I found to improve fall risk.

Practicing these techniques worked! The last tumble I experienced left me with only a scrape on my ankle. The body awareness I have been working on made the difference, and I only wish I had been more focused on fall prevention in my younger years.

According to Dr. David Reuben, a geriatrician at the University of California, Los Angeles, "We gradually begin losing strength in our 30s and 40s, and our balance begins declining around 50. But there's 'a kind of inflection' point around age 75 when people begin to experience more injuries when they fall..." Yes, falls contribute to the majority of injury-related deaths for older adults; however, they are also a significant cause of injury and accidental death in younger populations as well.

For a lifetime of fall protection, people of all ages are encouraged to practice strength training and balance exercises, such as yoga and tai chi, maintain awareness of fall hazards, and watch for household trip hazards, including clutter, loose rugs, or poor lighting. Fall prevention is essential for individuals of all ages. Falls pose a greater danger to the elderly; however, people of all ages can benefit from maintaining balance, strength, and awareness of fall prevention.

SEASON'S EATINGS

by Lisa Keith

Hello friends! In the coming months, I am going to share a few recipes using local, in-season produce, tried and true recipes from family, friends, and my own creations (concoctions?) Along the way, I will share a bit of food history and origins with the hope that we will all learn something new. This first recipe is very simple but ALWAYS a winner with whomever you choose to share it with.

Cinnamon Sugar Scones layered with Berries (AKA Berry Shortcakes)

Serves 6-8

- 2 pints (baskets) of any combination of fresh berries
- Wash the berries and mix with 2 tablespoons of granulated sugar. Set aside
- Whipped cream



For the Scones:

2 Cups Flour	1 Tbsp Baking Powder
4 Tbsp Sugar	½ tsp salt

1. Pulse several times in a food processor, or whisk until the ingredients are incorporated
2. Add ½ cup (one cube) sliced/cubed/grated ice-cold butter. Pulse until mixture resembles coarse cornmeal.
3. Add ½ cup of ice-cold cream and 1 egg yolk (reserve the egg white for later)
4. Pulse mixture until it comes together in a nice, amalgamated ball
5. Remove dough from the processor and place onto a well-floured surface. Sprinkle liberally with cinnamon each time you fold the dough.
6. Knead lightly until the texture becomes smooth but not too firm... Just enough to prevent the dough from being dry or sticky, and it holds together. May need to add either flour or cold cream, depending on the humidity of your kitchen.
7. Gently shape into a large circle, 10-12 inches across, ¼-½-inch thick. Using a large knife or pizza cutter, cut the circle into equal wedge-shaped pieces as you would a pizza or pie.
8. Place on a cookie sheet, 1-2 inches apart. Brush each scone with egg white beaten with a little water. Sprinkle with Turbinado/coarse raw sugar.



9. Bake at 350°F for 17-20 minutes, until they reach a lovely golden color.

To assemble the shortcakes: Break your scones into desired-size chunks. Have your bowl of berries, your broken scones, and your individual serving bowls lined up on your counter. Place a spoonful of berries into the bottom of each serving bowl. Add a layer of whipped cream. Add a layer of broken scones. Repeat. Ending with whipped cream. How many spoonfuls? It's your preference. Enjoy!

SCONES continued on page 14

CRITTER CHRONICLES

Ungrateful Earl
the Garden Bandit

by Staff Writer, Sharon K. Banks

Once upon a recent Tuesday in the quiet wilds of our rural home, a four-point buck named Earl decided he'd had enough of foraging like a peasant. He wanted fine dining—and he'd heard rumors of a gourmet spread behind a quaint little fence in a yard with particularly fresh and delicious looking produce.

Earl arrived just before dawn, tiptoeing like a deer ninja across my lawn and settling with great ceremony into my flowerbed. He squished half the petunias and knocked over my solar-powered gnome light, but to him, it was perfect. A deluxe buck-sized mattress. He curled up like a massive forest cat and promptly fell asleep, snoring just loud enough to make a squirrel fall off a branch in confusion.

Around noon, he woke up with a mission. The wind carried whispers of tomatoes, squash, and tender lettuce. The fence? A mere suggestion. With the grace of a ballet dancer and the entitlement of a deer who'd clearly never paid rent, Earl vaulted over my garden gate like it wasn't even there.

And then... **carnage.**
Tomatoes? Gone.
Zucchini? Vanished.
Lettuce? Not even a leaf remained.
Sunflowers? Tasted like dreams and regret.
But then, Earl encountered something... unfamiliar. Irises. Regal, purple, suspiciously fancy.
He leaned in. Sniffed. Took a delicate chomp of a bud.
Ptuh!
He spit it out with a look of betrayed expectation, like someone who bit into a chocolate chip cookie only to find raisins. He tried another, just in case. Ptuh! Same result. It was clear: irises were not part of the Earl-approved tasting menu.

