



THE BROWNSVILLE TIMES

VOLUME 137, NO. 21

SERVING CENTRAL LINN COUNTY, OREGON SINCE 1889

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025

CONNECT Linn County Harvest Festival Returns to Brownsville Sunday



TISHANA HARRISON

Calvin (Mario), Mark (Luigi), and Amanda (Princess Peach) Wilson, joined by Sharing Hands volunteer Deborah Sanchez Jones, brought video-game flair to the 2024 Trunk or Treat in Brownsville Pioneer Park. The popular event returns Oct. 26 as part of the CONNECT Linn County Harvest Festival.

BROWNSVILLE — Fall fun, family tradition, and community connection come together this Sunday, Oct. 26, when CONNECT Linn County and friends return to Brownsville Pioneer Park for the annual Harvest Festival and Trunk or Treat.

This all-day celebration is packed with activities for every age — from the sizzling fall themed Pancake Breakfast at sunrise to the laughter of kids in costume collecting treats in the afternoon. Visitors will find chili and dessert contests, craft and food vendors, and new attractions, including the Lebanon High School Explosion Dance Team's Escape Room and Central Linn Elementary PTC's Haunted House.

Families are encouraged to spend the day exploring the park, sampling local flavors, and celebrating the season together.

Full schedule of events on page 4



TISHANA HARRISON

Last year's Best Trunk Decoration winners display their trophy.

INSIDE



PANCAKE BREAKFAST



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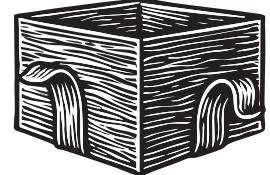


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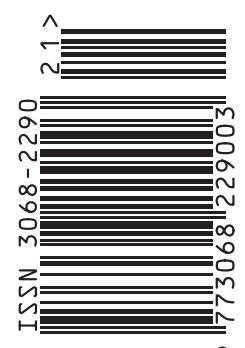
Brothers Jeffrey and Craig Wellhouser — Jeffrey (left) is a Lane County Sheriff and Craig (right, in helmet) is a Washington County Sheriff.



Jan "Speedy" and Fred Wellhouser — Beloved Brownsville couple, Fred was a Vietnam Navy veteran and railroad worker, while Jan taught at Central Linn High School from 1978 to 1994.



Jeffrey and Craig as children in Brownsville. The brothers grew up on Gap Road, the sons of Fred and Jan "Speedy" Wellhouser.



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WELLHouser continued on page 5.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Free Coffee, Donuts, & Fellowship

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

The Great Pumpkin Patch

Now through October 31 • Mon-Thu, 1-7 p.m.; Fri-Sun, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. • 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW | Albany Pumpkin sales and daily family fun benefit Albany Area Habitat for Humanity.

- Oct. 24 - Coloring Contest & Magic Show
- Oct. 25 & 26 - Free Face Painting by Party Perfection Oregon (with purchase of pumpkin)
- Oct. 26 - Trunk or Treat
- Oct. 31 - Mushroom Festival

Albany's The Carriage of Shadows

Fri. & Sat., October 24-25 • Tours at 6, 7, 8, and 9 p.m. Monteith House, 518 2nd Ave SW, Albany \$25/adult, \$20/child

Step aboard a horse-drawn wagon for a haunted tour through Albany's historic streets, ending with spine-tingling tales inside the city's oldest and most haunted home.

Tickets: <https://monteithhouse.ticketleap.com>

Cider Pressing at Thompson's Mill

Saturday, October 25

11 a.m. until apples run out (usually before 3 p.m.) 32655 Boston Mill Dr | Shedd

\$5 per half gallon. Bring a picnic, take a tour, and enjoy fresh-pressed cider.

Pioneer Christian Academy**Fall Festival & Auction**

Saturday, Oct. 25 • 3-9 p.m.

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.

Downtown Albany Halloween Trick-or-Treat & Costume Contest

Saturday, October 25 • Downtown Albany

Family-friendly Halloween celebration featuring trick-or-treating and a costume contest. Sponsored by the Albany Downtown Association and businesses.

Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, October 25 • 1-2 p.m. Halsey City Hall; 2:30-3:30 p.m. Harrisburg City Hall

Safely dispose of unused or unwanted medications, including pet meds. Free, anonymous collection by Linn County Sheriff's Office and DEA. No sharps, needles, injectables, or medical waste accepted.

CONNECT Linn County Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 26 • 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Pioneer Park | Brownsville

Chili Cook-off & Fall Dessert Taste-offs, Craft & Food Vendors, Trunk or Treat. See page 4 for schedule

Furry Tales Story Time

October 27 • 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. • Free

SafeHaven Humane Society, 32220 Old Hwy 34, Tangent

Enjoy a heartwarming story time for children ages 6 and under, featuring an animal-themed book, a simple craft, and a chance to meet one of their friendly adoptable pets. No registration required.

City of Halsey Virtual Pumpkin Carving Contest

Submit by Monday, October 27 • Online

Open to Halsey residents only (97348). Pumpkins may be carved, painted, or decorated. Voting on Facebook runs Oct. 28-30, with winners announced Halloween. <http://cityofhalsey.com>

See page 12 for Brownsville Library events

See what's happening in Central Linn and add your event:

<https://brownsvilletimes.org/community-calendar>

Albany's Haunted Past: The Carriage of Shadows

ALBANY — The Monteith Historical Society invites the brave and the curious to uncover the city's haunted history on the Carriage of Shadows, a ghostly tour through Albany's darkened streets.

Tours run October 24 and 25, beginning at 6, 7, 8, and 9 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children, available at <https://monteithhouse.ticketleap.com>.

Partnering with Chafin Farms, the Monteith Society transforms a traditional hayride into an eerie horse-drawn journey. Riders will visit more than 15 haunted landmarks, hearing tales of ghostly apparitions at the courthouse, whispers from long-forgotten alleyways, and mysterious happenings in Albany's oldest buildings.

The experience culminates inside the historic Monteith House, where candlelight and creaking floorboards set the stage for stories of real-life hauntings that have unsettled visitors for generations.

Each ride lasts about one hour and fifteen minutes, but participants may find the memories linger far longer.

Proceeds benefit the Monteith Historical Society. 

Pumpkins with Purpose: Supporting Habitat for Humanity

ALBANY — The Great Pumpkin Patch is in full swing, offering fall fun in support of Albany Area Habitat for Humanity. Located at 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, just north of Tangent, the event runs daily through Oct. 31 and features pumpkins of all shapes and sizes for sale with 100 percent of proceeds helping build affordable homes for local families.

Each day brings something new, from photo ops and crafts to contests and live entertainment. This weekend, Party Perfection Oregon will provide free face painting with pumpkin purchases on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-26. On Saturday, Oct. 26, USA Mortgage hosts a Trunk or Treat event, and the fun wraps up on Halloween, Thursday, Oct. 31, with the annual Mushroom Festival.

Hours are Monday through Thursday, 1-7 p.m., and Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to tag photos on social media with #GreatPumpkinPatchAlbany to share the fun and raise awareness for Habitat for Humanity's mission of providing strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable homeownership. 

Halloween Coloring Contest Next Week!

Get ready to grab your crayons and colored pencils! Check the Oct. 30 issue of The Brownsville Times for our special Halloween Coloring Contest — for both kids and adults. Drop off your art by Nov. 3 at noon to 343 N Main St, Brownsville. Winners will be announced and published in the Nov. 6 issue. The top adult artist will receive a one-year subscription to The Brownsville Times, and one lucky child will win a \$25 gift card! Practice your coloring skills on the black-and-white images on pages 2 and 3.

SAFEHAVEN HUMANE SOCIETY**Plan Ahead: Story Time and Holiday Cheer Coming to Central Linn**

CENTRAL LINN — Families and shoppers can look forward to a weekend of community fun as SafeHaven Humane Society and Gift & Thrift open their doors for early November events.

Furry Tales Story Time Oct. 27

SafeHaven Humane Society in Tangent will host Furry Tales Story Time on Monday, Oct. 27, from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Designed for children ages 6 and under, the free session includes an animal-themed story, a simple craft, and a chance to meet one of SafeHaven's adoptable pets. No registration is needed. Families can drop in and enjoy a morning of reading, creativity, and cuddly moments. For details, contact Katie at HumaneEd@safehavenhumane.com or call 541-928-2789.

Holiday Open House Nov. 1

The following weekend, both Gift & Thrift locations, 33650 OR 99E in Tangent and 914 S. Second St. in Lebanon, will celebrate the season with a Holiday Open House on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Shoppers can enjoy store-wide sales, holiday merchandise previews, sweet treats, and a prize basket drawing.

Together, these events offer a warm start to the holiday season. A perfect reminder to slow down, shop local, and share a little community cheer.

Pets & Pajamas Movie Night Nov. 14

SafeHaven Humane Society invites kids to an evening of animals, snacks, and fun during its Pets & Pajamas Movie Night on Friday, Nov. 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. at 32220 Old Highway 34 in Tangent.

Each event includes pizza, popcorn, soda, time spent with adoptable animals, and a family-friendly movie. Participants are welcome to bring a blanket and pillow for the movie, but toys and light-up shoes should stay home. The \$22 drop-off event is supervised by SafeHaven staff and trained volunteers.

Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged as Pets & Pajamas Movie Nights fill up fast. Movie titles vary monthly and can be requested in advance. For details or to sign up, visit <https://safehavenhumane.org/events>.

SafeHaven Humane Society is located at 32220 Old Hwy 34 in Tangent. 

BROWNSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**Trick-or-Treat Street on Halloween**

Brownsville's annual Trick or Treat Street returns on Friday, Oct. 31, from 3 to 6 p.m., bringing a late afternoon of spooky fun for the whole family!

Kids can collect candy from local businesses displaying a Trick or Treat poster in their windows, then brave the Haunted House at the American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184 — if they dare.

The fun continues with a drop in costume contest at 120 Spaulding Ave., where Jenna Stutsman will take your photo and announce the winners later. And there are plenty of festive photo opportunities downtown.

Special thanks to the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce and all participating businesses for making this community tradition possible. Come and show off your Halloween spirit. 

Treats for Troops Candy Drive Now Underway

CENTRAL LINN — Halsey City Hall, in partnership with Georgia-Pacific, is once again serving as a collection site for Treats for Troops, a national program organized by Soldiers' Angels that sends Halloween candy to deployed service members and veterans.

Community members are encouraged to donate excess Halloween candy through Thursday, Nov. 7. The donation receptacle is located on the upper level of Halsey City Hall, just outside the City Hall offices. Additional collection sites include Dollar General in Brownsville and the Georgia-Pacific Mill in Halsey.

