**VOLUME 137, NO. 19** 

SERVING CENTRAL LINN COUNTY, OREGON SINCE 1889

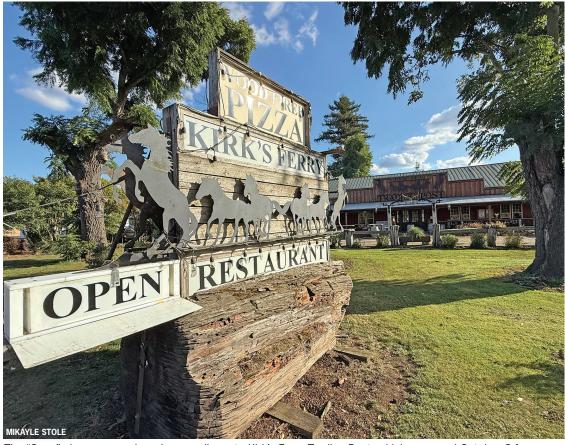
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

TAKING ROOT: FIGS

**INSIDE** 

# Kirk's Ferry Trading Post Reopens for Weekends

By Mikayle Stole, Editor



The "Open" sign once again welcomes diners to Kirk's Ferry Trading Post, which reopened October 3 for weekend lunch and dinner service

BROWNSVILLE — After several quiet months, the familiar hum of conversation and clatter of plates has returned to Kirk's Ferry Trading Post. The longtime Brownsville landmark reopened on October 3, welcoming guests for lunch and dinner on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

The reopening marks a new chapter for the Hopla family, who closed their restaurant in April 2025 to Renaissance-fair pursue ventures along the West Coast. The move allowed Chef Dakota Hopla to share his barbecue with larger crowds while continuing the family's catering and event services. Now, the historic building on Highway 228 is once again open to the public — this time with a fresh concept and a renewed focus on local dining.

KIRK'S continued on page 9

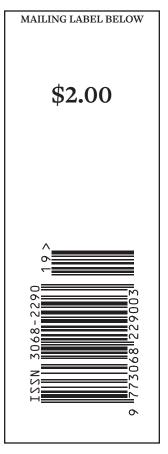




GIVE THE GIFT OF LOCAL JOURNALISM



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# Living Rock Studios Marks 40 Years of Art, Faith, and Oregon Heritage

by Mikayle Stole, Editor

BROWNSVILLE — Living Rock Studios will celebrate its 40th anniversary with an open house on Friday and Saturday, October 10–11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will feature guided tours, special exhibits, and a look at the lasting creativity of founder Howard B. Taylor and his family.

Visitors can explore the studios' unique art collection inspired by Oregon's natural beauty. Admission is a suggested donation of one dollar, and packaged snacks will be available to enjoy outside. The gift shop will feature handmade lace, embroidery, weaving, and other local fiber arts. A Historic Wedding Dress Collection will also be on display throughout October.



Hand-carved from native Oregon woods, Howard B. Taylor's functional wooden tools highlight the natural tones and grains of each species. Every piece was crafted using only a pocketknife.

A new exhibit, "Threads in Time," by Taylor's daughter, Penny, will premiere at the event. Penny's detailed embroidery and weaving creations pay homage to her father's craftsmanship and will be available for purchase in the gift shop.

At the center of the studios are the Living Rock Pictures, which are made of seven glowing scenes crafted from thin slices of agate, marble, chalcedony, and other stones. When lit from behind, the biblical images come alive in their nat-



The Living Rock Pictures at Living Rock Studios are crafted from thin slices of agate, marble, and other stones, each carefully selected for its unique natural color and transparency. When lit from behind, the rocks reveal vivid scenes from biblical stories.

ural colors and textures. "The first sight of the average-sized 'picture' took my breath away. They are magnificent," wrote Dorothy Wilson of the Valley Weekly. Taylor simply explained his inspiration: "If you slice rock thin and put a light behind it, you get color and beauty."

The collection also features over 100 bird paintings depicting Oregon's native species, from eagles and herons to tiny wrens and finches. Each was created after hours of careful observation in the woods.

LIVING ROCK 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).

#### **Thursday Market Season Ender**

Thursday, October 9 • 3–6 p.m. 185 Main St.(just off Highway 228) | Brownsville The final market of the season! Shoppers will still find tomatoes, squash, peppers, onions, garlic, coffee, baked goods, canned goods, and honey. https://www.calapooiafoodalliance.org

#### "Night of the Living Dead" Movie

Friday, October 10 • 7 p.m. (doors 6:30) Silver Screen Cinema | 339 N. Main St, Brownsville \$2 admission. Concessions available. Hosted by American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184.

#### **Living Rock Studios 40th Anniversary**

Friday–Saturday, Oct. 10–11 • 10 a.m.–5 p.m. 911 W. Bishop Way, Brownsville

Celebrate 40 years with guided tours, handmade gifts, and exhibits of rock art, carvings, and Oregon heritage. Featuring "Threads in Time". \$1 donation.

## 1st Annual Great Pumpkin Hunt for Children

Saturday–Sunday, October 11–12 • 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Thompson's Christmas Trees | 37320 Mountain Home Dr., Brownsville

Kids up to age 12 can search the vines and weeds for prize-winning pumpkins — and maybe spot a friendly witch! Dress for the field, bring your camera, and enjoy old-fashioned fall fun. Pumpkins and gourds \$1.50–\$10.

#### **Junction City Fall Festival**

Saturday, Oct. 11 • 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Junction City Grocery Outlet | 94582 Hwy 99E Enjoy a family day of shopping, candy giveaways, and a pie-throwing contest hosted by Teen Challenge. Free admission.

#### Greenbelt Land Trust Fall Family Fun Festival

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.) 32655 Boston Mill Dr, Shedd, OR 97377

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

#### Mayor Alex Johnson II to Speak at American Legion

Tuesday, October 14 • 7 p.m. • Free American Legion Post 184 | Brownsville

The mayor of Albany, a U.S. Navy veteran, will share stories from his military service and his time in public office. Open to everyone.

#### Coffee: One Cup at a Time

Friday, October 17 • 7 p.m. • \$15 at the door American Legion Hall | Brownsville

Enjoy Munch Night with the Calapooia Food Alliance. Mike Purkerson shares his insights from 20 years in the Fair Trade coffee business. Dinner and desserts included. Bring your own place setting and beverage. RSVP: info@gocfa.org.

See page 13 for Brownsville Library events

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

https://brownsvilletimes.org/community-calendar

# 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.

# Fall Festival Returns to Junction City Grocery Outlet

JUNCTION CITY — The annual Fall Festival at Junction City Grocery Outlet is set for Saturday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 94582 Highway 99E.

This family-friendly event will feature 24 local vendors, candy giveaways, and a new pie-throwing contest organized by Teen Challenge. Visitors can shop handmade goods, enjoy seasonal treats, and connect with the local community.

The festival is free and open to the public.

# Ever Wonder About What You're Drinking Every Morning?

Brewed Awakenings... by Kathleen Swayze, CFA

Our motto at the Calapooia Food Alliance is "One Rite at a Time!"

is "One Bite at a Time!"

For this Munch Night, we will hear from Mike Purkerson all about Coffee: 'One Cup at a Time.'

After more than twenty years of roasting and selling Fair Trade (or Relationship Coffee), Michael knows all the ins and outs of the coffee business. Coffee contains over 40 flavonoids that our senses can recognize. So, before you take your next sip, come learn about the history, horticulture process, roasting, marketing, the reasons behind fair prices, and how all of this affects small farmers in developing countries — how tariffs and drought have impacted our coffee and the people who grow it.

#### Munch Night Friday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m.

Come down to the American Legion and enjoy a home-cooked meal with desserts, including coffee cake and more. Please bring your own place setting and non-alcoholic beverage. \$15 at the door, RSVP at info@gocfa.org.



# Thompson's Adds Pumpkin Patch to Tree Farm

BROWNSVILLE — Thompson's Christmas Trees has added a new fall attraction — a pick-your-own pumpkin patch at 37320 Mountain Home Drive in Brownsville. The Thompsons have cultivated a colorful mix of pumpkins, gourds, and decorative varieties for families to enjoy.

Visitors will find everything from tiny varieties at six for \$5, "Jack Be Littles" and vibrant gourds for \$1.50, to mid-sized pumpkins and warty varieties for \$5, and extra-large pumpkins for \$10. The biggest pumpkins remain "in the weeds," creating a fun hunt that kids are sure to love.

#### **Great Pumpkin Hunt Oct. 11-12**

The farm will host its 1st Annual Great Pumpkin Hunt for Children on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 11–12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is open to kids up to age 12 and offers simple, old-fashioned fun — searching through the vines and weeds to see if they've found a prize-winning pumpkin. Families are encouraged to dress for the field, bring their cameras, and enjoy the country setting. Rumor has it a friendly witch may make an appearance, adding to the Halloween spirit.



The Thompsons hope to make the pumpkin hunt an annual tradition for local youngsters and invite feedback from visitors. The pumpkin patch is open weekends through October. Special arrangements can be made by calling 541-466-5276 or emailing lucyjr@centurytel.net.

# Halsey Hosts 6th Annual Virtual Pumpkin Carving Contest

HALSEY — The City of Halsey invites residents to show off their spooky creativity in the 6th Annual Virtual Pumpkin Carving Contest. Entries are open now through October 27 for Halsey residents in the 97348 ZIP code.

Pumpkins can be real or artificial, carved, painted, or decorated in any way — originality is encouraged! Participants must submit a photo of their entry online, clearly showing a handwrit-

ten name card with the pumpkin's name.

Voting will take place on the City of Halsey Facebook page from October 28–30, with winners announced on Halloween, Friday, October 31.



Age Divisions: Kids

(0-11), Teens (12-17), Adults (18+)

First-place winners in each age group will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card, and one additional child participant will be randomly selected for a prize.

Full contest rules and submission details are available on the City of Halsey website at http://cityofhalsey.com.

#### **CONNECT LINN COUNTY**

## **Craft Vendors and Food Anchor Harvest Festival**

BROWNSVILLE — Connect Linn County and Friends invite local artisans, food vendors, and makers to take part in the 2025 Brownsville Harvest Festival and Trunk or Treat on Sunday, Oct. 26, at Pioneer Park.

