



THE BROWNSVILLE TIMES

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SERVING CENTRAL LINN COUNTY, OREGON SINCE 1889

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025



JEFF BROWN

An Albany Fire Department crew drove the department's polished antique fire engine down the parade route, a longtime favorite in the city's Veterans Day celebration on November 11.

Albany Marks 74 Years of Veterans Day Tradition

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

Albany's downtown streets were filled Tuesday morning, November 11, as the city held its 74th annual Veterans Day Parade. The weather was clear and cool, and the turnout reflected the city's long commitment to honoring military service.

Veterans and spectators came from across Oregon and nearby states to take part in what is considered the largest Veterans Day parade west of the Mississippi.

From the VIP/Press Trailer overlooking the parade route, I watched as the event got underway. One of the first people I met there was 99-year-old Meryl Powers, a World War II Merchant Marine. Powers greeted everyone warmly, representing a generation that continues to inspire respect and gratitude.

At street level, parade announcer Al Severson guided



JEFF BROWN

Meryl Powers, 99, a World War II Merchant Marine, greets visitors from the VIP/Press Trailer before the start of the parade.

PARADE continued on page 9

INSIDE



130 Years Ago Today: Murder in Early Linn County

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer

On November 19, 1895, 18-year-old Loyal "Lloyd" Montgomery, son of the Montgomery family of Brownsville, flew into a rage and murdered three people, including his parents. He used his father's Winchester hunting rifle.

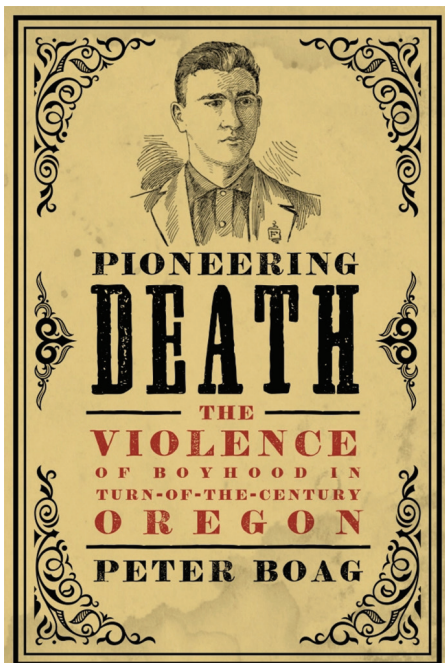
Lloyd was the oldest son of John and Elizabeth Montgomery. They had a large farm near Brownsville. An Oregonian writer characterized him as a "bad seed," a stubborn and surly brute. He was bigger than his father, who was afraid of him.

The Oregonian, writing about the incident, admitted that it was difficult, if not impossible, to ever determine exactly what happened that day. Apparently, he confessed more than once, but his confessions were inconsistent. According to at least one of those confessions, Lloyd said his father slapped him across the face in front of mill owner Daniel McKercher, which made him so furious that he went to their home and retrieved his father's Winchester .40-82 express rifle. He returned and shot his father in the head.

McKercher then fled with Lloyd in hot pursuit. Lloyd shot McKercher dead on the front porch. Lloyd's mother was alarmed by the sounds. She ran to the back door, screaming, where he fired two more shots, one into her back and another into the back of her head.

Lloyd then went out into a nearby field where his younger sister and brother were working. They asked him about the shots being fired, and he claimed not to have heard anything. He then followed the younger children back home. There, they discovered the three dead bodies.

Lloyd gave multiple versions of what happened and sealed his own fate.



"Pioneering Death: The Violence of Boyhood in Turn-of-the-Century Oregon" by historian Peter Boag offers the most in-depth modern account of the Montgomery murders and the cultural forces surrounding the case.

While in jail awaiting trial, and later in prison, he continued to have a good time with friends of his who were also in jail. He showed no remorse whatsoever. He was convicted and sentenced to death. Many people voiced support for the young man, and some urged the governor to pardon him. The governor was not easily fooled and did not grant clemency. On January 31, 1896, the noose hung him until he died.

The McKercher in this story owned a mill on the Calapooia River, just west of Crawfordville, and was well-liked by the community. His untimely death was deeply felt. Today, if you drive eastbound on Highway 228 from Brownsville, you will find McKercher Park on the riverside of the road, marking the location of that mill.

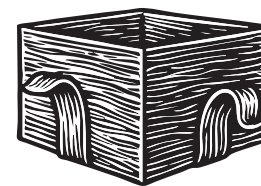
On the same day that Lloyd Montgomery shot and killed his parents and a family friend, in a completely unrelated incident, housewife Emma Hannah of Jordan, Oregon — located northeast of Albany —

put on a hat, fake mustache, and glasses; she then pocketed a .32 caliber revolver and shot her attractive neighbor, believing she was having an affair with her husband.

These remarkable stories detail unusually violent events in Linn County 130 years ago. Note: Multiple versions were published at the time, and details vary between newspapers. More information about these murders can be found in Peter Boag's "Pioneering Death," available in the bookstore at the Linn County Historical Museum in Brownsville. Offbeat Oregon also features a detailed podcast episode on the Montgomery case: <https://offbeatoregon.com/1810a.1812.montgomery-murder.html>. 🎧



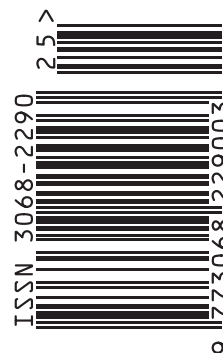
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ONGOING EVENTS

Not Your Grandma’s Bingo

Mondays, Now–Mar. 2, 2026 • 6:30–8 p.m.
Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent
Tangent Together hosts an adults-only bingo night featuring cheeky humor, cash prizes, and \$1 game cards. Ages 21+ only.

Free Coffee, Donuts, & Fellowship

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

Not Rocket Science Trivia

Thursdays • 6:30 p.m. (ongoing) • Free
Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent
Weekly pub trivia with bragging rights on the line. Bring a team and play every Thursday night.

Karaoke Saturdays at The Honey Hole

Saturdays • 7 p.m.
The Honey Hole Bar & Grill, Halsey
Sing your heart out every Saturday night! Enjoy \$3 Coors draft specials and a \$15 club wrap with fries while you take the stage.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

World Cultures & Travel:
France — La Belle Provence

Thursday, November 20 • 7–8 p.m. • Kirk Room
Travel photographer Donald Lyon presents “La Belle Provence,” an exploration of southern France’s lavender fields, markets, and medieval villages. Free and open to the public.

12th Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar at Peoria Road Farm Market

Saturday, Nov. 22 • 9 a.m.–4 p.m. • Free entry
33269 SE Peoria Rd., Corvallis
Celebrate the season with local crafts, gifts, and festive décor at the market’s annual holiday bazaar.

All-Community Thanksgiving Celebration

Saturday, November 22 • 6 p.m.
Brownsville Community Church
198 Washburn St, Brownsville
Join local area churches for an evening of worship, prayer, special music, messages of hope, God’s word, refreshments, and thanksgiving. For more information, call 541-409-4497.

Central Linn Girls Basketball Dessert Auction

Tuesday, Nov. 25 • 6:30 p.m.
Central Linn High School Gym
Support the Lady Cobras and take home delicious treats before the holiday. Bid on pies, cookies, cakes, rolls, and more. All proceeds benefit the Central Linn girls basketball program.

Courtney Creek Artisan Market

Nov. 28–Dec. 6 • 10 a.m.–5 p.m. daily
36744 Courtney Creek Drive, Brownsville
The beloved artisan market returns with a carefully curated selection of handmade goods, antiques, fine art, gourmet foods, wreaths, and bakery treats, all set in the historic Courtney Creek Schoolhouse. Visitors can enjoy Sisters’ Coffee and a festive boutique atmosphere among the evergreens.
<https://www.courtneycreek.com>

Silver Screen Cinema Classic Movie Night: “It’s a Wonderful Life”

Friday, November 28 • 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184, 339 N. Main St., Brownsville
\$2 per person. To reserve a seat, text your name to 541-915-9322 and pay at the door. Concessions available, including hot dogs, popcorn, soft drinks, candy, and ice cream.