Candy Guidelines:

- Individually wrapped candy is preferred.
- Small, unopened bags of loose candy (such as candy corn or jellybeans) are accepted.
- No homemade or baked goods.
- Chocolate is accepted and does not need to be separated.

The Treats for Troops program connects local communities with troops and veterans nationwide, offering families a way to share their Halloween bounty while showing appreciation for military service. Candy collected locally will be distributed to VA hospitals, military bases, and Guard and Reserve units across the country.

For more information or to register your organization as a collection site for 2026, visit <https://soldiersangels.org/treats-for-troops>. ☺

CENTRAL LINN ELEMENTARY

Family Movie Night Supports Cultural Learning

Central Linn Elementary will host a Family Movie Night on Oct. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Central Linn Elementary cafeteria to raise funds for Spanish and Latin Culture classes and bring families together around a culturally themed film. High school students will help staff the event for community-service credit under adult supervision. Concessions will be available for purchase. Pricing is \$3 with siblings two for \$5.

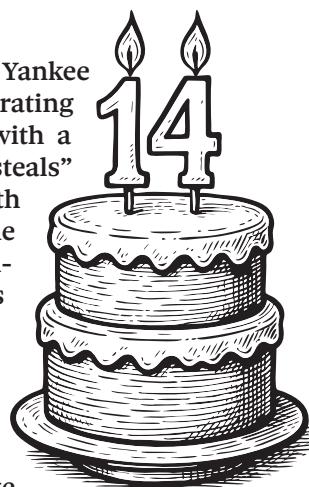
Final selection of the movie will be announced by the school. Movie selections include "Coco," "Encanto," or "The Book of Life," each highlighting family, identity, and Latin traditions. ☺

Yankee Dutch Quilting Celebrates 14 Fabulous Years

BROWNSVILLE — Yankee Dutch Quilting is celebrating its 14th anniversary with a week of "deals and steals" from Oct. 21-24, both online and in-store. The celebration will culminate in an After Hours Party on Friday, Oct. 24, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Join the fun, explore new fabrics and quilting supplies, and help celebrate 14 fabulous years of creativity at Yankee Dutch Quilting, 140 Spaulding Ave., Brownsville.

Guests are invited to RSVP online at <https://www.yankeedutchquilts.com/index.html#> for a chance to win a prize — but you must attend the party to qualify. ☺



CONNECT LINN COUNTY First-Ever Harvest Festival Court

This year's Connect Linn County Harvest Festival will debut a brand-new tradition: the first-ever Harvest Festival Court. Inspired by a community suggestion, this creative and inclusive program celebrates service, teamwork, and fun across generations.

Unlike traditional pageant-style courts, the Connect Linn County (CLC) Harvest Festival Court is open to participants of all ages and encourages self-expression. Members can dress in anything from formal attire to festive costumes or something entirely unique as they represent the community throughout the year.

The 2025-26 court begins this October and concludes at next year's Harvest Festival, when a King or Queen will be crowned. Students from kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to participate, with each student eligible to serve on the court only once during their school years.

In addition, CLC is introducing a special "Elite Ensemble" Harvest Court for community members aged 65 and older. This intergenerational approach celebrates connection between youth and elders, honoring shared community spirit.

Court members will volunteer at various CLC events and parades throughout the year, helping to promote civic pride and teamwork. While attendance at every event is not required, participation is encouraged.

Each court member will receive a T-shirt and sash to wear at events, though teams may decide on alternate coordinated outfits. Photos will be taken during activities and may appear in local publications; participants may opt out of photo use. Transportation is the responsibility of participants or their parents, though CLC will provide chaperones when necessary.

Applications are open through Oct. 25. Interested participants can apply online at <https://forms.gle/o5fvK1fh6cn0BMr58> or contact Connect Linn County for more information by email: info@connectlinncounty.net or call or text: Karm 541-451-0673, Tika 541-570-3199, Melissa 541-497-4154, or Leise 541-729-3633. ☺

ALBANY DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION Halloween Trick-or-Treat and Costume Contest

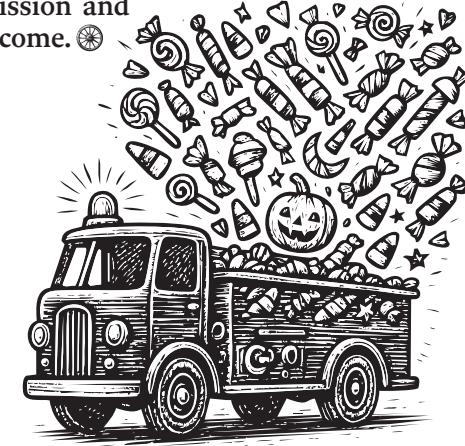
ALBANY — Families are invited to celebrate Halloween in Downtown Albany on Saturday, Oct. 25, with trick-or-treating from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Look for orange and black balloons marking participating Albany Downtown Association member businesses.

This year's festivities also include a costume contest, with photos taken at the Xtreme Graphix photo station located at the 1st Avenue Parklet near Ferry Street. Contest entries will be posted on the Albany Downtown Association's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AlbanyDowntown>, where the public can vote by liking and sharing their favorite costumes through Wednesday, Oct. 30, at noon. Winners will be announced on Halloween via Facebook and their website at <http://www.albanydowntown.com>.

Contest categories range from babies to adults, including a family/group division. Prizes include Downtown Kid Meals, Albany Carousel tokens, and movie tickets to The Pix Theatre. The adult winner will receive \$25 in Downtown Dollars, and the top family or group will take home a Downtown gift basket. ☺

Halsey-Shedd Fire District Hosts Annual Open House on Halloween

HALSEY — The Halsey-Shedd Rural Fire Protection District will host its annual Open House on Thursday, Oct. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. Families are invited to stop by the station for treats, games, and Halloween fun with local firefighters. Free Admission and all are welcome. ☺



TANGENT TOGETHER

Trunk-or-Treat on Halloween in Tangent

TANGENT — Tangent Together will host its second annual Community Trunk or Treat on Friday, Oct. 31, from 4 to 8 p.m. on Birdfoot Drive in front of the future site of Kim's Kafé, located at 32050 Birdfoot Drive, across from the Tangent Fire Department.

Community volunteers will decorate their vehicles and hand out candy to trick-or-treaters. The Tangent Fire Department will also hold its Trunk or Treat at the same time, making it easy for families to enjoy both events.

As an added treat, Kim's Kafé will offer a sneak peek of the new space and menu — food service isn't available just yet, but the grand opening is coming soon.

The Trunk or Treat is free and open to all. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Volunteers interested in decorating a vehicle and handing out candy can sign up by emailing tangentharvestfestival@gmail.com. ☺



Celebrate Together at the Harvest Festival

Connect Linn County and friends bring a full day of food, fun, and fall tradition to Brownsville Pioneer Park. Use this schedule to plan your family's day of community connection.

CONNECT Linn County Harvest Festival Schedule

Sunday, October 26 — Brownsville Pioneer Park

7-10 a.m. — Pancake Breakfast

Pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, and yummy fall toppings. \$8 adults/\$4 kids

10 a.m.-4 p.m. — Craft & Food Vendors

Browse handmade goods, local crafts, and seasonal treats from across Central Linn County.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. — Escape Room

LHS Explosion Dance Team fundraiser. \$5 adults/\$3 kids ages 5 and under free

12-5 p.m. — Haunted House

Hosted by Central Linn Elementary PTC. A mix of spooky and family-friendly fun, with a "no scare" option for younger visitors. Donations accepted to support classroom funds and playground improvements.

12-5 p.m. — Spooky Dance Hall

Hosted by Central Linn Elementary PTC — a family-friendly Halloween dance.

1-4 p.m. — Trunk or Treat

Safe and spooky trick-or-treating for all ages. Hosted by Tow Mater, All-American Camaro and Firebird Association (AACFA), and Lebanon Cars & Coffee. Tasty food, prizes, candy, and on-site fun all afternoon.

1-4 p.m. — Kids' Games

Carnival-style games for children.

1 p.m. — Chili Cook-Off Sampling

3 p.m. — Chili Cook-Off Judging

Sample and vote for your favorite!

1 p.m. — Fall Dessert Bake-Off Sampling

3 p.m. — Fall Dessert Bake-Off Judging

Taste the sweetness of fall with homemade pies, cakes, and more.

2:30 p.m. — Costume Contest

Part of Trunk or Treat; prizes for kids, families, and groups. Show off your creativity! Prizes for kids, families, and groups.

All Day — Hayrides, Escape Room & Cider Pressing

Enjoy traditional fall fun and test your skills in the LHS Explosion Dance Team Escape Room.

Ongoing — Pumpkins & Food Drive

Support local families by donating non-perishable food items and take home a fall pumpkin.



TISHANA HARRISON

TABLE TALK: DINING IN AND AROUND BROWNSVILLE

The Rusty Bucket Tap House: A Flavorful Stop in Sweet Home

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

The Rusty Bucket Tap House has generated positive reviews since its opening, so my wife and I decided to check it out for ourselves.

As we arrived, we noticed two buildings side by side and chose the one with open garage doors, hoping for a cool, airy dining experience. We ended up in the bar area, but it was no issue since food is served wherever you settle. The bar featured several beers on tap, bottles and cans in the cooler, and a full bar for the hard stuff, along with your usual soda pop, water, and the like.

Our server, Selenna (two n's), was attentive and efficient. The restaurant's tagline sets the tone: "Welcome to The Rusty Bucket Tap House, where we take you on a culinary journey with our unique blend of traditional and modern cuisine. Our chefs use only the freshest ingredients to create dishes that are bursting with flavor." With that in mind, my wife ordered a mushroom cheeseburger without the bun and a side of fries, while I opted for the French dip with tater tots.

While waiting for our meals, we entertained ourselves with some card games and other fun little games at the table, which made the wait enjoyable. When our food arrived, my wife enjoyed her burger but noted that the French fries were a bit overcooked. My French dip featured a generous portion of tender beef on a grilled hamburger bun — something I was initially skeptical about, but it turned out to work well. The meat and au jus made for a flavorful combination. The tater tots were crispy and a reliable side; nothing to complain about there.

Chef Kay deserves a mention for the efforts in the kitchen. The menu features a range of savory appetizers and hits on the main course, promising flavors that align with their tagline's claim.

One highlight of The Rusty Bucket is its extensive selection of beers, available both on tap and in cans or bottles. I plan to return in the evening when the atmosphere is livelier.

