



Garden Gathering Fuels Support for Sharing Hands

Perfect Weather, Great Food, and Generous Hearts Come Together for a Cause

Brownsville Times Staff

BROWNSVILLE — On Saturday, September 27, friends and neighbors from across Central Linn gathered in the lush gardens of Rhoda Fleishman and Shannon Duffy's home for a heart-felt evening of community, compassion, and giving.

Guests enjoyed a delicious feast paired with local wines, all while taking in the serenity of the garden setting and the gentle sounds of live music by Jazz vocalist, Kirstin Parmeter & Pianist, Matt Treder. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, with perfect weather adding to the charm of the event.

But beyond the food and festivities, the evening served a deeper purpose — raising funds and awareness for the Sharing Hands Food Bank, a vital local resource currently facing a serious shortage in both food and funding.

With cuts in USDA surplus food dis-



An evening of good company, fine food, and local wine helped raise funds for Sharing Hands

tributions — a resource food banks across the country have relied on — Sharing Hands is working to fill the gap through community support. The event

featured a raffle and silent auction, with generous donations pouring in from attendees and local businesses alike.

Sharing Hands, which serves hun-

SHARING continued on page 2

Linn County's Black Pioneers: An Evening with Mariah Rocker Next Thursday

BROWNSVILLE — The Brownsville Public Library will host Linn County's Black Pioneers: An Evening with Mariah Rocker next Thursday, Oct. 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Kirk Room. Admission is free.



Mariah Rocker of Oregon Black Pioneers will present "Linn County's Black Pioneers" at the Brownsville Library on Oct. 9.

Rocker, with Oregon Black Pioneers, will share stories of Linn County's earliest Black residents and the challenges they faced under Oregon's exclusion laws. Among them was Cora Cox, the first recorded Black resident of Linn County, who arrived as an enslaved woman,

later became one of Oregon's earliest Black landowners, and left a lasting legacy in Brownsville.

The evening program will also connect local history to the broader experiences of Oregon's Black pioneers, who, despite legal restrictions and social hostility, built lives of resilience and dignity. Notable figures such as Cox, Minor Jackson, and Amanda Gardner Johnson exemplified perseverance that helped shape the state's history.

The event is presented in collaboration with Oregon Black Pioneers and the Letitia Carson Legacy Project. ☼

A New Chapter for Brownsville Pharmacy

Meet new owner Tyler Dearing, a pharmacist with a passion for small-town care.

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer

Brownsville residents have a new face behind the counter at their local pharmacy. Pharmacist, Tyler Dearing, has officially taken ownership of the Brownsville Pharmacy, bringing with him both experience and a passion for serving small communities.

Tyler, a 2019 graduate of Oregon State University, worked for five years as a pharmacy manager before pursuing his longtime dream of ownership. That dream became reality in early 2024, when he purchased Myrtle Creek Drugs. "A friend of a friend let me know about the opportunity," he said. "I jumped at the chance." Tyler moved into a trailer by the Umpqua River while getting the business off the ground.

Since then, with the partnership of Cascadia Pharmacy Group and its CEO, Jeff Harrell, Tyler has expanded to five pharmacies: Myrtle Creek Drugs, Hometown Drugs of Roseburg, Modoc Family Pharmacy in Alturas, California, Economy Drugs of Sweet Home, and now the Brownsville Pharmacy. Cascadia provides back-end services such as Human Resources, accounting, and purchasing power for its 42 member pharmacies, allowing owners like Tyler to focus on patient care.

Though he admits his rapid growth may look "a little crazy," Tyler is confident in the future. "Please be patient," he said. "We will be short-staffed for a while. We won't be open Saturdays until we can hire more

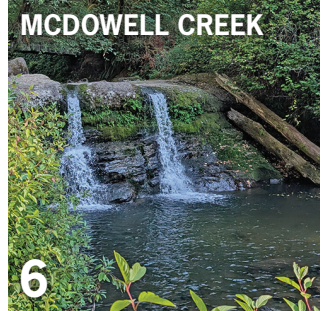
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Pharmacist Brandy Davis, Kristin Westfall, new owner Tyler Dearing, and Doris Westfall continue the tradition of care at Brownsville Pharmacy.

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MCDOWELL CREEK



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AUTUMN RECIPES



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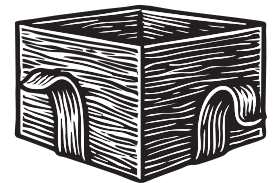
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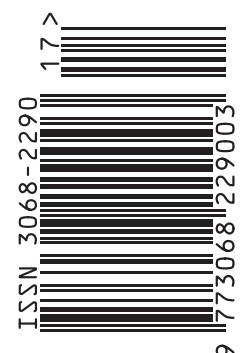
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Free Coffee, Donuts, & Fellowship
Wednesdays • 9:30 a.m. at Central Valley Church, 657 American Drive (not a church sponsored event).

Brownsville Thursday Market
Thursdays, 3–6 p.m.
Held on Main Street just off Highway 228, this weekly market offers local produce, crafts, and more.
<https://www.calapooiafoodalliance.org>

Albany Haunted Tours
October 3–25 • Times vary by event
Monteith House & Downtown Albany
Thrill-seekers can join the Trolley of Terror (Oct. 3), Ghost Walk (Oct. 10), VIP Paranormal Investigation (Oct. 18), or Carriage of Shadows (Oct. 24–25). Tickets required.
<http://www.monteithhouse.org>.

Linn County’s Black Pioneers
Thursday, October 9 • 7–9 p.m.
Brownsville Library | Kirk Room
Join Mariah Rocker of Oregon Black Pioneers for an illuminating talk on the lives and legacy of Linn County’s earliest Black pioneers. Free admission.

Classic Movie Night: “Night of the Living Dead”
Friday, October 10 • 7 p.m. (doors 6:30)
Silver Screen Cinema | 339 N. Main St, Brownsville
\$2 admission. Concessions available: hot dogs, popcorn, candy, ice cream & soft drinks. Hosted by American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184. Fall

Family Fun Fest with Greenbelt Land Trust
Saturday, October 11 • 11 a.m.–2 p.m. • Free
Bald Hill Farm | Corvallis
Kids’ crafts, cider pressing, pumpkin bowling, birding, and guided walks.

Cider Pressing at Thompson’s Mill
Saturdays, October 11 & 25
11 a.m. until apples run out (usually before 3 p.m.)
Thompson’s Mills | State Heritage Site
32655 Boston Mill Dr, Shedd, OR 97377
\$5 per half gallon. Bring a picnic, take a tour, and enjoy fresh-pressed cider.

Book Club: “Guncle” by Steven Rowley
Wednesday, October 15 • 7 p.m.
Brownsville Library, Kirk Room
Join the discussion of this month’s book selection. New members are always welcome.

World Cultures & Travel: India’s Fabled Rajasthan
Thursday, October 16 • 7 p.m.
Brownsville Library, Kirk Room
Former professional photographer and tour guide Don Lyon presents the sights and stories of Rajasthan. Free admission.

Pioneer Christian Academy Fall Festival & Auction
Saturday, Oct. 24 • 3–9 p.m.
Pioneer Christian Academy, 331 E. Blakely Ave., Brownsville
Enjoy family activities from 3–6 p.m. A live auction begins at 6 p.m. No admission fee; food and activity tickets available onsite.

CONNECT Linn County Harvest Festival
Sunday, October 26, Sampling 1 p.m., Judging 3 p.m.
Pioneer Park, Brownsville
Chili Cook-off & Fall Dessert Taste-offs, Craft & Food Vendors, Trunk or Treat. Watch for more details soon.

Stay connected with Central Linn!
Discover upcoming events or add your own to our community calendar:
<https://brownsvilletimes.org/community-calendar>

Fall Family Fun Fest Returns to Bald Hill Farm

CORVALLIS — Greenbelt Land Trust invites families to drop in for a day of exploration and outdoor fun at the second annual Fall Family Fun Fest. The free event takes place Saturday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bald Hill Farm near Corvallis.

- Activity stations will be open throughout the day, including:
- Nature arts and crafts
 - Apple cider pressing
 - Pumpkin bowling
 - Intro to birding for kids
 - Stream table demonstrations

Special programs include meeting a bird of prey from the Chintimini Wildlife Center between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., as well as guided walks to a nearby beaver dam at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 p.m.



COURTESY GREENBELT LAND TRUST

The festival is geared toward families with children in grades K-6, but everyone is welcome. Greenbelt’s Mighty Acorns Kids Club will also be signing up new members, with welcome packets and small outdoor exploration items available for youngsters. Or sign up here: <https://greenbeltlandtrust.org/get-involved/mighty-acorns-kids-club>

More details about the event can be found online at: <https://greenbeltlandtrust.org/event/fall-family-fun-fest-at-bald-hill-farm-2025>.

SHARING continued from cover



Times shopping list and to consider making a monthly donation to support ongoing operations. “Even small, regular donations can make a big difference,” said Sharon Banks, a Sharing Hands board member. “They help us plan, stock our shelves, and ensure no one in our community goes hungry.”

As the sun set over the garden and neighbors shared stories and laughter, the spirit of the evening was clear — when the community comes together, there’s nothing it can’t overcome. More photos are at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCvDEx>.

To contribute or learn more, visit the Sharing Hands Food Bank or contact them directly to sign up for a monthly giving plan.

dreds of families and seniors in need throughout the area, has seen demand remain high while resources have dwindled. In response, Central Linn residents are stepping up. Community members are encouraged to bring in food items listed in the Brownsville

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Walk for the Cause Celebrates 30 Years in Albany

ALBANY — Soroptimist International of Albany will host its 30th annual Walk for the Cause on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025, at the Linn County Courthouse steps. The fundraiser supports the detection and treatment of breast cancer and provides services for other diseases affecting women.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., followed by a program at 9 a.m. The 5K walk/run will start at 9:15 a.m. A raffle drawing will be held at 10:30 a.m.; winners do not need to be present. Raffle tickets can be pre-purchased during registration, with five tickets for \$20.

Organizers aim to surpass \$1 million in total donations over the past three decades. Proceeds will continue to support local healthcare and services for women.

More information, including registration and raffle details, visit the Albany Soroptimist website at <https://www.sialbany.org/walk>.

Living Rock Studios 40 year Anniversary Set for October 10-11

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer

BROWNSVILLE — One of Oregon’s most unique landmarks is turning 40. On October 10–11, Living Rock Studios will celebrate four decades as a community treasure, inviting visitors to step inside a building unlike any other — crafted almost entirely of stone, light, and imagination.



Taylor building the studio’s unique stone interior, which features the famed “Tree of Life.”

The Studios were the vision of Howard B. Taylor, a Brownsville native and surveyor who, after health setbacks in the 1960s, poured his energy into art and geology. With the help of his wife, Faye, their daughters, and volunteers, Taylor spent years collecting rocks, crystals, petrified wood, and agates from across the region. Piece by piece, he built the two-story

circular structure, completing it in time to dedicate it to Faye on their 50th wedding anniversary in 1985.