See page 12 for Brownsville Library events

BROWNSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Enter the Holiday Lights Contest Now

It’s time to deck out Brownsville for the season. The annual Holiday Lights Contest, sponsored by Pacific Power, is now open for entries. Residents and businesses are invited to register their decorated homes or storefronts for inclusion on the 2025 Holiday Lights Map, which goes live online Dec. 5.

From Dec. 5 through Christmas night, community members can follow the map, enjoy the displays, and vote for their favorites.



Third place in Brownsville’s 2024 Holiday Lights Contest went to 409 Depot Ave.

How to Enter

Register by Monday, Dec. 1, to be included on this year’s map. Full details and the entry form are available at <https://www.historicbrownsville.com/holiday-lights-contest>.
The top four vote-getters will win gift certificates to local businesses along with a full year of bragging rights. Let’s make Brownsville shine. ☀

Ladies’ Night at Grocery Deals Nov. 21

HARRISBURG — Grocery Deals will host a Ladies’ Night on Friday, November 21, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at 295 N. 3rd Street. Shoppers can enjoy exclusive discounts throughout the store — 20 percent off toys, pet supplies, and makeup; 10 percent off pocket knives and purses; jewelry for four for \$10; and a buy-two-get-one-free deal on essential oils.
Guests will also receive an additional 10 percent off store wide, plus entry into a raffle and scratch-off giveaway. Every attendee gets a raffle ticket, with more earned for each \$10 spent, and a mystery scratch-off at the door for a chance to win gift cards, free items, and significant discounts. ☀

Sweet Home VFW Hosts USO-Style Holiday Dinner Show

The Sweet Home VFW will host its annual USO-style Holiday Dinner Show on Saturday, November 22, offering an evening of food, music, and support for local veterans. Guests will enjoy a classic menu of split pea soup or salad, Salisbury steak with mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, and Brown Betty bread pudding. Dinner is served at 6 p.m., with live entertainment to follow. Attendees are encouraged — but not required — to dress in 1940s attire. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$15 for veterans and can be purchased at <https://www.ticketleap.events/events/austin-events/vfw-uso-dinner-show> or at the door. Proceeds benefit VFW programs supporting area veterans. ☀

CONNECT LINN COUNTY

Toy and Hygiene Supply Drive

BROWNSVILLE — This holiday season, CONNECT Linn County invites residents to help spread kindness and care throughout the community. The group is collecting new toys and essential hygiene items to help local families experience the joy and comfort of the season.
Toy ideas include books, puzzles, dolls, cars, games, and other unwrapped gifts for children of all ages. Suggested hygiene donations include toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, feminine products, and other everyday essentials. New socks and underwear are also appreciated.
Donations may be dropped off at the Brownsville Dollar General at 178 Main St. For more information, visit <https://www.connectlinncounty.net>. ☀

‘Something Special for Christmas’ Opens at Harrisburg Arts Academy

HARRISBURG — Generations Arts Academy is ushering in the holiday season with its new production, “Something Special for Christmas,” now on stage at the Harrisburg Arts Center. The show runs December 5–14 and features a cast of local youth and adults.
The family-friendly production blends classic holiday music, heartfelt storytelling, and plenty of seasonal cheer. Audiences can expect a mix of familiar favorites and new surprises, all brought to life by performers from across the Tri-County area.
“Something Special for Christmas” is part of the Academy’s mission to provide year-round performing arts opportunities for the community. Tickets, showtimes, and additional details are available through Generations Theater Company’s website and social media pages at <https://jctheater.com> or <https://www.facebook.com/GTCJC>. ☀

Janky Bird Welcomes Two New Artists, Prepares for Holiday Shows

Janky Bird Studio has added two new tattoo artists to its team. Kaitlyn Watts and Danielle “Dani” Dickason bring a range of artistic styles and fresh creative energy to the shop as they begin accepting clients and preparing new flash designs.
Their first major event will be the studio’s Still Spooky but Strange Flash Party Nov. 22 starting at 10 a.m., where both artists will debut original designs. Tickets are \$25 and count toward the \$100 minimum for a flash tattoo. Space is limited, and organizers encourage early sign-ups at <https://www.jankybird.com/spooky>.
Janky Bird is also launching its holiday art show, All Wrapped Up, running through now through December. The exhibit features gift-ready, one-of-a-kind pieces from local artists, with each artist selecting a charity to benefit from their sales.
Participating artists include Barbora Bakalorova, Dani Dickason, Charles Edward, Ralf Huber, Steve La Riccia, Uriah Roth, Jeff Smith, Nolan Streitberger, Lisa Taylor, Ute Vergin, Shelli Walters, and Kaitlyn Watts. ☀

BROWNSVILLE WOMEN'S STUDY CLUB

A Whole Roomful of Tree Artists

By Mandy Cole, Staff Writer

How many artists does it take to decorate a Christmas tree? Well, for the Tuesday Night Art folks, it takes all of them. Eight artists met last Tuesday at the Brownsville Art Center to create unique ornaments for their Festival of Trees entry, themed "Christmas at the Cabin."

"It's our best tree yet. Our theme has inspired us to create an old-fashioned, hand-crafted, woodsy tree decorated with all kinds of natural materials," says Rhoda Fleischman, a founding member of the Tuesday Night Open Art group.

Covering the tables at the Art Center were all manner of tiny cones, lichens, twigs, miniature Santas, wreaths, birds, large pinecones ready to be gilded, ribbons, glitter, paints, glue, and scissors. "Everyone here loves to create original art," says Cheryl Haworth. "Designing one-of-a-kind decorations for our tree makes us happy." Once decorated, the Christmas Cabin Tree will be surrounded by a swath of red silk tree skirt and festooned with twinkling lights.



Artists from the Tuesday Night Open Art group craft handmade ornaments for their "Christmas at the Cabin" tree, created for this year's Festival of Trees.

The Tuesday Night Open Art group has been gathering at the Brownsville Art Center one night a week since the early 1990s. It's open to everyone who likes to play with art, chat with friends, encourage each other to explore their natural talents, and share ideas.

Brownsville's Festival of Trees is Dec 5-6. Decorated trees are displayed in downtown Brownsville businesses, including the Art Center on Main Street next to City Hall. The highest bidders get the trees to take home, plus all the goodies that go with them. Don't miss the Festival of Trees; funds raised are dedicated to worthy community organizations. 🌳



A collection of hand-crafted ornaments, inspired by the "Christmas at the Cabin" theme, showcases the Tuesday Night Open Art group's creativity.

Tarweed Folk School Opens Registration for Winter Workshops

Tarweed Folk School is celebrating the winter season with two hands-on evening workshops and a Winter Holiday Market at Wade Hardware in downtown Corvallis. The school continues its mission to provide accessible, place-based craft experiences for all ages.



On Tuesday, December 9, instructor Margot Schwarz will lead Wreaths and Winter Garlands, a three-hour class using foraged greenery, willow, berries, and natural materials. Participants will

build their own wreath frame and design a custom wreath, garland, or centerpiece. All materials are provided, and students are welcome to bring extra ribbon or embellishments. Open to adults and teens ages 14–17 with a registered parent or guardian.

On Thursday, December 11, Annaliese and Zeke Watson will host a workshop called Tin Can Luminaries, inspired by winter-light traditions from around the world. Participants will craft punched-tin lanterns using donated cans and basic tools, with an option to use teacher-designed templates or create their own patterns. The class welcomes adults and youth aged 10 and up with a registered parent or guardian. Several free spots are available for youth.



