



THE BROWNSVILLE TIMES

VOLUME 137, NO. 1

SERVING CENTRAL LINN COUNTY, OREGON | THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025

SINCE 1888



Together, We Write the Next Chapter

Nearly 40 writers, countless volunteers, and hundreds of donors and subscribers unite to restore one of Oregon's longest-running community publications

BROWNSVILLE — In an inspiring display of civic pride and literary passion, the people of Brownsville have banded together to rescue one of their town's most cherished institutions: their historic newspaper.

Faced with the looming threat of permanent closure due to financial strain and dwindling resources, the 137-year-old local publication seemed destined to print its final edition last December. But in a remarkable turn of events, residents from every corner of the community came forward — not only to save the newspaper, but to breathe vibrant new life into it.

At the heart of this revival is a surprising force: nearly 40 local writers and published authors, many with national accolades, who have volunteered their time and talent to report on everything from city council meetings to high school sports and small-town profiles. With pens in hand and a deep affection for their community, they've taken on the editorial reins with the spirit of true hometown journalism.

"It's not just ink on paper," said writer and longtime resident Sharon Banks, a retired accountant and novelist. "This newspaper is our memory, our voice, and our legacy."

The community's efforts didn't stop at the keyboard. In just a few weeks, donations poured in — ranging from small checks tucked

into handwritten letters to significant contributions from local businesses and philanthropists. The newspaper's new home at 343 North Main Street will soon be buzzing with volunteers manning the news desk and answering emails and phone calls.

Advertising and subscriptions, once a source of decline, have turned into a point of pride. Local volunteers have hit the pavement, signing up new readers and reconnecting with businesses to fill pages with ads promoting everything from our local pharmacy, dental services, construction services, to church outreach efforts and the local Airbnbs.

"We're not just saving a newspaper," said Tika Harrison, a young parent and volunteer ad rep. "We're restoring a voice that has echoed through generations — a voice that knows our streets, our struggles, and our triumphs. This paper is more than print and pages; it's a living piece of our area's soul, and bringing it back means our children will grow up in a place that still knows how to honor its past while shaping its future."

The paper's revival is also attracting attention beyond Brownsville, with regional media and historians taking note of the town's commitment to local journalism at a time when many small papers are folding across the country.

see *TIMES* on page 2

Bryce Walters of Norm's Electric Clinches Second Consecutive IEC Wire-Off State Championship

by Staff Writer, Sharon Banks

BROWNSVILLE — In a display of technical mastery, speed, and precision, local electrical apprentice Bryce Walters has secured his second consecutive victory in Oregon's highly competitive IEC Wire-Off Competition, solidifying his reputation as one of the best in the trade.

Held annually by the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC), the Wire-Off is a prestigious showdown where top electrical apprentices from across the country face off in a timed challenge to complete complex wiring installations under the scrutiny of industry professionals. Walters, representing Norms Electric, a local Brownsville company, demonstrated exceptional skill and composure throughout the rigorous competition, ultimately outscoring his peers to take home the top prize.

"I'm incredibly honored," Walters said moments after his win. "The competition keeps getting tougher every year, so to come out on top again is both humbling and motivating. It's a testament to the amazing training and support I've received from my instructors and mentors."

The Wire-Off tests participants not only on speed but on their knowledge of the National Electrical Code, safety standards, and overall workmanship. Judges noted Walters's near-flawless execution and consistent professionalism as key factors in his repeat victory. The test consists of wiring a panel to control a motor, pipe bending skills and a residential productivity test.

see *BRYCE* on page 3



Bryce Walters displays his Wire-Off Trophy

How Much Do You Know About Sharing Hands?

by Debra Gruell, Executive Director of Sharing Hands



Did you know Sharing Hands has a NEW Food Bank located at 107 West Bishop Way? We are open on Wednesday and Friday 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. — built with Love and community support.

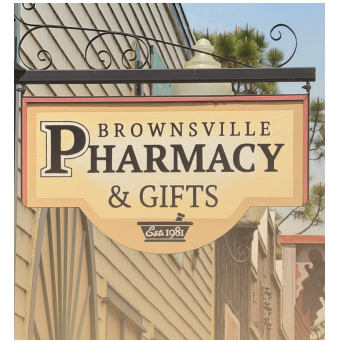
Did you know Sharing Hands became a 501(c)(3) in 1982?

Did you know we assists 250-300 families monthly with food? many in need of affordable housing — assistance with rent, car repairs, prescriptions, etc.

Did you know Sharing Hands receives no federal or state funding? The nonprofit relies entirely on local support, with 40% of its revenue from thrift store sales, 30% from grants, 15% from other income, and 10% from donations and contributions.

see *SHARING* on page 6

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CENTRAL LINN SENIOR CLASS
OF 2025 8-9

MAILING LABEL BELOW

\$2.00

SUMMER 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.
www.calapooiafoodalliance.org

JUNE

Halsey Citywide Garage Sale

Saturday, June 7, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Halsey Memorial Park and around town
Maps will be available 4 p.m. Friday, June 6 at the City website and Facebook page, Halsey City Hall, Shoppe of Shalom, Halsey Food Mart, and the Honey Hole Bar & Grill.

Halsey City Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 10, 7 p.m. • Halsey City Hall
Notice of Public hearing for proposed water and sewer rate increases. Discussion of proposed 2025-2026 budget.

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.”
www.pioneerpicnic.com

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 under 4x4x4' and less than 150 lbs (limit 2 per household max). Sweet Home Sanitation: 541-367-2535

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

JULY

Fourth of July Celebration & Fireworks

Friday, July 4 • Brownsville Pioneer Park
Food trucks open at 1, games from 4–7 p.m.

Rally on the River

Saturday, July 19, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
A vintage trailer rally along the Calapooia River open to the public on Saturday.
www.rallyontherivervintagetrailers.com

Brownsville Citywide Garage Sale

Saturday, July 19, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Explore approximately 50 yard sales throughout town. Gget your address on the map:
www.historicbrownsville.com/citywide-yard-sale

Stand By Me Day

Saturday, July 26
Celebrate the iconic film shot in Brownsville with a pie eating contests and activities throughout town.
Facebook: Stand By Me Day

AUGUST

Antique Faire & Car Show

Saturday, August 2, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Pioneer Park hosts antique vendors offering unique finds for collectors and enthusiasts.
www.historicbrownsville.com/antique-faire

Hands on History

Saturday, August 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Library Park
Engage in pioneer-era crafts and activities like blacksmithing, quilting, and cider pressing
linnmuseum.com

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
brownsvillechristianchurch.com
Sunday Services and Children’s Church 11 a.m.
Adult classes 10 a.m.

Brownsville Community Church

198 Washburn St • (541) 936-9131
hislifeinbrownsville.com

Brownsville Mennonite Church

34795 OR-228 • (541) 466-5622
First Baptist Church of Brownsville
27910 7 Mile Ln • (541) 642-3000
fbcbrownsvilleoregon.org
Sunday Services and Nursery 9 and 10:45 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

104 W Blakely Ave • (541) 367-2530
holyltrinitybrownsvilleor@gmail.com
Weekday Mass Wednesday Noon
Sunday Service 11:30 a.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

1111 North Main St • (541) 570-2903
Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Is Your Church Listed?

The Brownsville Times wants to keep our Worship Directory accurate and complete. If your place of worship is missing or your service times have changed, let us know!
Send updates to editor@brownsvilletimes.org



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - brownsville-times.org/contact
EDITORIAL GUIDELINES - brownsvilletimes.org/editorial-policy

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

458-266-0511 • brownsvilletimes.org

AMERICAN LEGION

Memorial Day in Brownsville

John Morrison

“Where have all the soldiers gone, long time passing? Gone to graveyards every one, long time ago.”

The words of the old song echoed in the heart; a somber melody carried on the spring breeze. It was a morning of quiet reflection, the kind that settles over our town as we gather to honor those who are no longer with us. The setting was the familiar hillside cemetery, the trees a vibrant green with new life, small American flags snapping softly, a sea of red, white, and blue against the backdrop of weathered stone.

One by one, they arrived. Cars and pickup trucks, many showing the dust of country roads, parked along the gravel lane. The doors opened and out stepped the heart of our community. Mostly elderly men, their faces etched with the stories of time, some moving with the aid of canes, but all sharing a common purpose. They came to remember.

They gathered near the center of the cemetery, around Norman Simms, the Post Commander of American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184. Norm is not a public speaker, but he addresses the small crowd with meaning, telling of the men he knew as friends and neighbors.

Then, the sound of taps, mournful and poignant, filled the air. The notes seemed to hang suspended, a timeless lament for the friends who rest here. Heads bowed, eyes closed, a few salutes, and in silence, memories stirred. Not of parades or speeches, but of shared laughter in familiar places, of youthful dreams, of friendships forged. For a fleeting moment, the years melted away, replaced by the vivid images of comrades, friends, and loved ones.

The ceremony was brief, simple, and deeply moving. As the last notes of taps faded, a sense of peace settled over the gathering. The men exchanged nods, a few words spoken softly, and then, slowly, they began to disperse. They walked back to their vehicles, the morning sun casting long shadows behind them, each lost in his own thoughts.

This year, that sense of loss feels particularly acute. Travis Moothart Post 184 has felt the absence of some of its finest, Brad Boles, Richard Gullberg, Michael Larsen, Fred Wellhauser, Fred Anderson, Ray Baughman, Steve Chambers, Phil McLane, Donny Nealon, and Martin Cross, answered their final roll call. These were not just names on a list; they were our neighbors, our friends. They served our nation when they were young, and after, they served our community for a long time passing.



TIMES

from page 1

From features on pioneer heritage to upcoming events at the recreation center gym, the newly revitalized Central Linn area newspaper is once again hitting mailboxes and newsstands — stronger, more diverse, and more community-driven than ever.

To subscribe, volunteer, or donate, visit brownsvilletimes.org.

BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

LEVEL UP @ YOUR LIBRARY

2025 Summer Reading Program

Your children are invited to join Brownsville Community Library’s Summer Reading Program — LEVEL UP @ YOUR LIBRARY. It’s free and open to children of all abilities.

We will kick it all off with Anne Louise at the Pioneer Picnic Saturday, June 21, beginning at 1:30 p.m. on the Main Stage. Anne Louise presents a joyful program of songs and stories to keep you chuckling, laughing, singing, and tapping those feet! And of course — finding your voice!! This program is sponsored by the Brownsville Women’s Study Club. The Library appreciates their dedication to our programs and the children in our community

Activities include a take-and-make Out and About Bingo activity for the first week of July. In Week 2, we welcome performer Kelli Welli! Kelli draws upon her unique upbringing to create songs that often defy categorization. Week 3 I-Spy with my little eye — what kind of game is this? In Week 4, we will have our Library Olympics! We will wrap it up with our 2nd Annual Stuffed Animal Library Sleepover! The 2025 Summer Reading Program is free and open to children of all abilities.