Inside, visitors encounter walls studded with crystals, staircases winding around a central “Tree of Life” made of petrified wood, and Howard’s most famous creations — his “Living Rock Pictures.” These illuminated stone mosaics depict Biblical scenes, glowing when light passes through



Howard B. Taylor dedicated the structure to his wife, Faye, in 1985.

LIVING ROCK continued on page 8

Trick or Treat Street

Brownsville's Spooktacular Halloween!

Bring your little ghouls and goblins to downtown Brownsville on Friday, October 31, from 3 to 6 p.m. for an afternoon of frightful fun. Children can trick-or-treat at local businesses marked with black and orange balloons, then test their courage at the American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184 Haunted House.



The festivities also include a costume contest. Thanks to the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce and all participating businesses for making this spooktacular event possible. We can't wait to see you there! 🍁

Correction

The Lebanon Tomato Fest took place Saturday, Sept. 27, not Sept. 28 as reported in this paper. We apologize for the error and regret any inconvenience. 🍁

CONNECT LINN COUNTY

Bake Off to Sweeten Brownsville Harvest Festival

BROWNSVILLE — Connect Linn County and Friends will bring the annual Harvest Festival and Trunk or Treat back to Brownsville's Pioneer Park on Sunday, Oct. 26, with a full day of fall-themed activities.



The festival will feature a pancake breakfast, craft vendors, food booths, a chili cook-off, pumpkin sales, kids' games, a costume contest, and the popular Trunk or Treat event. New this year is the Scary Dance Hall, along with expanded opportunities for children to participate in competitions. One of the highlights of the day will be the 2025 Brownsville Harvest Festival Dessert Bake Off Fundraiser. Bakers of all ages are invited to showcase their best autumn-inspired creations — from pies and cobblers to cakes and crisps. A junior division is open to participants aged 13 and under, with adult supervision. Entries will be

PIONEER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY Fall Festival and Benefit Auction

BROWNSVILLE — Pioneer Christian Academy will hold its annual Fall Festival and Benefit Auction on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the school campus, 331 E. Blakely Ave. Doors open at 3 p.m. with family-friendly activities such as a bake sale, hoop shoot, bounce house, barrel train rides, and concession stands with fair-style food. Kid-friendly events will continue until 6 p.m. At 6 p.m., the main event begins with a live auction led by renowned auctioneer Paul Schultz. Items up for bid will help raise funds to support the school and its programs. There is no admission fee for the festival. Food and activity tickets will be available for purchase onsite. In addition, students are selling raffle tickets ahead of the event, with a classroom pizza party as the prize for the top-selling class. Those interested in participating early can also bid in the school's online auction, which opens the week before and closes Tuesday, Oct. 28. Organizers encourage the community to join for an afternoon of fun while supporting education. 🍁



CHAD SCHROCK — SCHROCK SHOTS

judged on taste, creativity, presentation, and use of seasonal ingredients. "It just tastes yummy" is also part of the criteria, keeping the contest fun and family friendly. Bakers should deliver desserts to the kitchen before 12:30 p.m. on festival day. Sampling begins at 1 p.m., and judging will take place at 3 p.m. There is a \$5 entry fee, and online registration is available in advance. Festivalgoers will also have opportunities to give back, including a Sharing Hands food drive and the chance to sponsor or donate to support the event. For entry forms and sign-up links:

- Chili Cook-off: <https://tinyurl.com/mvnnrnud>
- Dessert Bake-off: <https://tinyurl.com/3ps2rp9k>
- Craft Vendors and Food: <https://tinyurl.com/y9dxa9je>
- Trunk or Treat: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3feddr>

For more information about the event, email info@connectlinncounty.net or call Leise at 541-729-3633 or Karm at 541-451-0673. 🍁

The Power of Community: Greenbelt Land Trust Builds with the Timber Framers Guild

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

CORVALLIS — Greenbelt Land Trust, the non-profit that also stewards Courtney Creek, a property here in Brownsville, recently took part in a remarkable community project at Bald Hill Farm near Corvallis. For two weeks in September, volunteers from across North America gathered with the Timber Framers Guild to construct a new timber-frame pavilion. Using locally sourced Douglas fir and Oregon white oak, crews raised the frame on the site of a dilapidated pole barn. The new open-air structure is built to last for centuries. It will serve as a gathering place for thousands of students, families, and community members who visit Bald Hill Farm to learn about nature and conservation.



COURTESY GREENBELT LAND TRUST

Volunteers assemble timber beams for a new pavilion at Bald Hill Farm, a Greenbelt Land Trust project with the Timber Framers Guild.

The project was more than construction. Volunteers worked long days under late-summer skies and camped out at night. Local helpers, including Greenbelt staff and area businesses, kept them fueled with three meals a day. The effort echoed the barn raisings of earlier centuries, where communities came together to accomplish something larger than any one family could do alone. While Bald Hill Farm is located outside Linn County, the project exemplifies the type of work Greenbelt Land Trust undertakes to protect land and connect people with the outdoors — work that extends to its preserve right here on Courtney Creek: <https://greenbeltlandtrust.org/conserving-land/courtney-creek>. The timber-frame pavilion at Bald Hill Farm takes shape during the community build.

Founded in 1989, Greenbelt Land Trust works to protect ecologically rich and culturally significant lands in the mid-Willamette Valley. The nonprofit manages over 6,000 acres across Benton, Linn, Marion, Polk and Lane counties, encompassing natural areas, farms, forests, and trails that support both wildlife habitats and community access to the outdoors. 🍁

CITY OF BROWNSVILLE

Council Reviews Safety Tips, State Mandates, and Park Upgrades

By Sravya Tadepalli, Staff Writer

BROWNSVILLE — The Brownsville City Council meeting on September 23 started with an invocation led by Councilor Mike Winklepleck.

There were no public hearings or presentations. Sharon Banks, board chair of The Brownsville Times, shared an update about the progress of the paper during Citizen Comments and passed out copies of the paper.

Sergeant Steve Frambes said that August was a relatively quiet month with a handful of traffic citations. On August 24th, two individuals were arrested for trespassing at the Brownsville Christian Church in the middle of the night. There was no property damage. Councilor Dave Hansen called the sheriff's office after seeing them.

"It was, I think, 1:01 in the morning," said Frambes. "I think our first deputy was on the scene at 1:20, so that was about a 19-minute response time after Dave called."

In response to a question from Councilor Hansen about how Brownsville residents can keep themselves safe during the winter months, Frambes said residents should lock their cars, not leave valuables inside, and turn their house lights on at night.

Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink talked about the 811 line, which allows individuals embarking on digging projects to get underground facilities such as pipes and telephone lines located and marked by utility service providers. He said that the City of Brownsville is only responsible for marking the water mains and service lines to the water meter or property line. Other utility service providers are responsible for the utilities they control.

"The stuff that we own and maintain is what we mark," said Frink. "We don't mark anything

beyond that."

City Administrator Scott MacDowell expressed frustration with state and federal requirements that he said will impose a cost on Brownsville. In particular, he referred to the Willamette Subbasins Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan the Department of Environmental Quality has ordered the city to complete by November 2026. The state TMDL requirements require many counties and municipalities to prepare a plan on how they will reduce thermal pollution in their waterways. Ryan Quigley, Brownsville's city engineer, estimated that it would cost the city \$14,500 to put together the report.

"If it were golf, we would be the ball, and the different clubs in the bag would be the different agencies of the state," said MacDowell.

MacDowell said that the city has struggled to find a contractor to paint City Hall, but said he and Frink would continue to look for someone.

"Karl and I put out an RFP [request for proposal] to paint city hall," said MacDowell. "The budget committee and Council approved and said the building needs to be painted again. That's been about 13 or 14, maybe 15 years since we painted it. Karl and I needed an RFP out, and we had no takers. We put it out to six contractors."

MacDowell said that the city is planning to replace the playground equipment in Pioneer Park. Staff will take a look at what the city can afford and aim to install new equipment by spring.

The July and August financials removed the transient room tax line item, which was included in previous financial reports. This tax was repealed in 2022. ☀

CITY OF HALSEY

Parks & Library Committee Plans Craft Nights, Cookbook, and More

HALSEY — The Parks & Library Committee met Sept. 18 to discuss upcoming projects for the Halsey Public Library and city parks.

A new Community Craft Night will be launched every second Wednesday after library hours, offering activities such as rock painting and wreath making. The recurring format ensures a regular event for residents, and the committee is exploring connections with schools and parent groups to help share information about these events.

The committee also reviewed book purchasing options, including the website First Book, and discussed long-term possibilities for shared circulation with neighboring libraries. While a collective catalog could expand access to regional collections, members noted the financial and labor challenges of transitioning from the current system. For now, the group will promote the existing passport program, which allows patrons to borrow from nearby libraries.

Other topics included reorganizing fiction by genre for easier browsing, and the creation of a Halsey Community Cookbook honoring longtime committee member Mary. Residents are invited to submit recipes and family stories to City Hall or the library by email at library@halsey.or.gov.

Park updates included near completion of the walking path and ongoing efforts to find a contractor to repaint the multi-use court. Signs will also be added to exercise equipment to indicate age restrictions.

The committee's next meeting will continue planning community-focused events and improvements. ☀

Fire Prevention Week Set for Oct. 5–11

Theme Highlights Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

LINN COUNTY — National Fire Prevention Week will be observed October 5–11, 2025. This year's theme is "Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."

The campaign, led by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), focuses on safe use of the batteries that power phones, e-bikes, tools, laptops, and more. While safe when used correctly, these batteries can overheat, catch fire, or explode if damaged or misused.

Safety tips include:

- Use only the charger that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer.
- Unplug devices once they're fully charged.
- Charge on a hard surface, not beds or sofas.
- Stop using batteries that smell odd, leak, overheat, or change color.
- Recycle at safe collection sites — never put



batteries in the trash. Visit call2recycle.org for locations.

- Avoid extreme heat or cold.

Local fire departments and the Linn County Sheriff's Office may share additional safety information during the week. Learn more at the Fire Prevention Week website at <https://fpw.org>. ☀

Classic Chills Coming to the Silver Screen

BROWNSVILLE — The American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184 invites the community back to the Silver Screen Cinema for the next Classic Movie Night on Friday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30). This month's feature is George Romero's cult classic "Night of the Living Dead."