Both workshops run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuition costs \$50 per class, plus a small materials fee. Students should bring pruners or scissors for the wreath class and a hammer for the luminary class. Basic hand dexterity and some strength are required; participants can contact staff with any accessibility questions.

Tarweed offers full- and half-tuition scholarships. To register, apply for a scholarship, or learn more about these events and the Winter Holiday Market, visit <https://www.tarweedfolkschool.com/upcoming-classes>. 🌻

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TARWEED FOLK SCHOOL

ALL COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING
CELEBRATION!

Presented by
Local Area Churches

SATURDAY
November 22
6 p.m.

**Brownsville
Community Church
198 Washburn St**

Join us for worship, prayer, words of encouragement,
special music, messages of hope, God's word,
refreshments, and THANKS-GIVING!

Call **541-409-4497** for more info

The Brownsville Times Collecting Thanksgiving Food for Sharing Hands

The Brownsville Times invites the community to help brighten the season for local families by donating Thanksgiving food items to Sharing Hands. Readers are encouraged to drop off non-perishable, shelf-stable holiday items — anything that does not require refrigeration — to support neighbors in need.

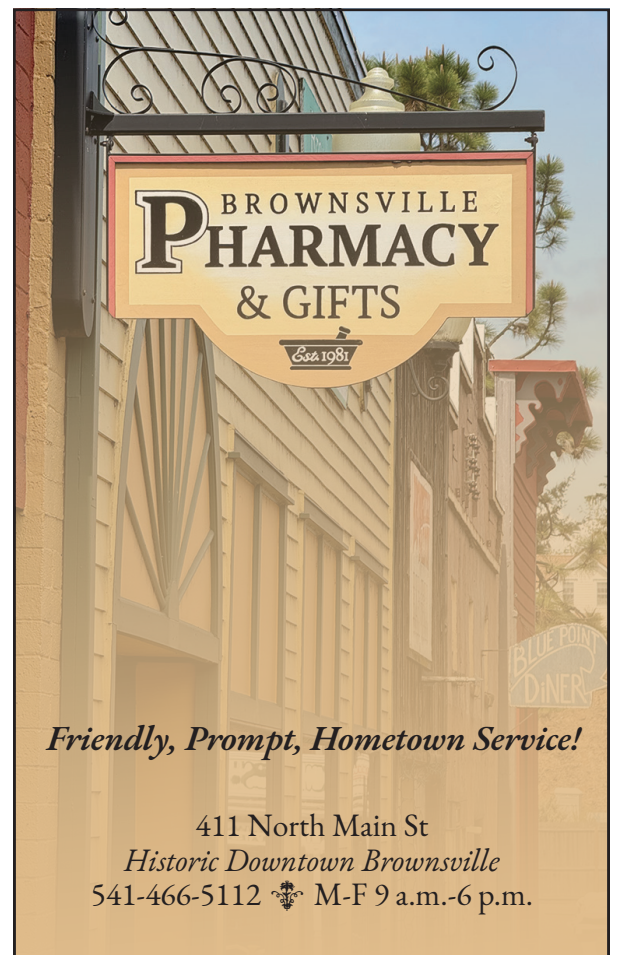


Items especially appreciated include boxed stuffing, canned vegetables, gravy mixes, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned yams, pie fillings, broths, baking supplies, and cornbread mixes. Shelf-stable proteins, such as canned ham or chicken, are also welcome.

All donated food will be delivered directly to Sharing Hands, which serves families across the Central Linn area and experiences increased demand during the holiday season.

Donations can be brought to The Brownsville Times office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. All items should be unopened, within expiration date, and non-refrigerated.

Your contribution, whether large or small, helps ensure every household in our community can enjoy a warm Thanksgiving meal. 🌀



TANGENT CITY COUNCIL

Council Moves Forward on Vacancy, Ethics Review, and Irrigation System

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer

The Tangent City Council convened for its November 10, 2025, meeting at 7:20 p.m. following a 6:30 p.m. work session that was not accessible via Microsoft Teams.

The council reviewed updates on council goals before announcing that Seat 1, previously held by Leslie Harrison, is now vacant. The council outlined its appointment process: applications will be accepted through November 20, and all verified applicants will be forwarded to the full council. If more than five people apply, the mayor and council president will narrow the pool to five finalists. A motion to approve this process passed unanimously.

The council approved the consent calendar, which included October meeting minutes, fiscal reports, and routine updates.

Council members received a staff report on ethics compliance and adopted a new attendance and absences policy for 2026 and beyond.

In other business, the council approved moving forward with the recommended vendor for the irrigation system at Bass Estate.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. ☼

BROWNSVILLE POLLYANNA CLUB

Community Giving Highlights November Meeting

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer

The Brownsville Pollyanna Club met on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025. Highlights from the meeting included a report of a \$400 donation from the Pollyanna Club to Sharing Hands last week, along with an additional \$155 collected from members at the Nov. 13 meeting to be donated this week. A donation to veterans will be made in December.

The club will decorate two trees for the Festival of Trees bidding. Be sure to watch for them. Officers were elected for the 2026 calendar year, and the December meeting will be held on Dec. 11.

Thirty-four Pollyanna Club cookbooks remain out of the 500 printed initially; they are still available for \$10 each. The Brownsville Pollyanna Club remains vibrant and active in supporting the local community. For more information or to order a cookbook, contact Nancy Diltz at miss-cabc@yahoo.com. ☼





Mitch Carter,
Owner

541-367-5655

100 Main St
Sweet Home

Chuck Chapin Sworn In as Tangent Rural Fire Department Chief

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer

On Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 6 p.m., community members, volunteers, and local officials gathered as Chuck Chapin was officially sworn in as Fire Chief of the Tangent Rural Fire Department (TRFD).

Fire Board President Chris Meyer welcomed the crowd with gratitude and a touch of humor, saying, "After a short eight-month job interview, the Board of Directors came to a unanimous decision that Chuck is the right person for the job."

Jim Sterns, who has had a long career in Oregon's fire service — including a year as interim chief in Tangent — administered the official oath. "When the board called and asked if I would do the swearing-in ceremony, of course, I said yes," Sterns shared before the event.

During the ceremony, Sterns offered advice on service, tradition, change, and caring for family.

"Respect tradition, welcome change."

As Sterns administered the oath, Chuck's wife, Candace, pinned the Chief's badge to his collar. Chief Chapin thanked everyone for attending and spoke sincerely about the importance of family and teamwork. "I couldn't have gotten where I am today without the support and sacrifice of my family," he said. He thanked volunteers and said he looks forward to developing a long-range plan with the Board noting his commitment to working with the Board on a strategic long-range plan to strengthen TRFD's service to the community.

TRFD Training Officer Chris Hunt, who has worked with Chapin for seven years, said, "Since Chuck has been here, his whole focus has been on making the department better. He puts in countless hours to ensure volunteers have what they need. Now that he's Chief, I have full faith he'll bring that same focus to the whole department."

Chapin began his fire service career in 1995 and served in several Oregon Departments, including Willamina, Polk County, and Sheridan. He joined Tangent in 2018 and advanced through leadership roles before becoming Interim Chief in March 2025.

Now, as the department's new Chief, Chuck Chapin will lead the TRFD into its next chapter. ☼



Candace Chapin pins the Fire Chief's badge on her husband, newly sworn-in Tangent Rural Fire Department Chief Chuck Chapin, during the Nov. 12 ceremony.



Retired Chief Jim Sterns, newly sworn-in Fire Chief Chuck Chapin, and Fire Board President Chris Meyer gather for a photo following the swearing-in ceremony at the Tangent Rural Fire Department.