Overall, our visit to The Rusty Bucket Tap House was good; the pleasant service and enjoyable food make it a place worth revisiting. If you're looking for a spot that offers a diverse culinary experience, give The Rusty Bucket at 4102 Main Street in Sweet Home a try. ☀

PHOTOS BY JEFF BROWN



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CRITTER CHRONICLES

Memoir for Ratty

By Sharon Banks, Staff Writer

As told to Sharon Banks by Cheryl Haworth & Don Andrews.

Years ago, Cheryl Haworth worked as a school counselor for the Central Linn School District. As the school year ended, one of the classrooms had a pet rat who had just given birth to a litter of babies. A student asked if Cheryl wanted to take one home.



AI-GENERATED IMAGE BY SHARON K. BANKS

She hadn't exactly said yes, but on the last day of school, she walked into her office to find a shoe box on her desk. Inside was a tiny white baby rat, barely an inch long, with bright black eyes. When he nibbled on her finger as if to say hello, Cheryl knew he was meant to stay. She called her partner, Don Andrews, and together they set up a small birdcage from Sharing Hands Thrift Store as his first home. They named him Ratty.

Ratty quickly became part of the family. Smart and playful, he loved riding on Don's shoulder while the couple watched TV. He cuddled often and showed surprising affection for such a little creature.

Rats only live about three years, but Ratty filled his short life with love. When his time came, Cheryl and Don say he seemed to know it. He gave Cheryl a gentle nibble-kiss, then climbed onto Don's shoulder — his favorite place — and passed away peacefully.

"Ratty brought us great joy and companionship," Cheryl says. "We cried when he left us, but we still remember him today with smiles and warm hearts." 🐁

WELLHOUSER

continued from cover

ing a master's degree in therapy. Craig and Carrie's daughter, Isabelle, 19, is a standout javelin thrower at Clackamas Community College and plans to join the Air Force ROTC while continuing her education. Their youngest, Hank, 14, plays football and baseball for West Linn High School and has his sights set on a military career.

Throughout his years in law enforcement, Craig has served in multiple specialized units including; the Multi-Agency Traffic Team, Transit Police, Multi-agency Mobile Field Force Riot Team, and the Criminal Apprehension Team (CAT), where he serves high-risk warrants and does sex-offender compliance checks. Currently part of the Traffic Safety Unit, Craig patrols on motorcycles, fitting for a lifelong motorcycle enthusiast with an impressive personal collection.

He also serves on peer support and the Sheriff's Traumatic Response Team (STRT) and plays a critical role on the Incident Management Team, operating heavy armored vehicles for the SWAT team, including the Bear and BearCat, as well as the Mobile Command Center.



Craig Wellhouser in front of the iconic "Thank You!" barn mural near Forest Grove — a reminder of community support for law enforcement.

Sheriff's Office, where he's proudly served for 27 years. This December, he will hang up his badge and retire — closing a remarkable chapter in law enforcement.

Jeffrey and his wife Krystal have been married for 21 years and are raising two sons, Parks, 15 and Raylan, 13, both students at Central Linn High School. The family lives on Northern Drive in Brownsville — keeping the Wellhouser name



Craig and Carrie Wellhouser with their family, including daughters Isabelle (left) and Stephanie (center) and husband Alex (right), son Hank (orange vest), and granddaughters Phoebe and Cheyenne.

rooted in the community that raised them.

Over the course of his career, Jeffrey has worked in several capacities, including jail operations, court transport, the police academy, and road crew supervision.

He currently handles extraditions — traveling across state lines to bring wanted individuals back to Oregon to face justice.

Outside of law enforcement, Jeffrey is an avid farmer, raising and delivering hay to local horse owners. Post-retirement, he plans to focus full-time on this enterprise, continuing his lifelong connection to the land.



Lane County Sheriff's Deputy Jeffrey Wellhouser stands beside the department's armored rescue vehicle.

From the rolling hills of Gap Road to the sheriff's offices of two Oregon counties, the Wellhouser brothers have built lives of service and integrity — much like their parents before them. As both prepare for new chapters, one thing is certain: the spirit of Fred and Jan "Speedy" Wellhouser continues to thrive through their sons, their families, and their deep roots in Brownsville. 🌟

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE WELLHouser FAMILY

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KIDS' KORNER

Owls

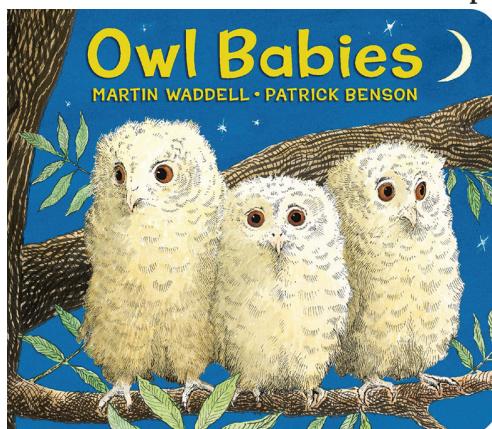
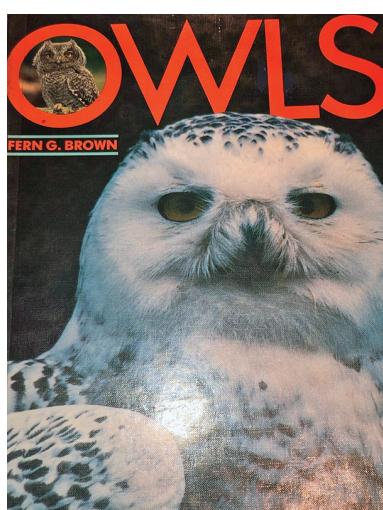
By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer

Who who whoooo are your favorite birds? The owl is probably at the top of the list of amazing birds, and they may well be your favorite! Adorable and fluffy as babies, fierce and fast as adults, owls are truly fascinating.

Owl feathers are specially adapted for silent flight as they swoop down in the dark to hunt. Owl feathers are not waterproof, so they avoid flying in the rain... We may not have many owls here in the winter in Oregon. Their senses are so keen that some owls can detect prey up to a half mile away!

The smallest owl is the Elf Owl, at only 5 inches tall and weighing just one and a half ounces. The largest owl is the Great Gray Owl at 32 inches tall. A group of owls is called a parliament.

For more amazing owl facts, read "Owls" (1991) by Fern G. Brown, available at



Decorate the eyes and wings. Glue on construction paper feet and a beak. 

OWL Word Search

F	K	C	S	L	E	C	Y	E	Y
L	E	W	I	F	I	E	R	C	E
C	H	A	G	H	A	Z	S	V	N
S	Q	A	T	J	Y	E	W	F	Z
F	I	P	M	H	N	L	O	O	C
L	R	L	R	A	E	M	O	W	U
U	G	S	E	E	Z	R	P	L	I
F	Y	M	C	N	Y	I	S	S	C
F	H	T	M	P	T	Y	N	O	W
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FEATHERS
FIERCE
AMAZING
FLUFFY
SILENT
SWOOP
PREY
OWLS



To do a word search, read the list of words you need to find. Then look through the puzzle — words can go across, up, down, or diagonally. Find the first letter of each word and see if the rest fits nearby. When you find one, circle it and cross it off your list. Keep going until you find them all.

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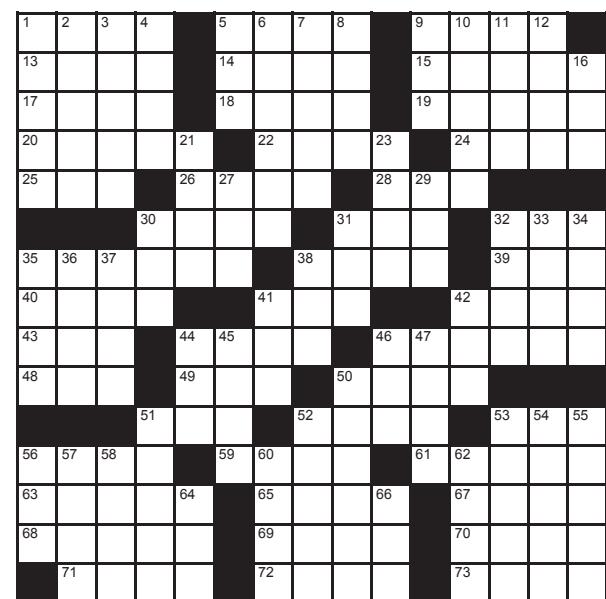
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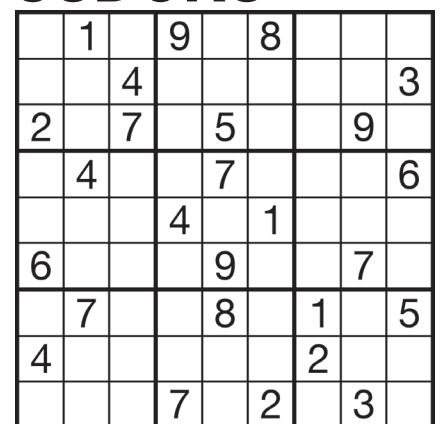
ACROSS

1	Blemish	51	Clod	23	Email junk
5	Type of enemy	52	Small fragment	27	Possess
9	Scratch	53	Before Vegas	29	A Gershwin
13	Stride	56	Trickery	30	Distress call
14	Hindu frock	59	Former monarch	31	Small dog
15	Work out after an injury	61	Build	32	With (Fr.)
17	At another time	63	Singer Ford	33	Present
18	Mocked	65	Forest member	34	Golf club
19	Related maternally	67	Hawaiian island	35	Finished
20	Elec. lines	68	Desires	36	Hostels
22	Roman date	69	The Terrible	37	Ooze
24	Fencing sword	70	Employed	38	Compensate
25	Even (Poet.)	71	In debt	41	Decompose
26	Commotion	72	Scarlet and cerise	42	Menagerie
28	Quarry	73	Hardy heroine	44	Beverage
30	Some hogs			45	Float
31	Equality			46	Weekday (Abbr.)
32	Gr. letter			47	Mature
35	Disinherit			50	String
38	Cougar			51	Chemical compound
39	Not him			52	Slice
40	Aces			53	Charter
41	Piece of cloth			54	Pains
42	Digit			55	Building materials
43	Compass pt.			56	Chicken
44	Ancient city in Asia Minor			57	Cookie
46	Icy			58	Afresh
48	Second sight			60	Mix
49	Consume			62	Defeat
50	Threesome			64	Sharp curve
				66	Printer's marks

DOWN

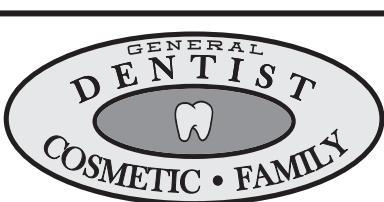
1	Interval	47	Mature
2	Small boat	50	String
3	Oak fruit	51	Chemical compound
4	Rive	52	Slice
5	King of Judah	53	Charter
6	Whitewater	54	Pains
7	Philosophy	55	Building materials
8	Conceal	56	Chicken
9	Wrath	57	Cookie
10	Article of faith	58	Afres
11	Gent	60	Mix
12	Detest	62	Defeat
16	Hairy-bodied insect	64	Sharp curve
21	Load	66	Printer's marks

SUDOKU DIABOLICAL



PUZZLE Solutions on page 13

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TAKING ROOT

October in the Garden

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer

Activities in the garden have peaked now as temperatures begin to drop. There is no rest for the weary, though — just a shift of activities. Start preparing your beds for their winter sleep by doing careful weeding and composting disease-free plant material plus kitchen vegetable and fruit scraps. Bindweed and other pernicious plants should go into the gray yard waste bin. Once weeded, if you are not planting a cover crop like clover or fava beans, mulch with straw or leaves. It is also time to drain or blow out your irrigation system.