The showing has been moved up from the usual last-Friday slot to make room for the Legion's annual haunted house later in the month. Admission is \$2, with hot dogs, popcorn, candy, ice cream, and soft drinks available at the concession stand. ☀



WHERE TO STAY

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TRUCK STOP

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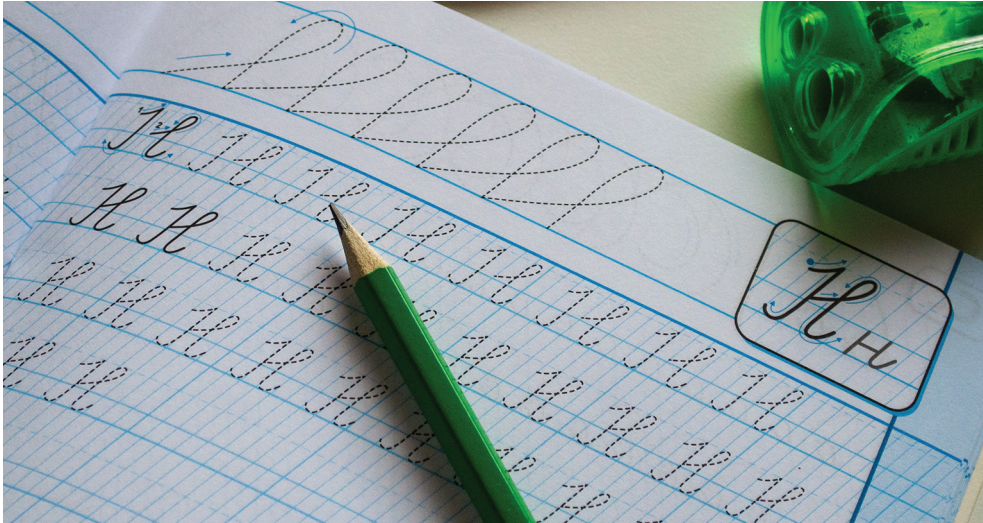
THE LONG GRAY BRAID

The Cursive Challenge

By Annie Swensen, Staff Writer & Editor

Recently, I read the post of a dear friend on Facebook... actually, more of a tirade, condemning a new policy to drop cursive writing from their local school curriculum. Her argument was heated but thoughtful — our grandchildren would grow up without the skill of handwriting and would not be able to read historical documents (or letters from Grandma). Based on the comments of friends on her post, it was clear that the “non-cursive” policy makers would have their hands full with the displeasure of at least two generations, especially the Boomers.

Though born in the 50s, I was mildly surprised by these reactions. I remembered in grade school the time spent on penmanship. We barely knew how to print before we were seated with pen in hand and instructed how to curl and connect letters on papers filled with alternating solid



and dotted lines (intended to help us perfect the capital and lowercase letters at the proper height and slant — the Reinhart Method). And there was a test leading to a grade in penmanship... A+ through F. Grades of C and below ran the gamut from being occasionally unreadable to totally illegible. Some of my classmates never improved their D grade. Over the years since, I have thought many times of suggesting to colleagues that they print their memos to me if they truly want me to understand.

In a world so changed by technology, courses in computer keyboard skills have become essential for even our youngest students. My 17-year-old grandson did take cursive classes in grade school, yet he struggled to read the messages I wrote in my birthday cards to him. I’ve learned to print them... it’s not a test... I want him to know how I feel about him. Cursive is like any language — the less often you use it, the rustier you get. He can definitely out-type me.

Looking around me now, I see a book, a newspaper, a letter from the bank, and a Facebook post — all printed words. I am struck by our need to cling to our “best of times.” Many ages ago, families conversed through drawings on cave walls. Then one day, Dad introduced the family to a whole new way of sharing information: a consistency in the use of grunts and sounds — words. Placing his fists by his temples and raising his index fingers like horns, he uttered “moo,” then with a wave of one hand and pointing to some ancient weapon, “kill,” and with a grunt, “meat.”

Mom watched these antics and heard the sounds and shook her head. She pointed at Junior, then repeatedly poked her index finger on the chiseled depictions, to affirm that the youngster would always pound his communication into the wall.

Our world is changing. It will be okay. And the centuries of cursive writing will be preserved. Translating it to understandable print? There will be an app for that.

Until then, the National Genealogical Society already offers a course on “Reading Old Handwriting.” Hopefully, the writers had a good grade in penmanship.

To learn how to read old handwriting, National Genealogical Society offers a course: <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cgs/reading-old-handwriting>.

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

Support Sharing Hands Food Bank

Sharing Hands keeps shelves stocked for over 250 Central Linn families in need — and you can help.

- **Give Online:** sharinghands.org
- **Mail a Check:** PO Box 335, Brownsville, OR 97327
- **Drop Off Food:** Non-perishables accepted Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., at 107 W. Bishop Way, Brownsville

Every gift matters — thank you for caring for your neighbors. ☺

GROCERY LIST

Canned Goods

- ☐ Canned Tuna
- ☐ Canned Chicken
- ☐ Canned Corned Beef
- ☐ Canned Beef
- ☐ Complete Meals
- ☐ Canned Spaghetti
- ☐ Canned Ravioli
- ☐ Canned Soup
- ☐ Canned Corn
- ☐ Canned Fruit
- ☐ Pork and Beans
- ☐ Ketchup

Grains & Breads

- ☐ Bread
- ☐ Buns
- ☐ English Muffins
- ☐ Cereal
- ☐ Crackers

Please no expired items.

- ☐ Powdered Milk
- ☐ Spices



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\$40 minimum purchase (excludes alcohol, gift cards, tax & state bottle deposits)

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Valid in-store at Junction City Grocery Outlet only. One coupon per person. Not valid with any other offer. Duplicated coupons will not be accepted. Expires November 1, 2025.

OUTDOORS

Majestic Falls and Mossy Forests at McDowell Creek

By Anne Clarke, Staff Writer

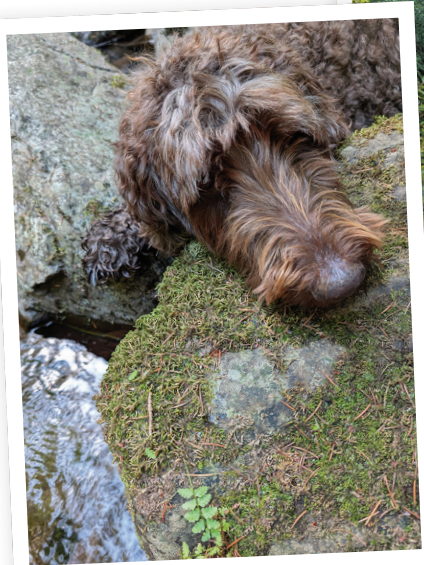
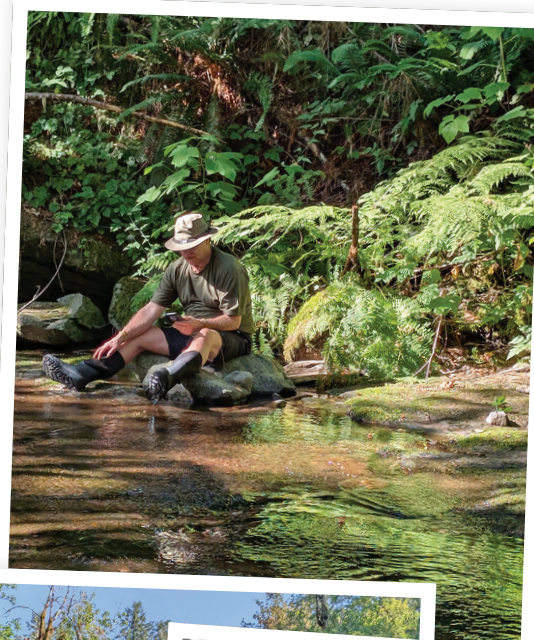
Clive, Roxy, and I travelled over to McDowell Creek County Park just after Labor Day. Choosing to go during mid-week, we found ourselves relatively alone, with very few other visitors. The park features Majestic and Royal Terrace Falls along a 3-mile trail on McDowell Creek, which is a tributary of the South Santiam River. It spans 60 acres and is quintessential Oregon.

From Brownsville, it takes under 40 minutes to drive the 23 miles over to the park. Within a few steps of one of the parking areas, you can find yourself alongside the creek, hiking over beautiful bridges, pausing on viewing platforms, or taking a “stroll” along easy, looping trails.

Large tables situated in various settings offer quiet spaces to share a picnic. We chose to carry our picnic down to the water and waded for a while until we found a clearing with dappled shade and a swimming hole for Roxy to cool off in. The old conifers and deciduous trees hanging throughout the park are literally dripping with mosses, which are a beauty all in themselves. While there, look and listen out for typical mixed forest species of birds, including Black-headed Grosbeak, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson’s Warblers, and American Dippers.

I was drawn to this park due primarily to its name, McDowell, as it is one of the names from my own family history. Some of our McDowell pioneer ancestors settled in nearby King’s Valley. “Muddy” was my grandmother’s nickname — I like to think of her each time I pass over one of the Muddy Creeks here in Linn County.

A nicely detailed map of the park is available on the Linn County Parks and Recreation website, linnparks.com. The park is open year-round, but if you want to avoid crowds and perhaps enjoy the fall splendor of maple trees turning colors, now is a good time to go. To find the park online, you can access full directions and more information by typing in 43170 McDowell Creek Drive, Lebanon, Oregon 97355. 🌲



PHOTOS BY ANNE CLARKE

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PHARMACY *continued from cover*

help. We’ll have ups and downs, but automation and efficiency will make us stronger.” Planned improvements include automated refills, a medication synchronization program to align all prescriptions on a 30- or 90-day cycle and expanded services like delivery of medications.

Some familiar faces will remain at the Brownsville Pharmacy. Doris and Kristin Westfall, the well-known mother-daughter team, are staying on to provide continuity. Pharmacist Brandy Davis, while new to town, is already making connections with customers.

Tyler is quick to acknowledge the challenges small pharmacies face. Chief among them is the role of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), middlemen who negotiate drug reimbursements on behalf of insurance companies. Reimbursement rates are often lower than the pharmacy’s cost of purchasing medications, particularly for new brand-name drugs. “This system isn’t sustainable,” Tyler explained. “It’s why Bi-Mart closed their pharmacies and why Rite Aid is closing. Reform is sorely needed.” He encourages community members to learn more about the issue and speak up.

Despite the hurdles, Tyler is excited about Brownsville. He and his wife, Katie, are raising two young children — Parker, age 4, and Sawyer, age 2. They value the close-knit feel of rural towns. “I have always wanted this,” he said. “I love small communities.”

Tyler wants residents to know one thing: “I will never be a Joe,” he said, referencing recently retired pharmacist Joe Erwin. “I’ll do things differently, but like Joe, I want to be part of this community. The role of a local pharmacy is to make sure people have access to life-saving medications, and to get to know you and your health.” 🌲



Pharmacist Tyler Dearing with his wife, Katie, and their daughters, Parker, 4, and Sawyer, 2.