This year's event is expanding, with activities running rain or shine from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The day will feature a pancake breakfast 7–10 a.m., craft and food vendors 10 a.m.–4 pm., chili and dessert cook-offs, kids' games, pumpkins, and a new "Scary Dance Hall." Families can also enjoy the always-popular Trunk or Treat in the afternoon, where decorated vehicles and creative costumes fill the park with Halloween spirit.



Organizers are especially encouraging vendors offering handmade crafts, seasonal goods, baked treats, and other unique items to join the celebration. "It's a great way to showcase local creativity and connect with the community," said coordinator Karm Curtis.

Booth space is \$15 for a 10×10 area or \$30 for a double space. Nonprofits may participate at no charge. Vendors are responsible for providing their own tents and displays. Setup begins at 7 a.m., Vending begins at 10 a.m. and while early departures are allowed, staying until 4 p.m. is preferred.

Registration and online payment are available through Square. Details and links can be found at https://tinyurl.com/y9dxa9je. Payments can also be mailed to: Connect Linn County, 308 Kirk Ave., Brownsville, OR 97327.

For additiobal entry forms and sign-up links:

- Chili Cook-off: https://tinyurl.com/mvnnrnud
- Dessert Bake-off: https://tinyurl.com/3ps2rp9k
- Trunk or Treat: https://tinyurl.com/2s3feddr

729-3633 or Karm at 541-451-0673.

For information, contact coordinators at info@connectlinncounty.net or call Melissa (541-497-4154) or Karm (541-451-0673).

# Late October and Early November at Tarweed Folk School

#### **Hands-On Learning in Traditional Crafts**

CORVALLIS — Tarweed Folk School invites the community to explore traditional handicrafts this fall through a series of immersive classes. October and November bring opportunities to work with willow, fiber, and natural materials under the guidance of skilled instructors.

In Willow
Basketry: Shopping
Basket, Eli and
Ben Goodwin will
lead participants
in weaving a durable willow basket
suited for market
trips, grocery runs,
or garden harvests. The two-day
workshop held Oct.
18–19 from 9 a.m.
to 4 p.m., covers



the construction of a round or oval base and a variety of weaving techniques, including French and English randing, waling, and twining. Each student will complete a sturdy handled basket to take home, with modifications available to suit different skill levels. Both beginners and experienced weavers are welcome.

Basketmaking continues into early November with **A Trey of Trays**, taught by master basketmaker Margaret Mathewson on Nov. 1–2 from 9



a.m. to 4 p.m. Students will create a series of flat or shallow trays using willow and fragrant cedar twigs in natural colors. Designs may include round, square-cor-

nered, or leaf-shaped trays, with the option to add handles. Finished pieces can be used for drying herbs, serving food, or displayed as handmade wall art. The class is suitable for all experience levels.

In Make a Whisk Broom, offered by Kiko Denzer on Saturday, Nov. 8, participants will craft a small hand or "turkey wing" broom while learning the fascinating history of broom making. Two sessions are available, from 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m. Students will explore the evolution of broom design — from early twig bundles to the flattened Shakerstyle brooms — while practicing techniques adaptable to larger projects. The class also includes practical, string valuable work in other handicrafts.

Each of these workshops celebrates the creativity and connection that come from

working with natural materials and learning by hand.





A complete list of fall classes, including extra offerings in wood, fiber, and traditional skills, is available at https://www.tarweedfolkschool.com/upcoming-classes. From single-day workshops to multi-week courses, Tarweed's programs are created to make heritage crafts accessible for all skill levels. Find a class this fall that sparks your curiosity or creativity.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TARWEED FOLK SCHOOL

#### PIONEER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

# Fall Festival and Benefit Auction



BROWNSVILLE — Pioneer Christian Academy will hold its annual Fall Festival and Benefit Auction on Saturday, Oct. 25, 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.

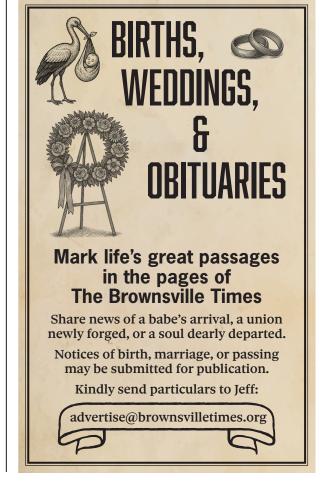
There is no admission fee for the festival. Food and activity tickets will be available for purchase onsite. In addition, students are selling raffle tickets ahead of the event, with a classroom pizza party as the prize for the top-selling class.

Those interested in participating early can also bid in the school's online auction, which opens the week before at https://pioneerchristian.org/and closes Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Organizers encourage the community to join in for an afternoon of fun while supporting local education.



Maria Martin, Shyla Hostetler, and Kate Hostetler at last year's festival.



HALSEY MAYOR'S CORNER

# Halsey Celebrates 149 Years of Incorporation

By Jerry Lachenbruch, Mayor of Halsey

Well, hello everyone! Welcome to October! October is important to the City of Halsey. Does anyone know why? Well, if you don't, I will tell you. The City of Halsey was initially founded in 1872, and the Oregon Legislative Assembly legally incorporated it on October 20, 1876. It was and remains located in Linn County, which was part of the Oregon Legislative Assembly's 20th Regular Session. At that time, each Senate district was split into two House districts. While the exact district number for Halsey is not specified in the legislative records at that time, we do know that the population of Halsey in 1880, four years after the 1876 session, was 306 residents. We have tripled that population as of 2025.

1876 was a significant year for Oregon, marked by the Establishment of the University of Oregon, the opening of the first Oregon State Capitol building, and a massive fire in Portland that destroyed 20 blocks of downtown. All momentous events. How many of you fine people have family history in Halsey? How many have family all the way back to our incorporation? I would love to hear about them if you do, Mayor@halseyor.gov.

#### Are you all ready for Halloween?

Be on the lookout for little ghosts and goblins on our streets during trick-or-treating. Check out page two for information on the City Pumpkin Carving Contest that ends October 27! I am excited for the leaves to start changing and the briskness in the air.

It's almost time for pumpkin pie; do you have any family recipes you'd like to share? The Library Committee is collecting recipes for a community cookbook. Have a special story about your recipe? We'd love to hear it. Submit your recipes online, in person at City Hall, or at the library, or email them to library@halseyor.gov.

Have you seen the new walking path at the park? I am looking forward to a nice, smooth, and safe walking path.

Well, I will leave you with all that. As always, I remain your Mayor. The City Council and I work for you. If there are any suggestions or concerns, please be sure to let us know.

# Halsey Park Pathway Project Complete

The City of Halsey has reopened the Halsey Memorial Park following the completion of the long-awaited pathway replacement project. The new smooth walking path is now open for use, and city officials thanked residents for their patience during construction. The project was made possible through support from Oregon Parks & Recreation, which also contributed to other recent park upgrades.

# **Upcoming City of Halsey Meetings**

The October 14 Halsey City Council meeting has been canceled.

The Halsey Parks & Library Committee will meet Wednesday, October 16, at 5:30 p.m. at City

For more calendar listings visit: https://www.halseyor.gov/calendar.php

# Safely Dispose of Unused Medication

HALSEY & HARRISBURG — The Linn County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the DEA, will host a mobile Drug Take Back event on Saturday, Oct. 25. Deputies will collect unused or unwanted medications — including pet meds — free of charge and anonymously. Bring your items to Halsey City Hall from 1–2 p.m. or Harrisburg City Hall from 2:30–3:30 p.m. Prescription and overthe-counter drugs are accepted; sharps, needles, injectables, and medical waste are not. For yearround disposal, visit the Sheriff's Office drop box at 1115 Jackson St. SE in Albany.

#### **HALSEY LIBRARY**

### Honey Hole Donation Supports Food Preservation Collection

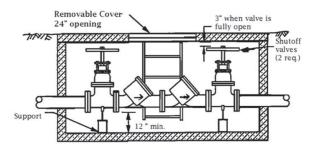
The Halsey Public Library extended a heartfelt thank-you to The Honey Hole Bar & Grill for its generous donation, raised through the popular "Pictures with the Rooster" fundraiser. The Library deeply appreciated the community's participation and ongoing support.

Funds from the donation will be used to expand the Library's collection with new titles on food preservation and homesteading — subjects that complement the Library's growing "Library of Things."

For those unfamiliar, the "Library of Things" offers tools to help with home food preservation, including a steam and pressure canner, dehydrator, and vacuum sealer. Each piece of equipment receives annual maintenance from the OSU Extension lab and is available for patrons to borrow, making food preservation more accessible and affordable for local families.

# **Service Interruptions During Backflow Testing**

HALSEY — Annual backflow valve testing will start in early October. The backflow device is located in the ground behind your water meter. Its purpose is to act as a one-way valve to prevent water from your lines from flowing back into the City's water system. A diagram of the backflow device is shown below. Oregon law requires annual testing of all backflow devices. The city of Halsey conveniently tests all the backflows at once, saving residents money compared to hiring a contractor separately.



#### How much does it cost?

The cost for testing is \$25 and will be reflected on your utility bill received in October for the September service.

#### What to expect during testing

While the test is being performed, water customers will experience a brief interruption in service. If your service is unavailable for more than 30 minutes, please contact City Hall.

For more updatesvisit https://www.halseyor.gov/services/public\_works/backflow\_testing.php.

# LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## Linn County Commissioners OK Transportation Agreements

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker approved three transportation agreements during their September 30 meeting.

The agreements were presented by Reagan Maudlin, Linn County Special/Rural Transportation Coordinator.

The commissioners approved an amendment to the Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Grant, increasing its budget by \$25,000 and extending the project period through the end of the calendar year. The original grant of \$50,000 was secured in April 2024.

Funds are used to help Linn County Veterans Services provide rides for veterans. So far, the grant has funded 217 healthcare-related rides for veterans who live in rural Linn County.