For me, winter prep for my irrigation system means draining hoses and carefully coiling them so there are no kinks. They are stored out of the weather until next May.

Dig and store potatoes in the dark with some humidity; about 40 degrees is ideal.

Harvest and immediately dry hazelnuts and walnuts at 95 to 100 degrees in the oven on cookie sheets. Shell them first if possible.

More rain can cause tomatoes on the vine to split. Harvest unripe tomatoes and bring them inside to ripen. Store separated by newspapers, inspecting and discarding spoiled ones. Keep apples the same way, separated by newspaper. Mulch around the roots of your roses, azaleas, rhododendrons, and berries.

Clean up flower beds by removing any diseased plant material that overwintering pests may use for shelter. Prune out dead fruiting canes in your raspberries. Dig and divide rhubarb every three

to four years. I dig around the plant to expose the roots, then chop it into quarters, leaving some root on each piece. Let them heal for a day, then replant with plenty of compost or manure. If you're not dividing this year, still add compost to rhubarb and asparagus.

It is not too late to plant garlic cloves. Old chive plants will benefit from being dug up and divided, too — no need to be delicate.

Rake up windfall fruits that may be harboring maggot and codling moth larvae. If you have these problems with your fruit trees, rake up and dispose of leaves in the gray bin.

When the leaves finally fall, spray for fungal and bacterial diseases. For more information, search online for "Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards" for an OSU Extension article. Most of the information in this report is from OSU Extension's Growing magazine.

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



DONALD LYON
Tree frog resting on a grape leaf — Take a moment to enjoy the world your garden provides for other creatures.

BOOK REVIEW

'Northern Spy' Explores Family, Betrayal, and the Troubles in Ireland

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer

"Northern Spy" by Flynn Berry (2021) is a thriller you won't put down. The story captures the tense tightrope walk between the main character's desire to be a good mother to her baby and her longing to make a political difference in her country of war-torn Ireland. The two roles cannot always coexist, as she comes to understand.

After a slow start, the book's momentum accelerates. Berry's prose is spare and precise, and her characters behave matter-of-factly even in times of great duress, creating an overall tone of stoicism. The tension plays out between IRA members and MI5 spies, set in and around Belfast, roughly ten years after the Good Friday Agreement of 1998.

According to Goodreads, "Northern Spy" is "a slow-burn page-turner — a riveting and exquisite novel about family, terror, motherhood, betrayal, and the staggering human costs of an intractable conflict."

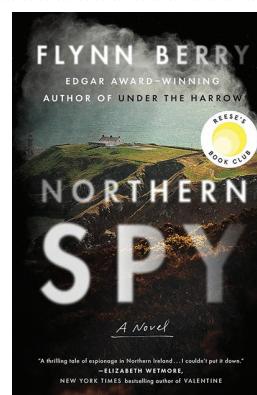
The novel follows two Irish sisters and the political secrets and lies that threaten to tear their family apart. One sister is accused of espionage,

and the other must choose between spying on local IRA members in hopes of aiding the establishment of peace in Belfast — or protecting her baby and fleeing the country and the family she loves.

Goodreads also notes that "Northern Spy" "... cements Flynn Berry's status as one of the most sophisticated and accomplished authors of crime and suspense novels working today."

On her website, Berry introduces herself: "Hello! I'm the author of four novels: 'Trust Her,' 'Northern Spy,' 'A Double Life,' and 'Under the Harrow.' My reviews have appeared in The New York Times Book Review, and my writing has appeared in The Sunday Times and New York magazine." Berry won an Edgar Award for Best First Novel for "Under the Harrow."

Both "Northern Spy" and "Under the Harrow" are available through the Brownsville Library's Libby audiobooks collection.



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Rural Roads, Rural Choices: Asphalt vs. Chip Seal for Driveways

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer

For rural homeowners the decision of paving a long driveway in the country often comes down to two options: asphalt or chip seal. Both surfaces provide smoother travel and less dust than gravel, but they differ in cost, durability, appearance, and maintenance needs. With budgets tight, choosing the right material is more than cosmetic — it's an investment in long-term value and usability.

Asphalt: Smooth, Long-Term Solution

Asphalt driveways are made by laying a hot mixture of stone aggregate and bitumen onto a compacted base. The surface is rolled to create a durable, uniform finish. With proper care, asphalt can last 15 to 20 years or more. It provides a quiet surface for driving, reduces dust, and is easier to clear during snow season.

The benefits, however, come at a higher cost. Asphalt typically runs between \$4 and \$7 per square foot and requires sealing every three to five years. Temperature extremes can also cause cracking, particularly in freeze-thaw climates.

Doug Troyer, owner of Blackstone Paving, emphasized asphalt's durability. "We put a minimum of three inches of asphalt over compacted gravel to provide a smooth, long-lasting road," he said. "Asphalt is more expensive, but it lasts longer."

Troyer also cautioned homeowners to watch out for subpar materials. "Some contractors pass off recycled roadbed material as asphalt and charge full price. It won't last."

Tom Melton of Pavco Paving in Corvallis explained that a minor mix of recycled content is standard, but regulated. "Up to 25 percent recycled asphalt is consistent with ODOT regulations," he said. "Recycling is important, but too



COURTESY OF PAVCO PAVING

Asphalt driveways can last 15 to 20 years with proper care and offer a quieter, easier-to-clear surface during winter months.



A chip seal road by Columbia Asphalt Paving shows the rustic texture and natural look that appeals to many rural homeowners.

much weakens the product. And if you've got a clay base, both asphalt and chip seal will struggle unless the roadbed is properly prepared."

Chip Seal: Budget-Friendly Alternative

Chip seal, or "tar and chip," offers a more affordable option. It involves spraying liquid asphalt over a prepared surface, then covering it with crushed stone chips that are rolled into place. The result is a textured, rustic-looking road that blends naturally into rural settings.

"Chip seal offers rustic charm and affordability," said Bennie Acker of Columbia Asphalt Paving. "If you want a perfectly smooth surface, asphalt may be better, but for those prioritizing durability and cost, chip seal is an excellent choice."

Chip seal costs between \$1.50 and \$3 per square foot — roughly half the price of asphalt. It provides good traction and can be applied over gravel or worn asphalt. Its drawbacks include a shorter lifespan of seven to ten years, a rougher texture, and some installation. It also performs less smoothly when snow is plowed.

Which Option Is Best for You?

For rural homeowners, the choice depends on budget, traffic, and preference. Asphalt is ideal for those who want a long-term, low-maintenance solution and can afford the upfront investment. Chip seal is better suited for longer private roads with low traffic and tighter budgets.

Woody Banks, who maintains a mile-long driveway on Gap Road, explained his split approach. "The first half mile was paved in asphalt because we had four neighbors splitting the cost. The last half was just us, so we chose chip seal. It was about half the cost, and since traffic is light, it was the best solution."

Tips Before You Pave

Before committing to either material, get multiple quotes and ensure the base is prepared correctly. A weak base leads to failure regardless of the paving method. Drainage should also be considered, especially on sloped land, and the local climate is critical in determining longevity.

Whether you choose the sleek durability of asphalt or the cost-effective charm of chip seal, investing in a well-built driveway enhances the beauty, value, and functionality of rural property for years to come. ☀

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Community Mourns Loss of Don Carroll

LEBANON — The family of Don Carroll has confirmed that he was found deceased on Oct. 18 in a remote area east of Sweet Home, bringing a heartbreaking end to the two-week search that united friends, neighbors, and volunteers across Linn County and beyond.

Carroll, 88, was last seen leaving Lebanon on Oct. 4, driving his charcoal gray 2016 Ford Edge with an Oregon "Smokey the Bear" license plate. He was reported missing soon after, prompting an extensive search involving the Lebanon Police Department, Linn County Sheriff's Office, and many community members.

Around 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 18, a mushroom picker near Upper Calapooia Drive and Blue River Reservoir Road, about 30 miles east of Highway 228, discovered an unattended vehicle matching Carroll's. Search and Rescue teams responded, using a drone to locate Carroll about 150 to 200 feet below the road in a steep, wooded canyon. The Linn County Medical Examiner and family members were notified. Authorities said there is no indication of foul play.

In a statement, the family shared, "Our family is deeply saddened by this loss but comforted knowing he has been found and is at peace. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support, prayers, and help from friends, family, and the community during this difficult time."

The Lebanon Police Department also expressed appreciation to everyone who assisted in the search, saying that the compassion shown "demonstrated the strength and unity of our community."

Don Carroll was known as a kind, hardworking man devoted to his family and friends. His loss is felt deeply throughout the community that came together to bring him home.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced. The Brownsville Times covered the community's search efforts in last week's issue. ☀

Learn the Art of Headstone Repair

LEBANON — The Lebanon Museum Foundation presents "The Art of Headstone Repair" with David Pinyerd and Bernadette Niederer on Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Lebanon Public Library.

Pinyerd and Niederer of Historic Preservation Northwest have repaired more than 1,400 headstones across Oregon, including in Lebanon's Pioneer Cemetery. The free, public program is co-sponsored by the Lebanon Public Library.

More info: <https://lebanonmuseum.org>. ☀



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TANGENT CITY COUNCIL**Council Member Resigns, Citing Lack of Support**

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

TANGENT — Councilor Leslie Harrison has resigned from the Tangent City Council, effective immediately, citing an environment she described as “biased rather than inclusive.”