TANGENT CITY MANAGER REPORT

Samaniego Reports on Statewide Trends, Local Progress

City Manager Joe Samaniego reported on recent statewide conferences and ongoing city initiatives. He attended the Oregon Infrastructure Summit in September, where state, federal, and economic development partners highlighted fiscal challenges facing Oregon communities, including rising deficits and increased recession risk. Presenters also noted declining business investment and warned that complex approval processes make it harder for voters to support infrastructure projects. Tangent's new Downtown Development Committee continues to generate interest as staff develop redevelopment options.

In October, Samaniego attended the League of Oregon Cities annual convention. Workshops covered hostile work environments in some city halls, generational shifts in the municipal workforce, and the increasing use of artificial intelligence. Tangent was recognized for its implementation of Polimorphic's AI tools, which improve case tracking and website services.

Locally, Tangent Night with LBCC Athletics was a success, and several code compliance issues were resolved, including school bus safety concerns and a vehicle camping near Pioneer Park. All noxious grass cases are now in compliance. The Downtown Development Committee is re-

viewing streetlight options, and the Planning Commission has finalized a policy requiring development bonds to be addressed before signing a notice of decision.

The Park and Tree Board received two Oregon Parks and Recreation grants to update the Park Master Plan and the Bass Estate Pavilion, and is reviewing policies related to the Bee City program. The Planning Commission will not meet in November because of the Transportation System Plan open house.

From Sept. 2 to Oct. 1, the city website recorded 600 visits, and the Facebook page gained over 100 followers, fueled by interest in Tangent Night. Staff are preparing the first Tangent University sessions for early 2026.

The Transportation System Plan open house was held on Nov. 13 at the Tangent Fire Station. The city did not receive the Arts Build Community grant for the mural project and is exploring alternative funding sources linked to downtown development. ODOT has requested road project priorities from cities, and Tangent is awaiting updated cost estimates for improvements on Tangent Drive. The Budget Open House has been completed, and the first Budget Committee work session occurred on Nov. 17. ☼

AMERICAN LEGION

The Enduring Miracle of a Christmas Tale

By an ordinary seaman

It's a rare thing, the movie that finds its soul not in fan-fare, but in the quiet hearts of generations. Frank Capra's 1946 picture, "It's a Wonderful Life," is just such a miracle. It stars Jimmy Stewart (fresh home from the war, carrying a weight only a veteran knows) as George Bailey, a kind, frustrated man who believes he has wasted his life managing the small-town Bailey Building & Loan.

Capra, convinced he was making a testament to the common man, spared no expense, sinking a huge sum — \$3.18 million — into building the snowy, detailed world of Bedford Falls on a sweltering California set. Though the actors, like Stewart and the luminous Donna Reed (Mary Hatch), sweated beneath their wool coats, they created a timeless story about the value of a simple life. While initial reviews were mixed and the film struggled at the box office, losing ground to other pictures of the day, Capra never lost faith in his simple, powerful message: that "no man is a failure who has friends."

The true turning point arrived not with ap-



AI-GENERATED IMAGE BY AUTHOR

plause, but with a forgotten piece of paper. In 1974, a clerical oversight allowed the film's copyright to lapse, sending it into the public domain. This error, a gift of pure fortune or providence perhaps, meant that virtually every small-town TV station across the land could air George Bailey's story and his meeting with the gentle angel Clarence — for free, endlessly.

This constant, heartfelt airing transformed the film into the Christmas classic we cherish today. It found its audience not through aggressive marketing, but through simple, repeated viewing in countless American living rooms. As Clarence's bell rings and little Zuzu speaks that famous line, "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings," a total improvisation by the little girl, we are reminded that sometimes the greatest legacies are built not on initial success, but on an enduring, wonderful life.

See it for yourself on Friday, November 28, 7 p.m. at the American Legion, 339 N Main St., \$2. Bring your family, bring your friends! ☺

Yankee Dutch Quilting Wraps Up Annual Food Drive



MIKAYLE STOLE

Donations collected on the second day of Yankee Dutch Quilting's "Food for Fabric" drive.

Yankee Dutch Quilting's five-day "Food for Fabric" drive concluded Nov. 15 with a strong outpouring of support for Sharing Hands Food Bank. By Day 2, donated food was already piling up, including several "birthday cake sets" — cake mix and frosting packaged together — contributed by community members who wanted to brighten someone's special day. "Our community always shows up," said owner Mari VanderStelt. "We're grateful for every can, every box, and every person who helped make this year's drive a success." Donors received a free fat quarter as a thank-you for participating in the annual event. ☺



MIKAYLE STOLE

Fat quarters offered at Yankee Dutch Quilting as a thank-you gift for community members who contributed to the drive.

Shop the List Below and Stock the Shelves for Sharing Hands

GROCERY LIST

Holiday Items

- ☐ Frozen Turkeys
- ☐ Stove Top Stuffing
- ☐ Cranberries
- ☐ Sweet Potatoes or Yams (fresh or canned)
- ☐ Marshmallows
- ☐ Green Beans French Style
- ☐ Cream of Mushroom Soup
- ☐ Velveeta Cheese
- ☐ Parmesan Cheese (plastic jar)

Condiments

- ☐ Salad Dressings
- ☐ Mayonnaise
- ☐ Ketchup

Breakfast

- ☐ Cereals
- ☐ Oatmeal

Canned & Jarred Goods

- ☐ Dinty Moore Beef Stew
- ☐ Kraft Mac and Cheese (individual cups)
- ☐ Soups
- ☐ Jellies
- ☐ Syrup
- ☐ Juice



Please no expired items.

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Minimum \$50 purchase. Excludes alcohol, dairy, gift card purchases, & tax and state bottle deposits. Valid in-store at Junction City Grocery Outlet only. One coupon per person. Not valid with any other offer. Duplicated coupons will not be accepted.



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F: 541-451-1785

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

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

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

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

Brownsville Mennonite Church
34795 OR-228 • 541-466-5622

Central Valley Church
657 American Dr • Halsey • 503-602-6796
<https://www.cvchalsey.com>
Sunday Corporate Service 8 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. (during school year)
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
Monday Prayer 7–8 p.m.
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
29360 Abraham Dr • Shedd (Peoria) • 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.

OBITUARY

Brenda Jean Burch
1952–September 11, 2025

Brenda Jean Burch, of Albany, Oregon, passed away peacefully on September 11, 2025, at the age of 72. Brenda graduated from Linn-Benton Community College and went on to serve for 43 years as a nurse and administrator at Albany General. She is survived by her husband, Gary; sister, Elaine Eastman; daughter, Angela; husband, Larry Westdahl; son, Christopher; wife, Monica Burch; and her grandchildren, Brendan, Wyatt, and Otis.

A celebration of life will be held on November 22 at 1 p.m. at New Hope Church in Lebanon.

Donations in Brenda's name can be made to the Brenda Burch Scholarship Endowment for students in nursing through the Albany General Hospital Foundation, 1046 Sixth Avenue SW, Albany, OR 97321, or online at <https://samhealth.org/giving>.

CENTRAL LINN BOYS' SOCCER

Cobra Men Complete a Successful Season

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

The Central Linn Boys' Soccer team capped their season with a 5–3 league record, finishing fifth in a league composed of 3A schools. The Cobras closed out the year ranked No. 22 out of 59 teams statewide, scoring 32 goals and allowing just 24. Coaches and players said the season met most of their preseason goals and reflected steady growth across the roster.



COURTESY OF JACKSON DURINGER
Central Linn senior Jackson Duringer earned First Team All-League honors for the 2025 season.

All-League honors were awarded to several Cobras. First Team selections were senior Jackson Duringer and junior Aren Schneider. Senior Don Ware-Martinez earned Second Team recognition, and senior Sawyer Kirk received Honorable Mention.