The commissioners approved a Subrecipient Agreement with the Senior Citizens of Sweet Home, Inc. to receive Federal Section 5310 funding, not to exceed \$197,406 for the 2025-2027 biennium, through a contract with the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The agreement allows the 5310 funds to be used to support the Linn County Special Transportation Program by contracting services with the Senior Citizens of Sweet Home, Inc./ Linn Shuttle.

The commissioners also approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Albany/Call-A-Ride. The program will receive up to \$335,026 for the 2025-2027 biennium through a contract with ODOT. The funds are from the 5310 Small Urban category, and the City of Albany is the only provider in Linn County that meets the designation.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved First-Time Youth Wage Grant Agreements with Phelan Enterprises and Irvinville, LLC.
- Announced there are three vacancies on the county's Mental Health Advisory Board.
   Terms are for three years and there can be up to 15 members.
- Presented retired Roadmaster Wayne
  Mink with a plaque honoring his 25
  years of service to the residents of Linn
  County. An engineer by training, Mink held
  several positions with the Linn County
  Road Department from December 1999 to
  September 2025. He served as Roadmaster
  for the last five years of his career.
- Announced that an Elected Officials meeting will be held from 12-2 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, in Conference Room 4 at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.
- Received an update from Troy Jones from the Friends of Gap Road group, which opposes the proposed 1,600-acre Muddy Creek Solar Park near Harrisburg.
- Continued a Public Hearing from September 2, voting to deny an appeal and uphold the Linn County Planning Director's interpretation regarding whether a property has functional road access. At issue was whether a property off Scravel Hill Road near Albany has a recorded easement. The commissioners determined there is no recorded easement on file with the county, and therefore, the property does not have recognized access under Linn County Code.

#### **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  $\cdot$  541-466-3273 https://brownsvillechristianchurch.com Sunday Service and Children's Church 11 a.m. Adult classes 10 a.m.

#### **Brownsville Community Church**

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

#### **Brownsville Mennonite Church**

34795 OR-228 · 541-466-5622

#### **Central Valley Church**

657 American Dr · Halsey · 503-602-6796 https://www.cvchalsey.com

Sunday Corporate Service 8 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. (during school year)

Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m. Monday Prayer 7–8 p.m.

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

Sunday Service 10 a.m. & Wednesdays 7:15 p.m.

#### **CULTURAL EXPLORATIONS**

# **AI Transition**

By Stephen A. Brenner, Staff Writer

Artificial Intelligence (AI) demands our attention. It dominates the stock market and economy with unprecedented infusions of cash, building data centers and power centers to run them, as well as new large language models (LLMs). Businesses see AI as a way to enhance efficiency and lower their costs, and implementations are already threatening the jobs of low-level white collar workers. This will dramatically increase as AI gets more integrated into work settings. Already a major paradigm shift in our culture, we haven't seen anything close to the full potential yet. With progress happening so fast, will we be prepared to deal with the future impact?

The introduction of PC, Internet, and phone tech has already dramatically changed our culture. We've got the world's wisdom at our fingertips, yet it's full of misinformation, and corporate social media has already divided and radicalized us. With the advent of AI, it can easily get worse as LLMS are developed to represent only one point of view.

# I see two competing trends in Al development.

- 1. In autocracies, highly centralized systems know everything about the public, so that corporations and government can manipulate and control them. We see this in China, North Korea, and Russia, where surveillance is everywhere, there is only the government line, and any dissent is suppressed. The public ends up totally brainwashed and repressed.
- 2. In democracies, AI can empower citizens to reinvent their own culture:
- Artistry-Communication: Grass-roots cultural creatives can access tools to produce sophisticated art and music, promoting visions for social change and entertainment. Decentralized networks will guide us to the inspirational stuff.
- Education: With interactive AI lessons tailored to each student, teachers can shift from delivering content to providing mentorship. Access to education can expand beyond those who can afford it.
- Collaboration: AI tools can help interest groups to organize and solve their own community challenges. The Brownsville Times could offer forums for Solutions-based Journalism.
- Politics: What if politicians were visionaries and project managers rather than actors and power brokers? AI could help us shift from the politics of division to one of shared purpose. Maybe Rank Choice Voting will allow third parties to emerge without acting as spoilers. AI could help us to find those candidates and build parties whose vision matches our own (shifting the power away from the stagnating two-party system).
- Science-Engineering: With access to the world's knowledge, how many breakthroughs are possible? Dr. David Baker and his team in 2008 created the online game, Foldit, which let the public contribute to protein folding problems by "playing" with 3D structures. Ordinary people, including non-scientists, ended up finding solutions that supercomputers and experts couldn't. When access to powerful technology filters down from corporations to individuals, it exponentially expands the creativity pool.

Of course, there is always the dark side. Bad actors will develop bio-weapons and advanced hacking techniques. Liars and lunatics will try to sell you a delusional version of the world. And AI itself might pose a threat to humanity. So, no matter where it heads, get ready for a wild ride.

#### LIVING ROCK continued from cover



A stone staircase leads to the upper level of Living Rock Studios, where visitors can explore exhibits of art, carvings, and natural history inside the hand-built structure.

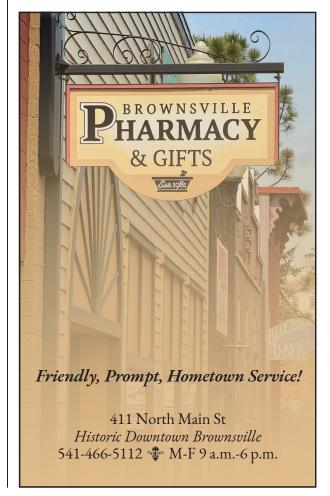
Taylor's wood carvings — over 100 functional tools crafted with a pocketknife from native Oregon woods — showcase his ingenuity and respect for natural materials. Each piece highlights the unique tone and grain of its tree.

Visitors can also explore the extensive rock and mineral collection inside the studios, integrated into the 800-ton stone structure. From obsidian to agate, the walls showcase the vibrant colors and textures of the region's geology.

Other exhibits honor the Taylor family's Oregon pioneer ancestors by showcasing artifacts carried across the plains in the 1852 Hazeltown wagon train, and celebrate Native American heritage with locally found artifacts and historic photos.

An impressive "book" of Oregon logging paintings — 30 detailed oil panels chronicling the industry's history — finishes the tour.

Since opening in 1984, Living Rock Studios has been a central part of Brownsville's cultural and artistic scene. The 40th anniversary honors not only Taylor's artwork but also the generations who continue to carry on and share his legacy.



#### **CLHS FOOTBALL**

# Cobras Notch First Win, 35–20 Over Oakridge

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

After a tough start to the season, the Central Linn Cobras football team earned its first victory with a 35–20 win over Oakridge.

The Warriors took an early 8–0 lead after two Cobra fumbles on kick returns, but Central Linn rallied to dominate both offensively and defensively the rest of the way.

Scoring: Hixson Lauzson led with two touchdowns. Hank Davidson, Jacob Helms, and Alonzo Silva-Ortiz—his first career touchdown — each added one.

The defense delivered a complete team effort, with strong play up front generating multiple turnovers and tackles for loss.

Head Coach Mike Day praised the team's progress: "I couldn't be more proud of the kids and my coaching staff," Day said. "We're excited to prepare for homecoming next week against a tough Toledo team. We'd love for our community to show up for Friday Night Football."

Kickoff for the homecoming game is set for 7 p.m. Friday, October 10.

#### **CL CROSS COUNTRY**

#### Cobras Harriers Place Strong at Back-to-Back Invites

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

The Central Linn cross country teams turned in impressive performances at two recent meets, with the girls earning a second-place finish at Lebanon's Champ Invitational and a team title at the Harrier Classic in Albany.

# Sept. 26: Champ Invitational — Lebanon

The Cobra girls finished second in a field of 11 schools at the Cheadle Lake course. The boys placed sixth among 22 teams.

Girls' Results (110 runners):

8. Anya Griffith, 20:42.50; 18. Isabelle Curtis; 34. Jayne Neal; 49. Addie Wolff; 52. Maddie Duringer; 78. Peyton Gaskey; 83. Amelia Curtis.

Boys' Results (178 runners):

14. Jackson Duringer, 17:47.80; 36. Ethan Dennison; 51. Don Ware; 71. Wyatt Smith; 138. DJ Diaz; 149. Leif Erickson; 152. Logan Bunday.

#### October 4: Harrier Classic — Albany

The girls took first place out of 10 teams — the only 2A school competing against 4A and 5A programs. The boys placed ninth among 22 schools. **Boys' Results** (223 runners):

9. Jackson Duringer, 17:25.35; 34. Ethan Dennison; 42. Don Ware; 72. Wyatt Smith; 130. Chaz Mast; 146. Bob Cunningham; 167. Logan Bunday; 170. Leif Erickson; 191. Gage Leibo.

The Cobras next compete Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Paul Mariman Invitational in Philomath.

#### **CL GIRLS' SOCCER**

## **Cobras Dominate, Outscores Opponents 32–3**

By Robert Arteaga, Girls Soccer Head Coach

The Central Linn girls' soccer team extended its winning streak to four games, outscoring opponents 32–3 over the past two weeks.

#### **Sept. 23: La Pine — 9–0 Win**

Avery Runyon (Jr) scored five goals to lead the Cobras. Jayne Neal (Sr) and Amelia Curtis (Soph) each added two. Assists came from Maddie Duringer (Soph), Georgia Wahl (Sr), and Peyton Gaskey (Sr). Goalkeepers Hazel Huxford (Soph) and Ali Williams (Soph) combined for the shutout.

#### Sept. 25: Elmira — 9-1 Win

Gaskey and Neal both notched hat tricks, while Isabelle Curtis (Sr), Josi Davidson (Jr), and Ximena Cruz (Soph) added one goal apiece. Duringer tallied five assists in a commanding midfield performance.

#### Sept. 29: Santiam Christian — 7-0 Win

Runyon and Duringer each scored three goals, with Addie Wolff (Sr) contributing one. Neal recorded five assists, and Huxford made two saves in goal.