In a letter submitted to the mayor, council, and city staff on Oct. 15, Harrison wrote that she “accepted the appointment with a deep sense of responsibility and pride,” but found that “from the moment I stepped through the door, it was clear that I was met with bias rather than inclusion.”

Harrison stated that she had “experienced retaliation for speaking up, sharing perspectives, or asking necessary questions,” adding that the “cumulative effect has created an environment that is no longer tenable or healthy to continue serving in.”

Her letter concluded, “It is my sincere hope that the City will reflect on how to foster a more supportive and equitable environment for future council members.”

City Manager Joe Samaniego acknowledged Harrison’s resignation in a written statement, saying, “We have reluctantly accepted your resignation from the Tangent City Council. You will be missed, as we saw you introduce the food pantry idea... and help promote Tangent to a more statewide presence.”

He thanked Harrison for her community work, including launching the Tangent Farmers Market. He added, “We know you’ll continue an active role, and we’ll be in touch as we prepare the annual calendar of events.”

The City will announce the next steps regarding the vacant council seat at a future meeting. ☀

COFFIN BUTTE LANDFILL**Part One: Landfill Expansion Plan Sparks Debate Across Benton and Linn Counties**

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

CORVALLIS — A plan to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill north of Corvallis has stirred up strong opinions across Linn and Benton County. Supporters say the project is needed to keep up with growing waste demands, while opponents fear it will worsen long-standing environmental and quality-of-life problems.

Republic Services, which operates the landfill under its Valley Landfills division, applied for a permit to enlarge the disposal area. The company says the expansion would extend the landfill’s life and give local governments more time to plan for future waste management.

According to company materials, the new design would be “50 percent smaller than the 2021 proposal,” and include road upgrades, more landscaping, and less disruption to surrounding areas. View and comment on the expansion here: <https://coffinbuttelandfill.com>.

Republic Services argues that without an expansion, trash from Benton, Linn, and surrounding counties will need to be hauled farther away, driving up costs and vehicle emissions. “This expansion helps ensure affordable, local waste disposal while maintaining modern environmental protections,” a company spokesperson said in a statement.

But not everyone is convinced. In July 2025, after weeks of public hearings, the Benton County Planning Commission unanimously rejected the permit request. The seven-member panel concluded that the project failed to show it

BROWNSVILLE WOMEN'S STUDY CLUB**Gearing Up for Festival of Trees**

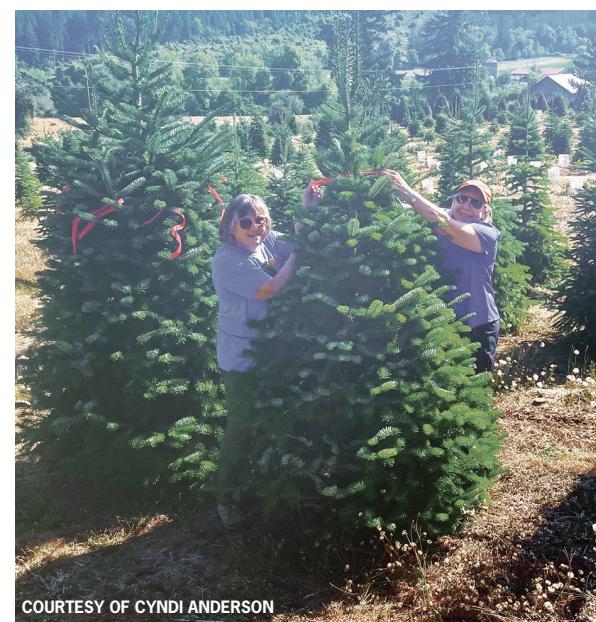
By Cyndi Anderson, Festival of Trees Coordinator

Too early to be thinking about the holidays? Not if you’re a member of the Brownsville Women’s Study Club’s Festival of Trees committee. Members have been busy for weeks tagging the trees to be used, organizing supplies, developing publicity, and are now securing downtown locations and tree artists for this popular community fundraiser.

This is the tenth year this group has organized the event, having taken it over from the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce in 2015. In those ten years, the club has raised over \$30,000 to help support the Brownsville Community Library and many other organizations and causes, including Sharing Hands, Meals on Wheels, Brownsville Fire Department, Brownsville Legion, Central Linn School field trips, and more.

The holiday festivity of festooned trees up for bid through a silent auction process has proven to be a solid fundraiser for the organization and a fun event for the community. At the Brownsville Women’s Study Club’s November meeting, members will discuss and vote on recipients of this year’s funds, in addition to the Brownsville Community Library.

The Festival of Trees will be held on Friday and Saturday, December 5 and 6, as part of Brownsville’s Home for the Holidays event sponsored by the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce. Trees will once again be placed in the Moyer House, Brownsville Art Center, participating businesses throughout the downtown area, and the Brownsville Rec Center, where a



COURTESY OF CYNDI ANDERSON

craft bazaar will be held. Over the two days, folks bid on their favorite trees, and high bidders can take their fully ornamented tree home, donate it to charity, or, in some cases, leave it in place to continue bringing holiday cheer to its host site. Most host locations and tree artists have been secured, although there are a few trees still available to decorate.

If you’re interested in hosting a tree, raising funds for the library, and other worthy causes, please get in touch with Sherri Lemhouse at bvorwscfot1911@gmail.com. For more information about the event, please get in touch with Festival of Trees coordinator, Cyndi Anderson, at 541-570-1055 or email thebrownsvillehouse@gmail.com. ☀

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AMERICAN LEGION

Veteran's Day Breakfast for Vets

November 11, 7 to 10:30 a.m. at the Brownsville American Legion Post 184

By an ordinary seaman

There's a time of year when the air itself seems to be wearing an old tweed coat, crisp, and smelling faintly of damp earth — that's when we come upon the Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month. It's a fine, rolling set of numbers, and it marks the minute in 1918 when the biggest argument the world had ever seen finally quieted down. We used to call it Armistice Day, a hopeful sort of name, like a promise whispered in the aftermath.

We had more wars, of course, because an old story never really ends; it just waits for the next chapter. So, in '54, President Dwight Eisenhower changed the name to Veterans Day for all the folks who volunteered to step out of the great, soft lump of us — the uncreated clay, as it were — and get hammered into something useful, something real. They wore the uniform, and that's the long and short of it.

It's not a day for tears; that's Memorial Day's job in May. This day is about the living. It's about the person you see buying gas down at Nealon's, the one with the easy laugh and the steady eyes, who carries a history that's not written in the local gossip. They've been somewhere else, seen the far side of things, and then come back to us.

You can spin all the philosophy you want about why a person stands up in the first place, but the plain fact is, when it's all done, they deserve a thank you that's more substantial than a handshake. They deserve a good, honest meal.

The good fellows down at the American Legion, Travis Moothart Post 184, know the truth of this. They understand that all the high-flown talk of patriotism must eventually settle on a warm plate



AI-GENERATED IMAGE CAPTURES THE SPIRIT OF THE EVENT BY AUTHOR

in a welcoming hall.

So, on November 11, the Post is throwing a free breakfast for all veterans. Now, forget those watery excuses for food you had in uniform. This isn't one of those S.O.S. situations we're glad to leave to history. This, friends, is a serious endeavor. We're laying out pancakes as light as a day-dream, eggs so fluffy they practically float, and thick, pan-seared sausage that crackles with the sound of home.

It's a simple, perfect act. It's our chance to look those who served right in the eye and say, "We appreciate the person you became." Come on down, the coffee will be hot, and the gratitude will be thick as molasses.

Disclaimer: All times are Brownsville time, all menu items are "while they last," and all food descriptions are exaggerated. ☺



Light Up a Life Remembrance in Lebanon

LEBANON — Samaritan Evergreen Hospice will host its annual Light Up a Life remembrance ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m. at the Boulder Falls Event Center in Lebanon.

The event brings the community together each year to honor hospice patients and loved ones who have died.

For those unable to attend in person, a virtual ceremony will be available beginning Friday, Nov. 21, at samhealth.org/LUAL2025. The online program includes chaplain reflections, a memorial slideshow, and a candle lighting tribute. The link will remain live for up to a year.

Light up a Life primarily remembers Samaritan Evergreen Hospice patients from the past year, but community members may also participate by donating in memory of someone special. **Names received by Oct. 27 will be read during the Lebanon ceremony.** Later submissions will be included in the virtual event.

Donations benefit the Samaritan Foundations' Hospice Funds, which provide patient and family support such as massage therapy, mental health services, nutritional beverages, and caregiver respite.

For more information, call 844-768-4256, or email SHSFoundations@samhealth.org. You can also visit <https://samhealth.org/health-services/all-services/hospice/lual>. ☺

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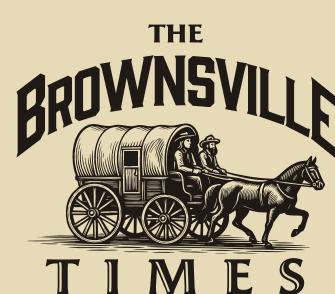
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Sunday Service and Children's Church 11 a.m.

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.cvcchalsey.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://harvestrbc.org>

Sunday School 9 a.m.

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Fellowship Meal Noon

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

104 W Blakely Ave · Brownsville · 541-367-2530

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>

Danielle M. Myers, Esq.

Attorney at Law, LLC

- Estate Planning/Probate
- Criminal Defense

333 N. Main St., Brownsville (541) 600-0422
danielle@dmmyerslaw.comwww.dmmyerslaw.com

MOUNTAINTOP REFLECTIONS

Light in Dark Places

By Jacquie Hoekstra

"You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill can't be hidden. Neither do you light a lamp, and put it under a measuring basket, but on a stand; and it shines to all who are in the house. Even so, let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16). These words of Jesus are recorded in scripture in the broader work known as The Sermon on the Mount. It is a reminder to Christ-followers to carry his light in every place and in every season.

Scripture does not direct light-bearers to avoid or boycott any area of this world. Instead, it calls us to carry the light of life and truth into every place on earth, in every season. In Romans Chapter Fourteen, Paul encourages the readers of his letter to live in freedom according to their faith. If they have faith to eat meat sacrificed to idols, then do it in faith. If their faith says not to eat meat sacrificed to idols, then they should avoid doing so. He never directs them to boycott the market altogether. He releases each person to follow the conviction of freedom they have found in Christ. Each person's freedom should not offend another person's faith or lead them to act beyond their faith, which could cause them to sin.