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

Closures
June 24–28, *Library Maintenance*
Friday, July 4, *Independence Day Holiday*

Library Summer Schedule

Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time
Fridays 11 a.m.–June 6, 13, 20 | July 11, 18, 25
August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Summer Reading Program Kick-off Performer
Anne Louise at Pioneer Picnic Main Stage,
Saturday, June 21, @ 1:30 p.m.

July 1–5	Take and Make ‘Out and About Bingo’
Thursday, July 10	Kelli Welli Performer
Thursday, July 17	I-Spy With My Little Eye
Thursday, July 24	Library Olympics
Thursday, July 31	2nd Annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover
August 1, 10–5 p.m.	Pick up your stuffed animal from the Library

Library manners are expected. No childcare provided.

All programs are free of charge. Join us each Thursday to pick up your weekly activity and stock up on books to read. For more information, call the Library at 541-466-5454 or visit our website: www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org or find us on Facebook @BVOR Library.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Nancy Diltz

As an avid and lifelong reader, I would like to highlight a variety of inspiring literary selections for our community. One recent discovery came from our own Brownsville Library! Each year around Valentine’s Day, Librarian Sherri Lemhouse creates “Blind Date With A Book” and “Mystery Book”. She chooses a variety of books and wraps them up as a ‘surprise’ for borrowers. On the plain pink paper covers, she provides the first sentence of each book to entice library patrons. In past years, Sherri hand-drew pictures on the paper cover as a hint to the books’ contents. “After doing a few hundred drawings, my hand grew tired, so now I print the first line of each book”, said Lemhouse. Either way, “Blind Date With A Book” and “Mystery Book” are a wonderfully entertaining way to try something new. My pick said, “It was Mrs. May who first told me about them.” Inside the wrapper, I was surprised to find a copy of *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton. I had never read it and found it delightful. A big Thank You to Sherri at The Brownsville Library for all she does.



SHERRI LEMHOUSE

Non-Fiction Review:

Calling all Willamette Valley hikers, walkers, explorers, and nature lovers. *52 Hikes in 52 Weeks* is a must-have resource. The table of contents is divided by hiking suggestions for each of the four seasons. From there, a chart is provided identifying each hike, the difficulty level, elevation, features, and more. The book is then filled with maps, photos, directions, and details, including a synopsis of what to expect, what you will see, trail conditions, (even available toilets and possible dangers) for each location. Challenge yourself to complete each hike in one year or, like me, choose one you think you would enjoy and get outdoors for a new experience in our neck of the woods. This book is presented by Hike Oregon/ Franziska Weinheimer (2023) and is available on www.hikeoregon.net

POEM SELECTION:

“The Eagle” by Alfred, Lord Tennyson
(6 August 1809 - 6 October 1892)

He clasps the crag with with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ring’s with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

Walters is due to graduate in December of this year after completing 3.5 years of school training and 8,000 hours of on-the-job training. He decided to pursue a career in the electrical field because he did not want a desk job. He wanted a job where he could work with his hands and use his intellect. He also praised the program because not only did he learn an excellent trade, but he also got paid while training and incurred no college debt!

Walters stated that the most valuable lessons he learned during his apprenticeship were: practice makes perfect; and persistence pays. He used

HALSEY LIBRARY

Check Out the “Lending Library”

The following items are now available to borrow from the Halsey Library, courtesy of the OSU Extension Service! Each item comes with instructions and information.

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

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Saturday, July 12	Kickof with Caesar the No Drama Lama
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. All programs start at 11 a.m. at the City Hall Community Center

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

FOR SALE

Slightly used Lunix Rechargeable Hand Massager, very seldom used, \$90 new, will sell for \$20. works great, just not what I needed. Jeff 541-657-8148

Fully functional electric Husky power washer. No longer need it. \$40, Call 206-552-1904

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

HALSEY CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE
Saturday, June 7, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information visit www.halseyor.gov

Vintage hand-made from kit 17' **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!

BRYCE
from page 1

“Bryce is the real deal,” said Rob Wingren. “To win once is impressive. To win twice in a row shows true dedication and a mastery of the craft.”

When asked about his mentors, Bryce pointed out that Rob Wingren was a huge help. “He jumped in to share his knowledge. He was patient and willing to help me learn about motor controls, even coming in on his day off.”

Walter’s back-to-back wins place him among a select group of elite electricians who have achieved repeat Wire-Off titles, a rare feat in the competition’s history.

every job to learn with intention and applied his skills in the competition. He said the hardest part of the apprenticeship was getting his first job. He put out hundreds of resumes before he was given a chance.

Looking ahead, Walters says he hopes to inspire younger apprentices and continue growing within the electrical industry. He hopes to eventually do work on the industrial side of the trade, where the work is even more advanced and has a “higher upward ceiling.”

HOMETOWN HEROES

Carl Frank Honored as American Legion Veteran of the Quarter

by Staff Writer, Sravya Tadepalli

When Halsey's own Lieutenant Commander Carl John Frank joined the U.S. Navy in 1952, he never guessed that he would be helping astronauts safely return to Earth at the advent of the Space Program. But through his role as a pilot in Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 4 (HS-4), Frank played a pivotal role in the U.S. space program. These accomplishments were honored when the American Legion Travis A. Moothart Post 184, which represents Brownsville, honored Carl as its Veteran of the Quarter on April 8.



Carl received a portrait painted by Sharon Banks of himself as a young Naval officer, with symbols of the Apollo missions in the background. Carl is pictured with his daughter and son-in-law Sue and Jim Baldwin and grandson Greg Billington

"I had a lot of nighttime and special instrument rating, and I had also been a water landings instructor in the aircraft," said Frank. "[The commanding officer] asked me if I would like to be the co-pilot on the recovery of Apollo 8, which was a no-brainer. It was going to be a night recovery — the only night recovery in the Apollo program."

The Apollo program was a U.S. spaceflight program launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1960 with the ultimate goal of getting an American astronaut to land on the moon. The program involved several missions to work toward that final goal, with Apollo 8 being the first crewed spacecraft to orbit the moon. Each mission required a highly technical recovery operation to retrieve astronauts from the ocean when they splashed down to earth upon return.

Frank co-led the rescue mission for Apollo 8 and took part in the recovery operations for Apollo 10, 11 (the first mission to land a man on the moon), and 12. During Apollo 13, he was the officer in charge of a detachment of four aircraft helicopters with crews and maintenance personnel on a different carrier.

"Carl was both fixed-wing and rotary-wing, plane and helicopter qualified, so that's quite an accomplishment in itself," said Jim Weger, a friend of Frank and fellow veteran and Legionnaire.

Frank's squadron trained for the Apollo 8 mission in the San Diego bay, working with a dummy capsule. When they arrived in the Southern Pacific Ocean for the nighttime rescue, they were doing something nobody had done before without many modern-day technologies, such as helicopter radar. They had to rely on the ship's radar to figure out where they were in relation to the capsule.

When Frank's squad saw the capsule, they chased it down, trying to keep it in sight in the middle of the darkness. When it landed, the three parachutes collapsed, filling with water and tipping the capsule upside down before the astronauts could jettison the parachutes. One of the astronauts became sick from being upside down and bouncing around. The astronauts deployed balloons to pull the capsule upright. After confirming that the astronauts were safe, HS-4 and a SEAL team waited until daylight to remove the astronauts from the capsule and onto the ship, where they were received as heroes.

"They moved a platform up to the aft section of the aircraft and opened the cargo door, and the astronauts stepped out as if nothing had happened," Frank chuckled. "That was the picture taken from there on."

Frank's role in the Navy gave him a front row seat to other significant events in American history. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, he participated in the Naval Quarantine of Cuba, an action aimed at preventing further Soviet shipments of offensive weapons to Cuba, as President Kennedy demanded the removal of existing missiles. It was a tense time, he said, as a lot was at stake and nobody knew what was going to happen until the Soviet Union and the United States made a deal.

Frank's time in the Navy was also filled with humorous moments. While taking the USS Essex on a goodwill cruise through the North Atlantic, they traveled down the Elbe River to Hamburg, Germany. Germans appeared in droves, eager to see an American aircraft carrier. Enlisted sailors offered tours of the ship, doing "pointy talky type of things" since they didn't know German.

"We had some of the people on the tours who would just break off and decide they wanted to see something else, and they would wander through the living spaces and the shower areas," Frank said. "All of a sudden, these German people would come walking through, and guys are coming out of the shower."

Frank moved to Halsey after his wife, Charlotte, passed away. He was looking to move closer to his daughter and son-in-law, who own the J&S Supply in Brownsville. He likes it because it is similar to where he grew up, a poultry farm in New York State.

Frank is a modest man, with badges and medals he has received hidden in a home office. But his home is full of photographs of his family. Even more than his military career, Frank is proud of his four children, 14 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren (he has two more great-grandchildren on the way). He recently celebrated his 90th birthday in San Diego with his sister, who just turned 93, along with a loving crowd of their family.

Frank is heavily involved in his community and is particularly passionate about supporting veterans. He volunteers as Sergeant at Arms with the American Legion and participates in multiple committees. He previously volunteered for Meals on Wheels. He also helps coordinate fishing trips for veterans at the Oregon Veterans' Home in Lebanon.

"We're able to talk to them and it gets them out in the fresh air away from the home and gives them a break," said Frank. "Sometimes we don't catch anything, but it doesn't make any difference."

Jim Weger and Sharon Banks worked together to organize Frank's award ceremony on April 8, with Banks gathering information about Frank's background and contacting his daughter, making sure she and the rest of the family would be there. When Frank's family walked through the door, he stared at them dumbfounded before walking over to his daughter. His daughter im-

mediately avoided him and went into another room.

Frank started to suspect something was up, but when he received the award, he was still surprised. Banks gifted Frank with a painting she did of Frank as a young man in the Navy, surrounded by symbols of his accomplishments over the years. Frank told Jim Weger that he intended to get even with him.

"I said 'well, it's worth it, Carl,'" said Weger. "'You needed to be honored.' He's just a wonderful guy, but I'll deny it if you tell him that."

RETIREMENT

Beloved Brownsville Postal Worker Retires After 30 Years of Service

by Staff Writer, Sharon Banks

After three decades of dedicated service, Carla Pearce is bidding farewell to the Brownsville Post Office and stepping into a well-deserved retirement.

Pearce, a familiar and friendly face to countless residents, started her career at the post office in 1995 when her son was just five years old.

Deanna Wilson, a former postmistress, offered her a job as a rural carrier, which she accepted. She later became a postal clerk.

She faced a few challenges over the years. During the floods of 1995 and 1996, she was a rural carrier. She remembers how difficult it was to deliver the mail. "The Calapooya River was over its banks and people were paddling kayaks in the Dari Mart parking lot." Other times when the power was out, the postal employees wore headlamps to sort the mail. "It was really cold in there," she said.