#### October 2: vs. Siuslaw — 7-2 Win

Gaskey led scoring with three goals. Neal, Wolff, Dakota Ramshur (Sr), and Runyon each added one.

Highlight of several key contributors: "Maddie Duringer has been a key piece for us this season in the midfield," Arteaga said. "In the past two weeks, she's contributed three goals and 10 assists. Our center backs, Georgia Wahl and Addie Wolff, along with goalkeeper Hazel Huxford, have done a great job keeping opponents' attacks in check."



Goal Scorers and Playmakers — Central Linn's offensive leaders from the October 2 match against Siuslaw are pictured left to right: Maddie Duringer, Dakota Ramshur, Addie Wolff, Avery Runyon, Peyton Gaskey, and Jayne Neal. The Cobras defeated Siuslaw 7–2.

#### **CLHS BOYS' SOCCER**

# **Cobras Battle Through Packed Schedule, Earn Home Win Over Elmira**

By Hans Schneiter, Central Linn Head Coach for Boys' Soccer

# Sept. 22: Cobras Rally for 3–1 Victory Over Elmira at Home

This was a classic game of soccer where a team doesn't finish their chances and then gets punished against the run of play. The Cobras outshot the Falcons 15-6 in the first 30 minutes. However, they paid for their poor finishing, and Elmira took advantage of a defensive mix-up in the back and put away the first goal (0-1). The Cobras continued to put pressure on Elmira, and 9 minutes into the second half, they got their reward. Konner Gaskey ran onto a through ball from Jackson Duringer, and when the keeper parried his shot, Wyatt Smith was there to put away the loose ball (1-1). The Cobras continued to push, and in the 63rd minute, Jackson Duringer was taken down in the penalty area. Aren Schneiter stepped up and buried the penalty shot (2-1). The Cobras wrapped up the win when Enrique Luis-Gonzalez ran onto a through ball from Kurrie Travis and then squared the ball for Konner Gaskey, who swept it past the keeper (3-1).

#### Sept. 25: Forfeit Win at La Pine

Unfortunately, La Pine only had six eligible players (a team must have seven eligible players to play a game) and had to forfeit, giving Central

-See School Calendar on page 15-

#### Linn the easy win.

# Sept. 30: Cobras Fall to Crosshill Christian/Jefferson

The Cobras traveled to Jefferson for the first of two tough away games against top-ranked opponents. Even though the Cobras were even on possession and shots, they struggled defensively against the high-powered attack of Crosshill/ Jefferson. The Cobras started out very sleepy and went down a goal in the first few minutes (0-1). Then they gave up two quick goals in the 23rd and 27th minutes through defensive mix-ups (0-3). Despite digging themselves into a hole early on, Central Linn earned a free kick for a handball 5 minutes before halftime. Jackson Duringer stepped up and curled a free kick around the wall and into the top right corner (1–3). Unfortunately, in spite of being equal in shots and possession, Central gave up two more goals early in the second half (1-5) and couldn't find any more goals.

# October 2: Hard-Fought Battle in the Rain at Siuslaw

There's nothing like a 2-hour road trip to Siuslaw on a Thursday night in the rain! The Cobras arrived ready to battle with the Vikings

SOCCER conitined on page 7

## WHERE TO STAY







#### **SOCCER** continued from page 6

under the lights. Both teams opened up with a lot of intensity, and shots were registered both ways. The game was very direct and transitional, but Siuslaw broke through first in the 16th minute (0–1). They then added to their tally in the 24th minute on a defensive mix-up (0–2). The coach made some changes to the team's shape, and the players responded when Aren Schneiter played a through ball for Jackson Durginer, who raced

ahead and rounded the keeper before slotting in at the back post (1–2). Unfortunately, the Vikings scored a header off a long throw-in (1–3). Despite the Cobras having a dominant 2nd half performance, they couldn't seem to penetrate the Siuslaw goal and no more goals were scored.

To see video clips of CLHS Boys' Soccer goals and highlights, follow them on Instagram @centrallinncobrasoccer.

#### **CENTRAL LINN HIGH SCHOOL**

# **Central Linn Community Plans New Career & Technical Education Building**

The Central Linn Facilities Committee met Saturday night to discuss the design and configuration of a new 14,000-square-foot Career and Technical Education (CTE) building at Central Linn High School. Dozens of local citizens and community leaders attended, offering input and ideas for the future facility.

The project represents a major step forward for Central Linn, providing students with opportunities to explore hands-on, technology-driven education as early as seventh grade.

Aaron Bayer, Superintendent of Schools in Sandy, Oregon, addressed the group, sharing lessons learned from Sandy High School's nationally recognized CTE program. He emphasized the importance of designing flexible spaces that can adapt to future needs. "There will be technological advancements coming that we can't yet anticipate," Bayer noted, encouraging planners to focus on reconfigurable, open floor plans. Suggestions included central placement of CAD systems, mobile tables and chairs, whiteboard table surfaces, and advanced equipment such as 3D printers.

Initially, the CTE program will focus on the agricultural program with priority on welding and mechanics, with future expansion planned for forestry, animal husbandry, woodshop and other courses. The facility will serve up to 60 students,

over one-third of the Central Linn High School student body — and may also provide opportunities for homeschooled students.

The project will be completed in phases:

- Phase I will prepare the building for occupancy by installing necessary infrastructure, including power, internet, plumbing, safety systems, and storage. Estimated cost: \$100,000.
- Phase 2A will engage industry partners and community stakeholders, including businesses and philanthropists, to support technical education and workforce preparation.
- Phase 2B will install welding booths, vent hoods, and air cleaners at a cost of \$40,000-60,000.

According to Dr. Rob Hess, funding could come from industrial partnerships, grants, or state support.

Although the recent school bond measure failed, the CTE project represents a hopeful step forward. Community members left Saturday's meeting inspired by the possibilities and united in their vision for preparing Central Linn students for success in an ever-changing technical world. The committee meets the first Saturday of every month and that our top priority right now is to build industry partnerships.

#### **HOME SALES REPORT**

#### August 16 to September 15, 2025 Property & Home Sales in Central Linn

<b>Sale Date</b>	Street Address	City	Sale Price	Sq Ft	<b>Year Built</b>	<b>Beds</b>	<b>Baths</b>	Acres
Aug. 28	5751 1st St.	Halsey	\$90,000	_	_	-	_	0.09
Aug. 29	1325 4th St.	Halsey	\$350,000	1,485	2000	3	2	0.28
Aug. 29	1021 Sommerville Lp.	Harrisburg	\$359,690	_	_	_	_	0.07
Sept. 2	375 9th St.	Harrisburg	\$417,500	1,532	1971	3	2	0.17
Sept. 3	1029 Sommerville Lp.	Harrisburg	\$408,990	_	_	_	_	0.07
Sept. 3	570 4th St.	Harrisburg	\$329,000	1,008	1968	3	1	0.11
Sept. 8	307 Putman St.	Brownsville	\$440,000	1,884	2005	3	2	0.15
Sept. 8	231 C St.	Halsey	\$315,000	1,359	1930	3	2	0.31
Sept. 8	246 Schooling St.	Harrisburg	\$379,000	1,546	1915	3	2	0.23
Sept. 9	603 Kirk Ave.	Brownsville	\$335,000	1,008	1975	3	1	0.31
					- m-~	<u> </u>		$\sim$

#### **Market Highlights**

- Total Properties Sold: 10
- Average Sale Price: \$342,418
- Average Home Size: 1,403 sq ft
- Average Lot Size: 0.179 acres
- Most Expensive Sale: \$440,000
- Least Expensive Sale: \$90,000
- Newest Home: Built in 2005
- Oldest Home: Built in 1915

#### WHERE TO BUY & SELL

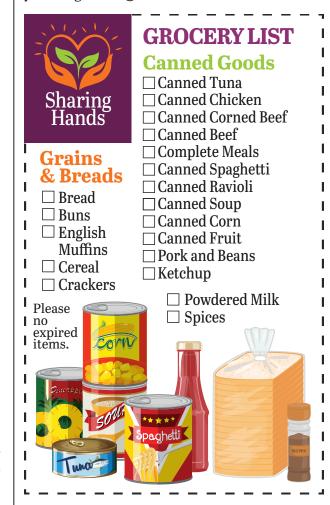




# **Support Sharing Hands Food Bank**

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







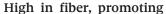


#### **TAKING ROOT**

## Give A Fig

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer

Each morning now, I can find two or three Turkish Brown figs drooping down, asking to be picked. I happily pluck them for breakfast, feeling very rich and privileged to be able to do so. Often, when the fig is really ripe, I succumb to a primordial urge and stick my tongue into the blossom end, filling my mouth with sweet sticky joy. Ficus carica is one of my favorite fruits.



digestive health, rich in antioxidants, and a good source of bone-friendly minerals, figs contribute to lowering blood pressure and cholesterol. In the book of Deuteronomy, figs are one of the seven sacred species, along with wheat, barley, grapes, pomegranates, olives, and dates. The presence of fig trees is an indicator of being in the "Promised Land." In India, the Buddha achieved enlightenment sitting under a Bodhi tree (Ficus religiosa). There are about 850 species of fig trees in the world. Fig trees are a symbol of peace and prosperity. Figs are one of the first foods cultivated, dating back 11,000 years in Jordan.

Our Willamette Valley enjoys not-too-cold winters and hot-enough summers, according to Kim Pokorny's OSU Extension article, "Don't Be Fooled, Figs Grow Fine in Western Oregon." Of the approximately 100 cultivars, the author recommends White Kadota, Desert King, and Lattarula. I find that Turkish Brown and Desert King are the varieties most often found in nurseries.

Figs are one of the easiest trees to clone. During winter dormancy, clip off an 8–10-inch branch



Fresh Figs — This Is Paradise

tip. Cut just below a node (the bud found where a leaf branches off), stick it in a pot filled with potting soil, and keep it watered and sheltered at least until the end of spring before planting it in a sunny location in quick-draining soil. Figs take a few years (or more) to bear fruit, so impatient types should consider buying a 5-year-old tree from a nursery. Avoid acidic soil — mix in lime and organic material for most of our Willamette Valley area. If your tree dies back due to frost, it will renew, so don't give up on this hardy survivor.