Scripture is always relevant. This chapter in Romans speaks to each person's conviction before the Lord. Some who are more mature in their faith might have the freedom to participate in seasonal events, whereas others might have a deep conviction not to join a particular event or celebration. Each one might be equally convicted in a different direction. If it is not a salvation issue, then grace toward one another is the right way forward. Aimee Semple McPherson, founder of the Foursquare movement and denomination, coined this phrase: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things charity." If it is a salvation issue, hold to it. If it is not a salvation issue, give freedom. Whatever it is, let your love-light shine.

Wherever a Christ-follower shines their light, it must be rooted in love flowing from a deep, abiding relationship with God in his Word and through experiencing him. Whenever you choose to shine your light, do it in faith, knowing God has called you to it, knowing he is the light shining through you. We must understand and give freedom to those who choose to shine a light in dark places differently from us and vice versa, without assuming the other is wrong in their expression of faith.

Verse 16 above includes good works which are visible to others. If we hide behind closed curtains and strong opinions, we only partner with the darkness. Good works are directly related to kind deeds done publicly. What light-bearing deed is God calling you to in this season? ☀

OBITUARY

Alma Pearl Winterbotham

Alma Pearl Winterbotham, 92, of Keizer, Oregon, passed away on October 6, 2025.

She was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on June 16, 1933, to Harold and Irene Dunlap, the eldest of three children. After the birth of her youngest brother, the family moved to Newman Grove, Nebraska, where Alma graduated from high school in 1952. Shortly afterward, the family relocated to Cheshire, Oregon. Alma found work as a telephone operator and soon met her future husband, Jerry Winterbotham, while attending a dance in Eugene. They were married on June 20, 1954, and settled on a small ranch outside of Elkton, where they raised three daughters.

After purchasing the Freez-Ett Drive-In, Alma dedicated much of her time to cooking and making donuts for customers. Following Jerry's retirement, they lived in Roseburg and Brownsville before moving to Keizer to be near family. Alma was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry, her parents, and both of her brothers, Harold Jr. and Ernie. She is survived by her three daughters, Lori (Greg), Sally, and Cathy (Joe); granddaughter Kate; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Alma enjoyed reading, crocheting, and embroidery. She was an avid Oregon State fan and spent many hours watching the Beavers on TV and rooting for them. A private family interment will be held at Willamette National Cemetery. Contributions can be made to a local food bank or a charity of your choice, if desired. ☀



BIRTHS, WEDDINGS, & OBITUARIES

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

Share news of a babe's arrival, a union newly forged, or a soul dearly departed. Notices of birth, marriage, or passing may be submitted for publication. Kindly send particulars to Jeff:

advertise@brownsvilletimes.org

BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

Pumpkins, Story Time, and World Travel at the Brownsville Library

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

Halloween is approaching fast. Thanks to volunteer Carol Humphreys, the Library is all decked out at the front entryway! There are bats and crows and leaves and strings. It's all good fun. Come to the Library and duck out of the rain.

Friday, October 31, from 3 to 6 p.m., the Library will be participating in the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce Downtown Trick or Treat. The Farmer — librarian Sherri's husband — grew mini pumpkins to hand out as treats. This is the third year we have handed out these little gems instead of candy. The Friends of the Library purchased some fun eye stickers to encourage children to decorate them. The library will stay open the extra hour to greet these sweet Trick or Treaters! We hope to see you and your children on Halloween at the Library.

In October, we focus on fall activities. Ms. Thea dreams of pumpkins, scarecrows, and leaves falling off trees. Her favorite time is seeing all the smiling faces come in for Story Time (Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon). Check out some of the great books purchased for the library this month! If you want to watch the box opening video, search for @brownsvillelibrary9641 on YouTube.

Last Thursday, Oct. 16, former professional photographer and tour guide, Don Lyon, presented India's Fabled Rajasthan. It was a perfect beginning to the delightful and informative World Cultures & Travel series. Our next program will be on Thursday, November 20, at 7 p.m. Don will present France's La Belle Provence in the Kirk Room at your local Library. All programs are free and open to the public.

Visit the Brownsville Library at <https://www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org> or follow along on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BVORLibrary>. ☺

BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY CALENDAR

Parents & Pals Story Time

Wednesdays • 10-10:15 a.m.

A short story time followed by free play together.

Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Fridays • 11 a.m.

Story time with rhymes, songs, and a free craft activity.

Brownsville Stitchery Group

Wednesdays • 1-3 p.m.

Bring your project, have some fun, and get things done!

Holiday Closure — Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 11

Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, November 13 • 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Kirk Room

Monthly meeting of the Library Advisory Board.

Book Club Meeting

Wednesday, November 19 • 7 p.m. • Kirk Room

Join the discussion of this month's book selection. New members are always welcome.

World Cultures & Travel:**France — La Belle Provence**

Thursday, November 20 • 7-8 p.m. • Kirk Room

Travel photographer Donald Lyon presents "La Belle Provence," an exploration of southern France's lavender fields, markets, and medieval villages. Free and open to the public.

SHERRING BOOKS

From Minecraft to Memoirs: October Picks at the Brownsville Library

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

Children

"The Bears' Vacation" by Stan and Jan Berenstain. You will all be glad to know the children still LOVE Berenstain Bears! This is a replacement copy for the Library.

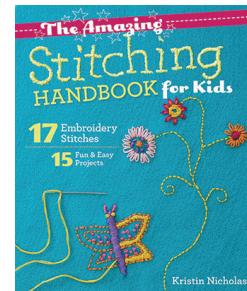
"Deserts" by Gail Gibbons is not a book about sweets. Deserts cover about 1/5 of the land on Earth. This is a non-fiction picture book for children by one of my favorite writers of children's non-fiction.

Junior Books

"Ready. Set. Respawn!" by Caleb Zane Huett. This is #1 in the Minecraft Ironsword Academy. Kids that like to play the Minecraft game, like to read stories about their games!

"It's Now or Nether!" by Caleb Zane Huett. This is book 2 in the Minecraft Ironsword Academy series.

"Running Hot and Cold!" by Caleb Zane Huett is book 3 in the Minecraft Ironsword Academy. If your kids are excited about these books let us know! There's another series on the Librarian's next order list.

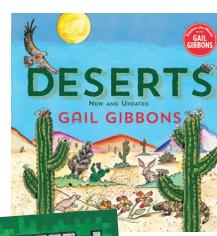
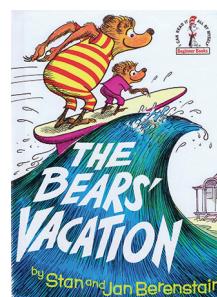


Group each Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. in the History Room at the library. Free advice and encouragement.

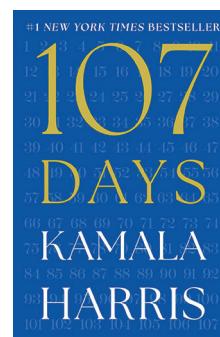
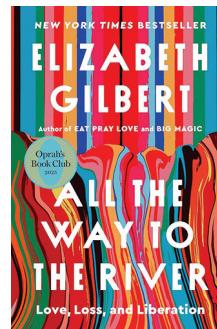
Adult Non-Fiction

"All the Way to the River" by Elizabeth Gilbert is a new memoir from the author of "Eat Pray Love."

"107 Days" by Kamala

**Junior Reference**

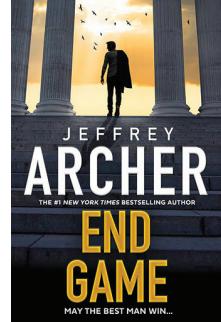
"The Amazing Stitching Handbook for Kids" by Kristin Nicholas. Learn something new with your young person. This book includes 17 embroidery stitches and 15 fun and easy projects. Join our Stitchery



Harris is her story about being the first woman in history to be elected vice president of the United States and then running for President.

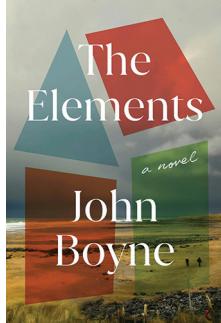
Adult Fiction

"End Game" by Jeffrey Archer is book 8 in the "William Warwick" series, this is a fun action/adventure mystery that takes place in London. Jeffrey Archer has written several series and many stand-alone novels. One of my favorite stories is from his short stories.



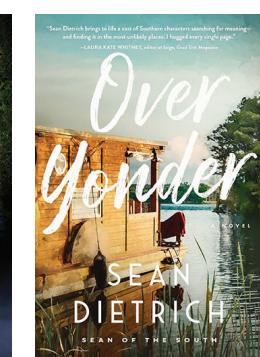
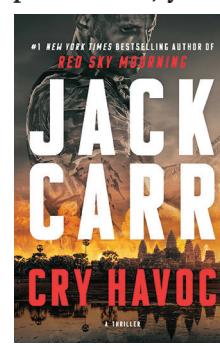
"Pitcher Perfect" by Tessa Bailey is book 4 in "Big Shots" humorous romance series. It's all about sports and love.

"The Elements" by John Boyne takes place in current time Ireland. This book explores crime and what happens after. Mr. Boyne is a master at exploring real-life debates in a book setting.



Ask at the front desk of your friendly librarian.

"Sharp Force" by Patricia Cornwell features Kay Scarpetta, who is back on the forensic case of a serial killer — the Phantom Slasher. Book 29 in the series.



"Over Yonder" by Sean Dietrich. Sean of the South is back with another fabulous story of Southern small-town family life. What a beautiful cover. I would like to visit. ☺

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CENTRAL LINN GIRLS' SOCCER

Closes Regular Season Strong

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

The Central Linn Girls' Soccer team wrapped up the last two weeks of regular-season play with determination and skill, posting a 2-1-1 record and continuing to show why they remain one of the top programs in their league.



Central Linn senior soccer players (from left): Isabelle Curtis, Georgia Wahl, Addie Wolff, Peyton Gaskey, Dakota Ramshur, Carmen Ware, and Jayne Neal.

The Cobras opened the stretch with a hard-fought 1-0 win at Pleasant Hill on Oct. 7, with senior Jayne Neal netting the decisive goal off an assist from sophomore Maddie Durlinger. Sophomore goalkeeper Hazel Huxford recorded the shutout with two saves.

In a rare setback on Oct. 10, Central Linn fell 1-2 to Creswell, ending an impressive 21-game unbeaten league streak. Senior Addie Wolff scored on a penalty kick in the match.

The team rebounded with a 1-1 draw at Sisters on Oct. 14, with Neal again finding the net, assisted by Durlinger.