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Brownsville Assembly of God

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

Brownsville Christian Church

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

Brownsville Community Church

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

Brownsville Mennonite Church

34795 OR-228 • 541-466-5622

Central Valley Church

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

Crawfordsville Calvary Chapel

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

First Baptist Church of Brownsville

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

Halsey Mennonite Church

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

Harvest Reformed Baptist Church

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

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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

Oakville Presbyterian Church

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

Riverside Christian Fellowship

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

Spirit of the Valley
United Methodist Church

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

The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints

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

Valley Christian Fellowship

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

PIONEER FAMILIES

The Looney Family

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer

Over a hundred early pioneers settled in the Willamette Valley in the 19th century. We continue to see “Century Farm” signs scattered in the valley, and many of those pioneer families still live and work here, many still farm.

I interviewed Bill Looney, who lives West of Shedd. His family is one of those Pioneer settlers. The original Looney farm was designated in the Sunday Oregonian on March 14, 1937, as the oldest existing farm in the Northwest. It was established before Linn County was formed. Jesse and Ruby Bond Looney came to Oregon with Jesse Applegate and Dr. Marcus Whitman in 1843 and settled just over the border in Jefferson. Bill’s third great-grandfather, William, died after coming to Oregon in 1849. Anthony Looney, Bill’s second great grandfather, came to Oregon in 1848 supplying the gold miners in California and Alaska with game and provisions

Looney family predates Linn’s establishment

BY MARILYN WEATHERLY
for the Democrat-Herald
The Looneys have been here for a long, long time. Longer than Linn County, in fact. Bill Looney, an Oakville grass seed grower, says his great-great-grandfather, Jesse Looney, homesteaded in the Willamette Valley in 1844, 100 years before Linn County is established in 1847. Anthony Looney, Bill’s great-grandfather, came to Oregon in the California gold fields to nestle near Tangent in 1865. Five generations of the Looney family (Anthony, William, Thad and Bill) have tilled the valley soil, leaving their name on local spots — Looney Lane and the Century Farm near Linn Community College. The



Provided by Bill Looney

A 1990s Democrat-Herald article traces the Looney family’s roots in Linn County back to Jesse Looney’s 1844 homestead.

acres in North Albany starting in 1919. Thad and Louise Looney, along with Bill’s parents, began a farm in Oakville in 1950. Thad farmed until he was 80 years old. Bill continued farming 625 acres in the Oakville area until 2005. Since then, they have leased the farm to the Smith family.

Bill obtained a degree in communications from Southern Oregon University in 1976. He always wanted to be a broadcast journalist, but those jobs were few and far between. Bill married Maureen Lowry in 1979, and they had two sons, Nate and Jack. Jack and his wife, Hannah, and their two sons live in the 1911 farmhouse. Bill never regretted choosing farming! ☼



DANIEL R. MURPHY

The Looney farm west of Shedd has been in the family since the mid-1800s and is surrounded by fertile valley fields.



DANIEL R. MURPHY

Bill Looney, 71, is the last of his family to run the historic Looney farm west of Shedd.

In 1865, Anthony and Mary Looney took out a donation land claim on Looney Lane by LBCC. The Looney family farmed that property from 1865 to 2003. One of Anthony and Mary’s sons was William, who was the father of Bill’s grandfather, Jed Looney. Jed farmed 65

WIDOWS’ BRIGADE

Carrying On: Practical Lessons and Shared Journeys

By Mary Canaday, Staff Writer

I have been a widow for more than six years, and in that time, I’ve learned just how many challenges come with creating a “new normal.” When we lose a spouse, we lose more than companionship. We also lose the knowledge they carried — the passwords, the routines, and the know-how for tasks we may never have touched ourselves.

One widower I know, Mr. M, discovered this the hard way while preparing his home for visitors after his wife’s memorial. What seemed simple — vacuuming — quickly became an ordeal. First, he spent 20 minutes just locating the vacuum cleaner. When it wouldn’t pick up dirt, he checked the hose, even ran water through it, and finally called his daughter. She gently explained that the vacuum bag needed replacing — something he didn’t know how to do or where to find.

Mr. B shared another reminder: not all dishes are microwave safe. And Mr. R learned that cast iron on a glass-top stove can cause cracks and an expensive replacement.

These stories may sound small, but they hold an essential truth. None of us can fully prepare for the loss of a loved one. But we can ease the burden by sharing knowledge about the ordinary tools, chores, and equipment that keep a household running. Passing along those details is another way of showing love.

The Widows’ Brigade in the Central Linn area offers a place where these lessons — both practical and heartfelt — are shared among friends. Over the past few months, our group has been busy. We attended Hands On History in Brownsville, enjoyed lunch at Randy’s, and wrapped up the day with ice cream at Poppi’s. Learning about old crafts sparked interest in planning a future tour and photography lesson with Janky Bird for tintype pictures.

Other recent outings included dinner at Grill 99 in Harrisburg and a seven-day Alaska cruise for six of our ladies. At a recent meeting, members enjoyed creating fall crafts, including owls, scarecrows, and turkeys, using felt.

Looking Ahead

The October meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 1:30 p.m. at Central Valley Church. This month’s theme will be sharing photos and stories of pets. On Friday, Oct. 18, the group will tour the carousel in Albany at 10 a.m., with plans for lunch and ice cream afterward.

This year, the Brigade is also participating in Operation Shoebox, preparing Christmas gifts for children worldwide. Donations will be due in early November.

For more information about the group or its activities, call or text coordinator Mary Canaday at 541-401-4738. All widows are welcome, regardless of the length of time they have been widowed. ☼



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AMERICAN LEGION

A College of Our Own, Right Here at Home

By an Ordinary Seaman



JOHN MORRISON

There's a saying that a man must learn to walk before he can run, and I reckon that holds true for just about everything — even for an outfit as grand as the American Legion. The big machines, the ones that keep the world turning, don't just happen. They're built, piece by piece, and greased with the sweat of good people. That's what came to mind last week when many of us gathered up at Post 51 in Lebanon for something they called "Legion College."

Now, a college can be a peculiar thing. Most folks think of them as stone buildings and youngsters with heads full of football and parties, but this was different. It didn't look like any college I'd ever known — no stone towers, no grassy quadrangles, not even a professor's tweed jacket in sight. What we did have was a mess of folding chairs, a handful of battered tables, and stacks of pamphlets, forms of all sizes, and a manual or two. You could tell by the way folks settled in that this was important, not just for the learning, but for the feeling that you belonged to something bigger than yourself.

The chatter in the room carried the weight of shared service and quiet pride, drifting between old stories and the new challenges of keeping the post alive. There were nods all around, the kind you only get from people who've seen the same dawns and carried the same burdens. The air buzzed with a sort of expectation — like we were all about to set off on a march together, side by side, boots hitting the gravel in time. This was a college for the men and women who've already lived a life or two. The kind of folk who know a wrench from a monkey and the difference between a good hand salute and a bad one. It wasn't about the grand theories of war or peace, but the quiet,

necessary work of keeping a thing alive.

We had commanders and adjutants, men and women who carry the weight of their posts on their shoulders, all poring over manuals with names like the "Officer's Guide" and the "Manual of Ceremonies". The Department Commander, Renee Ohler, said those books were "guides to be followed," and she said

it with a look that didn't leave a lick of doubt. It was a humble sort of learning, about dues and documents, about the four pillars — Veterans Affairs, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. It was a kind of knowledge that, if you had it, would keep the post from listing to the side like a scow in a heavy current. There was a lot of talk about a thing called MyLegion.org, a kind of digital spider web where they keep track of everything from memberships to locations. It seemed a little like magic, a little like the devil's own work, but it was just another tool in the box, and a necessary one at that.

But a man can't live on lectures alone, no sir. What you learn in a room with a lot of other folks is good and fine, but the really valuable material is learned in the hallways. It's in the quiet conversations over a cup of coffee. We talked about how to get folks to step up and lead, about working with the good people in the Auxiliary and the Sons and the Riders. We talked about focus, about picking one thing and doing it right. And all the while, the people in the kitchen were working their own kind of magic, serving up a breakfast and a lunch that would make a man forget all his troubles. It was the kind of food that told you, without a single word, that this place was a home, and the people in it were family.

They say that after a great blow, or a great crisis, you settle down into the new condition of things and feel that all possibility of change has been used up. But if anything is certain, it's that no story is ever over. The story of our Legion, and our community, is always in the making. And this college, this gathering, was just another chapter in a long day. ☼

LINN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Receive August Linn County Health Report

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — There were 105 deaths and 61 births in Linn County in August, Health Officer Dr. Adam Brady reported at the September 16 meeting of the Linn County Board of Commissioners.

Dr. Brady said 59 males and 46 females died in August. Three deaths were individuals who were more than 100 years old.

Tobacco use was associated with 23 deaths, diabetes was associated with 14 deaths and alcohol use was associated with five deaths.

There were 33 boys and 28 girls born in August.

There were 30 reported animal bites and 244 total so far this calendar year.

Dr. Brady said there was one new case of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) and eight total for the calendar year to date.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a resolution and order to purchase a rock quarry on Brock Drive for \$120,000 from Mary J. Brock, trustee of the Mary J. Brock Revocable Living Trust, David W. Brock and Francis E. Brock. Roadmaster Amy Ramsdell said the property transaction is set to close on September 25.
- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Health Authority not-to-exceed \$133,000 for funding of the Parent-Child Interaction Therapy Program for the 2025-2027 biennium. The program teaches parents how to interact in positive ways and set boundaries with their young children who have behavioral issues.
- Approved a Temporary Employment Agreement with Linn County Sheriff's Office Corrections Deputy Alan Campbell, who will retire on October 31. The agreement will allow Campbell to continue working full time under contract through December 31, 2025.
- Approved a First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreement with Newman-Lebanon-Stayton-Schmizza Public House. ☼

LIVING ROCK

continued from page 2

their wafer-thin slices of agate and other minerals.

For 40 years, the Studios have welcomed travelers, school groups, and neighbors who come to marvel at its blend of geology, art, and personal devotion. After Howard's passing in 1996, stewardship of the building passed to his daughters, who cared for it and shared its story. The last surviving daughter is Penny Mackey, who, with her husband David, continues to operate the Studios to this day.

"Living Rock Studios is more than a building — it's a testament to perseverance, creativity, and family," said one of the caretakers. "This celebration is about looking back on 40 years, but also about ensuring it inspires people for generations to come."

Located at 911 W. Bishop Way in Brownsville, Living Rock Studios will be open, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with admission by donation.

For Brownsville, the Studios are both a point of pride and a reminder of what can be built when vision meets determination. The 40th anniversary celebration is an invitation to rediscover this hidden gem — and to see the wonder that can be found when ordinary rocks are transformed into something extraordinary. ☼



STEPHEN A BRENNER

Penny and David Mackey continue as caretakers carrying on the legacy.