Pruning: In January/February (with mature trees), open up the interior by removing old wood, including some large branches. Leave ½ to ½ of the first year wood because that is where the fruit will develop. First-year wood is green and smooth; older wood is gray. Trees can be topped, so restrict the height to what you can reach. After a cold winter, the tips of branches may freeze and then turn black in the spring. Prune these dead branch tips once the danger of frost has passed

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

# **Apple Tree Gets Long Overdue Pruning**

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer

Local arborist, Ernie Shuyler, offered a fruit tree pruning demonstration on Saturday, September 27, at a residence on Oak at Depot. His subject was a very productive but ancient apple tree that sorely needed help. Ernie, who loves trees, was there to offer solace and the wisdom of his 22 years as an arborist, showing how to open up the center of the tree for air accumulation, to remove unproductive and dying branches that had served their time, and to cut out branches stricken with anthracnose, a fungus.

While many people wait for winter dormancy to prune trees, Ernie pointed out that pruning now helps to retard growth, which was desired in this instance. Ernie showed resident, Dale Streimikes, how to nip a branch to direct new growth in the desired direction. Ernie, also known as 'The Woodman,' on his Facebook account, offered the free pruning demonstration so that people might be encouraged to care for their own trees and avoid paying him \$40 per hour to correct years of neglect. He promised more demonstrations in the future — stay tuned to The Brownsville Times.



#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

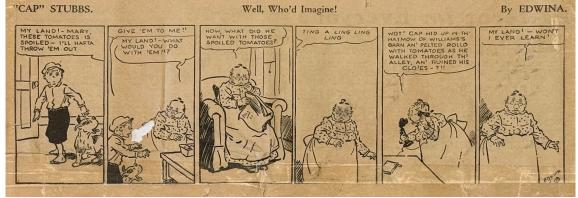
## 'Cap Stubbs' and The Oregon Farmer

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

While sorting through old papers in The Brownsville Times office, I came across a vintage 1931 comic strip titled "Cap Stubbs" by Edwina. The strip originally appeared in The Oregon Farmer, a long-running agricultural publication that served Oregon's farming families in the early 20th century.

Also known as "Cap Stubbs and Tippie," the comic follows a mischievous boy and his loyal dog. In this particular strip, Cap's prank with spoiled tomatoes doesn't quite go as planned. What caught my attention most wasn't the storyline, but the signature "Edwina".

Before working in journalism, I spent many years in as a graphic designer alongside Eugene cartoonist Jan Eliot, creator of the nationally syndicated strip "Stone Soup." I watched her long journey from graphic designer and copywriter to full-time cartoonist — an achievement that took 16 years of persistence, late nights, and unwavering humor. Jan often reminded me that there weren't many syndicated women cartoonists in the world, which made finding this 1931 strip by a female artist especially



"Cap Stubbs" by Edwina Dumm, published in The Oregon Farmer, September 17, 1931. Rediscovered in The Brownsville Times archives

meaningful

Edwina Dumm, who signed her work simply as "Edwina," is recognized as America's first full-time female editorial cartoonist. Her career spanned more than four decades, and her work appeared in newspapers across the country — paving the way for artists like Jan Eliot and countless others who followed.

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## **LOCAL DINING OPTIONS**

#### TABLE TALK: DINING IN AND AROUND BROWNSVILLE

#### The Shedd Market & Deli

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

The Shedd Market and Deli sits along Highway 99 between Halsey and Tangent. Since opening in February 2006, it has become a regular stop for people in the area and for those passing through. customer base is wide-ranging, from farmers stopping in for lunch to truck drivers taking a break, cyclists on the road, and visitors coming from nearby attractions such as Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site. On any given day, you might see a Sheriff's Deputy come through, or a group of friends meeting up for a casual meal. The steady



stream of customers makes it clear that this is a dependable spot in the community.

I had driven past The Shedd Market and Deli several times but had never stopped for lunch. After hearing from locals that it was worth trying, I finally went in. The menu offers burgers, sandwiches, and classic deli items. I ordered a quarter-pound cheeseburger with fries. The burger was hot, fresh, and built with the usual toppings done right. The fries came out crisp and well-seasoned. Nothing complicated — just solid food prepared the way it should be. The portion was generous enough to make a filling meal, and it was easy to see why the deli has a loyal following.

The business is owned and operated by Leon and Julie, who have kept it running for nearly two decades. Julie does most of the cooking, and her attention to consistency is part of what keeps people coming back. Their daughter Bethany is often at the counter taking orders, making it a gen-

uine family effort. Even their youngest, Zinnia, not yet two years old, is a familiar presence around the shop.

The atmosphere inside the deli is straightforward and welcoming. Seating is casual, service is friendly, and the pace is steady without feeling rushed. For travelers, it's a convenient stop along Highway 99; for locals, it's a dependable place to get a hot meal.

If you find yourself in Shedd or nearby, The Shedd Market and Deli is worth a visit. Good food, reasonable prices, and consistent service make it a reliable choice for lunch in the mid-valley.

#### KIRK'S FERRY

continued from cover

"We've changed the menu," said Manager James Dyer, who recently relocated from California to oversee the new venture. "Lunch runs from noon to five, and then we switch to dinner service. We have a full bartender for Friday and Saturday evenings, and specialty cocktails are coming soon."

The updated menu offers hearty American fare and barbecue fa-



The original Kirk's Ferry log cabin, built around 1847 by Alexander and Sarah Kirk, remains preserved within the modern Kirk's Ferry Trading Post. The structure, believed to be Oregon's oldest standing building, once served as a home, inn, and tavern for travelers crossing the Calapooia

vorites — burgers, sandwiches, salads, and pizzas — alongside rotating weekend entrées such as filet mignon, prime rib, and chicken-fried chicken. A selection of appetizers and desserts rounds out the offerings, with plans for signature cocktails to enhance evening dining.

Inside, the space has been reimagined to spotlight its most unique feature: the original log cabin at the restaurant's heart. "We're making the cabin the focal point again," Dyer explained. "That's why we dropped the walls in front of it, so you can actually see the cabin that's been here since the 1800s. They built this place around it."

Dyer, who previously managed food booths at Renaissance fairs, said he's embracing small-town life. "I'm learning how tight knit it is," he said with a laugh. "It's a great town, and I'm really enjoying myself here."

Regulars can also look forward to the return of community gatherings. "We've got big things on the horizon — line dancing probably coming back in January," Dyer said. "We're



Server Jennifer delivers a fresh pizza during the reopening day at Kirk's Ferry Trading Post.

open for Christmas parties and big gatherings."

The restaurant's layout now includes both full-service dining and a family-friendly area in the back, where guests can order at the front counter and have food delivered to their table in to-go containers. Dyer points out, "When you're ready, grab lids for your sides and head out — it keeps things quick and easy."

Server Savannah, who worked at the restaurant before it closed, said the reopening feels like a homecoming. "This place is like home," she said. "It's getting everything it needed to begin with — lots of progress."

With its mix of fresh energy and familiar warmth, Kirk's Ferry Trading Post is once again a gathering spot for neighbors and visitors alike — proof that even after change, some traditions in Brownsville endure.

## WHERE TO EAT

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#### **CRITTER CHRONICLES**

## **Greta and the Barn Kittens**

By Sharon Banks, Staff Writer

Greta was a sight to behold — an enormous Great Dane with legs as long as fence posts and a heart even bigger than her massive paws. She might have looked intimidating to strangers, but everyone who knew her understood she was more of a gentle guardian than a fierce protector.

One summer evening, Greta's sharp ears caught a faint, pitiful sound coming from the direction of



the old barn. She tilted her head, listening again. There it was: high-pitched cries, soft but urgent. Without waiting for encouragement, Greta trotted across the yard, her stride so long it looked as if she was gliding.

She stopped in front of the barn, lowered her head, and sniffed around the weathered boards near the foundation. The cries grew louder. Greta pawed gently at the dirt until her nose found the source: three tiny kittens huddled together in the shadows beneath the barn. Their mother was nowhere in sight.

Greta backed up and barked, short and sharp, the way she did when she wanted to tell her humans, "Come quick!" You followed her, wondering what she had found. When you knelt beside the barn, your heart broke — the kittens' mother had been struck by a car earlier that day. The little ones were alone, cold, and hungry.

But Greta wouldn't let them stay that way. She lay down on her side, pushing her big body against the gap beneath the barn, creating a tunnel of warmth and safety. Slowly, one by one, the kittens crawled out toward her, following her steady breath and gentle nose nudges. Greta was careful, guiding them without ever using her teeth.

By the time the last kitten wobbled out, Greta was sitting tall and proud, her eyes shining with determination. She nudged the trio toward your waiting hands, as if to say, "These are ours now. Take care of them."

That night, the three kittens slept in a soft box lined with blankets, but it was Greta who stayed close by, resting her head against the side, her great body curled protectively around them. Every time one mewed, she lifted her head, ears alert, until she was sure they were safe.

In the days that followed, Greta became their unlikely nanny. She let the kittens climb over her legs, bat at her tail, and nap against her chest. When they were old enough to explore, Greta followed them around the yard like a watchful shadow, nudging them back from danger and keeping them close to home.

The barn had once held only hay and dust, but now it held a story — a story of a giant dog who heard the cries of three helpless creatures and answered them with love. From that day forward, Greta wasn't just the family dog. She was the kittens' rescuer, their guardian, and their greatest friend.

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#### **BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

# Samaritan Marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month with Services and Stories of Hope

CORVALLIS — October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Samaritan Health Services is spotlighting both lifesaving care and survivor stories across the mid-Willamette Valley.



Breast cancer survivor Maria Diaz of Corvallis shares her journey of courage and healing through Samaritan Health Services. After undergoing chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation, Maria credits her care team, family, and faith for helping her persevere.

One in eight women will develop breast cancer during her lifetime, but early detection and treatment improve outcomes dramatically. Samaritan offers comprehensive services, from mammography and diagnostic imaging to surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. Patients also have access to nurse navigators, nutrition counseling, and support groups.