Central Linn capped the week Oct. 16 in style with a dominant 8-0 Senior Night win over La Pine. Senior leadership was on full display as Peyton Gaskey, Jayne Neal, and Addie Wolff each contributed multiple goals, supported by scores from Georgia Wahl and Avery Runyon. The team combined for seven assists, highlighted by three from Gaskey. Sophomore goalkeeper Ali Williams earned the shutout.

Player Spotlight: Senior Peyton Gaskey has been a cornerstone of Central Linn's potent offense. Having already surpassed last year's totals of six goals and five assists, Gaskey now boasts eight goals and eight assists with two regular-season games remaining.

Team Notes: "These last two weeks have been a good testament to the team's mentality and will to keep having a great season and gear toward playoff play," said Head Coach Robert Arteaga. "Even after losing their first league game in two years, they've found another gear to keep imposing their style or adapting as needed to achieve results." The Cobras' resilience and depth position them well for postseason competition. ☀

PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 6



CENTRAL LINN ELEMENTARY

Little Cobras Run for Classroom Cash

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer

The cold autumn air crackled with excitement as every grade at Central Linn Elementary School (CLES) laced up for a high-energy jog-a-thon on October 9. Cones marked a quarter-mile course across the back fields of CLES in Halsey, but the goal wasn't just miles. PE teacher Dena Weber summed up their endeavors: "The goal was to prove that we can keep moving for 15 minutes. Running wasn't a requirement. Only to enjoy exercising without stopping."

With upbeat music blasting while teachers tallied laps, volunteers encouraged students with cheers specific to each child — a feat only a close-knit community can accomplish. The Parent Teacher Committee members held up handmade signs — an especially motivating one promised, "Keep going! There are snacks after the finish

line!"

Camaraderie was everywhere, from students skipping hand-in-hand to older kids giving a boost to tired little legs. As third graders, Bodie Francis and Brielle Holden shared, "We yelled to our classmates, 'keep going, don't give up!'" On average, students completed 1.11 miles within the 15-minute rounds.

The Cobras' perseverance paid off, not just in physical fitness, but in funds raised for classroom activities and future field trips. The whopping grand total raised by students and their supporters was a little over \$5.5K. The top fundraisers won prizes, including building blocks and stuffed animals.

What a fantastic day for fitness, fun, and fund-raising for the Central Linn community. ☀

CENTRAL LINN BOYS' SOCCER

Cobras Stay Strong in Playoff Push

By Hans Schneiter, Boys Soccer Coach

The Central Linn boys soccer team continued to impress through mid-October, showing strong chemistry and grit as they battled for a playoff spot. Over the past two weeks, the Cobras posted a 2-1 record, including two decisive wins and a narrow loss to a top-ranked opponent.

The Cobras opened the stretch on Oct. 6 with a commanding 6-0 victory over Pleasant Hill at home. Wyatt Smith led the attack with two goals, while Konner Gaskey, Don Ware, and Aren Schneiter each added one. Jackson Durlinger's relentless pressure created another score off a defensive miscue. Senior goalkeeper Leif Erickson and the Cobra defense held the shutout.

Central Linn followed with a critical 1-0 win against Sisters on Oct. 9 in a match that likely determined playoff positioning. Schneiter connected with Durlinger just before halftime for the game's only goal, and Erickson sealed the win with a last-second point-blank save.

In their final outing of the stretch, the Cobras faced undefeated Creswell on the road Oct. 16. Durlinger gave Central Linn an early lead, capitalizing on a rebound, but the Bulldogs fought back to claim a 3-1 win despite the Cobras' strong pos-

session and defensive effort.

Player Spotlight: Senior goalkeeper Leif Erickson has been a steady anchor for the Cobras all season. Known for his calm presence and leadership on the field, Erickson's sharp reflexes and fearless saves have kept Central Linn in close matches. His clutch performance at Sisters, including a last-second save to preserve the shutout, exemplified his reliability and competitive spirit. ☀

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COBRA'S CALENDAR • OCT. 23-31

Thursday, Oct. 23

JH Volleyball at Lowell — 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Soccer-Girls at Santiam Christian — 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 24

HS Football Senior Night
HS Cheer Senior Night
HS Cross Country Senior Night
HS Football vs Waldport — 7-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25

JH Cross Country District at Cottage Grove — 9 a.m. - noon

Monday, Oct. 27

JV Football at Oakridge — 5-7 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 29

JH Football vs Eddyville — 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 30

Evening Parent Teacher Conferences
Early Release — 12:30-1:30 p.m.
CLHS Early Release — 12:45-1:45 pm

Friday, October 31

Parent Teacher Conferences
HS Football vs Lowell — 7-9:30 p.m.

ENERGY STORIES OF LINN COUNTY

A Case Study in Solar

By Sharon & Woody Banks, Staff Writers

24919 Gap Road, Brownsville



SHARON BANKS

Last summer, my husband and I decided to install a solar array on the south side of our hill. The site was unusable for anything else — steep, rocky, and covered with heavy clay soil — but it turned out to be perfect for solar.

We hired Pure Energy to install a 24-kilowatt system with 68 solar panels, a grid-tied meter, and a battery backup to provide power during outages. We also added a Level 2 car charger for our electric vehicle.

The system has now been in operation for over a year, and here are the results:

Cost Breakdown

Total Cost	\$59,642.40
Federal Tax Credit	-\$17,889.60
Net Cost	\$41,752.80

Our solar array provides heating and cooling for our 4,400-square-foot home and an additional 800 square feet of heated space in our barn. It also fully charges our electric car and powers our hot tub.

We've generated more electricity than we can use and currently have over three megawatt-hours banked with Consumers Power to cover winter consumption. The performance has exceeded expectations.

Annual Energy Costs

Utility	Before Solar	After Solar
Gas	\$2,660	\$0
Electric	\$4,400	\$0

Total Annual Savings: \$7,060

Simple Payback: 5.87 years

Payback without federal incentive: 8.45 years

In our case, the project would have been a sound investment even without the federal tax credit; however, the 30 percent federal incentive made financing much easier and was a deciding factor in our choice to move forward. Before we made the decision, we were skeptical of the amount of savings we would achieve.

With energy costs rising every year, savings continue to grow. Adding solar has also increased the value of our property, making this decision a true "no-brainer" for us.

This year, we're adding a greenhouse, powered entirely by our solar surplus — a satisfying next step in making our property more sustainable and self-reliant. ☀



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POWERING OREGON

New Solid-State Batteries on the Horizon

By Stephen A. Brenner, Staff Writer

An article in Ars Technica indicates that a new superionic battery technology has been developed as a proof of concept. It promises greater range (600 miles), faster charges (10 minutes), and more safety (nonflammable). Two challenges are holding it back. Getting the production cost down is the first problem. They are extremely sensitive to humidity. If you expose the sulfides to humidity in the air you will generate an extremely toxic gas, hydrogen sulfide. So, the manufacturing space has to be drier than what is conventionally used. And of course, the battery cells have to be protected from rupturing in an accident to avoid that danger. Once the technical difficulties are worked out, getting high-volume factories built is what will bring the cost down to make it doable.

Currently, China has a monopoly on its lithium-ion battery technology and manufacturing. In fact, some of their EV cars are already able to charge up in only minutes. The new superionic technology would help level the playing field. While some minerals in the new technology may reduce the need for rare earth sources, it is the magnets in electric motors where rare earth minerals are mostly used. China produces 70 percent of the rare earth minerals and refines 90 percent. By the time this new technology is mature and ready for implementation (2030?), we would hope that the U.S. will have built its own rare earth production and refinement capabilities. Right now, China is threatening to cut off these minerals to pressure the U.S. into opening up the market to U.S. high-performance

AI chips (and chip production technology). If this is still an issue by the time this article publishes, the global tariff problem could be quite extreme since the Feds are threatening 100 percent tariffs on top of the existing 30 percent.

What are the ramifications of this technology? A large portion of the cost of an EV vehicle is in the batteries, so having control over the process makes U.S. car manufacturers less dependent on China. With longer range and quicker charging, the primary reluctance to purchase an electric vehicle is eliminated. Full adoption of EV vehicles (including ships and airplanes) will not only reduce the roughly 28 percent of U.S. CO₂ emissions that contribute to climate change, but the cost of fuel will be reduced by half, thus stimulating the economy. The move to EV vehicles is inevitable and is happening without government incentives because it is a superior technology and an environmental necessity.

In my last article, I talked about Oregon's deficient electrical grid. If superionic batteries deliver on their promise, the grid could evolve from a centralized, fossil-fuel-driven network to a dynamic, distributed solar and wind energy system. In addition to residences producing and storing their own energy, localized solar and wind farms could serve their communities by tapping into the local distribution substation. And I think that is where Brownsville, as a rural community, may have an advantage over big cities. Our farmers (on a portion of their land) will become our energy producers. ☀

lithium-ion battery

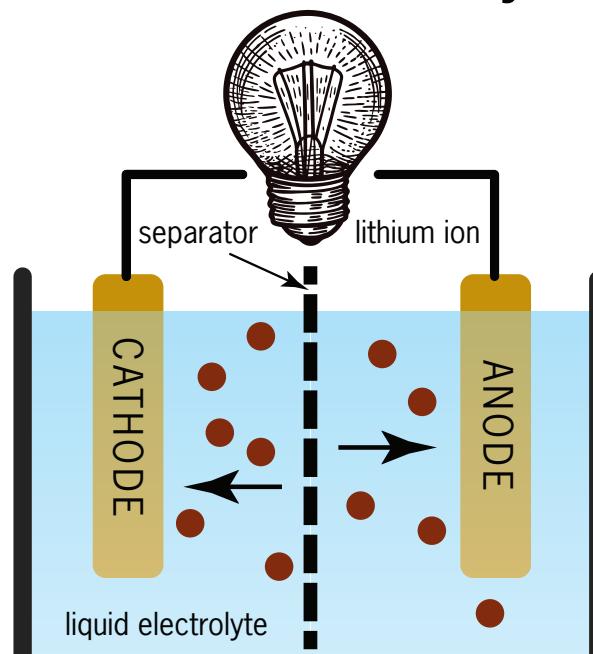
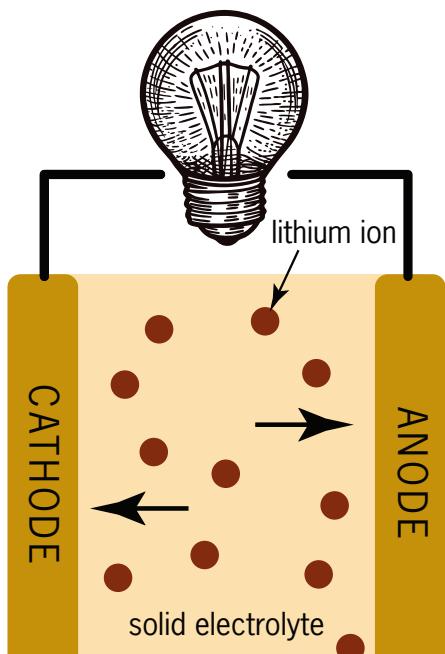


ILLUSTRATION BY MIKAYLE STOLE

solid-state battery



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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, October 13

9:13 a.m. — Female caller reported her son's ex-girlfriend posted rude things on social media about them. Report taken at 32100 block of Old Hwy 34, Tangent. Deputy documented information.