Inside Living Rock Studios the stone walls, stairways, and mosaics create a space unlike any other.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIVING ROCK STUDIOS

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SEASONS EATINGS

From Chai to Cake: Recipes to Warm the Season

By Lisa Keith, Staff Writer

Hello, Dear readers! Happy Autumn! I know we have mixed emotions about the coming of Autumn: Love the break from the heat. Love the bit of chill which requires a cozy throw and possibly a sweater. Love the beautiful show in nature's artwork. Dislike the cold. Dislike the Dreary skies. I love all things warm and spicy: hot apple cider, pumpkin spice lattes, and Chai tea... I have a few yummy, warm drink recipes to share this week and an absolutely foolproof cake recipe to enjoy with your warm drink.

Fresh Apple Cake

This recipe was lovingly shared with me by Video Store Debbie in 2015, when we were business neighbors. The recipe was given to her by her grandmother. I tweaked some of the ingredients and added a decadent Caramel sauce. I have experimented with different varieties of apples — with skins on versus skins off — and it all works! I make this every year, and it has been a sell-out item at every market and bake sale.

Step 1: Mix well:

- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup oil

Step 2: Sift the following dry ingredients, then add to #1 and mix well.

- 1 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp cinnamon
- 2 cups flour

Step 3 Mix well; it will be very thick. Combine with the other batter.

- 4 cups diced apples
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup chopped nuts (I like mine toasted)

Optional: 1 cup raisins (I've never added these... not a fan of raisins in most baked goods)

Grease and flour a bundt pan very well. Sprinkle some nuts and brown sugar over the first layer. Spread batter evenly. Bake at 350° F for 45–60 minutes. I start testing with a toothpick at 45 minutes and check every 10 minutes or so until it comes out clean. Let the cake rest for 10 minutes on a cooling rack. Turn over onto a serving dish.



Enjoy warm or cold. Usually doesn't last long... it gets gobbled up!

Caramel Sauce

Super versatile! My friend Debby S. at Calvary Chapel in Harrisburg gave me this recipe in 2010. She originally paired with cinnamon roll bake.

- ½ cup each brown sugar, white sugar, butter, and heavy whipping cream (yeeees you can use plain ol' milk... yawn!)
- ½ tsp vanilla

Mix the first four ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat. Let it cool slightly, then mix in the vanilla. Pour warm over any cake or dessert. So Amazing! You just want to eat it with a spoon.

Chai Spice Syrup

- 2 cups water
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 Tbsp ground ginger
- 2 Tbsp ground Cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground black pepper
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- 1 tsp ground cardamom
- 1 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp ground allspice
- ⅛ tsp ground anise

Gently simmer all ingredients until the sugar is dissolved. Store in an airtight bottle. Use one tablespoon per drink, hot or cold, boozy or not. Add to anything... even coffee! Add a tablespoon of ground turmeric to boost the nutritional value.

Warming Spice Mix
(aka Pumpkin Pie Spice)

- 2 Tbsp Cinnamon
- ½ tsp ginger
- ½ tsp allspice
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- ¼ tsp cloves
- ¼ tsp cardamom

Blend all ingredients and store in an airtight container. Use generously in any baked good or (½ tsp) drink that needs to be kicked up in this Autumn weather.

Please reach out to me with any questions or requests. I am always available via email at iamcheflisa@gmail.com. ☺



TAKING ROOT

In Praise of Eggplant

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer

They are beautiful, even more so when you call them aubergine instead of the rather pedestrian eggplant. What do they have to do with eggs? Hang on, and I'll tell you, but first, a little story. Some years ago, I put my aubergines on the counter at the checkout stand. The lady behind me, with a very skeptical look, said, "I don't eat those." That was fine with me as I didn't plan to share. I was going to make baba ghanoush — a Mediterranean dish with baked eggplant and tahini.

Like tomatoes, chili peppers, and potatoes, eggplants are in the Nightshade family, as is revealed by their lovely star-like flower. Yes, there are some poisonous members of the Nightshade family, such as Belladonna, but eggplants are getting a bad rap. Some even called them devil's fruit and believed, perhaps like the lady behind me, that they cause insanity.

Eggplants are a key ingredient in many Asian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean dishes — ratatouille and moussaka come to mind, but it is in the Levantine baba ghanoush that they really reach their highest purpose, in my opinion. They are quite easy to grow, though they require almost three months to mature and prefer full sun. Pick them when they are about two-thirds to three-quarters of their maximum size. I usually plant the one called "Millionaire."



Pick your eggplants at two-thirds maximum size.

To make baba ghanoush, slice three to four medium-sized eggplants in half lengthwise and bake them face down at 350 degrees on an oiled cookie sheet for about 30 minutes. When cooled enough to handle, scoop out the pulp and discard the skin. Add pulp, two minced garlic cloves, a quarter cup of lemon juice, a quarter cup of tahini, a bit of salt, pepper, and cayenne to your food processor and puree until smooth. Chill and serve as an appetizer with minced parsley or mint sprinkled on top. Float a tablespoon of olive oil on top as well and enjoy with crackers or flatbread.

Why do they call them eggplants? Many of the varieties first seen in the West were small, white, and egg-shaped. Better to call them aubergines.

Got a gardening question? Ask a Master Gardener at phototraveler02@gmail.com. ☺

Donald Lyon is a retired photography tour operator and local volunteer who serves on several community boards. He believes a strong local newspaper is key to keeping Brownsville connected and vibrant.

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Boundaries

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer

A reddish-gold Golden Retriever, a fuzzy bundle of a white Bichon Frisé puppy, a tuxedo cat, and a light brown lop-eared rabbit were all in a line. They ordered themselves largest to smallest in size, and they walked, unsupervised, up my street to the beach. It seems impossible to believe but ask any of the neighbors. That is not really the story here, but the curious thing is, why did I have four pets and three kids in a small beach house? Yes, they were mine. As were the two outdoor rabbits who were visited one night by a runaway neighborhood bunny who wedged himself under the fence to leave me with twenty baby bunnies in the outdoor hutch.

One day, my three kids, four indoor pets, and twenty-two bunny rabbits caused me to stop and look closely at my life. I was finishing a second college degree and working as a teacher as well as volunteering as a soccer referee, taking various kids to their various sports groups and social engagements too. Was it a bit too much? How did it happen? I believe that my boundaries were not enforced. These were not boundaries that seemed like an external physical force or wall. They were internal boundaries that were sensitive and fluid, beginning within oneself and ensuring that one's decisions and circumstances did not result in distress.

Boundaries separate what the mind wants from what the body needs. Physical, emotional, intellectual, and even financial boundaries are several common types. Spiritual boundaries are personal guidelines people set up, often unknowingly, to protect their spiritual well-being from harmful rela-



Our pet Lucy Diltz

tionships or contradictory beliefs. Mindfully protecting your time, resources, and energy requires the ability to say “No” when negative consequences could result from proceeding. Taking on excessive responsibility is one manifestation of not maintaining healthy boundaries. Not spending time ‘checking in’ with yourself and honestly assessing your emotions, finances, physical health, and energy is another.

Being true to yourself by knowing when too many responsibilities are piling on and saying “No” before negative consequences arise are good ways to practice setting boundaries. Determining your needs and communicating them to others is the foundation of healthy boundary setting. I am happy to say that with no small effort, the baby bunnies all found themselves in good homes. The years went by, the kids grew up, the home on the beach was left behind, and over time, the beloved pets crossed the rainbow bridge. I learned, if a bit late, to take inventory of my own personal boundaries prior to taking on too much in my life. These days, my husband and I happily work on trying to (occasionally) say “No” to our grandkids, and that is definitely a work-in-progress. Perhaps it is the one boundary area that is meant to be breached. 🌀

Bee Sting Tip

Local Shedd resident Don Wirth recommends a simple remedy: chew on a leaf of buck-horn plantain to release its juices, then rub it directly on the sting. Broadleaf plantain works as well. In most cases, he says, the pain quickly subsides. 🌀

CRITTER CHRONICLES

Sharon, Woody, and Eva the Husky Hurricane

By Sharon Banks, Staff Writer

Sharon and Woody thought they knew what they were getting into when they brought home a 9-week-old husky puppy. She was a cinnamon-colored fluffball with piercing blue eyes — part angel, part teddy bear, and all mischief wrapped up in fur. They named her Eva.

On her very first trip to the beach, the couple proudly showed off their new baby. A man passing by took one look at her and burst out laughing.

“OMG,” he said, shaking his head, “your trouble is just beginning.” They thought he was joking. They were wrong.

Over the next two years, life with Eva was like starring in a sitcom written by a prankster. Every single shoe in the house became a chew toy. Sharon’s purses had to be displayed on the highest shelves. She shredded a 12-pack of Costco paper towels just for fun. She ate the padded seat off the Kubota and chewed the wires off the lawnmower. She even opened all her Christmas presents and no one else’s (perhaps something to do with the smell of snacks). Whenever Eva got “the call of the wild,” she would vanish into the woods for hours— sometimes miles — while Sharon and Woody stumbled around cougar country at midnight with flashlights, hollering like lost campers.

Eventually, technology came to the rescue. A GPS collar turned the game of “Where’s Waldo?” into “Ah-ha! There she is — three miles away in the neighbor’s forest.”

Somehow, the three of them survived the “terrible twos.” The husky grew out of her rebellious stage, leaving behind only memories, teeth marks, and a permanently mismatched set of shoes. In the end, Sharon and Woody got what they always wanted: a wonderful, loving pet... with just enough sass to keep them humble. 🌀



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Junior & Senior High School October Events

- **Oct. 6 – School picture retake day**
- **Week of Oct. 6 – Homecoming Week**
 - Oct. 8: Macho Volleyball, 7–8 p.m.
 - Oct. 8: Power Puff Football, 8–9 p.m.
 - Oct. 9: Bonfire, 7:30–9 p.m.
 - Oct. 10: Homecoming football game, 7 p.m.
 - Oct. 11: Homecoming dance, 8–10 p.m., Central Linn Elementary small gym
- **Oct. 30–31 – Parent-teacher conferences**

For more Central Linn school and sports and event listings visit: <https://www.centrallinn.k12.or.us/calendar>. 🌐



Junior High Cobra Football Returns

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer

The Central Linn Junior High School six-man football team returned to the field last Thursday, September 25, playing its first game in two years against Siletz Valley. A palpable mix of nervous excitement filled the air, with player Rylan Ernst declaring beforehand, “We’re just ready to hit some guys, ready to get some touchdowns, and have a good game.”

The Cobras fell 52–72, but the action was a fierce, back-and-forth scoring battle. Trace Hite, who scored the majority of Central Linn’s touchdowns in the first half, admitted to pre-game jitters: “We are kind of nervous and a little scared.” Yet, they didn’t show it, with even the smallest athlete fearlessly attempting to tackle the opposition just before the end zone.



Central Linn Junior High School has a fierce six-man team after a year with JH Football.



CLJH Trace Hite leaps over an opponent to score a touchdown for the Cobras.



Junior High Cobra Cheerleaders Roxanne McMillen, Syrha Erickson, Maddie Chance, and Maci Kennedy led enthusiastic chants at their first game.