The organization is sharing survivor experiences, including that of Maria Diaz of Corvallis, who discovered a lump under her arm in 2020 and was diagnosed with stage IIIB invasive ductal carcinoma. After chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation, she credits her care team, family, and faith for helping her persevere.

Sonia Graham of Newport also tells her story of hope after undergoing chemotherapy, surgery, and 33 rounds of radia-

tion. She is now in remission and celebrates survivorship.

More information about screenings, treatment, and support services is available at https://samhealth.org/breastcancerawareness. Concerned about the cost related to breast cancer screenings? Contact the Samaritan Cancer Resource Center to learn about financial assistance options at 541-768-2171 or 541-812-5888. Read more breast cancer survivor stories at https://samhealth.org/health-services/all-services/cancer/breast-cancer-awareness.



Sonia Graham of Newport celebrates life after breast cancer. Diagnosed in 2020, she endured chemotherapy, surgery, and 33 rounds of radiation before reaching remission. "You have cancer—cancer doesn't have you," she said.



Jeanette Campagna of Florence discovered breast cancer through a routine mammogram in 2019. After undergoing a mastectomy, she now celebrates being cancerfree and reminds others, "Never take life for granted — you only have one!"

#### Breast Cancer Staging Explained on October 24

Understanding breast cancer staging can help patients and families make sense of treatment options and feel more informed about their care. On Friday, Oct. 24, medical oncologist Robert Davis, MD, with Samaritan Hematology & Oncology, will lead a free, in-person session titled Breast Cancer Staging Explained.

The 30-minute talk, scheduled from noon to 12:30 p.m. at 441 NW Elks Drive in Corvallis, will cover what staging means, how it is determined, and how it shapes each patient's treatment plan. Attendees will also learn how staging can provide clarity in understanding a diagnosis.

"This session is designed to give patients, caregivers, and community members the tools to ask the right questions and to understand the journey ahead better," organizers said.

The event is open to the public. Guests are encouraged to bring their questions — and a friend.

To register, contact the Samaritan Cancer Resource Center: 541-768-2171, email: CancerResourceCenter@samhealth.org or visit online for more info at https://samhealth.org/event/breast-cancer-staging-explained. 

Photos Provided By Samaritan Cancer Resource Center





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#### **SEASONS EATINGS**

# A Bite-Sized Classic: Pecan Pie Made Easy

By Lisa Keith, Staff Writer

Hello, dear readers! I am absolutely flattered to have received so many compliments over the last few weeks. Over the last few days, I have also received requests for this particular recipe after serving it at the recently successful Sharing Hands fundraiser, Sip and Support on Sept. 27.

I acquired this recipe in the early 90s from a Pampered Chef representative. I have tweaked it

a tiny bit to make it to my taste. I have tried this with a variety of nuts, store-bought crust, and added some dried fruit to make it a bit like a tart. All versions are very addictive and successful in different forms, shapes, and sizes.

I love hearing from readers! You can always email me at iamcheflisa@gmail.com.

#### **Pecan Pie Bites**

#### **Quick Crust**

- ½ cup butter
- ½ pkg (4oz) softened cream cheese
- 1 cup flour

Beat butter and cream cheese until smooth. Add flour and mix until a soft dough forms. Cover and chill at least one hour or overnight.

#### Filling

- 3 Tbsp melted butter
- 3/4 cups packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1½ cups toasted nuts

Combine all ingredients and mix well.

Press the dough into the desired-sized pan. Pour the nut mixture over the flattened dough. Ensure the mixture does not flow outside the dough; otherwise, it will result in a horrid, sticky mess to clean. Bake until the edges are golden brown and the mixture is bubbly.



## Rabbits, Pigs, and Other Wild Things from Maurice Sendak

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer

Have you met Bumble-Ardy? He is a pig you will not soon forget. "Bumble-Ardy" was written and illustrated by Maurice Sendak, who also wrote the beloved favorite of many children, "Where the Wild Things Are". Sendak's books are filled with his own beautiful illustrations that make the stories come alive.

"Bumble-Ardy" is a unique book about a young pig who never had a birthday party. Bumble decides to throw himself a party, without permission, on his 9th birthday. It goes quickly out of control, and he finds that it wasn't as much fun as he had thought, especially after he gets in big trouble for the mess. The art is terrific fun, and if you have read "Where the Wild Things Are," then you may recognize Sendak's "Wild Rumpus" in this story as well.

The writing is in rhyme, and it is a good readaloud with a fun rhythm. You will enjoy the pictures of the pigs and their many expressive emotions, including sadness, fear, and anger, which are not commonly portrayed in children's books. This book will interest younger and older readers alike due to the expressive artwork and the many themes in the story that older readers can explore and appreciate.



Another Maurice Sendak book is "Ten Little Rabbits," where you will find Mino the Magician effortlessly making a rabbit jump out of his hat with a

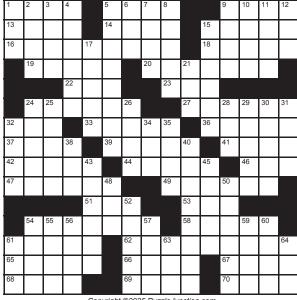
wave of his magic wand. Soon, more rabbits are appearing than he bargained for. "Ten Little Rabbits" is mainly an illustrated tale with only a little bit of text; however, the amazing drawings by Sendak stand alone to tell the whole story.

Sendak wrote fifteen children's books (and he illustrated over 90 books in total), and most libraries carry many of them for you to enjoy. You will find Bumble-Ardy and Where the Wild Things Are at the Brownsville Library.

Dress Up! Can you create a fun costume and dress up like a guest at Bumble's masquerade party?

Illustrate! Using a pencil, crayons, or paint and plain paper, can you sketch a drawing or color a picture to add your own page to the book "Bumble-Ardy" and to the book "Where the Wild Things Are"?

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 51 Double-decker

53 Devotee

54 Crush

58 Search

62 Accord

66 Debt

67 Waterless

69 Cobras

70 Allows

68 Football play

61 Culpability

65 SA mountain

#### **ACROSS**

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- 16 Theatrical role
- 18 Inert gas
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- 22 Insect egg
- 23 Small drink
- 24 Gangways
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- 32 European sea eagle
- 33 Burst
- 36 Run off
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- 49 Prayer

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- 38 Lair
- 40 Tightens up 43 Contradicts
- 45 Gaze
- 48 Bug for payment
- 50 Brute
- 52 Opera's La\_
- 54 Bluefin 55 Frees
- 56 Bullfight cheers
- 57 Selves
- 59 Withered
- 60 Stitch
- 61 Breach
- 63 Knock
- 64 Football scores
- (Abbr.)

#### **PUZZLE Solutions on page 13**

#### **SUDOKU** TRICKY

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## That Deepening Chill, and the Specter of Commander Norm

By an ordinary seaman

The air in the valley has gone suddenly quiet. It's that time of year when the long summer breath finally gives out, and you can smell the damp, honest earth again under the returning Oregon rain. The leaves on the maples and oaks, they've decided their business here is done — curling up like old parchment before they begin their long, spiral fall. It puts a thought in your mind, doesn't it? A notion that things are changing, moving, that what was solid a moment ago is now just a whisper on the wind.

And when those shadows lengthen and the light gets thin and pale, what else but a good, cold shudder to remind you you're still breathing? It's a craving we humans carry, like a thirst, that need for a little harmless, heart-quickening dread. We want to brush up against the mystery, against the thing that goes bump in the old echoing halls of the spirit. We want to know what it is to be scared, just for a moment, so we can grin and feel the warmth of the living world rush back in.

That's where Commander Norm and his dedicated minions at the Travis Moothart American Legion Post 184 come in. Like some ancient, autumnal ritual, they have begun the unworldly work of building their annual Haunted House. For twelve years now, they've been gathering up the town's communal fears and wrapping them in chicken wire and fog machines, and you can practically hear the rustle of black crepe paper and the whir of electric motors down at the Post.

You'll find your way there on October 29, 30, and 31, between the comfortable hours of 4 and 9 p.m. For the paltry sum of three dollars — which goes right back into serving the veterans and the



community - or for three cans of non-perishable, unexpired food, you can step right out of the everyday world and into one made entirely of delightful, well-intentioned terror.

So, whether you're 8 or 80, whether you commute into town every morning or just watch the shadows chase themselves across the fields, come down to the Post. Give your imagination a good, stern workout. You might see a portrait whose eyes follow you like a bad memory, or maybe a handrail that feels slick and wet for reasons you'll not soon forget. Maybe you'll see the reflection of what you used to be in a dust-filmed mirror.

The world out there, the big one, is full of real, hard frights. But the one Commander Norm builds? That's the good, clean kind. It's a way of reminding yourself that the darkness is just a stage, and you're still the star.

Will I see you there, then? Will you come and face down the shadows the good old American Legion way?

Albany Mayor

Legion Oct. 14

The American Legion

Travis Moothart Post

184 in Brownsville will

welcome a special guest

speaker on Tuesday,

October 14, 2025, at 7

of

Oregon, will address

the gathering. Johnson,

a proud U.S. Navy vet-

eran, will share stories

from his time in mili-

tary service as well as

his experiences serving

as mayor of Albany. His

talk will highlight the

values of service, lead-

ership, and community

both in uniform and

in public office.

and inspiration.

Johnson II,

Albany,

to Speak at

American

p.m.

Alex

Mayor

#### **BOOK REVIEW**

## "The Comfort of Crows" by Margaret Renkyl

By Staff Writer, Nancy Diltz

Reese Witherspoon's love of literature propelled her to create Reese's Book Club, where she has offered a monthly reading selection for the past eight years. Her book recommendations are both fiction and non-fiction, written by women and focusing on strong female protagonists. Reese was inspired as a teenager by her English teacher, Margaret Renkyl, whose 2023 book, "The Comfort of Crows", was selected in September 2024 as Reese's 100th recommendation for her reading club.