1:04 p.m. — Deputy responded to a trespass at Subway in Harrisburg. Male who had previously trespassed returned. Investigation ongoing.

1:26 p.m. — Male reported that his son threatened him over the phone at the 700 block of Erica Way, Harrisburg. Deputy documented information at the caller's request.

7:43 p.m. — A parking complaint was reported re-

garding a work truck parked across from a driveway in the 800 block of River Ave, Brownsville. The property owners reported difficulty entering and exiting their driveway. Options were provided to resolve the issue. No further action taken.

9:05 p.m. — Robert Kaufman, 43, of Eugene was issued a citation in lieu of arrest for a warrant out of Douglas County at LaSalle S/2nd St, Harrisburg.

9:09 p.m. — Verbal argument among adults that scared the children was reported at the 28800 block of Sheep Head Rd, Brownsville. All parties separated for the night.

Tuesday, October 14

12:48 a.m. — A noise complaint was reported at a residence in the 700 block of Kay Ave, Brownsville. Persons at the location were asked to leave and the ones who stayed, to please be quiet. No further action.

7:03 a.m. — Deputy attempted a warrant service at the 300 block of Kirk Ave, Brownsville. Deputy learned the subject no longer lived at the property.

7:31 a.m. — Harold Sherrett, 76, of Lebanon was issued a citation for speeding, 79 in a posted 55 mph zone on Linn West Rd near Hwy 99E, Shedd.

8:35 a.m. — Female found her 79-year-old husband, who had colon cancer, deceased in bed at the 28000 block of Pine View Dr, Brownsville.

3:55 p.m. — Caller reported a male and female were arguing. Deputy responded and learned it was a non-physical argument. Deputy warned both for disorderly conduct for disrupting everyone around them at

the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr, Harrisburg.

6:38 p.m. — Caller reported that branches were removed along the river that the caller was not happy about having to clean up. Call was documented for further problems.

8:24 p.m. — Deputy warned a teenager for telephone harassment at the 100 block of E. Bishop Way, Brownsville.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

3:04 p.m. — Caller reported a male was yelling and driving a quad up and down the 24800 block of West Brush Creek Rd, Sweet Home. Deputies were unable to contact the suspect.

4:11 p.m. — Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance at the 33600 block of Hwy 99E, Tangent.

4:49 p.m. — Melissa Dewar, 52, of Brownsville was arrested for contempt of court at the 37300 block of Crabtree Dr, Scio.

4:52 p.m. — Luke Kast, 43, of Sweet Home was issued a citation for speeding 90 in a 55 mph posted zone after a traffic stop on Highway 99E near Tangent.

5:21 p.m. — Deputies contacted female for a requested welfare check at the 29900 block of Hwy 99E, Shedd. Female at location did not want to speak with the deputies.

6:36 p.m. — Caller reported a juvenile complaint at the Washburne Heights Dr/ Lone Pine Rd, Brownsville. Juveniles left the area prior to the deputy's arrival.

Thursday, Oct. 16

5:01 a.m. — Fire requested LCSO assistance at S 6th St/ Priceboro Dr, Harrisburg.

10:25 a.m. — Stacey Dodds, 49, of Harrisburg was cited for failure to carry

proof of insurance at N 2nd St/Territorial St, Harrisburg.

12:11 p.m. — Deputies responded to a criminal mischief report at the 33600 block of McFarland Rd, Tangent.

12:41 p.m. — Erica Adams, 38, of Springfield was issued a traffic citation for speeding 48 in 35 mph zone at Coburg Rd/Stroda Dr, Harrisburg.

1:09 p.m. — Deputies responded to a criminal mischief report at the 33600 block of McFarland Rd, Tangent.

1:22 p.m. — Pamela Carpenter, 78, from Harrisburg was issued a traffic citation for speeding 49 in a posted 35 mph zone at S 9th St/Siuslaw St, Harrisburg.

2:42 p.m. — Deputy observed a railroad tie on fire at Stanley Ln/N 6th St. Harrisburg. Harrisburg Fire Department extinguished the fire.

10:46 p.m. — Deputy assisted an individual with moving a bed into their rental home at the 27800 block of Seven Mile Ln, Brownsville.

11:57 p.m. — Tiffany Myrick, 40, of Springfield was arrested for Assault IV at the 1000 block of 6th St, Harrisburg.

Saturday, October 18

2:42 p.m. — Deputy observed a railroad tie on fire at Stanley Ln/N 6th St. Harrisburg. Harrisburg Fire Department extinguished the fire.

2:50 p.m. — Deputies respond to a domestic disturbance at the 30100 block of Seven Mile Ln, Shedd.

4:27 p.m. — Deputies respond to a motor vehicle injury crash in the 28900 block of Brownsville Rd, Brownsville.

4:34 p.m. — Deputy responded to a non-injury and non-reportable crash at Gap Rd/Ranch Dr, Brownsville. Information Documented.

9:55 p.m. — Deputies responded to a report of an armed disturbance at a residence on the 400 block of W. Bishop Way in Brownsville. After investigating, the disturbance was determined to be caused by a rock thrown through a window from the street on the west side of the home. Report to follow.

Sunday, October 19

12:35 a.m. — Multiple mailboxes were destroyed along multiple roads in the Crawfordsville area near the 24800 block of Brush Creek Dr. Video will be gathered and photographs taken of the damage. Property owners were notified. ☺

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It's Wirth Doing It Right with Ash

By Clive Clarke, Staff Writer

Telly Wirth was busy, as most farmers in the Willamette Valley are in September, and I should have known better. He was kind, though — communicating with me and eventually sitting down for a chat. In his office, the fax machine was working overtime, and calls to his cell phone kept coming in. Don't tell me, men cannot multitask. I saw it with my own eyes — this man was doing just that.

Flu ash was the spelling I was given — from a cogen plant. Huh, what's a cogen plant?

Flu ash didn't work out when googled — typo, I thought. Fly ash, perhaps. No, fly ash is a fine powder and a byproduct of coal combustion. This type of ash is discouraged because of toxicity concerns. With some words of wisdom from Telly and help from Google University, I became more enlightened and realized that it was flue ash. Flue ash and fly ash are vastly different, and it's flue ash we're talking about here. The word "cogen" is short for cogeneration and is a plant that produces both electricity and useful heat from a single fuel source.

Stay away from fly ash — it isn't good for your respiratory system, mainly, and can cause silicosis. It has heavy metal content, like arsenic, cadmium, and lead, with silica particles.

The good stuff — flue ash is a wood ash from biomass combustion and is used as a soil amendment in farm fields. Its nutrient source provides essential nutrients, such as potassium, phosphorus, and magnesium, for a better crop and good yields. It contains high levels of calcium and is a liming agent that helps to raise the soil's pH factor (soil acidity or alkalinity). I didn't know this, but apparently the soil in the valley is very acidic, and so lime is needed, and by using Flue ash, he's utilizing a byproduct that's rich in lime, good for the environment, and is cost-effective. Wirth Farms and other farms in the valley will

use several thousand tons of flue ash every year, and the cogeneration plants are happy to get rid of it to responsible farmers. It's environmentally friendly, reduces the amount of agricultural lime needed, and is approved by Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality.

To figure out which fields will need the ash, a soil sample is taken for analysis and to give a baseline. Telly then decides, based on ash availability and the results of soil samples, which fields indicate the greatest need. He contacts Jay with Horner Enterprises with location pins for where he wants the ash dropped.

Horner Enterprises, a local company started by Jay and his father, David, in 1994, transports the ash, dumps it in the desired field, and later spreads it. It's a partnership with the farmers, and they, too, believe in using industrial byproducts in an environmentally-friendly way.

When the time and the weather are right, the same outfit shows up with their loaders, tractors, and New Leader (manufacturer) Floor spreaders. Out it goes — spread evenly across the fields and then disced in by the farm's crew. After a while, another soil sample will be taken, and with some help from an OSU website, a determination will be made for how much more lime will be needed. Flue ash is activated carbon and sheds water better, and so with the ground being wet, the moisture below is retained.

In the fall, grass is planted and top-dressed with fertilizer. They grow other crops too, such as corn, wheat, clover, peppermint, and meadowfoam.

I didn't get to meet Amorita. She's Telly's wife, and I suspect she plays a major role on the farm. Their oldest son is, for now anyway, not involved on the farm — he's off training for something worthwhile. Then there's Jaxon, the youngest, who is enrolled at LBCC and impressed me because he'd just overhauled a Perkins engine in

an old Massey. That's a rare thing these days, especially for someone so young — overhauling an engine. Engine overhauls are almost a thing of the past anymore. Instead, when an engine fails, and because of costly downtime at a critical time, the best option quite often is to swap the failed engine with a remanufactured one.

Old red tractors are my favorite, and anyone who keeps them rolling — well, they must be okay. ☺

Linn County Sheriff's Office Issues Warning About Bitcoin Phone Scam

The Linn County Sheriff's Office is alerting residents about a phone scam where callers falsely claim to be from the department and ask for payments through Bitcoin ATMs.

According to the Sheriff's Office, scammers have been calling local residents randomly, pretending to be department employees and telling them they owe an immediate fine. They direct victims to use a Bitcoin ATM for payment and often seek personal details.

"These are all major red flags," the Sheriff's Office stated. "No law enforcement agency will ever call and demand any form of payment, and we do not handle Bitcoin."

At least one Linn County resident has reportedly lost \$25,000 to this scam.

Officials recommend that anyone receiving such a call should hang up right away and contact the Sheriff's Office directly at 541-967-3950 to verify if the department is trying to reach them.

"Stay vigilant, Linn County," the department urged. "We hate to see our community members scammed out of their hard-earned money." ☺

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