Over the years, she worked in every facet of the local post office, from sorting and delivering mail to managing the front counter, always greeting customers with her warm smile and helpful attitude.

When Carla first became a clerk, everything was done manually. Every piece of mail had to be physically touched and sorted. "It was a big job," according to Carla. She credits local resident Charlotte Bates for giving her the best training she could imagine. "She taught me everything and helped me learn efficiency practices and teamwork."

"Carla was the heart of this place," said fellow employee Felipe Eversull. "She knew everyone by name and made each person feel important. It's hard to imagine the post office without her."

Throughout her career, Pearce witnessed many changes, from the introduction of automated sorting systems to the evolution of digital communication. Still, her commitment to personal service never wavered. "In the early days, before online shopping, we just had a few packages, mostly at Christmas. Then when people started ordering goods on the internet, we were overwhelmed with packages." Luckily Amazon delivers some of their own shipments now.

see CARLA on page 6



Carla Pearce at the Post Office

Ware There's a Will, There's a Way: Don Ware's Lifelong Commitment to Community

by Lauren Sinz

While some people who live in a small town often can't wait to move out, Don Ware couldn't wait to move in. Although he spent most of his life outside of Brownsville, for 35 years he's called this town home. You may know him from when he was the Publisher/Editor of *The Times*, from his 19 years on the city council, or even during the 16 years he was the mayor, but no matter how you know him, you know that he's made a positive impact in the lives of many in this town that he loves so much. Don's life has been devoted to family and dedicated to service and community.

As a boy living on his family's sheep ranch, Don didn't get into town often. Helping his dad at the ranch absorbed

his young life. "A farm is a good place to grow up; you learn a whole lot." A week after graduating from college, Don went into the Army. "The first day, our drill sergeant wanted to size us up and let us know who the boss was." His sergeant asked who went to high school and college, but when he asked who graduated from college, Don said, "I was one of only about 10 who raised their hand. Then the sergeant said, 'Ok, you guys... kitchen duty! You'll learn what work is!' I learned never to volunteer information about yourself from that!"

After the Army in Korea, Don went back to college and got his master's degree in history. Don likes American history and is an avid reader. He volunteers at the library and still loves reading about history. He tells everyone, "If the library had more history books, I would read them!"

Don's passion was equally as strong in his personal life. He met his wife, Wannell, on a blind date. "She had red hair, was about five feet tall, and was wearing a yellow outfit and a yellow bandana. The yellow against the red hair made an impression on me." He knew then she was the one. "We met in October and were married in January." Now, 60 years later, "We still like each other. My roommate set up that blind date, and he lost his roommate... fast!"

Although Don and Wannell had two children of their own, they had more love to give. They adopted three Asian children through Holt International Children's Services. They also sponsored a family fleeing South Vietnam after the commu-



Don volunteering on the traffic committee at Carriage Me Back to 1909.

nist takeover in the 1970s, allowing them to come to the United States to start new lives. The baby of that family grew up and is now an NBC investigative journalist, Vicky Nguyen.

Don's appreciation of what it means to help others was fostered by his work experience. He spent 20 years working for the State of Oregon, assisting disabled people with social security benefits. "Many were loggers who had been injured on the job." Helping them "felt really good." He worked as a rehab counselor plus managed the staff doing the rehab counselling. Later, after moving to Brownsville, he became the director of Holt International Children's Services.

Working for the State for 20 years in Bend, Salem, Canby, and Eugene, he had had enough of the

big cities. When he came to Brownsville to watch the July 4th fireworks, his own fireworks went off. He and Wannell wanted to live here the rest of their lives, and today he's glad they are. While he was mayor, the residential communities grew, but the downtown area of Brownsville stayed the same. "I think what keeps this town looking good is that the buildings downtown are filled with small businesses. It's what keeps it Brownsville. I like to make sure I shop here."

Every year, Don still gets together with his siblings in Roseburg, where they grew up. Family means a lot to Don. One of Don and Wannell's adopted daughters lives with them now with her twins. Don is proud of them, especially his grandson, who shares his name and is now a track star at the high school.

You'll find Don walking around town every day, rain or shine. "I believe in community service. I volunteer at Sharing Hands, the thrift shop mainly, and the library." Don's current passion is the Central Linn Community Foundation, which he helped found 25 years ago. Sharing Hands, Brownsville Senior Center, Quilts of Valor, the youth sports programs at the Linn County Rec Center, and the local elementary schools are just a few of the places that have benefited from Don's huge and giving heart (and hard work) through the foundation.

Don loves Brownsville, its people, his family, and being of service. While Don Ware is always on the move, one place he will never move from is Brownsville.

Who was Joni Nelson?

by Linda McCormick

And why was it a shock to all when she passed away in January?

If you have been in Brownsville to enjoy Carriage Me Back or Hands on History, you participated in something that was Joni's passion. She volunteered at the Linn County Historical Museum for many years, and she loved history. She had a



Joni's 80th birthday celebration

special way of sharing it with others. All of the events she was involved with needed volunteers, and Joni was good at inspiring people and magically making them feel like they wanted to participate. She was skilled at making people feel good about themselves. She was very empowering, just like a leader needs to be. Among other things, she was also a lead worker during



Joni at the Moyer House in 2007.

the renovation process of the Moyer House when the museum changed it back to its original look. Besides being a long-time member of the Brownsville Women's Study Club, she found a way to be there for almost every other event in town. Her name is even inscribed inside the Information Booth in Pioneer Park from when she was in charge of running it during the Linn County Pioneer Picnic.

Joni loved camping and hiking. She married young, and she and her first hus-

band loved to surf. They moved to Hawaii for a year of college when she was 19 years old. While there, they hung out on the beach with a group of young men who eventually made history as the first famous surfers of our time. The local surfing club decided to have an official surf contest that would go down in the record books. The Makaha International Surfing Championship in 1954 was also the first-time women were allowed to participate in a competition, but they could only ride tandem on a man's shoulder. Joni paired up with Walter Hoffman, and they won first place. Hence, Joni Nelson was the first champion female surfer! She did not go on to compete after that, but her partner did, and his family owns Hoffman California Fabrics, who made surfing fabric a fad for everyone to wear, including Tom Selleck in *Magnum P.I.*



Joni and Walter Hoffman at the Makaha International Surfing Championship in 1954

Joni left a positive mark on everyone she knew. She opened her home to any and all for holiday meals and summer gatherings. She had a group that met almost daily for coffee and conversation. At 90 years old, Joni was seen riding her bike through town on the morning of her death. At the memorial service, one of her friends said, "She was our warm blanket when we needed it and always the gregarious glue that connected so many of us to each other and to our very special community". No one can replace her, but we can all strive to be like her. She left a mark, and it cannot be erased.

How Wild is Your Favorite Outdoor Place?

by Staff Writer, Tom McGinnis

If you could beam yourself to your favorite wild place right now, where would you go? Not to live, but to visit. Would you go to the most magnificent granite cliffs, towering waterfalls, and glacially carved lakes? Would you hear palm trees rustling on a warm ocean breeze? Go there in your mind. What do you hear? The hum of bees gathering nectar and pollen? Seagulls squawking? Do you smell the sweet vanilla of sun-warmed pine bark and resinous pine needles? Or is it the scent of a million gorgeous blooms?

For Mellouise Curry, 75, that place is a mountain lake in the spectacular eastern Sierras near Bishop, California. Curry moved to Brownsville in 2023 from the northern Sierras to be near her son, Matt, 43, of Holley, after her husband, Mike, passed away. “My dad took me to the eastern Sierras when I was nine years old. We went back every summer.” She and Mike considered retiring in Bishop, where they volunteered annually at Mule Days, and always followed up the hustle and bustle of the festival crowds with a fishing trip to secluded Heart Lake. Having moved several times with her park ranger husband, she chose Brownsville because it reminded her of her small childhood hometown.

Will Rodenhuis, 61, owner of Genesis Lawn Care in Brownsville, is a 19-year resident of Linn County. His favorite wild place is an ancient redwood grove in Northern California. His parents first took him there when he was five years old. Rodenhuis gained a deeper appreciation for the place as an adult when he returned in 2005. There is so much to love about the habitat of

the world’s tallest trees. Its deep litter and thick fibrous bark dampen sounds, and the spongy duff cushions every step. The cool, misty air, enhanced by the unique scent of the redwood forest, feels wonderful to inhale. It was a favorite place for the Rodenhuis’ to bring their five kids. Now that the kids are grown, the couple still goes back about every year. Their oldest son has introduced his own daughter to this majestic natural wonder as well, possibly passing on a favorite wild place.

Louis Garber, 66, a familiar face at Carlson’s Hardware, Lumber and Building, has lived more than half his life in Peoria. Growing up in Ohio, he came out west to ski in Jackson Hole. His landlady was from Eugene and convinced him he needed to go farther west, to the Willamette Valley. When he got here, he recognized the green of the Midwest but was amazed to be within an easy drive to either the ocean or the mountains. One of the first wild places he fell in love with was Netarts Bay, on the Tillamook coast, when he was 20, but mostly he just appreciates living in the west.

Brownsville librarian, Sherri Lemhouse, who jokes that she’s 25 with decades of experience, looks no further than her own acreage along the Calapooia River for her favorite wild place. Having raised three kids there with her husband, she’s content to hang out in her “blueberry palace” and observe the natural processes, like when the blackberries and willows filter debris from the river. As a child, her father worked for a major pulp and paper company, and they moved about every three years. Now she’s happy to stay put in the wild place that’s her yard.

Now imagine you hear a trickling stream. The



Sherri Lemhouse's Blueberry Palace

morning air is still cool as mist rises from tall grass and lupines. Cottonwood and maple leaves are lightly flitting. Suddenly there is rapid metallic banging to your right and when you reflexively turn your head, you see it’s a small woodpecker with a brilliant red head, drumming its bill on an aluminum farm gate fifteen feet away. This bird is not confused, he’s found the perfect substrate to entice females with his sexy music, while announcing to other males to stay clear. Whether this scene is in your yard, down the street, or a short drive away, it’s important for your well-being to immerse yourself in nature.

If you’re not sure where to find it, try the pretty



Mellouise Curry on a flyfishing trip in the Eastern Sierras.

second growth Douglas-fir forest at Shotgun Creek, in the Mohawk Valley, or Alsea Falls, in the Coast Range. These sites, managed by the BLM, are peaceful parks with well-maintained hiking trails. Alsea Falls is a bit more rugged but has the cascading falls as a destination for an impressive family portrait. The Shotgun Creek Recreation Site is not as grand, but the Mohawk Valley is so peaceful and it’s closer to Brownsville. It has a paved accessible trail by the creek, shady private picnic sites, and two large group picnic shelters with horseshoe pits and a volleyball court. Both parks have a \$5 day use fee, or if you stop in at the Forest Service’s Sweet Home Ranger District office, you can get an “America the Beautiful Pass” for admission to these and thousands of other fee sites.