"The Comfort Crows" unique ty-two-chapter observation Renkyl nature. spent one year in her own backyard, connecting each of the cycles of life through the seasons and relating them to human experiences. Renkyl writes, "Radiant things



are bursting forth in the darkest places, in the smallest nooks and deepest cracks of the world." And in another observation, she notes "...yet the light is nevertheless October light, one of the seasonal triggers that tells migratory birds when it's time to move on." This book is "a beautiful love letter to nature and the world around us." -Reese Witherspoon.

To spend time outdoors, observing and enjoying nature, is thought to be beneficial for the human mind. In his new book, "Nature and the Mind," by Marc G. Berman, PhD, Dr. Berman attributes the cognitive benefits of nature to "attention restoration theory." "First proposed in the 1980s...the premise is that our ability to focus is a finite resource that gets easily used up, and being in nature is an effective way to replenish

From the New York Times article, A Surprising (and Easy) Way to Boost Your Attention Span, by Dana G. Smith, themorning@thenewyorktimes. com, August 14, 2025,

"Being in nature is great for your brain. Experts are trying to figure out why. The effect that nature has on our minds has been studied many times before and since, and the research generally—though not always—finds that exposure to green spaces boosts our cognition and creativity, not to mention our mood."

Margaret Renkyl's work, "The Comfort of Crows", written while spending each day for a year observing her own backyard, is a testament to the creativity inspired by nature and an offer to each of us to experience unlimited magical moments just waiting to be explored outdoors.

"The Comfort of Crows" is available at the Brownsville Library.



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#### **BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY CALENDAR**

#### **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.

#### **Parents & Pals Story Time**

Wednesdays • 10–10:15 a.m. Brownsville Community Library

A short story time followed by free play together.

#### Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Fridays • 11 a.m.

**Brownsville Community Library** 

Story time with rhymes, songs, and a free craft

#### **Brownsville Stitchery Group**

Wednesdays • 1–3 p.m.

Brownsville Community Library

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

#### **Library Advisory Board Meeting**

Thursday, October 9 • 4:30–5:30 p.m. Brownsville Library, Kirk Room

Monthly meeting of the Library Advisory Board.

#### World Cultures & Travel: India's Fabled Rajasthan

Thursday, October 16 • 7 p.m. Brownsville Library, Kirk Room

Don Lyon presents a program on India's Rajasthan, its color capital.

#### Holiday Closure — Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 11

Brownsville Community Library

Closed in observance of Veterans Day.

#### **PUZZLE KEY**

Puzzles on page 11

5	4	7	1	2	9	6	3	8
2	3	6	5	4	8	9	7	1
9	8	1	3	6	7	2	5	4
4	6	5	2	1	3	8	9	7
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3	9	2	7	8	4	5	1	6
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#### **BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY**

# Journey to India's Rajasthan with Don Lyon at the Library

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

Don Lyon has been leading us on tours around the world for the past nine years! This fall. he is giving us a taste of the East, Europe, and a bite of the US South.

On Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 7 p.m., he will take us on a pictorial tour of 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. Scenes from Kipling's "The Jungle

Book" really do exist in these lost cities where monkeys play. Visit white marble temples of love and witness life along the sacred Ganges. Don Lyon, a former professional photographer and tour guide, is the presenter of this delightful and informative program.

Don's future 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. Presentations are in the Kirk Room at your local library. All programs are free and open to the

#### Get ready for this program by reading some good books from your library.



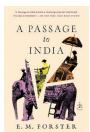
For children: "The Monkey and the Crocodile: A Jataka Tale from India," retold by Paul Galdone; "Once

a Mouse," retold by Marcia Brown; or "The Elephant's Child," by Rudyard Kipling.

For juniors: "A Crazy Day with Cobras," by Mary Pope Osborne; "Jahanara: Princess of Princesses," a



Dear America book by Kathryn Lasky: "Save Me a Seat," by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadaraian; or "Kim," by Rudyard Kipling.



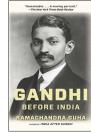
For adult fiction: "A Passage to India," by E.M. Forster; "The Widows of Malabar Hill," by Sujata Massey; or "The Covenant of Water," by Abraham Verghese.

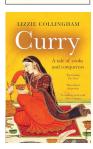
For adult nonfiction: "Gandhi Before India," by Ramachandra

Guha: "Seven Years in Tibet": or "The Search for the Pink-Headed Duck," by Rory Nugent.

Or check out one of these cookbooks and try making something new and delicious: "Curry: A Tale of Cooks and Conquerors," by

> Lizzie Collingham, or Ismail Merchant's "Passionate Meals: The New Indian Cuisine for Fearless Cooks and Adventurous Eaters." With any cookbook checked out, the librarian requests samples (wink).





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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).

#### Sunday, Sept. 28

1:56 p.m. — Burglary reported at the 000 block of American Drive, Halsey. Local business broken into overnight.

#### Monday, Sept. 29

2:56 p.m. — Deputy contacted vehicle owner about storing a vehicle on public right of way at the 25600 block of Gap Rd, Brownsville.

#### Tuesday, Sept. 30

2:14 a.m. — Jackie Arms, 48, of Eugene was cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured at Priceborrow Drive/Powerline Rd., Harrisburg.

7:34 a.m. — Danielle Tyler-Marsh, 26, of Halsey was issued a citation for speeding at Fayetteville Drive/Hwy 99E, Shedd.

7:49 a.m. — Aaron Davidson, 18, of Shedd was issued a citation for speeding at Fayetteville Drive/Hwy 99E, Shedd.

8:18 a.m. — Deputy investigated a juvenile complaint at the 200 block of S 6th St., Harrisburg. Report pending.

9:27 a.m. — Caller reported a suspicious person at the 27000 block of Weber Rd., Brownsville. Deputy investigated.

10:16 a.m. — A littering violation was reported at Ogle Rd./Hwy 228, Halsey. Deputy contacted male and told him to take everything with him.

11:30 a.m. — Deputy took report of a littering violation. Deputy will forward to ODOT as it is on their property at the 27600 block of Ogle Rd., Halsey.

11:33 a.m. — Deputy assisted a parent with child at the 500 block of Smith St., Harrisburg.

12:13 p.m. — Deputy spoke with individuals involved in a custody dispute at the 23600 block of Hwy 99E, Harrisburg. Report taken.

12:35 p.m. — Caller reported harassment from a previous realtor. After reviewing all the information, the matter was civil and did not reach the level of a crime per ORS at the 25800 block of Brush Creek Rd., Sweet Home.

1:45 p.m. — Deputy spoke with juvenile upon parent request at the 600 block of Dempsey St., Harrisburg.

3:34 p.m. — Deputy investigated suspicious circumstance at the 600 bock of Templeton St.,/Kisling Ave., Brownsville

5:38 p.m. — John Wise, 60, of Sweet Home, was arrested for a DUII and reckless driving at the 40600 block of

Hwy 228, Sweet Home.

#### Wednesday, Oct. 1

7:52 a.m. — Coffee with a Cop at the Shedd Market, 31900 B St., Shedd.

9:05 a.m. — Found property documented at the 33100 block of Hwy 228, Halsey.

11:06 a.m. — Caller reported a tool valued at \$35 stolen from worker he hired at the 25400 block of Gap Rd., Brownsville.

11:30 a.m. — A sex offence was reported at the 1200 block of W 5th St, Halsey. Report taken. Report pending.

11:50 a.m. — J. Bush, 60, of Tangent received a citation for failure to obey a traffic control device after Deputy responded to a two vehicle crash at American Drive/NW 2nd St., Halsey.

2:18 p.m. — a citizen made complaints about suspicious vehicles at the 800 block of Ash St., Brownsville.

3:40 p.m. — Deputy responded to disturbance involving a civil matter at Harrison Rd./Manning Rd., Brownsville.

7:36 p.m. — Andre Felkins, 20, from Florence was issued a traffic citation for speeding 80 in a 55 mph zone Boston Mill Rd/Hwy 99 E, Shedd.

10:45 p.m. — Deputy contacted male trespassing at the Harrisburg waterfront park and helped him pack his belongings to leave.

#### Thursday, Oct. 2

8:26 a.m. — Timothy Pepperling, 41, out of Lebanon, was arrested for trespass in the second degree and felon in possession of a firearm at the 37700 block of Northern Drive, Brownsville. The firearm, and several other items inside the vehicle, were reported to have been stolen in a separate cases, including

one from APD.

11:05 a.m. — While performing routine park patrol at Waterloo Park, a deputy located a wanted person. Savannah Day-Hanslovan, 34, of Tangent was issued a citation for a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear for driving without a license at Waterloo County Park, Lebanon.

1:08 p.m. — Deputy conducted welfare check at the 800 block of S 8th Pl., Harrisburg, and returned juvenile to school.

2:03 p.m. — Caller reported a trailer valued at \$5,000 was stolen at the 3100 block of Carney Drive, Harrisburg.

9:56 p.m. — Deputy contacted two males and served a trespassing order to them for all Harrisburg city parks.

#### Friday, Oct. 3

12:37 p.m. — Deputy addressed a threat among juveniles at the 1000 block of 6th St., Harrisburg.

4:27 p.m. — Deputy answered questions about a marijuana grow within city limits at the 1000 block of Heckart Ln., Harrisburg.

#### Saturday, Oct. 4

11:58 p.m. — Deputy contacted two individuals in a suspicious vehicle in Pioneer Park, Brownsville. After some investigation, the matter was deemed non-criminal.

#### Sunday, Oct. 5

7:52 a.m. — Possible sighting of a missing elderly male that has dementia. Deputies checked the area of Walnut Rd/Hwy 228 but were unable to locate him.

2:11 pm. — Caller reporting an issue over a canopy that was left on a property they used to live on at the 38300 block of Crawfordsville Dr., Sweet Home. Deputy contacted both parties and determined this was a civil issue

7:34 p.m. — Caller reported an injured deer on side of the road at Browsville Rd./Oakview Dr., Brownsville. Deer was deceased upon deputy arrival.

#### Police Seek Help Locating Missing Elderly Man

#### Last Seen Near McKercher Park in Crawfordsville

LEBANON — The Lebanon Police Department is asking for the public's help in locating 88-year-old Donald Carroll, who was reported missing on Saturday, October 4.