By the time I walked out to see what had happened, Earl had cleared the entire garden buffet, left a trail of leafy destruction, and was back laying in my flowerbed, chewing cud and looking smug. The irises stood behind him like untouched candles at a chaotic dinner party. The leaves were intact, but every bud was chomped off and spit out on the ground.

He locked eyes with me. There was no shame. Only satisfaction.
And then, with the dignity of a visiting dignitary, he stood, stretched, and bounded off into the woods—probably to leave a 1-star review on Yelp about the irises. Ungrateful!



SCONES

continued from page 13

A few things to note about scones: Always use the coldest butter (NO MARGARINE), cream, and eggs possible. Never overwork your dough... the scones will come out like hockey pucks.

I have an ongoing debate with a dear friend on the topic of scones. I say, “triangle shape, minimal chunks/add-ins, a bit sweet and slightly crumbly, always delicate.” She says, “tons of chunks, who cares what shape/texture, as long as it’s good!” Her version is more like an oatcake or rustic snack cake. In my defense, I have been searching and researching for a long time. Many years ago, I began my search for the “Perfect Scone Recipe”. Of course, we all have our opinions, and our palates are different. After trial and error, and tasting many subpar offerings, I think I’ve landed on one I like.

I have read about the Queen’s traditional English scones, which, in the picture, recipe, and trial, were a bit dry, not terribly sweet, and in the shape of a circle rather than a triangle. We were lucky enough to have a real live English person, directly from England, taste our offerings and give her opinion... She agreed with me on my friend’s version. She thought mine were closer to traditional, but the wrong shape! Ha Ha Ha! With that being said, the recipe I have shared with you is very versatile. I have had success adding all dried fruits (1/2 cup diced), toasted nuts, and seeds (1/2 cup roughly chopped). Coconut, chocolate chips, minced ginger, flavor extracts (1 tsp), etc., etc, etc.... any combination that tickles your palate! I have yet to try a combination I didn’t like! I tend to shy away from adding wet or fresh fruits and vegetables because the moisture level affects the texture of the finished product. I know it can work; I just haven’t perfected the process. This is the recipe I use when I have been a vendor at our Brownsville Thursday Market. I believe in sharing a recipe rather than hoarding it; share the joy.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this! Any questions can be sent directly to: iamcheflisa@gmail.com

CALL FOR SPONSORS:
Let’s Make Stand By Me Day
Unforgettable

by Linda McCormick

Stand By Me Day is fast approaching — and this year, we’re bringing the celebration even closer to home. To encourage greater local turnout, the event will now be held on the last Saturday in July, which falls on Saturday, July 26.

Fans from around the world travel to Brownsville to experience the charm of our town and celebrate the film that put us on the map. Hosting an event of this size takes planning, dedication, and community support.

That’s where you come in.

We rely on the generosity of local businesses and individuals to help bring Stand By Me Day to life. As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Linn County Museum Friends offers tax-deductible giving opportunities that directly support the event.

Whether you’re a longtime supporter or new to the cause, your sponsorship will help us create an incredible experience for both residents and visitors. Every contribution counts — and helps keep the spirit of Stand By Me alive.

To become a sponsor:

Please make checks payable to Linn County Museum Friends and note SMB in the memo line, and mail to: LCHM Friends, P.O. Box 607, Brownsville, OR 97327.

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HOUSES, LAND & MARKET TRENDS

Roller Coaster Market,
Rising Prices, and What
a CMA Can Do for You

by Jenna Stutsman, Hybrid Real Estate



Welcome to my monthly real estate column where I’ll give you information and advice that may be handy to you in your real estate endeavors, plus fill you in on how the market is doing as a whole.

First, let’s take a peek into our current real estate market. If you like roller coasters with lots of blind turns, this one’s for you. Sampling from my last 10 real estate transactions in Linn County, some homes have sold in a surprising 2-3 days, while others that I thought would sell faster than Randy’s cinnamon rolls stayed on the shelf for longer than expected. There are buyers out there, but with rates where they are, home buying has become more difficult for some. But there’s good news as well. Looking at May 2025’s Linn County statistics (provided by WVMLS), the median sale price was \$415,000. That’s up 0.6%! This means prices are holding somewhat strong, even in our uncertain economy. Unfortunately, the number of days that homes are on the market is up quite a bit — 59 days for May (an 11.3% increase). The number of homes sold stayed about the same. So what does this mean? If you sell a home, it may take a little longer to sell than you expected, but homes are still selling well.