Alternatively, you may choose to go to McDowell Creek Falls, a free Linn County Park with interesting trails that loop by several plunging waterfalls and a creek. Located in a late successional rainforest, its large trees are draped in long strands of lichen and clothed in thick moss. Or go a little farther to Silver Falls State Park, the most spectacular waterfall park in Oregon. You can check out a State Park pass at the Brownsville Library or purchase one at the automated kiosk at the park.

America the Beautiful Pass

This pass will get you into Federal Government sites with day use fees, such as National Parks, other BLM sites like Yaquina Head, and National Forest trailheads that otherwise require a Northwest Forest Pass.

These passes are free to families of fourth graders, Gold Star families, active-duty service members, and those with permanent disabilities. Lifetime passes cost \$80 for people 62 and older. If you get one of these passes, you might just find yourself in your favorite wild place, or at least a close approximation. And maybe, if you bring a young person, they will discover their own favorite place to connect with nature.

SHARING

from page 1

Did you know the Sharing Hands Thrift Store has “Half Price Tuesday” and other specials every day? The thrift store is open Tuesday–Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. except national holidays.

Did you know Sharing Hands also has other AMAZING programs to help the community? Parents and Pals features story time at the library followed by playtime at the rec center while parents share tips on parenting. Pack Snack provides weekend food for students in need.

Did you know Sharing Hands has raised-bed gardens that supply fresh produce to local families? We’re also supported by generous local farmers and the Calapooia Food Alliance.

Did you know Sharing Hands hosts a Christmas Greeters event each year, providing toys, gifts, and holiday meals for hundreds of families?

Did you know our 10 dedicated board members volunteer their time to keep Sharing Hands thriving? Thank you, board!

Did you know we’re powered by dozens of truly amazing volunteers — and we always have room for more?

Did you know we host several annual fundraisers? Our events include a chili cook-off and dessert auction, the Sip & Support wine dinner, and — new this year — hot dog and hamburger sales at the Antique Faire.

Did you know the Thrift Store accepts donations only during store hours? All items must be checked by a staff member. A list of unacceptable donations is posted on our exterior signage.

To everyone who continues to support Sharing Hands and our mission to serve the community—thank you!



CARLA

from page 4

During her 30-year tenure she witnessed some crazy packages. She recalled the time someone shipped a bottle of Kimchee and of course it broke. It smelled really bad. The workers are not allowed to dispose of any mail, so it ended up on the back dock until the rightful owner was contacted to pick it up! Another crazy package was whole coconuts from Hawaii with no box — only a label and postage attached. Then there was a company in Brownsville that shipped car bumpers. “They barely met the size and weight limitations,” according to Carla.

When I interviewed her, she wanted me to tell you how much she loved serving you and how much she appreciated our community. She said, “We have done life together.” Even though we were on the phone, I could sense a little tear welling up.

In retirement, Pearce plans to travel, spend more time with her three grandchildren, and finally take up gardening — a hobby she’s always wanted to pursue. Carla and her husband Troy plan on making use of their new travel trailer, enjoying camping, fishing and trips to the dunes, especially their favorite spot, Riley Ranch.

Brownsville residents will surely miss seeing her behind the counter, but Carla Pearce’s legacy of kindness and commitment will be felt for many years to come.

TAKING ROOT

June in the Garden

by Staff Writer, Donald Lyon

Welcome to Taking Root, the weekly gardening column for mid-Wilamette Valley gardeners. June is a busy time in the garden as soil temperatures have reached the point where it is now prime time to plant warm-weather crops. Hopefully, you are still enjoying your cool-weather crops like snow peas, spinach, broccoli, lettuce, etc. June is the time to plant green beans, carrots, beets, turnips, chard, leaf lettuce, mesclun, and such. My first plantings of beans are bush varieties, which don't need a trellis. Once the snow peas stop producing, I'll pull out the vines and plant pole beans on the same trellis. Don't get all carried away with the planting and germinate all your seeds at once. Pace yourself. If you are growing vegetables just for your family, then plant a small amount of each crop every two weeks. This is called succession planting, and it ensures that you will have tasty vegetables picked at their peak over a longer period. This is particularly important for fast-maturing crops like lettuce and other salad greens, which will go to seed if not harvested early. Lettuce and most salad greens need extra care during the heat of summer. So if possible, in the summer months, plant these crops in the shade of other taller crops or even in a part-sun, part-shade location. Another tip for keeping plants from bolting is to add mulch around the young plants to keep the soil cooler. Mulch helps retain moisture, too. Mulch could be in the form of straw, grass clippings (as long as you don't use weed killer on your lawn), composted leaves that you gathered at Pioneer Park last fall, or bands of fresh compost from the bottom of your compost bin.

How are your tomatoes doing? Tomatoes and their kin are semi-tropical fruits that have adapted to our temperate climate, but they do require some cool-climate consideration. In particular, they demand soil with temperatures of at least 60°F. If you have not planted tomatoes yet, there is still time if you can still find healthy young plants that are not too root-bound. Look for fast-maturing varieties like cherry tomatoes, Early Girl, and other varieties that mature in 55 to 60 days. Some of my favorite heirloom varieties take 85 days to mature, so if these are the ones you crave, plant a few early maturing varieties to tide you over until the end of August when the Brandywines mature. If you have already put in tomato plants in May, then keep an eye peeled for tomato cutworms — like green caterpillars that love to snuggle up around the base of a plant and chew all the way around it — timber!



Garden in June filled with vegetable transplants from the Greenhouse.

Root-bound plants: Vegetable starts will often be root-bound at this time of year. When you turn them over and slide the plant from the container, the roots may be wadded up at the bottom of the plant and even growing through the bottom of the container. Snip those off and break up the concentration of roots with a few slices down the side. This will encourage the plant to grow new roots outward.

Planting tomatoes: Assuming you have bought a leggy specimen, pinch off the lower leaves right on up to the top five inches and dig a trench rather than a hole straight down. Work some fertilizer into the soil and lay the plant in the trench covering it up with soil and leaving the leafy top exposed. Give it a good drink. New roots will develop from where you pinched off the leaves.

Some June maintenance tips: Avoid working around plants when they are wet — this spreads disease from one plant to the next. Spread straw under developing fruit such as cucumbers, squash and melons. If the fruit is touching the earth, you are inviting grubs, slugs, and other freeloaders to dine on your dime. Onions, garlic, and leeks — apply nitrogen fertilizer now.

Much of the information for this column comes from one of my favorite gardening books, *Week-by-Week Vegetable Gardener's Handbook* by Rod and Jennifer Kujawski. Gardening questions? Ask a Master Gardener, phototraveler02@gmail.com

Brownsville Farmer's Market and Community Garden — Master Gardener Presence

By Daniel R. Murphy, Certified Master Gardener

The Brownsville Farmer's Market returned to town on May 1. It is located in front of the community garden on Main Street across the street from DariMarket.

Both the Farmer's Market and the Community Garden are operated by the Calapooia Food Alliance (CFA) a nonprofit corporation. The operations manager for both the garden and the market this year will be Melissa Selby who is a Master Gardener and has extensive experience in horticulture. You can learn more about the other programs that the CFA sponsors at www.calapooiafoodalliance.org, including the Munch Night education programs.

The Linn County Master Gardener Association will maintain a table at the Thursday market in Brownsville. You can get your many gardening questions answered there. We will also have themes for some market days to provide additional education. Visit us at www.linnmastergardeners.com.



TABLE TALK — DINING IN AND AROUND BROWNSVILLE

The Honey Hole Bar & Grill

by Staff Writer, Jeff Brown

Located at 10 West 1st Street in Halsey, The Honey Hole Bar & Grill has become a great addition to our weekly dining routine. After hearing positive reviews from friends, my wife and I decided to check it out.

Upon entering, we found a clean and inviting atmosphere. The well-lit space felt cozy, and the mix of music from the jukebox created a friendly backdrop for our meal.

One of the advantages of The Honey Hole is its varied seating options — you can choose to dine indoors or enjoy the sun on the outdoor patio. We opted for a table inside, where the lively atmosphere added to the evening.

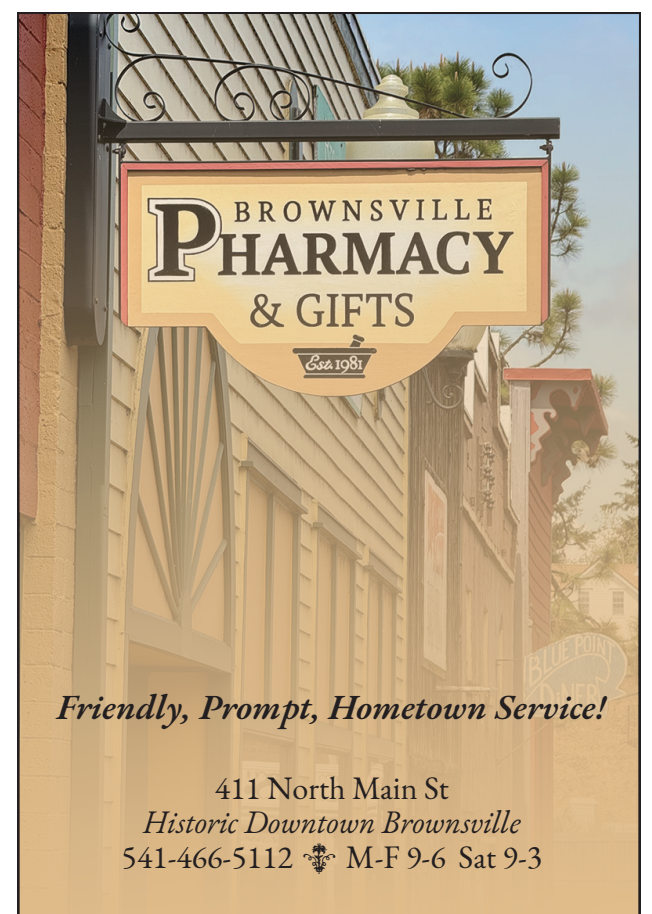
The service we received was attentive and friendly. Our waitress, Bonnie, was welcoming and efficient, making sure our dining experience went smoothly. She was knowledgeable about the menu and offered helpful recommendations, showing her enthusiasm for the food.

As for the food, it was satisfying and well-prepared by cook Daniel. The menu offers a range of options that cater to different tastes, making it easy for us to find dishes we enjoyed.



The quality ingredients and careful preparation are evident and contribute to The Honey Hole's popularity.

Overall, our first visit to The Honey Hole Bar & Grill was enjoyable. With its clean atmosphere, good music, friendly service, and tasty food, it's a solid choice for anyone looking for a relaxed dining experience. We recommend stopping by, whether you're a local or just passing through Halsey. We plan to add this restaurant to our regular rotation and look forward to returning to try more from the menu.