Carroll, who has dementia, was last seen that morning near Highway 20 by the Lebanon Walmart. A GPS tracker on his keychain last pinged near McKercher Park in Crawfordsville around 11 a.m., but no further location data has been received.

He is described as 5 feet 9 inches tall, with gray hair and eyeglasses, and was driving a gray 2016 Ford Edge with Oregon Smokey Bear plate #SB71662.

Carroll's family and police are concerned for his safety and urge anyone who sees him or his vehicle to call 911 immediately.

The Linn County Sheriff's Office is assisting Lebanon Police in the search. ⊛





#### **TRACTOR SAFETY 101**

## **Know Your Tractor: Common-Sense Safety on the Farm**

By Clive Clarke, Staff Writer

When the alarm clock sounds and you're getting out of bed, one of your first thoughts will likely be — what should I wear today?

Dress appropriately and for the job — look the part. Know the equipment you'll be operating. Have easy access to the operator's manual for the tractor and implements. If there isn't one, suggest to your supervisor that one be purchased. Remember to do the pre-inspection. Take your time and get it right. If the engine seizes or you run it out of fuel, it's on your watch, and you've got a lot of explaining to do. Remember the three points of contact when mounting and dismounting. No clutter around the pedals. Adjust the seat so you can reach all controls comfortably and with ease. If the tractor you'll be running has a ROPS (roll over protective structure) or an enclosed cab, wear your seat belt. Should an overturn occur, then you're protected within the protective zone. No cab, or no ROPS — then you stand a better chance of surviving an overturn by not wearing a seat belt. If the tractor doesn't have a ROPS, please contact me. There are rebate programs — and I can help.

So, you're working for Joe, and today you're on a tractor with a front-end loader, loading trailers with, say, compost. Some things to think about first. What is the terrain like — flat and level or sloped? If you're on a slope, think about your track adjustment and center of gravity with a loaded bucket up high. Can the wheels be adjusted out for better stability? Are they ballasted — front and rear, if it's a four-wheel drive? More weight keeps you 'anchored' better. Compost isn't abrasive – gravel or rock is. Does the bucket have a cutting edge — is it worn? If it's a bolt-on edge and hasn't already been flipped, flip it to protect and extend the life of the bucket. Hydraulic function of bucket — are there any leaks? When you checked the oil level, did you first retract the cylinders to return oil to the reservoir for the correct oil level? Fill the bucket evenly and keep it tilted back and low to the ground. At the side of the trailer, raise, position, and dump.

After loading the trailers, Joe wants you to hook up to the tiller and till the

field just to the north of the only red barn. No problem, right — you can do this. Joe reminds you of the operator's manual, which is stored in a black tube on the tiller. Has the PTO shaft been greased – blade condition (there's l/h and r/h blades), gearbox oil level? Back the tractor up to the tiller, making sure you're square on and there's nobody between the tractor and the tiller. A slip of the foot on a clutch pedal and a person is crushed between the two. If you're at an angle or the tiller is in a dip or slope, you've got a battle on your hands. Disconnecting the tiller even — think about the next guy. (that could be you) Lower the tractor's three-point. Put the transmission in neutral and ensure the PTO is disengaged. Apply the parking brake and turn off the engine. Dismount. If you cannot get the arm on, you might have sizing issues. There are different categories of pins and balls, and there are ways to get around this.

Joe will know. (I want to be just like him one day) On most tractors, the r/h lift rod is adjustable, while the l/h isn't. With the three-point fully lowered, lift the l/h lift arm up to implement the pin (sometimes a heavy boot is needed), and install the lynch pin. Walk around the implement and don't use the shortcut. Attach the r/h lift arm (adjust rod if necessary). Next, the PTO shaft — with it in neutral, on many models, you can turn the tractor's PTO stub shaft to line up the splines. Push in the pin or pull back on the coupler, depending on the style. Push all the way on, release, and pull back — you'll hear a click. Double-check, making sure the implement shaft is locked in the annular groove. Attach the top link — that's the one in the middle that connects to the implement mast.

Note. Walk the field first – are there any holes, rocks, stakes, etc. Again, it's 'your watch'. Finer adjustments of the top link and r/h lift rod will be needed in the field to get a level and even till. Happy tilling.

Until next time, reach out − clive@farmsuponsafety.com. Are there questions or requests for training, or articles you'd like covered? 

⊗

# **COVID-19 Vaccines Available at Samaritan Pharmacies Across the Region**

# Walk-in vaccinations offered for ages 7 and up; no appointment required

LEBANON — Samaritan Health Services has announced that updated COVID-19 vaccines are now available at all seven of its retail pharmacy locations throughout the mid-valley and coast.

Vaccines are available on a walk-in basis, with no prescription or appointment required, for individuals aged 7 and older.

While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the vaccine primarily for adults 65 and older, the West Coast Health Alliance continues to encourage vaccination for anyone with underlying health conditions or who wishes to maintain protection during respiratory virus season. Most insurance plans are expected to cover the cost of the vaccine.

Walk-in COVID-19 vaccinations are available at the following Samaritan Pharmacy locations:

- Corvallis: 3521 NW Samaritan Drive, Suite 202
- Corvallis (OSU Campus): 845 SW 30th St., Suite 201
- Albany (Elm Street): 1010 7th Ave. SW
- Albany (Geary Street): 1700 Geary St. SE
- Lebanon: 675 N. Fifth St.
- Sweet Home: 1289 49th Ave.
- Lincoln City: 3011 NE 28th St., Suite 2

Samaritan pharmacists are available to answer questions about the vaccine and to help patients make informed decisions about their health.

For more information, visit https://samhealth.org.

# Governor Proclaims Oct. 16–19 as Oregon Earthquake Preparedness Days

#### **Events include Great Oregon ShakeOut and Camp-In**

Governor Tina Kotek has proclaimed Oct. 16–19 as Oregon's official Days of Earthquake Preparedness, encouraging residents to take part in statewide drills and resilience-building activities organized by the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM).

At 10:16 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, Oregonians will join millions world-wide for the Great Oregon ShakeOut, practicing the lifesaving "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" drill. The ShakeOut encourages families, schools, and work-places to rehearse earthquake safety procedures to reduce panic and injury during real events.

Following the ShakeOut, OEM invites households to participate in the Great Oregon Camp-In, Oct. 17–19, by simulating post-disaster conditions—cook-



ing without power, reviewing emergency plans, and testing supply kits. "Preparedness should be empowering, and non-threatening, especially for kids," said Kayla Thompson, OEM's Community Preparedness Coordinator.

A free "Ready Fair" will also be held Saturday, Oct. 11, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Oregon Emergency Management at 3930 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem. The event features emergency planning resources, kid-friendly activities, and food trucks. Participants can enter to win an emergency go bag.

For details or to register for the ShakeOut and Camp-In, visit https://www.shakeout.org/oregon.  $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{B}}$ 

## WHERE TO GET FINANCIAL HELP







Pioneer Bookkeeping

# Practice Your Home Escape Plan and Test Smoke Alarms



During Fire Prevention Week, October 5–11, the American Red Cross is reminding families to take simple steps to

prevent tragedy at home. Home fires claim seven lives every day in the U.S. — more than all natural disasters combined.

"Home fires can occur any time, any place," said Priscilla Fuentes, CEO of the Red Cross Cascades Region. "The sooner an alarm alerts you to a fire, the sooner you can get out. You may have less than two minutes to escape."

The Red Cross urges families to practice their escape plans until everyone can get out in under two minutes. Identify two ways out of each room, stay low to avoid smoke, and meet at a safe location outside. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside and outside bedrooms. Test alarms monthly and replace them if they're more than ten years old.

The Red Cross responds to hundreds of home fires each year across Oregon and Southwest Washington. To request a free smoke alarm installation or fire safety education, visit them at https://www.redcross.org/cascades.

# Fall Burn Season Delayed Until October 15

The Linn County Fire Defense Board — representing fire agencies in Albany, Lebanon, Sweet Home, Scio, Tangent, Brownsville, Halsey-Shedd, and Harrisburg—has postponed the start of the fall outdoor burning season to October 15, 2025. The season was originally scheduled to open October 1 but has been delayed in coordination with the Oregon Department of Forestry due to ongoing fire safety concerns.

Despite cooler temperatures, Oregon continues to experience unusually dry conditions. Low humidity, parched vegetation, and strong seasonal winds have created an elevated wildfire



risk. Officials warn that early burning could strain firefighting resources and increase the chance of uncontrolled fires.

Residents are encouraged to recycle, compost, or chip yard debris, reuse lumber, dispose of waste at a landfill, or participate in community cleanup events instead of burning.

For the latest updates, call the Linn County Burn Line at 541-451-1904 or visit the Willamette Valley Open Burning Announcement website at https://smkmgt.com/burn.php.

# CENTRAL LINN SCHOOLS CALENDAR • OCTOBER 9-16

#### Thursday, Oct. 9

Girls Soccer vs. Creswell — 4:30–6:30 p.m. Boys Soccer at Sisters — 4:30–6:30 p.m. HS Volleyball at Monroe — 4:30–8 p.m.

#### Friday, Oct. 10

HS Football vs. Toledo — 7–9:30 p.m. Homecoming Bonfire — 9:30–10:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, Oct. 11

Cross Country Paul Mariman Invitational at Philomath —11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Homecoming Dance — 8-10 p.m.

#### Monday, Oct. 13

JH Soccer vs. Amity — 4–5 p.m.

JH Volleyball vs. Eugene Christian — 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Boys Soccer vs. Santiam Christian — 4:30–6:30 p.m.

Policy Committee Meeting — 5:15–5:45 p.m.

School Board Meeting — 6:30–8:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Oct. 14

HS Volleyball at Crosshill Christian — 4:30–8 p.m. Girls Soccer at Sisters — 6–8 p.m.

#### Wednesday, Oct. 15

JH Soccer at Jefferson — 4–5 p.m. Girls Soccer vs. La Pine — 4:30–6:30 p.m. NHS Induction Ceremony — 6:30–7:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, Oct. 16

Boys Soccer at Creswell — 4:30–6:30 p.m. HS Volleyball vs. East Linn Christian — 4:30–8 p.m.

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