182 Holloway Heights, Brownsville

Now for your real estate nugget. What is a CMA? This stands for Comparative Market Analysis. This is what you would ask a real estate agent to perform when you are considering selling your home and you want to know its value. While we don’t have crystal balls, when a CMA is done correctly, it will get very close to the sale price. Most agents will do this for you for free, like myself. We dive into recent home sales in the area that have comparable features to your home — Number of beds and baths, square footage, lot size, age of home, outbuildings, etc. We factor in recent remodeling and how your location’s desirability compares. In essence, an appraiser will do something very similar. It’s very important to price your home properly the first time. Studies show that when a home is listed over the correct market value, it usually ends up selling for under value in the end. It sits on the market for longer than we’d like and buyers assume the sellers are getting impatient and they can get a deal. Don’t let that happen to you.

That’s all for now. Happy home buying and selling!

BROWNSVILLE ART ASSOCIATION

Brushstrokes of Success: Oil Painting Class Inspires New Artists

by Lori Garcy

The Brownsville Art Center recently wrapped up a lively and well-attended Intro to Oil Painting class on June 7, where students picked up brushes — some for the first time — and walked away with finished paintings and a renewed sense of creative confidence. Taught by local artist Weldon Oliver, the class made oil painting approachable and enjoyable, focusing on fundamental techniques in a relaxed, step-by-step format.

Building on that momentum, the Art Center is offering two more opportunities to study with Weldon this summer:

Discover the Palette Knife in Oils with Weldon Oliver

Saturday, July 12, 3:30 p.m. • \$40 per student (ages 12 and up), with a maximum of eight students.

Explore the bold textures and expressive techniques of painting with a palette knife. Weldon will guide students through creating an 11x14 oil painting of Diamond Peak using only a palette knife. No experience is necessary — just bring your curiosity and creativity.

Adventure in Oil Painting: a 3-Session Series with Weldon Oliver

Saturdays, August 2, 9, and 16, 1– 3:30 p.m. • \$120 for all three sessions (prepaid). For ages 12 and up, with a maximum of eight students.

This expanded series provides students with the opportunity to delve deeper into oil painting through more advanced techniques and guided instruction over three consecutive weeks. Paint Moonglow, Glacier Forest, and Cannon Beach Foam on 11x14 canvases—no experience needed.

Also on the schedule is a hands-on fiber arts class with felt artist Connie Swindoll:

Painting with Wool: Sunflower with Connie Swindoll



Saturday, August 23,
12–4 p.m. • \$40 per student,
supplies included (ages 12
and up), with a maximum
of eight students.

Create a cheerful sunflower using colorful wool and felting needles, rather than paint and brushes.

This workshop is designed for beginners and emphasizes creativity, texture, and fun.

All classes take place at the Brownsville Art Center. Space is limited and advance registration is required. To sign up, visit <https://brownsvil-leart.org> for more information.

CROSSWORD & SUDOKU KEY

Puzzles on page 6

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Reform vs. Orthodoxy

by Stephen A. Brenner

Both science and religion have their own orthodoxies — established traditions, canons, and ways of explaining the world. They also both host reform movements that challenge those traditions when the world changes or deeper truths emerge. This tension between continuity and change is part of the human story.

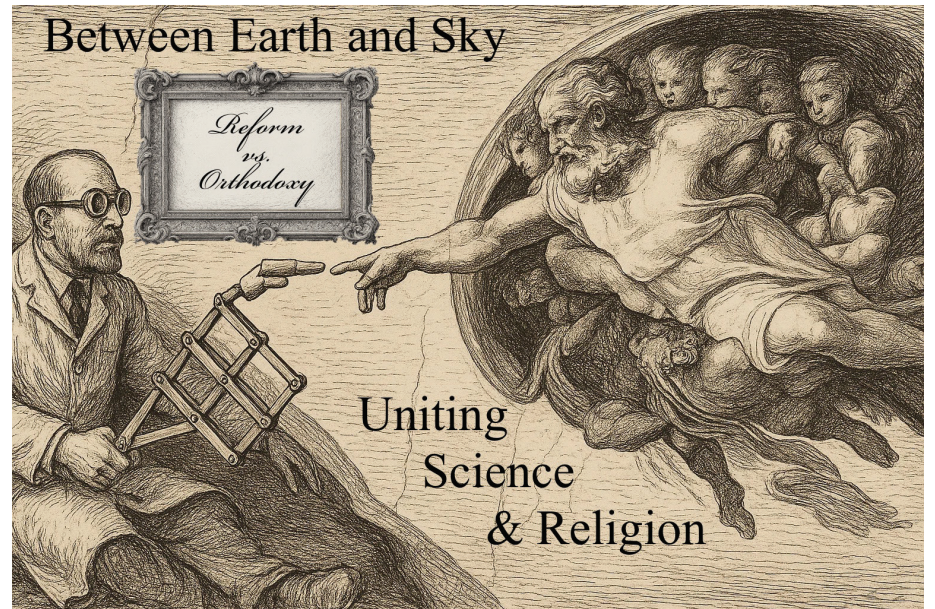
Orthodoxy gives us stability. It preserves cherished worldviews and offers a shared sense of reality. In politics, documents like the U.S. Constitution are designed to enshrine core values — but they also include mechanisms for revision, acknowledging that values evolve as circumstances shift. Even the most foundational beliefs must sometimes adapt in response to new understanding.