Despite a rush to prepare, the JH Cheerleaders kept spirits high, confidently taking turns leading the crowd for the first time in formation. Reflecting on the inspiring effort, Head JH Cheer Coach Chriszma Erickson and I, Assistant Coach Eva Wada, agreed, “We’re proud of all the JH students who gave it their all. Great game!” 🌐

Alyrica Awarded Preliminary Broadband Grant for Central Linn

Families, students, and businesses across the Central Linn School District may soon experience faster and more reliable internet service. Alyrica Networks has been named a preliminary awardee under the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program to expand high-speed internet in Brownsville, Halsey, Shedd, and surrounding rural areas.

The project will bring service to 680 unserved and underserved locations through a hybrid fiber and fixed wireless system. The goal is to enhance digital equity and support rural communities in keeping pace with evolving educational and business needs.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$7.1 million. Alyrica and its partners have requested \$5.3 million in federal grant funds to help cover the investment.

BEAD, administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, is the most extensive broadband expansion program in U.S. history. Oregon received \$689 million to support 317 projects across 212 grant areas, ensuring that 100% of eligible locations in the state received at least one bid. The program is designed to make broadband available to every Oregonian, with benefits extending to education, health-care, agriculture, and business.

“Access to fast, affordable broadband is at the heart of our work,” said Rachael Maddock-Hughes, CEO of Rural Prosperity Partners, which worked with Alyrica to prepare the Central Linn grant proposal. “We are committed to supporting thriving rural communities.”

Founded in 2002, Alyrica Networks is based in Philomath and has built its business on serving rural Oregon. The company says the hybrid system planned for Central Linn will help overcome terrain challenges and ensure scalable, dependable connections.

If the award is finalized, Central Linn households, students, and small businesses will gain access to new digital opportunities that have been out of reach until now. More information about Oregon’s BEAD efforts is available through Business Oregon at <https://www.oregon.gov/biz>. 🌐

Moms Tackle Cobra Football

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer

Central Linn Senior High football players honored the mothers and mother figures in their lives this week, culminating in the away game on Friday, September 26. Unfortunately, the Cobras were defeated 6–30 by the Monroe Dragons in their fifth loss of the season. However, players and their families will still treasure the heartfelt memories made during the week.

The highlight of the “Moms’ Week” events was the chance for family members to tackle their players at practice. Head Coach Mike Day, who acknowledged that many other figures besides mothers deserved recognition, shared enthusiastic advice: “I’ve seen some moms lay their kids out!” Day advised the adoring supporters to “strap it up” if they intended to hit hard.

Lisa Helms, mother of Quarterback Jacob Helms, confirmed the fierce fun, noting this was the first year she didn’t get hurt. She added, “With the football family dinners and events like these, we’re just one big family here.”

While the tackling event provided laughs, interviewees agreed that the dearest memory of the week was receiving a personal thank-you letter from their player. They hope this special tradition continues for years.

Want to watch Cobras hilariously get tackled by family members? Check out our YouTube video by Eva Wada: <https://youtu.be/G4A2t7N-onQ>. 🌐



Head Coach Mike Day gave this advice on Moms Tackle Night: “See what you’re hitting. Go ahead and de-cleat them!”

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BROWNSVILLE BOOK CLUB

The Future is Now

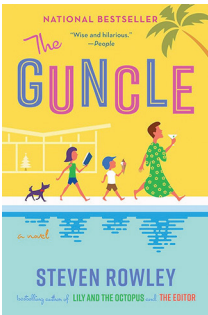
By Barbara DeRobertis, Staff Writer

And now... for something new and different but hauntingly too familiar? Perhaps last month’s Book Club pick, “The Circle”, by Dave Eggers, hits a little too close to home. This book is considered dystopian fiction. Dystopian fiction is typically speculative and describes a world where freedoms are threatened, certainly one that we would like to avoid. It often depicts what might happen if trends are taken to the extreme. “The Circle” was written in 2013 and is considered prophetic, but in my opinion, it is too realistic. Is big tech taking over? At what point is technology more harmful than helpful?

The main character is a young woman, Mae Holland, who lands a highly sought-after job working for a large, popular internet company called The Circle. This company collects and stores everyone’s personal data in one place, you know, for the sake of convenience. Their mission is to track individuals’ purchasing, banking, health, and everyday activities. Yes, they monitor your every move, including your heart rate. Employees at The Circle work in a utopian environment (a huge self-contained campus) and become entrenched in its workings. They find themselves easily adopting an agenda of total transparency and total control. Mae’s dedication to this company leads to a series of losses, most notably to personal losses in her relationships.

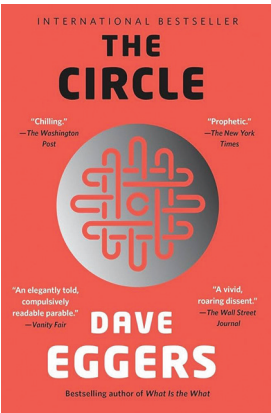
Of course, everyone in the Book Club agreed that all of this is creepy and alarming. It would be naïve of us to ignore the fact that we are often under surveillance with and without our awareness or consent. Big Brother (a reference to George Orwell’s early dystopian novel, “Nineteen Eighty-Four,” written in 1948!), is often intruding in our daily lives, watching (cameras in public places) and listening (smart phones), not to mention tracking our every move online. When we create profiles on social media platforms, the algorithms quickly go to work gathering information about us: what we buy, who and what we follow, who our friends are, etc. The reality is that, along with the intention of making our lives easier, today’s technology brings some unfortunate byproducts with it: invasion of privacy, loss of security, loss of individuality, psychological manipulation, digital addiction, and general loss of control in our personal lives.

This book made many of us think about how much time we spend each day on our devices and what we are all connected to... and it’s probably not each other. Consider this novel a cautionary tale.



As is customary at our meetings, members shared their most recent reads: “The River is Waiting” (Lamb); “Loving Frank” (Horan); “Code Talker: a Novel about the Navajo Marines of WWII” (Nez); “Faithful Place” (French); and “The Salt Path” (Winn).

We will be discussing “Guncle” by Steven Rowley at our October 15 meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Kirk Room of the Brownsville Community Library. New members are always welcome. Questions: email bderobertis@yahoo.com. 🌀



SHERRING BOOKS

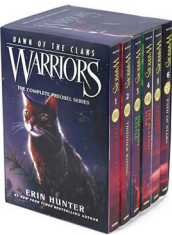
Third Wave of New Books Arrive

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

The Brownsville Library has just added its final wave of new titles for the season, and there’s something for everyone — junior readers, fiction lovers, and nonfiction fans alike. From thrilling adventures and heartfelt romances to inventive cookbooks and unexpected histories, this collection promises fresh discoveries on every shelf. Stop by the front desk and see what catches your eye!

Junior

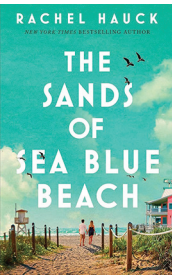
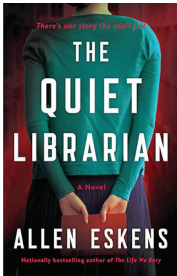
“Roswell Johnson Saves the World” by Chris Colfer. New series! A boy must team up with a group of quirky aliens to save Earth.



“Warriors: Dawn of the Clans” by Erin Hunter, Books 1–6. If you read one, you will want to read them all! Another patron request!

Adult Fiction

“The Quiet Librarian” by Allen Eskens is a suspense thriller set during the Yugoslav War, from 1991 to 1995. Is there such a thing as a quiet

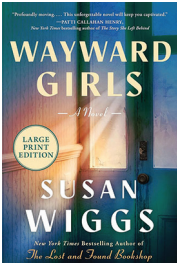


librarian? “The Sands of Sea Blue Beach” by Rachel Hauck is a clean and wholesome romance. “Tomlinson’s Wake: #28 Doc Ford Novel” by Randy

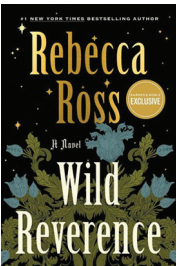
Wayne White. This mystery takes place off the Mosquito Coast of Honduras.



“The Unraveling of Julia” by Lisa Scottoline. A Romantic Suspense that takes place in Italy.



“Wayward Girls” by Susan Wiggs. Six girls come together in a Catholic reform school in



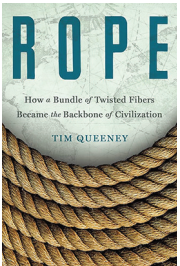
Buffalo, NY, during the 1960s. “Wild Reverence” by Rebecca Ross is an Epic Fantasy Romance.

Adult Non-Fiction



“Make It Meatless: 100 Meaty Recipes That Taste Just Like the Real Thing” by Shreya Walia — a quick and easy veg-an cookbook.

“Rope: How a Bundle of Twisted Fibers Became the Backbone of Civilization” by Tim Queeney. Ever think about how long humans have used rope? And how many different ways? 🌀



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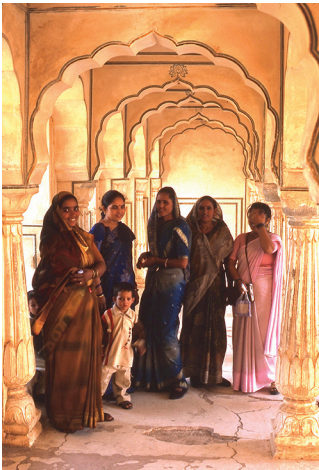
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Programs for Everyone!

India's Fabled Rajasthan

India is a world unto itself, and Rajasthan is its color capital. This is the land of Maharajahs, camel caravans, and painted elephants. Lost cities where monkeys play and scenes from Kipling's "The Jungle Book" really do exist. Visit white marble temples of love and witness life along the sacred Ganges. Former professional photographer and tour guide Don Lyon is the presenter of this delightful and informative program — Thursday, October 16, 2025, 7 p.m. in the Kirk Room at the Library.



Other programs include pictorial tours of France's La Belle Provence on November 20; Turkish Treasure on February 19, 2026; and Florida's Wild Everglades on March 19, 2026.

Songs, Rhymes, and More Story Time

For 16 years! Mrs. Thea has been coming up with ideas and teaching our children how to use glue, scissors, and paint at Friday Story Time. It is amazing to see the new ideas come pouring out of her each week. This fall, we will be reading about apples, acorns, and pumpkins! We can make pumpkin lanterns, masks, and trees; jack-o-lanterns, spooky cats, scarecrows, ghosts, and spiders. She uses crepe paper, sticks, paper plates, yarn, string — anything available in the craft closet! Story Time is not only for children. Families come and meet each other. Moms and grandparents share stories and tips. We all learn to work together on the craft of the day. These treasures are taken home, shown off to parents and other family members with pride. Join Librarian Sherri with guest reader Heather Timmons and Mrs. Thea on Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon for some Story Time fun. Let's build community together.