Join us for our annual

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AUCTION

Lady Cobra Basketball

TUESDAY, NOV. 25, 2025

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CENTRAL LINN HIGH SCHOOL GYM

Auction starts @ 6:30 pm

CENTRAL LINN GIRLS' SOCCER

Lady Cobras Earn All-League Honors in Soccer

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

League coaches recognized five Central Linn players with all-league honors following another strong season for the Lady Cobras.

Avery Runyon was named First Team forward after finishing the year with 18 goals and 7 assists. Midfielder Jayne Neal joined her on the First Team with 16 goals and 10 assists, and defender Addie Wolff earned First Team honors with 8 goals and 5 assists.

Two Cobras received Second Team recognition. Midfielder Maddie Duringer recorded 4 goals and 21 assists, while defender Georgia Wahl added 2 goals and 2 assists.

The Cobras claimed their second straight league title, finishing 13–3–2, scoring 71 goals, and earning an OSAA number four ranking.



Addie Wolff was named First Team all-league, contributing 8 goals and 5 assists as a standout defender.



Avery Runyon earned First Team all-league honors after scoring 18 goals and adding 7 assists.



Maddie Duringer earned Second Team all-league honors after finishing the season with 4 goals and an impressive 21 assists.



Jayne Neal received First Team all-league recognition, finishing the year with 16 goals and 10 assists for the Lady Cobras.



Georgia Wahl was selected Second Team all-league, closing the season with 2 goals and 2 assists.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF OREGON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

CENTRAL LINN FFA

Members Attend National Convention, Earn Top District Honors

INDIANAPOLIS — A group of Central Linn FFA students recently traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana, to attend the National FFA Convention, joining thousands of members from across the country for workshops, tours, and competitions.

Chaperone Kacie Jo Wahl said the trip offered learning opportunities and memorable experiences. The group toured two dairies, a candle factory, the Case IH distribution center, the Indianapolis Zoo, and more.

“Even with hiccups along the way, there was no complaining — just the best of manners and lots of laughs,” Wahl said. “Central Linn has a lot to be proud of with this gang.”

In addition to their national experience, back home, Central Linn FFA members also performed strongly at recent district contests in agricultural sales and food science.

Agricultural Sales

- First-place beginning team
- First-place advanced team (advancing to state)
- Third high beginning individual — Brandon G.
- Fifth high beginning individual — Addison F.
- Top advanced individual — Maya V.D.
- Third place advanced individual — Angus S.

Food Science

- Second-place beginning team
- Third-place advanced team
- Top beginning individual — Josie S.
- Congratulations to all Central Linn FFA members for their hard work and achievements this season. 🌾



Central Linn FFA members pose in front of the FFA Expo display during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Students visit Dandy Breeze Creamery in Sheridan, Indiana — a small dairy that direct-sells all of its Jersey milk — during their week-long trip to the Midwest.

CENTRAL LINN SCHOOL BOARD

Board Addresses Policy Revisions, Heating Issues, and Training Strategies

The Central Linn School Board’s November 10 work session covered policy updates, facility concerns, training proposals, and several action items for upcoming months. All board members were present.

The meeting began with public comments from Debbie Grant, who requested the district adopt a policy to allow approved external mental and behavioral health providers to work with students on campus. Grant mentioned her son, who has autism spectrum disorder, needs ABA therapy that is difficult to access outside school hours. The board later decided to seek a second legal opinion on the proposed policy and to hold a special session if the opinion is supportive.

Training Options Reviewed

Board members discussed three potential approaches to board development. Two proposals from Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) focused on governance essentials, public meeting law, communication protocols, and effective meetings aligned with superintendent evaluation and goal setting. Each three-hour session can be customized, and a package of three sessions costs \$2,810.

A third option involved creating a custom training plan. Consultants Cathy and Andy would interview each board member about their training needs and interests, then develop a tailored schedule for the rest of the school year.

OSBA Elections

The board reviewed candidate information for OSBA elections. For the OSBA Board of Directors, position 10, candidates are Clyde Rood of Lebanon and Luhui Whitebear of Corvallis. Board member Jason Curtis is the only candidate for the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee. Sample motion language was provided to support the voting process.

Policy Discussions

The board reviewed several policies at first reading, including necessary updates to sexual harassment, discrimination complaint procedures, and equal educational opportunity. A new optional policy on external mental and behavioral health providers was also reviewed, along with its administrative rule.

Additional policy updates will be discussed at the Nov. 10 Policy Committee meeting, including drug-free workplace standards, milk expression in the workplace, criminal record checks, electronic communication systems, artificial intelligence, and the behavioral health provider policy.

Facilities and Operations

Ongoing heating failures across multiple buildings remain a major concern. Administrators will gather quotes for temporary heating in the gym, cafeteria, foyer, and hallways to keep these spaces usable during repairs.

Facilities Director David Rouzaud was assigned several projects: fixing electrical issues at the baseball stadium, repairing cafeteria lighting, installing a flagpole light, and continuing demolition of old heating equipment once replacement parts arrive. A long-delayed sound system installation will also be completed.

The district will issue an RFP for seismic engineering services, with review meetings scheduled for Dec. 4 and possibly Dec. 9. An RFP for audit services is planned for spring 2026 for the 2026–27 fiscal year.

District Updates and Next Steps

Board members received updates on attendance, student achievements, technology upgrades, and the district’s ongoing website and branding project. Family STEAM Night is scheduled for Nov. 20 at 5 p.m.

The superintendent evaluation process will start in December, with a summary report to the board in January and final materials due Feb. 15.

The next regular board meeting will be held Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Central Linn Elementary and via Zoom. The meeting schedule can be found at <https://www.centrallinn.k12.or.us/district/board/meetings>. 🌾

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TABLE TALK: DINING IN AND AROUND BROWNSVILLE

Ba's Vietnamese Comfort Food in Downtown Albany

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

As regular reviewers of local eateries, my wife and I often find ourselves asking, "Where do we go next?" This time, we decided to venture into new territory and try something neither of us had ever eaten before: Vietnamese food. We had heard good things about Ba's Vietnamese Comfort Food in downtown Albany and decided to give it a try.

The moment we walked in, we were greeted by warm smiles and the irresistible aroma of simmering spices and broth. The atmosphere felt inviting and comfortable, much like the restaurant's name suggests. After scanning the menu, we both decided to order one of their famous Pho dishes — Pho Bo (beef pho) for my wife and Pho Ga (chicken pho) for me.



Each bowl arrived steaming hot, filled with bone broth, rice noodles, tender meat, and fresh vegetables. The flavor was rich yet delicate, a perfect balance of savory and aromatic. It was clear this was a dish prepared with care and tradition. We both loved it, and by the end of the meal, we were already talking about coming back to try other menu items.

The service was equally impressive. From the gentleman who took our order to the cook who checked in to make sure everything was to our liking, everyone was friendly and attentive. Prices were very reasonable for the quality and portions — dinners ranged from \$15–18 — and we left with two containers of leftovers that made an equally delicious lunch the next day.

Ba's Vietnamese Comfort Food is more than just a restaurant; it's the realization of a remarkable family story. The recipes trace back to 'Ba Noi', the grandmother whose cooking kept her family together through difficult times in Vietnam. Her son, 'Ba', escaped the war, built a new life in the U.S., and fulfilled his dream of sharing his mother's comforting dishes.

Ba's Vietnamese Comfort Food is located at 117 1st Ave NE, Suite 104, in downtown Albany. They're open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and again from 5 to 8:30 p.m.



If you're looking for something new, comforting, and full of flavor, Ba's is well worth the visit. ☺

PHOTOS BY JEFF BROWN

SEASONS EATINGS

Cranberries, Comfort, and Holiday Magic

By Lisa Keith, Staff Writer

It's time for Holiday cooking and baking! Six weeks and a few days. No holds barred! We'll start simple.