*Friendly, Prompt, Hometown Service!*

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Lucas Adams



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Joselyn Chanes Zapien



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Kendra Glaser



Alyssa Greeno



Emmie Helget



Ava Helms



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Luka Hoerauf



Madelyn Howard



Olivia Howard



Evelyn Jenkins



Kamden Lafayette



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Brennen Lathrom



Benito Manuel Jeronimo



Carter Mast



Daphney McGarry



Aiden McMurry



Peytyn Miller



Joselyn Morales Garcia



Trevon Nofziger



Daine Offut



Audrie Pieske



Coen Schneider



Case Schulte



Miranda Sloan



Jennifer Smith



Beau Snyder



Thomas Thornton

CENTRAL LINN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Big Dipper

*As I step outside and take in the darkness of the night,
a million small eyes staring down at me.*

*And then I hear the sound of the ocean breeze.
As a million small stars take my breath away.*

*The cold air brushes against my face.
Crash, Boom, Crash, Boom, over and over the waves go.*

*I put my hand in the air, I squint my eyes,
and there I see, the Big Dipper right in front of me.*
— by Amelia Neal



5th grade poet,
Amelia Neal

Principal Joel Sauter was thrilled to recognize one of our outstanding students at last week's CLES assembly — Amelia, a talented 5th grader who has accomplished something truly remarkable!

Inspired by their recent poetry unit, Amelia submitted her poem, "The Big Dipper," to the Young American Poetry contest. Her piece was selected as a top contender and will be published in an upcoming poetry collection!

What an incredible achievement for such a young writer!

Central Linn Launches Virtual Online Academy this Fall

Central Linn School District is excited to introduce a new learning option: the Central Linn Online Academy, launching this fall!

Designed for families seeking flexibility, personalized support, and the convenience of learning from home, this virtual program is open for registration starting June 16.

To enroll, visit www.centrallinn.k12.or.us/online-academy and select Central Linn Online Academy during the registration process. A staff member will follow up to help finalize your enrollment.

Note: The registration system will be offline for maintenance July 1–15.

Questions? Contact Kellen Hobie at kellen.hobie@centrallinn.k12.or.us.

Pioneer Picnic Student Art Show

The Linn County Pioneer Association and The Frame House

Calling all student artists! The Linn County Pioneer Association invites elementary, middle, and high school students to enter the 2nd Annual Student Art Show during Brownsville's 138th Pioneer Picnic.

This year's theme is "Pioneer Logging Camps" — though any work inspired by Linn County pioneer history is welcome. Entries may include painting, photography, drawing, mixed media, or sculpture.

Art will be judged by impartial local artists, with awards for the top three in each age group, plus two special awards: People's Choice and LCPA Choice. Prizes are sponsored by The Frame House and the LCPA.

Artwork drop-off at the Log Cabin in Pioneer Park:

- Wednesday, June 19, 5:30–7 p.m.
- Thursday, June 20, 8–10 a.m.

Judging wraps up June 20, with public viewing and voting June 20–22 in the Log Cabin. Pick up your artwork on Sunday, June 22, between 3:30–4 p.m. Unclaimed pieces will be held for 30 days at the Picture Gallery downtown.

All entries must include a label with the student's name, parent/guardian's name, grade, title, medium, and a contact phone number. While every effort will be made to protect submissions, LCPA is not responsible for lost or damaged work.

Need help with supplies or printing? Contact Al Severson at 541-974-5616 or Debie Wyne at 541-602-0945.

Centrall Linn Elementary School PTC Rummage Sale June 7

The Central Linn Elementary School Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) will be holding a rummage sale in the lobby of the school during the Halsey citywide Garage Sale on Saturday, June 7, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

All proceeds go towards next year's classroom funds. Contact Dora Wyne at 541-405-9100 if you have donations for the sale or would like to volunteer during the sale.

Local Legion Post Sees Bright Future at Scholarship Night

By John Morrison

Well now, the monthly meeting of our local American Legion Post 184 down at the hall on Main Street this past Tuesday was a bit of a departure from our usual get-together. Usually, you can find about a dozen of us veterans — give or take a couple, depending on the weather or if Norm Simms, our Commander, is telling particularly long jokes — settling in around 7 o'clock sharp. We always start things off proper with the colors, the Pledge, a prayer, a moment for our missing in action, and a little reminder of what the American Legion stands for by reciting our preamble. Some folks might think it's a tad formal, but it sure does bring you back to those days when an oath meant something, and even though we're out of uniform, that promise to our country sticks with us, especially the part about helping each other out.

After that, it's usually down to brass tacks: roll call, the minutes (which sometimes feel like they're written in another language!), what we've been up to, what's coming down the pike, and of course, the all-important financial report. Seems the Post has stumbled into a bit of a windfall lately, and you know how military folks are — gotta figure out how to spend it! Naturally, it'll all go to defense... defending against that leaky roof and the chill that creeps in during winter, that is.

But this past Tuesday? Well, the usual suspects were there, but the room was buzzing with a different kind of energy. Seems we had a whole passel of bright-eyed youngsters from Central Linn High School filling the hall. Seven sharp young men and women, all finalists for our Post's \$2,500 Travis Moothart Memorial Scholarship.



L to R: Kendra Glaser, Emmie Lou Helget, Emily R Beach, Joselyn Morales Garcia, Coen Schneider, and Madelyn and Olivia Howard.

Now, our scholarship committee had already done their homework, poring over grades, club involvement, and all that jazz. But this was the night for these impressive young folks to tell us a bit about themselves, where they're hoping to go to college, and what they plan to study. And let me tell you, these kids were something else! Several were even talking about their life goals! Honestly, the thought of a "life goal" never even crossed my teenage mind — I was mostly focused on making it to Friday night.

The whole room was just beaming with pride. Every one of those candidates — Kendra Glasser, Coen Schneider, Emmie Lou Helget, Joselyn Morales Garcia, Emily Beach, Madelyn Howard, and Olivia Howard — was sharp as a tack, spoke like they'd been giving speeches their whole lives, and had enough get-up-and-go to power the whole town. You could tell our scholarship folks were going to have a real tough time picking just one.

One fella in the audience even quipped that if these young people were any indication of the kind of education Central Linn was providing, then he was all for it! Another rightly suggested that the parents give themselves a good pat on the back. We even had David Karo, the school board chair and a Navy vet himself, pop in to brag a little about Central Linn's skyrocketing test scores — something like a huge jump in English, math, and science!

All in all, it was an uplifting evening, seeing such bright young folks ready to take on the world. If you missed it, you missed a good one. Maybe we'll see you down at the Legion Hall for our next meeting in June. You never know what interesting folks might walk through the door!

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.

May 31

1:51 a.m. — 911 hang up call reported at block of 31900 C St., Shedd. Deputies respond to 911 hang up and check area. No signs of emergency or distress observed.

9:59 a.m. — Animal complaint reported at block of 33800 Powell Hills Loop, Shedd. Injured deer dispatched by deputy.

11:40 a.m. — Report Pending. Original Call Type: Domestic disturbance reported at block of 27800 Seven Mile Ln., Brownsville. Traci Fruits, 40, of Brownsville was arrested for her outstanding warrants.

1:39 p.m. — Civil dispute report reported at block of 800 W 5th St., Halsey. Caller wanted it documented his brother is mean.

5:57 p.m. — Trespass reported at block of 32900 Seefeld Dr., Halsey. Suspicious vehicle drove laps around a barn. Info documented and extra patrols will be conducted as time allows.

8:26 p.m. — Suspicious person reported at block of 28700 Hwy 99E and Linn West Dr., Halsey. Male reported a suspicious person walking on Hwy 99E. Deputy checked the area but was unable to locate anyone on foot.

9:17 p.m. — Traffic stop reported at block of 29800 Hwy 99E and F St., Shedd. Female issued a warning for a lighting violation on Hwy 99E near F St, Shedd.

June 1

1:22 a.m. — Extra patrol reported at block of 100 Spaulding Ave., Brownsville. Vandalism prevention patrol. Deputy located a bathroom light on in a local public restroom.

3:07 a.m. — Extra patrol reported at block of 33400 Eagle Rd., Tangent. Extra patrol of the Tangent Industrial Park. Nothing suspicious observed.

7:12 a.m. — Suspicious vehicle Reported at Block of 24700 Brush Creek Rd.

8:01 a.m. — Juvenile complaint reported at Block of 35400 Washburn Heights Dr., Brownsville

9:15 a.m. — Mental health reported at Block of 39600 Hwy 228. Individual working through mental health issues in their own way. Nothing criminal to report.

9:39 a.m. — Suspicious circumstance reported at Block of 33100 Hwy 228, Halsey. Deputy contacted individual with car trouble.

9:55 a.m. — Traffic stop reported at Block of 37500 Hwy 228, Brownsville. Warning for speed and equipment.

12:54 p.m. — Extra patrol re-

ported at Block of 200 Pioneer Park Rd., Brownsville. Citizen reported bad driving behavior in the area. Responding officer contacted a group of individuals and was able to gain verbal compliance and convince the group to make better decisions when utilizing city property.

3:25 p.m. — Traffic hazard reported at block of 23400 Brush Creek Rd., Deputy responded to report of traffic hazard.

4:43 p.m. — Civil dispute report reported at Block of 27800 Seven Mile Ln., Brownsville. Parents fighting over custody of a child. Parents were given the proper course to resolve the matter civilly. Non criminal.

5:40 p.m. — Motorist assist reported at block of 27900 Hwy 99E Halsey, Deputy contacted motorists to see if they needed assistance.

10:13 p.m. — Disturbance reported At block of 31800 Begonia Ln., Tangent. Deputies respond to a disturbance, parties were separated.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Halsey City Council Highlights

by Editor, Mikayle Stole

The Halsey City Council met May 13 in a hybrid format with most members present. The Council approved minutes from past meetings and financial reports for March.

Citizen Aria Fagan, a local kindergartener, advocated for bee preservation. Sgt. Frambes of the Linn County Sheriff's Office reported on local arrests, a stolen vehicle, and data from the East 1st Street speed trailer.

City Administrator Briana Parra updated the Council on several fronts: Phase I of well construction is complete, state funding requests for the well project are underway, and the park project is accepting informal bids. The City also launched a canned food drive for Sharing Hands.

Council approved \$500 donations to Sharing Hands and the Meals on Wheels program. Councilor Jerry Gillson announced his resignation, effective at the end of May.

Librarian Kaitlyn Watts reported April programming and plans for the "Level Up" Summer Reading Program. April library visits averaged 6.1 patrons per day.

Mayor Lachenbruch shared updates on rural health, domestic abuse prevention, and public outreach on the Central Linn School Bond.