Parents & Pals Story Time

Wednesdays 10–10:15 a.m. Enjoy stories together, followed by playtime.

All programs are free and open to the public.

Regular Library hours

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

For more information, call the Library at 541-466-5454, or visit the Library's website at <https://www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org> or follow, or share posts on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BVORLibrary>.

KIDS' KORNER

Ahhh... Fall

By Sandra Beckwith, Staff Writer

How do trees know when to drop their leaves? We watch it every year, but it's fascinating how it happens. Plants have their own hormones. Who knew! As the days grow shorter and temperatures drop, the plant hormone ethylene responds by weakening the spot where the leaf attaches to the branch. Then, a big gust of wind comes up and voilà, down comes the leaf. Without leaves, the tree conserves energy and moisture and has better protection by not having as much resistance to winter winds. How will you prepare for winter?

Fall is all about celebrating the harvest and preparing for challenging times. Our ancestors prepared food, chopped wood, spun wool for warm clothing, and cleaned up their fields, preparing the soil for next year's plantings. And they took time to celebrate all their work and being supplied for the challenging winters.

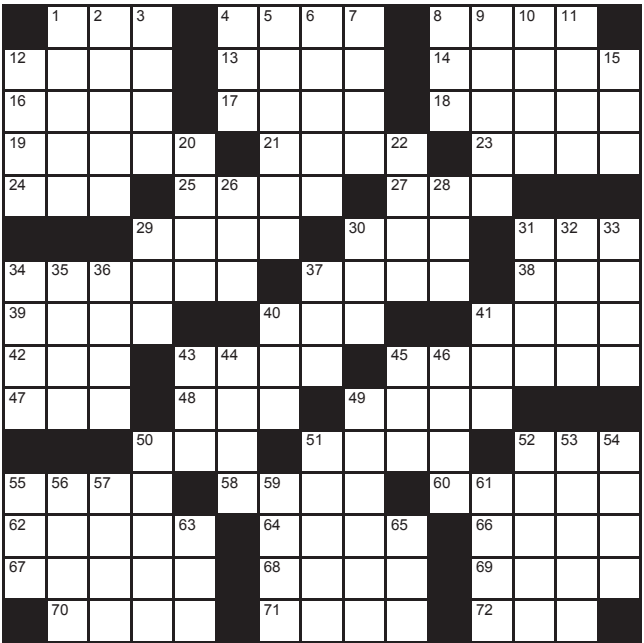


Ah, Fall! Who doesn't love a great pile of leaves!

You can help your family and neighbors by offering to rake leaves, stack firewood, sweep walkways, and cover (mulch) gardens with some of those leaves. You might even find time to jump into a pile or two and celebrate the wisdom of nature to respond to the changing seasons. It's an amazing process.



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ACROSS

- 1 Soft drink
- 4 Attention getter
- 8 Rear
- 12 Slightly topper
- 13 Dollar bill
- 14 Circumvent
- 16 Contributes
- 17 Highest degrees
- 18 Answer
- 19 Attempts
- 21 Reckless
- 23 Actress Russo
- 24 Envision
- 25 Rel. image
- 27 Increases
- 29 Trudge
- 30 Inventor Whitney
- 31 Distant
- 34 Refuge
- 37 Garden tool
- 38 Beer relative
- 39 Trumpet
- 40 Write down
- 41 Heartthrob
- 42 Singleton
- 43 Knife
- 45 Dairy cow
- 47 Damp
- 48 Haul
- 49 Bogus
- 50 Pumping iron facility

DOWN

- 1 San Diego athlete
- 2 Song of yore
- 3 Sit for a picture
- 4 ___ Arbor
- 5 Fast car
- 6 Hawke or Allen
- 7 Disarray
- 8 Soap measure
- 9 Swears
- 10 Make do
- 11 Oven
- 12 Bonnets
- 15 Coloring material
- 20 River mud
- 22 Wrecked ship
- 26 Demure
- 28 Pastry

- 29 Writing implement
- 30 Consume
- 31 Crazes
- 32 Health-giving plant
- 33 Depend
- 34 Movie
- 35 First-rate
- 36 Worry
- 37 Steal
- 40 Face part
- 41 Anger
- 43 Eye infection
- 44 Gobblers
- 45 Cookie holder
- 46 Augments
- 49 Barber of Seville character
- 50 Filth
- 51 Beak
- 52 Feels concern
- 53 Muscle
- 54 Bridge term
- 55 Medical man, for short
- 56 Slips up
- 57 Eve's son
- 59 Regrettably
- 61 Proboscis
- 63 Turner or Williams
- 65 Snooze

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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.

The following is a list of abbreviations that may appear in our log reports: LCSO (Linn County Sheriff's Office); OSP (Oregon State Police); LCCC (Linn County Circuit Court); LCJC (Linn County Justice Court); AMC (Albany Municipal Court); FTA (failure to appear); FTC (failure to comply). A roman numeral listed after a charge means that the charge is that numbered-degree: theft I (first-degree theft).

Monday, September 22

4:20 p.m. — Robert Jones, 62, of Eugene was issued citations for driving uninsured and driving without a license at the 100 block of Smith St, Harrisburg.

4:40 p.m. — Deputy ensured a local transient cleaned up his trash at 100 block of Smith St, Harrisburg.

4:54 p.m. — Aaron Clemmer, 45, of Halsey was issued citations for driving uninsured and driving while suspended at the 200 N 3rd St, Harrisburg. Aaron was also issued a criminal citation in lieu of custody for an Albany Municipal Court Warrant for contempt.

6:33 p.m. — Caller reported a juvenile trespassing

on farm property at the 700 block of W. G St, Halsey.

7:19 p.m. — Deputies responded to a threats call at the 500 block of Smith St, Harrisburg.

7:36 p.m. — DHS 307 Referral cross report at 1000 S 6th St, Harrisburg. Deputy documented Information.

8:52 p.m. — DHS 307 Referral cross report at 600 Dempsey St, Harrisburg. Deputy documented Information.

11:07 p.m. — Colten Collier, 20, from Brownsville, was arrested after a fight at the Harrisburg skate park.

Tuesday, Sept. 23

9:43 a.m. — Caller reported their business vehicle was stolen by an employee at 33900 block of Hwy 99E, Tangent.

9:51 p.m. — Deputies recovered a stolen firearm at the 29900 block of Saddle Butte Rd, Shedd.

3:50 p.m. — Deputy picked up a found bike from the Harrisburg library.

4:31 p.m. — Deputy assisted OSP with contacting people trespassing on ODOT property at Hwy 228/Ogle Rd, Halsey.

8:52 p.m. — DHS 307 referral reported at the 100 block of Galbraith St, Brownsville. Information about children and their home were documented. Deputy reports no crimes have occurred and the situation is best handled by DHS at this time.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

10:36 a.m. — Caller reported a dog complaint at the 32100 block of Old Oak Dr, Tangent. No public narrative.

3:31 p.m. — Caller reported a hit and run at the 35400 block of Holmes Dr, Brownsville. After looking at all the facts, it did not appear

to be criminal. No further action.

5:20 p.m. — Deputy investigated threats at the 600 block of E 2nd St, Halsey.

5:26 p.m. — Deputy spoke with a family about options regarding a teenager in the home struggling with mental health at the 32500 block of Old Hwy 34, Tangent.

7:24 p.m. — Caller reported an ongoing civil dispute at the 31600 block of Bell Plain Dr, Shedd. Info documented.

7:50 p.m. — Report of an 8 year old who said he wanted to harm himself and others. Deputy spoke with the child and his parents then seized the family's firearm as a safety plan at the 1000 block of S 6th St, Harrisburg. Investigation ongoing.

7:59 p.m. — Information will be documented regarding a child taking sleeping medication at the 1000 block of Oak St, Brownsville. No crimes have occurred.

5:56 p.m. — Troy Bunnel, 47, was arrested at 30300 block of Carney Dr, Harrisburg for an outstanding warrant. He was cited and released. He was cited to appear before the Lebanon Justice Court on 10/30/25 at 1:15 p.m. Report to follow.

Thursday, Sept. 25

7:31 a.m. — Todd Baldwin of Harrisburg was cited in lieu of custody for trespassing while archery hunting on private timberland closed to public use at the 36600 block of Mountain Home Dr, Brownsville. OSP Fish and Game assisted Linn County deputies.

10:21 a.m. — Keely Hawkins, 18, of Shedd, cited for speeding on Seven Mile Lane/Tangent Dr, Tangent. Warned for other violations.

11:12 a.m. — Caller reported a dog complaint at the

34100 block of Powell Hills Lp, Shedd.

12:39 p.m. — Keith Flanagan, 52, of Albany was cited for an active warrant and a driving while suspended violation at W. Bishop Way/S Main St, Brownsville.

2:15 p.m. — Caller reported Fraud with suspect posing as Sheriff's Office employee at 31700 block of Driver Rd, Tangent. No exchange of money occurred. Information documented.

2:34 p.m. — Leonard Watson, 39, of Harrisburg was arrested for fraudulent use of a credit card and theft in the first degree at 33000 block of Diamond Hill Dr, Harrisburg.

2:58 p.m. — Fraud reported at 35200 Union Point Ln, Brownsville. Caller noticed a \$1500 charge on her Amazon account for items she had not ordered and were sent to an address she had never been to. Report to follow.

5:17 p.m. — Report of an assault and criminal mischief following an attempted burglary at 25600 block of Gap Rd, Brownsville. Investigation on-going, report pending.

7:01 p.m. — DHS 307 referral reported at the 32000 block of Birdfood Dr, Tangent. Non-criminal information regarding a child and their household was documented.

9:34 p.m. — Matthew Cook, 31, of Lebanon was arrested for an outstanding warrant during a traffic stop on Tangent Dr/Meadow Wood St, Tangent. Matthew also received a traffic citation for operating motor vehicle while using mobile electronic device.

Friday September 26

7:34 a.m. — Deputies took a report of an assault at

the 25600 block of Gap Rd, Brownsville. Investigation on-going.

9:34 a.m. — Nicolas Vincent Kutch, 23, of Eugene was issued a citation for speeding. 78 in a 55mph zone at Hwy 228/Ogle Rd, Halsey.

2:40 p.m. — Citizen reported finding a large amount of golf balls in their yard. Deputy checked the area. No one observed hitting golf balls and no golf equipment located at the 400 block of W I St, Halsey.

2:43 p.m. — Curtis Rondell Martin, 23, of Shedd was issued a citation for speeding, 45 in a posted 25 mph zone, failure to carry proof of insurance, and failure to renew his vehicle registration at the 700 block of N Main St, Brownsville.

5:08 p.m. — Deputies responded to on going civil matter at the 31600 block of Bell Plain Dr, Shedd.