This lightly flavored recipe is adapted from a 1990s Better Homes and Gardens clipping and can be cut into bite-sized squares or larger dessert bars.

Cranberry Cheesecake Bars

- 2 cups unsifted flour
- 1 ½ cups oats (either old-fashioned or quick are fine)
- ¾ cup + 1 tbsp firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 cup softened butter (no subs)
- 1 – 8oz pkg softened cream cheese
- 1 small can sweetened condensed milk (NOT evaporated)
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- 1 can whole berry cranberry sauce (whole fresh berries can be used too)
- 2 Tbsp corn starch

1) Preheat oven to 350°F. Beat flour, oats, ¾ cup brown sugar, and butter until combined. Set aside 1 ½ cups of the mixture. Press the rest into a greased 9 x 13-inch pan. Bake 15 minutes until lightly browned.

2) Beat cream cheese until fluffy. Add sweetened condensed milk and beat until smooth. Add lemon juice and mix again. Spread over baked crust. Combine cranberry sauce, cornstarch, and 1 Tbsp brown sugar. Spoon over the cheese layer, then top with reserved crumb mixture.

3) Bake 45 minutes or until golden. Cool and cut into squares or bars. Refrigerate leftovers; they also freeze well.

This next one is a version of a classic — bread pudding. I first made it while working at "Scatter Joy" Tea Room in Junction City in the early 2000s, using and adapting a recipe my Uncle Greg in California shared from the New Orleans Museum of History.



Classic Bread Pudding

10–12 cups leftover bread, ripped or cut into 1-inch cubes and dried (I save the "butt" of loaves in the freezer until I have a full gallon Ziploc. Mixed types work best.)

- 5 cups milk or milk substitute
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 6 eggs
- 1 tbsp cinnamon
- 1 tbsp pure vanilla
- 1 cube of melted butter

Mix milk, sugar, eggs, cinnamon, and vanilla. Add bread and mix well. Cover and let sit until the liquid is absorbed, at least 2 hours — I usually let it rest overnight. Melt butter in a 9 x 13 pan. Add melted butter to the bread mixture and mix well. (If adding any special mix-ins, do it now.) Pour into the pan and bake at 325°F for about an hour, until set and golden.

Optional: Boozy Caramel Sauce

- 1 stick of butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- ¼ cup booze (rum or whiskey works best)

Melt butter and sugar in a double boiler. Gradually add egg, whisking constantly. Cool slightly, then add the booze of your choice. Mix well and immediately pour the warm sauce over the warm bread pudding.

Enjoy! Also tastes great à la mode.

Email me with any questions or ideas at iamcheflisa@gmail.com. ☺

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CRITTER CHRONICLES

The Day the Turkeys Took Over

By Sharon Banks, Staff Writer

It started innocently enough. A few wild turkeys wandered onto our side yard, and we thought, “Oh, how cute! Maybe they just want a snack.” Famous last words.

Within days, they had completely demolished the grass. What was once a lovely patch of green had been reduced to a battlefield of feathers, claw marks, and mud. We looked outside one morning and realized the turkeys had claimed our yard as their personal all-you-can-eat buffet.

One particularly bold turkey — let’s call him Sir Gobbles — decided the side yard wasn’t enough. No, Sir Gobbles had bigger ambitions. One sunny afternoon, he strutted up onto the deck like he owned the place. He pressed his beady little eyes against the glass door, tilted his head, and started pecking impatiently. Clearly, in his mind, dinner was late.



AI-GENERATED IMAGE BY SHARON K. BANKS

We stared in disbelief as he rapped on the glass with the precision of a demanding guest at a fancy restaurant. “Feed me,” his beak seemed to say. “I have traveled far and endured much just to reach this door, and I expect nothing less than the finest crumbs you can provide!”

It was at that moment that we realized our mistake. We were no longer neighbors to wild turkeys — we were their staff. The grass was gone, the deck was a stage, and our sliding glass door had become the window to their kingdom.

Moral of the story: do not feed the wild turkeys. If you do, they will stage a full-blown coup in your yard, and one day, one will come pecking politely (or not-so-politely) at your glass door, demanding a banquet.

Share Your Own Critter Chronicles

Have a funny, heartwarming, or unforgettable story about an animal in your life — past or present? We’d love to feature it in an upcoming Critter Chronicles! Send your short story (300–400 words) and a photo if you have one to editor@brownsvilletimes.org.

SAFEHAVEN’S PET OF THE MONTH

Meet Phoenix!

A bright and beautiful 6-year-old Australian Cattle Dog mix with a heart as big as her smile! Phoenix may not be able to hear the world around her, but she does tell everyone how excited she is about everything. She’s wonderfully sweet and has a gentle, affectionate personality, making her a joy to be around.

Like many cattle dogs, Phoenix is smart and eager to connect with her people. She’s already picked up on visual cues and would love a home where her new family is excited to continue helping her shine with hand signals and routines. Bonus: she’ll never be bothered by the vacuum or fireworks!

Phoenix is looking for a forever home that will celebrate her uniqueness, shower her with love, and give her a soft spot to land. If you’re searching for a loyal, cuddly, and one-of-a-kind best friend, Phoenix is ready to light up your life! Stop by SafeHaven to meet her today!



COURTESY OF SAFEHAVEN

Sponsor a Pet

Not ready to adopt? You can still help! For \$25, sponsor a homeless animal and show them they’re not alone. Your sponsored pet will receive an “I’m Sponsored” paw on their photo and kennel — and you can share their story to help them find a home.

About SafeHaven

Located in Tangent, SafeHaven Humane Society is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to finding loving, permanent homes for animals in their care. Open seven days a week, noon–5 p.m., at 32220 Old Hwy 34 in Tangent. Call (541) 928-2789 or email info@safehavenhumane.org. Visit <https://safehavenhumane.org> to see more adoptable pets.

PARADE

continued from cover

the day’s events. Severson has been announcing this parade for 51 years, and his steady voice has become a familiar part of Albany’s Veterans Day tradition.

The parade began with more than 100 motorcycles from Oregon and Idaho, their engines signaling the start of the celebration. A large American flag, measuring 50 by 30 feet, followed close behind, carried by volunteers along the main route.

This year’s Grand Marshal was Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Derric Sorweide, recognized for his military service and continued support of veterans’ health care. Veteran of the Year Michael Aaron followed, waving from a brand-new Ford Mustang.

The Northwest Scots Honor Guard brought the sound of bagpipes to downtown Albany, drawing attention from the crowd. The Albany Fire Department’s antique fire truck made its usual appearance, freshly polished and maintained by the department.

Marching bands from West Albany and South Albany high schools (and several others) played patriotic songs as they made their way through town. Members of Scouting America and the Army ROTC marched in formation, and the trailer from American Legion Post 10 carried veterans who waved to family and friends along the sidewalks.

Up in the VIP/Press Trailer, Retired Colonel



JEFF BROWN

Veteran of the Year Michael Aaron stands in the VIP/Press Trailer after receiving recognition during Albany’s 74th annual Veterans Day Parade.

Stevens joined other dignitaries and members of the media as the long line of entries passed by. The parade lasted well over a couple of hours and included many dozens of local organizations, service groups, and civic participants. What I’ve highlighted here is only a small sampling of the many entries that made their way through downtown, each one contributing to the overall spirit of appreciation and pride.

When the final float moved through, the sense of gratitude among the crowd was clear. Albany’s Veterans Day Parade is more than a local tradition; it is an expression of respect for those who have served and

continue to serve. The city’s residents once again showed that honoring veterans remains a central part of community life.