Council also advanced new City logo options "A," "D," and "E" for public input in July and passed resolutions recognizing grant funds and declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Complete Minutes: <https://www.halseyor.gov/government/meetings.php>

ROAD WORK ALERT

Paving: Halsey to Lane County Line

Oregon Department of Transportation

ODOT is paving a 12.5 miles section southbound on I-5 to give you a smoother ride (Milepost 203.6 to 216.1). Here's what you can expect: Crews working mostly at night, Sunday through Thursday from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., Some daytime work as needed. Single lane closures between 7 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. Construction noise and delays. Occasional Saturday night bridge work. A reduced speed limit to 55 mph in the work zone. No lane changes allowed where there are double white lines. Motorcyclists should use extra caution when driving through the area.

Expect a temporary two-inch abrupt edge between lanes in the work zone. Slow down and use caution — the abrupt edge could be difficult to drive over safely, especially for motorcyclists. This is one of the reasons that lane changes are not allowed where there are double white lines painted on the road.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Brownsville Council Highlights Library Use, Field Sharing, and Neighborhood Maintenance

by Sravya Tadepalli

At the May 28 Brownsville City Council meeting, city librarian Sherri Lemhouse announced that the library had cultural passes available for checkout from the library. Cultural passes are available for the Gilbert Museum, the Oregon Gardens, State of Oregon Parks, and other sites, allowing carriers to access these sites free of charge. In the Council Packet, the Brownsville Public Library reported 7,435 visits so far from July 2024 through the end of April, with 14,652 books checked out.

Tammi Morrow, administrative assistant for finance, said that the city has started conducting inspections for weeds, which property owners must keep under 12 inches between June 1 and September 30. Morrow said that staff tries to give grace and time to residents to come into compliance with city directives before taking enforcement action. She also said that the ordinance is mainly about fire safety.

"When I first started doing nuisances a few years ago, it wasn't as pretty as it is now," said Morrow. "Since we really began to enforce this

and focus on this, it has really made a difference in our community, in the feel of it and how people perceive it, and it has done a lot of good."

City Council voted to approve an agreement between the City of Brownsville, the Central Linn School District (CLSD), and the Central Linn Recreation Association to allow the sharing of district and city recreational facilities. Use of CLSD dirt and grass facilities will be free of charge for the city and track and turf fields may be available at a reduced rate. Coaches that use the fields will be required to take a photo of the fields before and after usage to maintain accountability for facility conditions.

There was also discussion about a complaint raised by Michael and Betty Doren about a newly developed property next door to them creating drainage outside their home on Butte Street. Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink said that he has not found any such drainage issue.

"I went up there several times after it was built during the heaviest rainfall," said Frink. "I didn't

see a single problem. No problems from the developed property, even the street was managing the water really well."

City Administrator Scott MacDowell said that the issue cannot be resolved by the city.

"The advice that I gave her was, 'Look, some of things that you're concerned about aren't county issues, they're not city issues, they're not sheriff's office issues, they're between you and that person, [and] you need to actually hire an attorney [and] have them draft a letter with certain language in it to get action,'" said City Administrator Scott MacDowell.

There were no citizen comments or council questions and comments. The next City Council meeting will be on Monday, June 30. At this meeting, the City Council will vote on whether to approve the 2025-2026 budget, including a budget committee recommendation to adopt a 3% utility rate increase.

Complete minutes: <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/citycouncil>

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The Cascadian: Brownsville Students a Century Ago

By Daniel R. Murphy

This article on *The Cascadian* is almost a hundred years ago. It is the first in a series of stories we will do on the history of Brownsville.

Ever since the early 1960s Brownsville has been a “historical” town. Private property owners changed the facades on their downtown businesses and the town supported the creation of both the Linn County Museum and the Moyer House and still do. The Times ran historical columns at various times in the past and since this is such an important part of our little city it seems appropriate to glance back now and then into our history. Hope you enjoy these glimpses into the past.

Almost a hundred years ago, the class of 1929 graduated from Brownsville High School. In the fall of 1925, 25 students had enrolled as freshmen. Students moved away or got married and dropped out, leaving only 13 students in the class of '29 enrolled in the fall of 1928. Thereafter, a student was added, and 14 students graduated and attended the commencement exercises on May 31, 1929.

The 1929 Senior class put on the play, “His Uncle’s Neice” at the Rialto Theater.

Brownsville had a football team, a boys’ baseball team, a girls’ baseball team, and a debate club. There was also a drama club which put on various plays. No gymnasium existed at this time; therefore no basketball team.

Mrs. Coshow was a favorite teacher of the students, and their Annual was dedicated to her. The Senior Class of 1929 had photos taken, which were displayed in the Annual. Each student had a nickname, which was also listed. The boys were all wearing a shirt and tie and their hair was cut short. The girls all had short hair as well, in the style of the 1920s. The girls all wore dresses.

The graduating class included six boys and eight girls. Here is a list of the graduates with their nicknames:

Lloyd Blaine (Rip)
Thelma Fox (Teddy)
Marvin Blaine (Marv)
Violet Habershon (Vi)
Leighton Boyles (Jim)
Alta Hedlund (Sister)
Ellis Ferrell (Stub)
Florence Hess (Hesky)
Milton Matheany (Mac)
Ferne Large (Furnace)
Kenton Thompson (Crisco)
Rosemary Snyder (Sugar)
Nadine Templeton (Blondie)
Lola Tyner (Dode)

The students all appeared to be in good health and physical condition. Sophomores were called Sophs and Freshmen were called Rooks.

School started on September 17 and the last day of classes was May 31.

The Annual included joke questions posed by teachers and silly answers given by students. Examples:

Mrs. Coshow: In which of his battles was King Gustavus Adolphus killed?

Earl V: I don’t know but I’m pretty sure it was

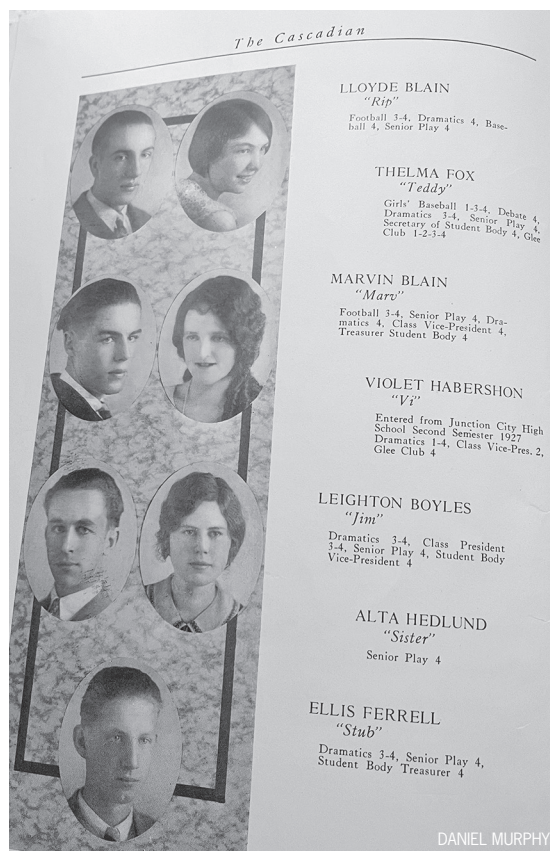
his last one.

The Annual was sponsored by local businesses with advertisements including White Hardware and Furniture, C. E. Stanard & Son general merchandise, The Grille, Charlie Nelson shoes, G. C. Thompson & Son general merchandise, A. B. Miller dairy and produce, the Village Blacksmith, Howe Garage, Dunlap Drug Co., Bank of Brownsville, Brownsville Bakery, Peterson’s Cash Store serving burgers, other food, candy, gas and oil, S. B. Sawyer Lumber Company, Starr’s Confectionary, Austin Service Station, Tussing and Tussing attorneys, The Brownsville Times, Ray M. Waltz physician and surgeon, W. J. Sheldon, dentist, C. M. Tyson, blacksmith, Southside Garage, Porter’s Exchange: Hay and Grains, Brownsville Creamery, Haskin Studio, and Mountain States Power Company. Also listed were Irish’s Cash Stores, Dimm & Sons Printing Company, West Coast Engraving, Blaine Men’s Wear of Albany, Joe’s Café, George Evans Hardware, Brownsville Warehouses, Frank Fee, Jeweler, Stevenson Drug Co., C. J. Howe Merchandise and Calloway Hardware.

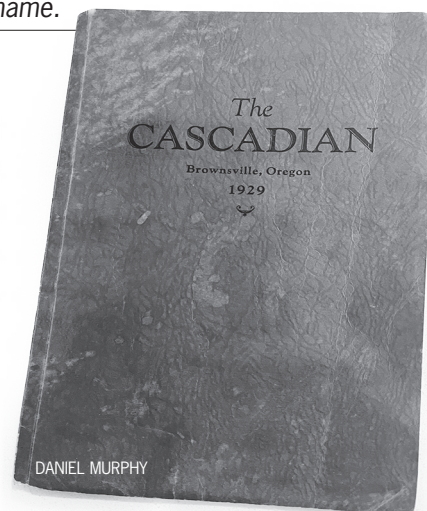
As you can see, Brownsville had many small businesses in those days and was far more self-sufficient than today.

The Annual displays some humor and high spirits but is in the best of taste. All photographs are black and white.

Other than the photos of seniors and some group photos of athletic teams there were no other photos included. The Annual is 22 pages long, printed on a pamphlet stock paper. It appears that the Annual from which this information was taken belonged to Carl Carlson, who would, a few years later, found his hardware store at the intersection of Stanard and Main streets. Carl was in the class of 1930. The Annual was donated to the Linn County Pioneer Picnic Association, which still owns it. It is kept in a small collection of high school annuals in the Pioneer Photo Gallery on Main Street. The Annual was called *The Cascadian*.



1929 Graduates of Brownsville High School as shown in *The Cascadian* with their nicknames listed under their given name.



Cover of the 1929 edition of *The Cascadian*

CRITTER CHRONICLES

Elvis and Ginger's Great Escape

A True Story by Sharon Banks

Elvis was no ordinary rooster. He was big, bold, and had a comb so perfectly slicked back it put rockabilly legends to shame. Every morning, he'd strut around the coop, chest puffed out, letting out a crow so loud and powerful the cows gave extra milk just out of respect.

His leading lady, a sassy New Hampshire Red hen named Ginger, wasn't easily impressed. She'd roll her beady eyes whenever he fluffed up his feathers and called her his “Little Chickadee.” Still, she had to admit — he had charm.

One crisp evening, trouble was brewing in the henhouse. A gust of wind knocked over a rickety old heat lamp, sending it tumbling into a pile of dry hay. Within seconds, flames erupted like a Fourth of July fireworks show.



Ginger squawked, feathers flew, and absolute chaos broke out. But not Elvis. Oh no. He stood tall in the smoky glow, surveying the situation like a true leader.