In 1865, the United States — one of the last advanced nations to abolish slavery — experienced such a rupture. That reform came at a staggering cost, and we're still reckoning with its aftermath. But over time, these difficult transformations can move us toward a more compassionate and life-affirming society.

History shows us that even when science and religion appeared unified — as in Galileo’s 17th century Europe — their fusion wasn’t always based on truth. Then-dominant Aristotelian philosophy and Christian theology upheld a geocentric cosmos that placed Earth at the center of divine attention. Galileo’s embrace of the Copernican model wasn’t just a scientific revolution — it was a challenge to an entrenched spiritual worldview. His famous remark that “the Bible teaches us how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go” was not well received by the Church.

By the Enlightenment, the rift between science and religion widened. Thinkers like Voltaire and Darwin questioned religious explanations for natural phenomena and human behavior. Eventually, science became largely secularized, conducted in universities and laboratories, often divorced from spiritual inquiry. Meanwhile, many religious institutions retreated from engaging with new discoveries, guarding doctrine rather than evolving it.

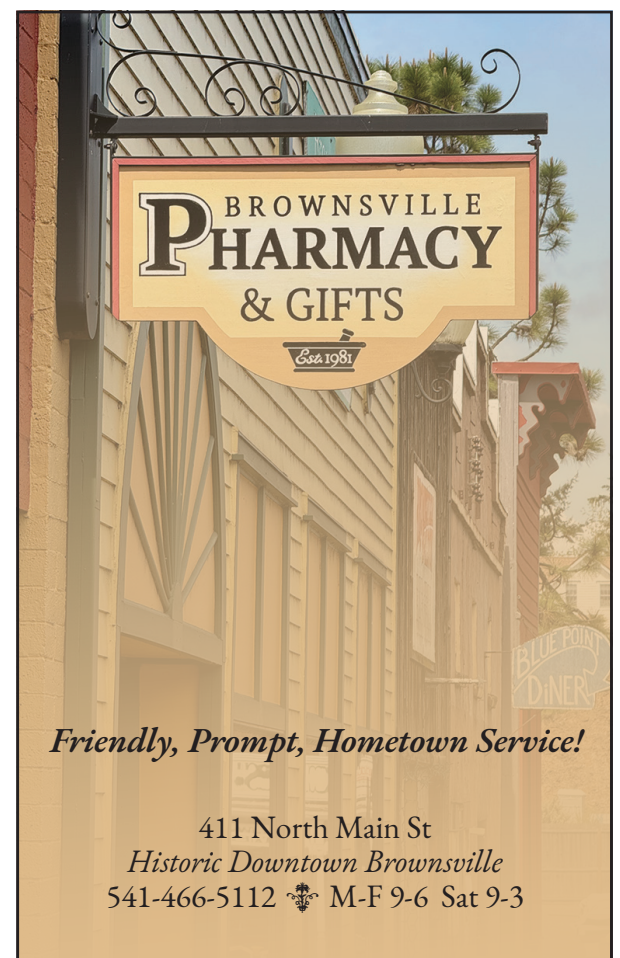
So now we live in a world where materialist scientists and spiritual theologians often speak



past one another — each preserving their own orthodoxy. Physics has been captivated by string theory's mathematical elegance, but its lack of testable predictions might be hindering real scientific breakthroughs. But we're also beginning to see signs of convergence: in quantum physics' paradoxes and in the search for consciousness. In theology, the Vatican supports the Big Bang theory, and scholars like physicist-priest John Polkinghorne explore how quantum physics might offer room for divine action without violating natural law.

Two thousand years ago, a spiritual reformer said, “The kingdom of God is within you.” That challenged the divine right of emperors, clerical hierarchies, and the notion of external salvation. Hopefully that resonates with a new breed of open minded scientists who realize that the laws of physics are ultimately Divine creations. If we can listen deeply to both the world around us and the sacred world within, we may find the way forward.

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



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