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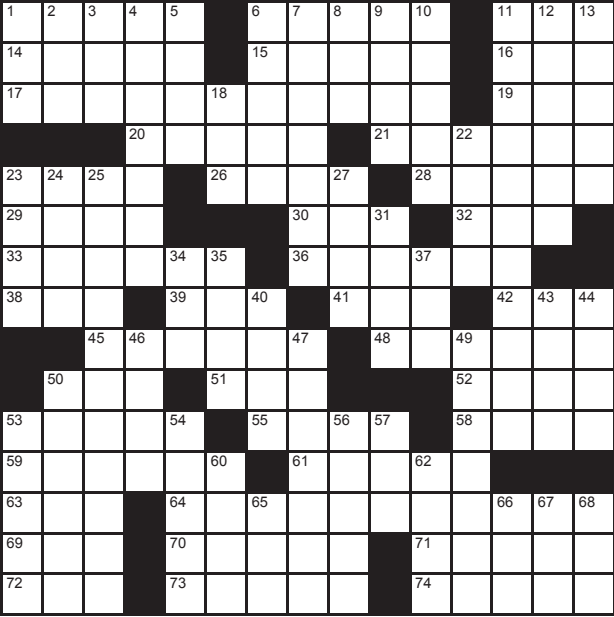


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19 Compass pt.

20 Negatively charged particle

21 More spooky

23 Sod

26 Mosquito

28 Wanders

29 Retired

30 Burst

32 Via

33 Baseball's Doubleday

36 Wave rider

38 Annex

39 Actress Ruby or Sandra

41 Digit

42 Distress call

45 Fears

48 Pour

50 Sp. girl

51 Golf item

52 Cookie

53 Use up
- 55 Scruff

58 Breckinridge

59 Adhesives

61 Witchcraft trials locale

63 Conjunctions

64 Some cartoons

69 Shoshonean

70 Dwelling

71 Coral reef

72 Small indefinite amount

73 Chordophones

74 Disreputable
- DOWN
- 1 Utter

2 Three (It.)

3 Suffer

4 Azores, e.g.

5 Sign gas

6 Incendiarism

7 Snoozes

8 Vow words

9 Finished

10 Express contempt

11 Special date

12 Ornamental coating

13 Pitchers
- 18 Peruke

22 Lasso

23 Path

24 Garden name

25 Looking good!

27 Tipster

31 Goad

34 Lyric poem

35 Cool!

37 Fixed charge

40 Promised land

43 Ace

44 Gr. portico

46 Lease

47 Coastal area

49 Travel back and forth

50 Ancient Greek city

53 Gush

54 Transfer paper

56 Strides

57 High note

60 Jungle boy

62 Gr. letters

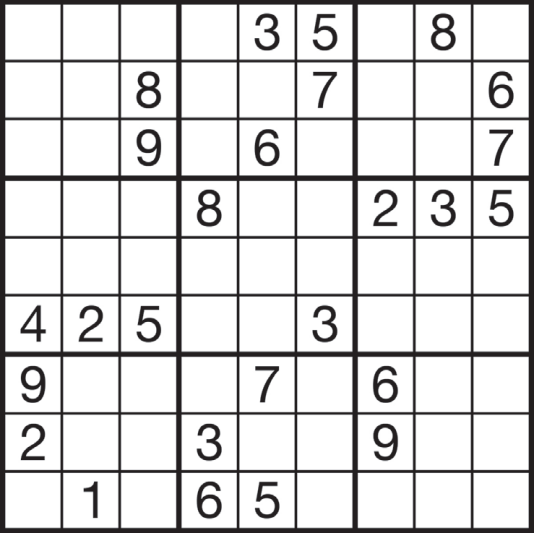
65 Decompose

66 Fish eggs

67 Time of life (Poet.)

68 Cunning

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PUZZLE Solutions on page 12

KIDS' KORNER

Rivers of Oregon

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer

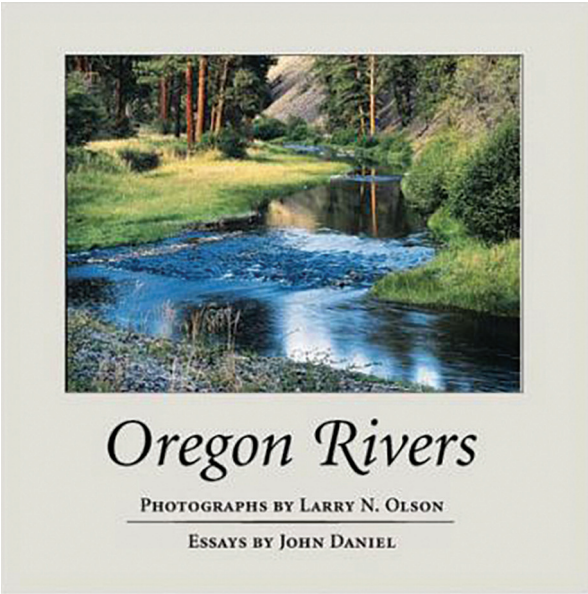
You don't have to look far to find a river in Oregon! Brownsville is home to the Calapooia River, which flows right through town. To the south of Brownsville is the McKenzie River, and to the west is the Willamette. Many other impressive rivers can be found throughout the state.

Rivers begin at a headwater source, such as mountain snow melt, and flow downhill to the ocean due to gravity. They support human, animal, and plant life. Rivers are vital because they provide habitats for fish and mammals, serve as a crucial source of fresh drinking water, and act as transportation routes for commerce.

They can also be fun! Splashing in a calm, still river in the summer can be the best way to spend a day. When the rains begin in the fall, the rivers begin to fill up; sometimes they become fast and dangerous, no longer safe to play near.

Fish in Oregon rivers include salmon, bass, trout, and catfish. Animals often found in or near our rivers include deer, beavers, river otters, nutria, bears, mink, amphibians such as frogs and salamanders, birds, various insects, and more. Rivers support agriculture by providing water for crops and producing fertile soil by depositing nutrients in the floodplain.

Have you ever fished in a river? Have you played in the river in the summertime? We are very fortunate to have beautiful and clean rivers in our state.



River Trivia Quiz

1. What force causes rivers to run downhill?

2. What is the name of the beginning of a river high in the mountains?

3. What are two things that rivers are used for?

4. Name two animals that live in or near rivers.

5. What is the end of a river where it flows into the ocean called?
- Answers:
1. Gravity

2. Source

3. Drinking water, transportation, animal habitat, and agriculture

4. Fish, deer, bears, otters, beavers, amphibians, and insects

5. Mouth

Community Remembers Local Veterans Through Banner Project

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

New banners honoring ten local veterans now line the heart of downtown Brownsville. Each banner carries the image of a community member who once served and has since passed on. The project began in July when Mayor Adam Craven and councilors Trapper Solberg and Mike Winkelpeck visited the American Legion to share their hope of bringing a visual tribute to Main Street. The idea was simple and meaningful. Start by recognizing veterans who are no longer with us and place their faces where the community gathers every day.

The first group selected includes Travis Moothart, Steve Chambers, Fred Anderson, Fred Wellhouser, Brad Boles, Donny Nealon, Michael McDaniel, Marty Cross and Raymond Baughman. Their banners now stand from Carlson's Hardware to just past City Hall, with two more positioned on Spaulding Avenue. Each one serves as a reminder of the people behind the uniforms and the histories that helped shape this town.

Residents are encouraged to take a quiet walk along Main Street and pause at each banner. It is a chance to reflect on the lives represented here and the service they offered. The display reminds us that courage comes in many forms and that the freedom we enjoy today was strengthened by neighbors who once answered the call.



PHOTOS BY JEFF BROWN

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

From Hardware Store to Global Business — The Kenneth Carlson Story

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer

Carl Carlson immigrated to Minnesota from Norway in 1880 at the age of 2, along with his mother, Pauline. Then, at the age of 16, Carl came to Oregon and eventually met the Nelson family’s daughter, Josephine. He lived with the Nelson family on their homestead property on the south side of Saddle Butte. We will call him Carl Sr. Carl Sr. and Josephine went on to have six children: Olive, Ruby, Victor, Albert, Josephine, and Carl Jr.