“Ginger, my darlin’, we gotta skedaddle,” he said, flapping his wings dramatically.

Ginger, ever the practical one, pecked him in the side. “Less talkin’, more runnin’, big guy!”

The two of them bolted out the henhouse door just as flames licked up the wooden walls. They were clucking and flapping in terror.

By some miracle — or sheer roosterly bravado — Elvis and Ginger made it out without a single singed feather. But as they turned back to look at the smoldering coop, Ginger gasped.

“The eggs!”

Elvis took a dramatic step forward, eyes wide with horror. “Scrambled?”

“Fried,” Ginger whispered solemnly.

The smell of fresh, farm-to-table omelets filled the air. Farmer Woody came running, scratching his head at the sight of his barnyard breakfast special sizzling right there in the ruins.

“Well, I’ll be,” he muttered. “Guess I won’t be needin’ the frying pan today.”

Elvis wrapped a wing around Ginger and sighed. “Sugar, we made it out just fine. But those poor eggs... they never had a chance.”

Ginger sniffled. “At least they went out sunny-side up.” Then they proceeded to dig up my blueberry plants!

From that day forward, Elvis and Ginger were the stuff of legend on the farm. And every morning, as Elvis let out his mighty crow, he did so in memory of those brave little eggs who gave their all.

RIP, breakfast.

THE LONG GRAY BRAID

Cheaters

By Annie Swensen

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

There must be someplace I can make a complaint. The directions and warnings on almost everything I pick up from a bottle of aspirin to household products made from treacherous chemicals, are in letters smaller than an ant and totally unreadable to the naked eye. One would assume that following the “Directions for use” would minimize our risks. But they are difficult, if not impossible, to find, tucked into long paragraphs of minute squiggles. Shouldn’t we be able to read it? But who would listen to me? In fact, I may be the only one in the world who cannot read this teeny tiny print.

For most of my life, I’ve been “near-sighted,” which was very handy for ignoring people across the parking lot when I had no time to talk. “Sorry, I didn’t see you...I can’t see far away.” But suddenly at age 45, I was backing away from the newspaper each night. It was annoying to find I now had some kind of mid-range vision.

At Thanksgiving that same year, a newspaper article was being passed around the family. My mom said, “Wait a sec, I need to get my cheaters.” Someone mumbled, “Her eyes are going bad, poor thing.” She was 80. I felt a bit young for my eyes to “go bad,” but my ears pricked up at the solution. And I found them. “Readers” were \$5 at

an eyeglass stand in the local drug-store. I bought the 1.25s, and finally, I was sitting like I had when I was 20, reading the newspaper right in front of me. A few years later, I was once again pushing the paper away to unblur the print. I graduated myself to 1.50s and I began buying the bargain two-packs, because glasses you only need some of the time have a high rate of disappearance.

When my grandson was six years old, he and his mom were living with me. I had graduated to 1.75 in the reader section, and I now had a “three-pair-on-hand” policy. His mom was going away for the weekend and Jason expressed concern about her leaving. “But Mom, what do I do if my tooth falls out?”

She offered, “Give it to Annie, she’ll take care of it.”

He stared at her, wide-eyed with worry, “I don’t think I trust Annie with my tooth. She loses her glasses all the time.”

After our Facebook laugh, I now have at least five readers sprinkled about the house and car. So, when I pick up the bag of frozen tater tots to feed the worried boy, “cheaters” at the end of my nose, I expect to be able to read the cooking instructions. This print is so small even my 1.75’s can’t bring it to life. Why? And where can I make a complaint?... Thankfully, I can read my Brownsville Times.

BROWNSVILLE SENIOR CENTER

A Place for Connection, Support, and Fun

by Cindy Stucky, Brownsville Senior Center Treasurer

Founded in 1974, the Brownsville Senior Center was established to serve older adults in our community. From the beginning, it was designed to be self-supporting — free from outside budget constraints — and has remained entirely volunteer-run with no paid staff. A team of officers and five board members oversee operations.

The Center offers a welcoming space where seniors can connect, support one another, and stay active — physically, mentally, and socially. Programs include social events, educational opportunities, and cross-generational community activities.

Membership is open to anyone aged 50 and older. Annual dues are \$24, but all are welcome to participate in activities regardless of membership.

Monthly Events:

- Luncheon Potluck: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12 p.m. Main dish and drinks provided; bring a side or dessert to share.
- Game Night: 3rd Thursday of the month — join us for cards, board games, and fun.

Ongoing Activities:

- Weekday crafts, puzzles, cards, and sewing
- Resources for Medicare questions, senior services, and medical equipment

Volunteers are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, including members of the American Legion, Senior Center, and Quilts of Valor. Stop by when the “OPEN” sign is on — or leave a message at 541-466-5395 and we’ll return your call within a day or two.



Coffee and tea are always available!



Commissioners Learn About April Health Numbers

by Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — There were 103 deaths in Linn County and 71 births in April, Health Officer Dr. Adam Brady told the Board of Commissioners Tuesday morning.

Three of the deaths were people who were more than 100 years old. About 21 of the deaths were tobacco related. There were 38 girls and 33 boys born in May.

There were no COVID outbreaks. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Oregon is one of 14 states where the number of COVID-19 cases is unchanged, and 30 states where the number of cases is dropping.

There was one suicide in April, a 94-year-old male.

There were 27 reported animal bites, bringing the total for the year to 113, below the average of 121 year-to-date.

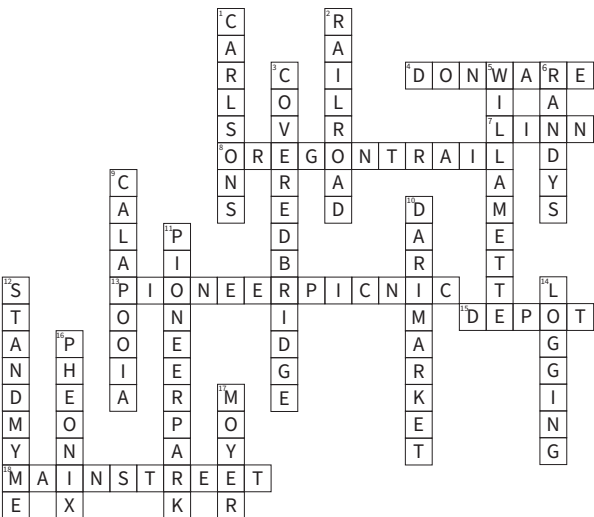
In other business, the commissioners:

- Were told by Public Health Program Manager Shane Sanderson that his staff completed 68 food service inspections in April and 563 year-to-date, compared to 269 inspections the previous year-to-date. There were 12 school kitchen inspections and 103 year-to-date.
- Approved the closure of North River Drive and Quartzville Road near Sweet Home for the annual Best of the West Triathlon on the following days and times: June 7: North River Drive, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; June 8: North River Drive, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.; June 8: Quartzville Road, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Approved the closure of First Avenue, SW Broadway St., SW Linn Blvd. and Lyons Mill City Drive from 12-noon to 1 p.m. for the annual Mill City Fourth of July parade.
- The commissioners discussed the Gold Fish Farm Road bridge project with Roadmaster Wayne Mink, focusing on how the project may affect traffic flow during the Linn County Fair in mid-July. The project is expected to run through mid-September.

Media contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email apaul@co.linn.or.us.

CROSSWORD & SUDOKU KEY

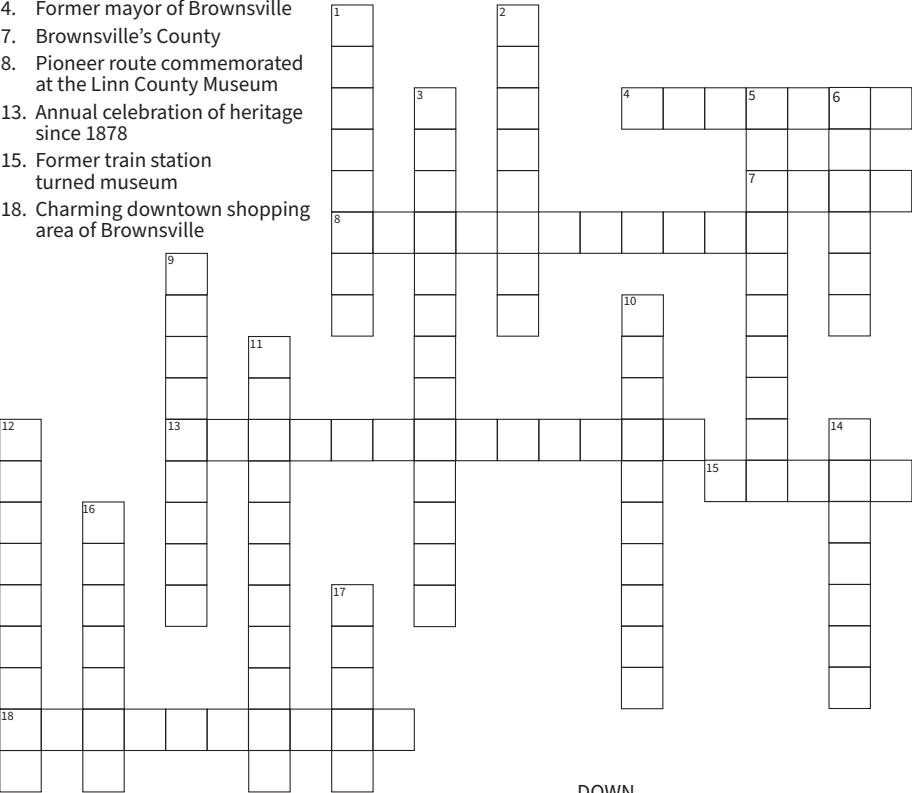
Puzzles on page 14



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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS
- 4. Former mayor of Brownsville
 - 7. Brownsville's County
 - 8. Pioneer route commemorated at the Linn County Museum
 - 13. Annual celebration of heritage since 1878
 - 15. Former train station turned museum
 - 18. Charming downtown shopping area of Brownsville



SUDOKU

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

ADVANCED

- DOWN
- 1. Hardware store in Brownsville
 - 2. Industry that brought prosperity in the 19th century
 - 3. Iconic type of bridge in Crawfordville
 - 5. Valley where Brownsville is located
 - 6. Brownsville coffee shop
 - 9. River running through Brownsville
 - 10. Grocery store in Brownsville
 - 11. Park in Brownsville
 - 12. 1986 movie filmed in Brownsville
 - 14. Industry that helped shape Brownsville's past
 - 16. Actor in the movie, "Stand by Me"
 - 17. Historic House Museum in Brownsville

Solutions on page 13

DEAR GERTRUDE

Practicle advice from a turn-of-the-century housewife

by Jaime Flynn



Dear Gertrude,

I am a young widow and have no children. I would like to have a family someday, and after these three years since my husband passed, I am ready to be courted again. My only concern is that the man I am interested in.. I just cannot tell if he is interested in me. It has been so long since I have had a suitor, I feel at sea. Is it forward of me to send him a calling card? I am constricted by the rules of etiquette of course and feel powerless to nurture our budding friendship into a blossoming courtship.