11:05 p.m. — Trespass was reported at the dog park after dark, Harrisburg.

Saturday, Sept. 27

10:20 a.m. — Deputies responded to a harassment at the 700 block of Templeton St Brownsville.

10:25 a.m. — Caller reported a neighborhood dispute over dogs at the 1000 block of Pine St, Brownsville.

9:30 p.m. — Coy Smith, 31, of Harrisburg, arrested for DUII at the 300 block of Smith St, Harrisburg.

Sunday, Sept. 28

1:30 a.m. — Deputies responded to a reported domestic disturbance. Neither party reported any crimes and agreed to remain separated and civil. Non-criminal at the 25000 block of Gap Rd, Brownsville. ☀

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CULTURAL EXPLORATIONS

Freedom of the Press

By Stephen A. Brenner, Staff Writer

In 1791 the Bill of Rights was enacted. It spells out Americans’ rights in relation to their government. At the top of the list was one of the most cherished democratic rights — Freedom of Speech. It read “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” The framers believed popular sovereignty required an informed citizenry. A free press would act as a check on power, exposing corruption, mistakes, or abuses. Without it, rulers could control the narrative and silence dissent. Jefferson himself famously said: “Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”

The Framers knew from experience how the tyranny of a monarchy could repress freedom of the press. In England, the government licensed printers and routinely prosecuted those who spoke out against them for seditious libel. During the 1790s and early 1800s, American newspapers were openly partisan organs for either the Federalists or the Democratic-Republicans. The battles between these factions were often vicious, filled with personal attacks, libel, and satire. In 1791, while serving as Secretary of State, Jefferson secretly helped finance Philip Freneau’s National Gazette to counter Hamilton’s influence through the Gazette of the United States, which was strongly Federalist.

Those attacks in the press got so heated that the Federalists, alarmed by the ferocity of Jeffersonian papers (and fearing pro-French radicalism), passed The Aliens and Sedition Act in 1798, which criminalized “false, scandalous, and malicious writing” against the government. Republican editors were fined and jailed. The outrage at the crackdown on the free press was partly responsible for Jefferson being elected in 1800.

Centuries later, our freedom of the press is threatened again. A disparaging comment on the Jimmy Kimmel show irritated the government. All it took was a threatening comment by the Chair of the FCC, Brendan Carr, to get Nexstar Media Group to have its stations preempt Kimmel’s show. Nexstar was seeking regulatory approval from the FCC for its planned \$6.2 billion merger with Tegna; financial security triumphed over free speech. This also happened recently with NBC bending the knee and canceling the Late Show with Stephen Colbert. Clearly, corporations aren’t going to protect our freedoms.

What about our own community newspaper? Are we going to be an open forum for controversial and vital issues? Or are we in the same position as the corporate press that fears to host controversy because it could affect our bottom line? Shouldn’t this issue of FCC abuse be front page news? Even Senator Cruz was shocked by it. We do need to establish trust in our community that we are non-partisan, but how long can we stay silent while tyranny escalates? What are your feelings? Let me know by emailing me at stephenabrenner@gmail.com.



Voters to Decide Law Enforcement Levy on Nov. 4 Election

ALBANY — Voters in Linn County will weigh Ballot Measure 22-212, a proposed four-year law enforcement local option tax levy, in the special election set for Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

Voter Deadlines

- Sept. 19, 2025: Ballots mailed to long-term and military voters.
- Oct. 6, 2025: First day to mail out-of-state ballots.
- Oct. 14, 2025: Last day to register to vote if not already registered in Oregon.
- Oct. 15, 2025: First day local ballots are delivered to the post office.
- Ballots must be returned or postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 4.

Ballot Measure 22-212

Four Year Law Enforcement Local Option Tax Levy

Question

Shall Linn County support current public safety services by levying \$3.08 per \$1,000 assessed value beginning in 2026 for four years? This measure may cause property taxes to increase.

Summary

Measure replaces current law enforcement levy (expiring June 2026) — continues operational and capital funding for law enforcement services for an additional four years. Levy maintains and enhances existing public safety services, with revenues funding operations of the Sheriff’s Office (76%), criminal prosecution (10%), plus juvenile offender supervision and detention (14%).

Explanatory Statement

For more than 42 years, Linn County citizens have voted to support law enforcement levies that have provided significant funding for:

- Sheriff’s deputies for criminal investigations, together with patrol and traffic operations.
- Emergency Management and

Response, along with Search and Rescue by the Sheriff.

- Operation and maintenance of the 252-bed jail by the Sheriff.
- Prosecution of criminals by the District Attorney.
- Supervision and detention of juvenile offenders by the Juvenile Department.

The current levy, approved in 2021, began July 1, 2022, at a rate of \$2.98 per \$1,000 assessed value. That levy expires June 2026.

The proposed levy would replace it at \$3.08 per \$1,000 assessed value, continuing funding for patrol, investigations, the jail, criminal prosecution, and juvenile offender supervision and detention.

The measure would also enhance emergency response to wildfires, flooding, severe weather, and other catastrophic events, improve Search and Rescue capabilities, and fund continued upgrades to Linn County’s 9-1-1 Communications Center and community emergency messaging systems.

Finally, the levy would provide continued funding for the recruitment and retention of professionally trained and highly skilled first responders and public safety professionals.

If the proposed levy passes, law enforcement services would be maintained and enhanced through June 2030. For the levy to be enacted, it must receive a majority of votes cast.

Tax Impact

The levy would set a four-year fixed rate of \$3.08 per \$1,000 assessed value, an increase of 10 cents per \$1,000 over the current rate.

If approved, the typical household with an assessed property value of \$250,000 would pay an additional \$25 per year.

More Information

More details are available at <https://www.linncountyor.gov>.

Submitted by the Linn County Board of Commissioners.

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PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 13

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

POP		AHEM		BACK	
HALO		NOTE		AVOID	
ADDS		NTHS		REPLY	
TRIES		RASH		RENE	
SEE		ICON		UPS	
		PLOD		ELI	FAR
SAFETY		RAKE		ALE	
HORN		JOT		IDOL	
ONE		STAB		JERSEY	
WET		TOW		FAKE	
		GYM		SIRE	CBS
DEAR		SANG		SNAIL	
ORBIT		LOAN		ORCA	
CREME		AURA		SEEM	
SLED		STOP		ESP	

BLM Temporarily Closes Horse Rock Ridge for Public Safety

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has temporarily closed access to the Horse Rock Ridge Area of Critical Environmental Concern to ensure public safety during timber sale operations.

The closure, which began on September 24, is expected to last through October 31. It affects BLM Road No. 15-2-1, part of Road No. 15-1-18.2, and BLM-administered lands adjacent to the project, including access to the Horse Rock Ridge Research Natural Area.

“Public safety is our top priority,” said Christopher Finn, BLM Upper Willamette Field Office manager. “The public can expect additional information about other

closures during the three-year timber sale contract.”

The closure area lies about eight miles north of Marcola, past the Cascade View Off-Highway Vehicle Complex of the Shotgun Creek OHV trail system.

For more information, visit the BLM’s Horse Rock Ridge closure order at <https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2025-09/orwa-nwo-closure-horse-rock.pdf>

The BLM manages about 245 million acres of public land in 12 western states, including Alaska, and administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate nationwide. 🌲

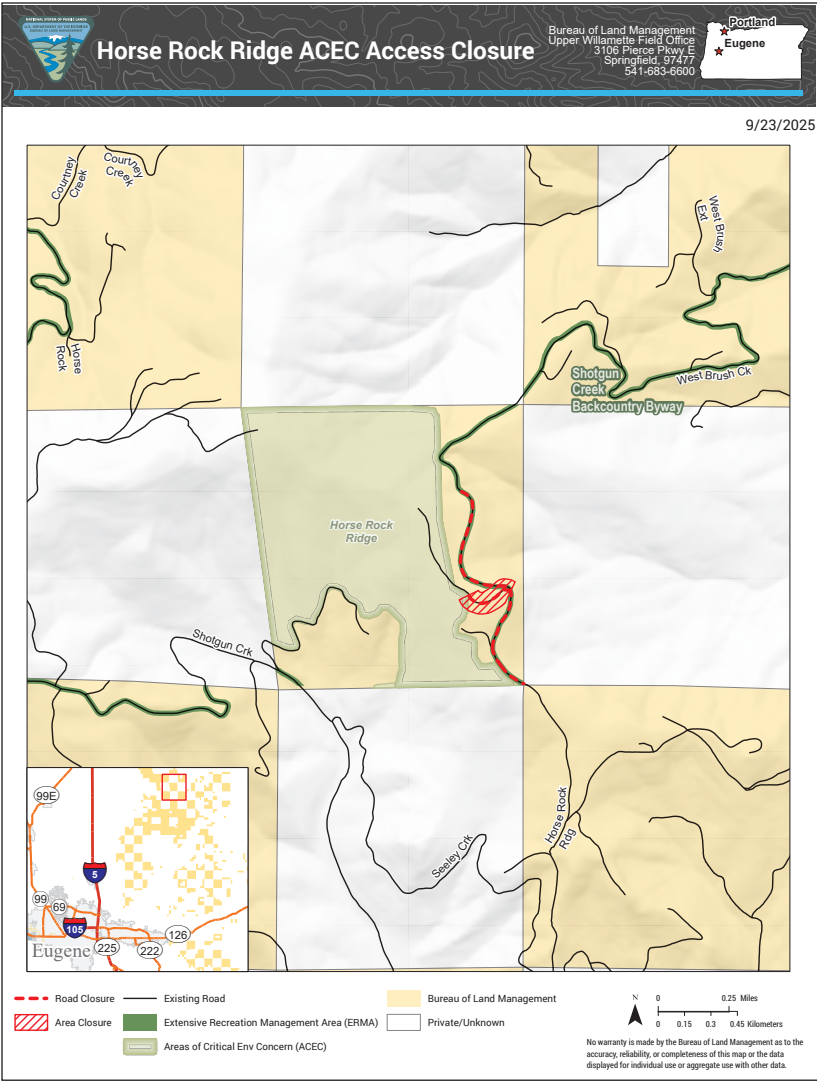
OSP Seeks Assistance Identifying Hit-and-Run Suspect Vehicle in Linn County

LINN COUNTY — The Oregon State Police is requesting the public’s help in identifying a vehicle involved in an injury hit-and-run crash on northbound Interstate 5 near milepost 216.

The crash happened around 5:03 a.m. on Saturday, September 20, when a gray Kia Rio was rear-ended and rolled over multiple times. Two occupants were taken to the hospital with injuries.

Investigators believe the suspect vehicle is a dark blue 2023–2025 Toyota Corolla SE with damage to the driver’s side bumper and wheel well. The vehicle left the scene at a high speed.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the OSP Northern Command Center at 800-442-0776 or *OSP (*677) from a mobile phone, referencing case number SP25-410883. 🚓



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