Sincerely,

Feeling Lost Over Widowhood Ending Romance

Dear FLOWER,

My dear, it is perfectly natural to feel helpless and afraid when a blossoming relationship is at your garden gate! Yet if you wait too long, that bud will die on the vine. Yes, ladies are constricted by the confines of etiquette, however, that does not mean that we cannot play within its rigid regulations. That is to say, we have a certain flexibility... especially when enlisting our fellow females to aid in our endeavors.

For instance, a dear friend of mine, let's call her Fiona, was courted by a man for no less than 15 years, and that man could not be prodded to propose. It was getting to the point where she was not going to be able to bear any children if they waited any longer. She enjoyed his company and was very content with their long walks home from church... however, she was hoping for more (of course!). Like you, she was constrained by social etiquette to not take any clear action to secure her future with this suitor, even when he would not take the lead himself. Well. I decided to use the tools I had at hand to help her out.

You see, my cousin Dottie has a brother-in-law who had lost his wife just a few years before and was about as much of an eligible bachelor as any in town, making a fine living raising wool for the mill. The next Sunday at church, before the reluctant beau could get a chance, this eligible bachelor strode up to my dear friend Fiona and asked to walk her home. She agreed despite looking quite surprised, and I have never seen a man more crest-fallen than her longtime suitor at this upset. Why that man, he just about melted on the spot like an ice cream sundae on the Fourth of July!

Well, let me tell you that it only took one week for that particular slow-paced man to come to his senses and thank Heaven that he did, because my poor friend just about tore her hair out with nerves in the meantime. She was certain that he was going to just give up on her! Instead, that next Sunday he had on his best suit, hair slicked back, and a bouquet of day lilies in his hand. The moment he saw her, he was down on one knee. I have never seen a happier woman in all my life! All things said and done, years later, they seem one of the happiest couples and did indeed start a family of their own in this town. Sometimes good things come to those who wait.. yet it never hurts to give them a little shove every once in a while. *Bonne chance*, my dear!

Editor's Note: The above correspondence is entirely fictional. Any resemblance to persons living or departed is purely coincidental and most unintentional. This column is offered in the spirit of amusement and gentle reflection.

KIDS KORNER

by Nancy Diltz

Quote

"Life itself is the most wonderful fairy tale." — Hans Christian Andersen

Books you might like by Hans Christian Andersen include *The Little Mermaid*, *The Red Shoes* and *The Ugly Duckling*.

An Interesting fact

There is a bronze statue *The Little Mermaid* by sculpture Edvard Eriksen in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, to honor Hans Christian Andersen's contributions to children's literature.



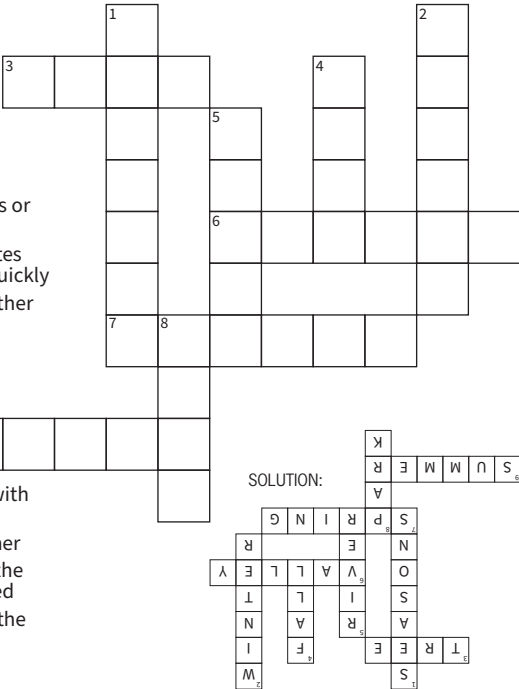
Trivia Quiz

- 1. What's the longest River in the world?
 - a) The Mississippi
 - b) The Nile
 - c) The Calapooia
- 2. What is a group of lions called?
 - a) a herd
 - b) a pack
 - c) a pride
- 3. What is the most common gas in earth's atmosphere?
 - a) oxygen
 - b) nitrogen
 - c) carbon dioxide
- 4. What is stored in a camel's hump?
 - a) fat
 - b) water
 - c) air

Answers: 1b, 2c, 3b, 4a

A Change of Season Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS
- 3. woody plant with a trunk
 - 6. low lying land between mountains or hills
 - 7. the season when weather alternates warm and cool and plants grow quickly
 - 9. the season with the warmest weather
- DOWN
- 1. the four divisions of a year, each with distinct weather
 - 2. the season with the coldest weather
 - 4. the season when leaves fall from the trees and Thansgiving is celebrated
 - 5. water flowing from mountains to the ocean
 - 8. a fun outdoor place to play



Carriage Me Back to 1909: A Celebration of History and Community

by Mark Bateman, Treasurer of the Linn County Museum Friends

Community Volunteers and Enthusiasts Bring History to Life

May 3 and 4 marked an entertaining weekend for the Brownsville community as the historically immersive event “Carriage Me Back to 1909” unfolded. Held in the heart of town, the event transported attendees over a century into the past, igniting a sense of nostalgia and connection to local heritage. From horses and carriages to period costumes, the streets came alive with the sights, sounds, and spirit of 1909, thanks to the extraordinary effort of over 40 dedicated volunteers and organizers.

Bringing History to Life



Mike Moshofsky (Bernard Scott) and Marie Arnold (Marie Elizabeth) in the Moyer House living room

“Carriage Me Back to 1909” was no ordinary historical reenactment. It was an event meticulously designed to immerse visitors in the lifestyle, culture, and stories of the early 20th century, thanks to research by Linda McCormick, Donald Lyon, and drama coach Melody House. The streets and Moyer House transformed into bustling vignettes from the past, with storefronts representing businesses from the era and actors engaging in lively conversations reminiscent of simpler times.

Volunteers played crucial roles in this transformation. Among the standout characters on the streets were Dr. Sigmund Freud, played by Dan Murphy, the Sheriff by Jack Alzman, and Professor Jeffery by Jeff Smith, among many, many others!

The Moyer House was brought to life with Miss Constance Baker, played by Kathleen Swayze, directing crowds, Lisa Keith playing the “Grecian goddess” Isadora Duncan, Mike Moshofsky as race car driver Bernard Scott, and Amieca Henson-Whisler as Oregon’s first policewoman, Lola Baldwin. Every room on the main floor offered an entertaining production, even the kitchen provided a very memorable performance by a local chicken named Prima Donna!

In addition to these dynamic portrayals, volunteers like Chenoweth Robertson, Connie Bull, Anne and Clive Clarke, and Don Ware helped direct traffic. Mandy Cole, Chris Evans, and Barbara Andersen managed ticket sales, and Donald Lyon served as a talented Narrator throughout the carriage ride. Their efforts contributed to the seamless and authentic feel that defined the event.



Jeff Smith (Professor Jeffrey)

Fostering Heritage and Community Engagement

The event was more than a celebration of the past; it was a bridge connecting the community, volunteers, and our local heritage. It was initiated by the non-profit organization, the Linn County Historical Museum Friends, which is dedicated to supporting and enhancing our local Museum and historical Moyer House.

The event was capped off with an ice cream social for all the volunteers who supported the event and Linn County Museum Friends. Twelve flavors of sorbet and ice cream were graciously donated by Lochmead Farms, so all the funds raised by the event go directly to the service of our museum.

Impact and Community Feedback

“Carriage Me Back to 1909” was hailed as a resounding success. Organizers reported record-breaking attendance, with hundreds of friends, families, and individuals drawn to Brownsville across both days. The event was praised for its authenticity, educational value, and ability to foster a sense of togetherness.

Community members expressed overwhelming positivity in their feedback. One attendee remarked, “This event made me feel connected to our history. It was as though I’d stepped into a time machine.” Others expressed excitement and said they were “very impressed with all of the historical content and information available in the museum” and one group of attendees set a carriage ride record with a total of 26 people in a single trip!

The event also motivated action beyond its two-day duration. Inspired by the weekend’s festivities, discussions about preserving the historical Moyer House and Museum as well as enhancing future community events gained momentum. The organizers plan to continue building on this success with



Deena Bechtel (Viola May Macon), Mathew Bechtel (James Weston), Amieca Henson-Whistler (Lola Baldwin), and Sigrid Swarzendruber (Martha) in the parlor

similar initiatives throughout the summer including Stand By Me (Saturday, July 26) and Hands on History (Saturday, August 23).

Looking to the Future

As the carriages rolled away and the streets returned to their modern-day routines, one thing was clear: “Carriage Me Back to 1909” left an indelible mark on the community. By blending history with engagement, the event proved the power of storytelling, volunteerism, and shared experiences in fostering a collective appreciation for history.

Its success ensures, in the years to come, our traditional Carriage Me Back event — and the spirit it represents — will remain a vibrant part of the community’s identity. Looking forward to next year, the organizers have already begun brainstorming ideas for the next Carriage Me Back celebration, buoyed by the enthusiasm and support of attendees. Events like these remind us that history is not just a record of the past; it is a living, breathing part of who we are as a community.

See Stephen Brenner’s additional photographs at <http://here-we-are.org>.



Jeff Jones (reporter) and Lisa Keith (Isadora Duncan) in the music room at the Moyer House

Brownsville Art Association Launches Summer Workshops

by Lori Garcy

The Brownsville Art Association is kicking off summer with three creative opportunities to learn, connect, and have fun. Here’s what’s coming up:

Intro to Oil Painting — Saturday, June 7, 1–4 p.m. | Led by instructor Weldon Oliver, this beginner-friendly class offers a relaxed, step-by-step introduction to oil painting. No experience is needed, and all materials are provided. You’ll leave with a completed painting and, if interest is strong, the series may continue!

Citywide Garage Sale + Art Supply Sale — Saturday, July 19 | While you’re out bargain-hunting during Brownsville’s Citywide Garage Sale, be sure to stop by the Art Center for great deals on gently used and new art supplies.

Wet Felting Bowls & Vessels Workshop — Saturday, July 19, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Also during the garage sale weekend, Connie Swindoll will guide participants in creating beautiful, textured vessels using the



An example of a wet felted bowl by instructor Connie Swindoll

traditional wet felting method with wool, soap, and warm water. No experience necessary — each person will take home a unique, handmade piece.

Workshops are a fun way to build skills, meet fellow creatives, and support local art.

Space is limited — register now at brownsvilleart.org.

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Available on Airbnb
541-915-9322

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TheAverillHouse@gmail.com

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