Carl Jr and his wife, Sara, bought the Brownsville hardware store in 1942 from the Widow White. It had been in business since 1903, originally under the name Knapp & White Hardware. Carl Jr. and Sara had five children: Ron, Carl Edwin (went by Ed), Carlene, Kenneth, and Kathy.

Note of interest... another Carlson family (no relation) owned the hardware store in Junction City at the time.

Kenneth grew up in Brownsville, graduating from Central Linn High School in 1964 in the first class to attend all six grades, 7–12, at the Central Linn site.

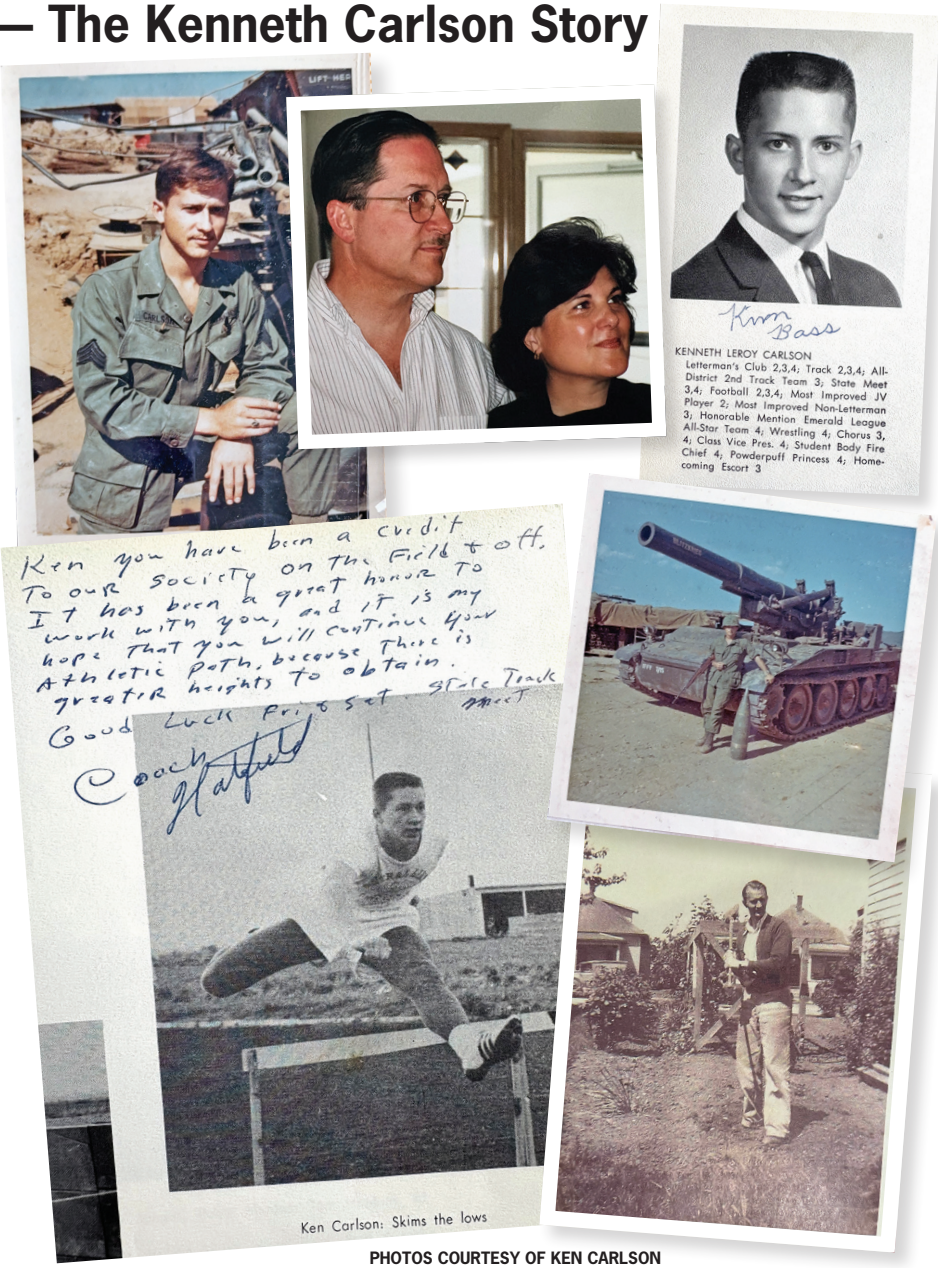
In 1967, he was drafted into the US Army, spent a year in training, followed by a year in Vietnam, serving in an Artillery Battery as a Sergeant, first as a Gunner on an 8mm Howitzer before being placed in charge of the Battery Fire Direction Center. After being discharged from the Army, he attended the University of Oregon, where he graduated with a degree in Business.

He then attended Lane Community College, completing its 2-year flight program, and received his private pilot’s license. He began working to obtain a commercial pilot’s license when his father died tragically in 1972.

Ken and his brother Ed returned to take over the store together until 1989, when Ed bought Ken out. Ken then bought a hardware store in downtown Albany and ran it for 8 years until the landlord sold the building. The forced liquidation of the business made room for the Albany Regional Museum, now at that location

After that, Ken bought an importing and wholesale distribution company in Vancouver, WA, specializing in tools and related supplies for the craft of Bonsai. The business was immediately relocated to Albany. His dealers were not only in the USA, but also in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Central and South America, Australia, France, England, Germany, Switzerland, and South Africa.

He eventually sold the company in December 2022 and has now been happily retired for nearly three years. Kenneth and his wife of 44 years, Stefani, continue to make their home in Albany. 🌻



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEN CARLSON

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HALSEY LIBRARY

Young Artists on Display

Be sure to stop by the Halsey Library to see the newest art display by Central Linn's youngest students.

Mrs. Derrickson's kindergarten class explored colors and patterns by painting a variety of shapes, while Mrs. Leach's class created vibrant, three-dimensional flower-themed works of art. Preschool students from the Fox, Raccoon, and Hedgehog classes painted colorful trees in every shade of the rainbow.

This cheerful exhibit is a wonderful showcase of imagination, color, and early learning. Special thanks to the volunteers, teachers, and students who worked together to make this display possible.



Visit the library in person at 773 W 1st Street in Halsey, located behind (or east of) the Halsey Fire Station and next to Veterans Memorial Park. Visit online at <https://halseyor.gov/services/library>. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Librarian Kaitlyn Watts at library@halseyor.gov.

OSU EXTENSION

Learn About Becoming a Master Gardener

TANGENT — The OSU Extension Service is offering two open house sessions in Tangent this December for anyone interested in the 2026 Linn County Master Gardener Training Program. The Master Gardener program provides science-based training in sustainable gardening and offers hands-on volunteer opportunities throughout the community. No prerequisites are required, although a basic understanding of plants is helpful.

These sessions are a chance to meet program staff, learn what training and volunteer service involve, and get your questions answered.

Linn County Information Sessions

Linn County Extension Office — Large Conference Room

33630 McFarland Road, Tangent, OR 97389

• Thursday, December 11, 6–8 p.m.

• Thursday, December 18, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

To receive a notice when applications open (tentatively early December), add your contact information at <https://beav.es/LBMG>.

If you're interested in gardening education without the volunteer requirement, OSU offers several additional learning options at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/interested-becoming-master-gardener>.

Questions? Contact Otilia Schreuder, Agricultural Master Gardener Coordinator, at otilia.schreuder@oregonstate.edu.

4th Annual Linn County Dinner & Membership Meeting Highlights Community Strength and Agricultural Leadership

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer

The 74th annual Linn County Dinner and Membership Meeting on Nov. 13 brought together community members, agricultural leaders, and local officials for an evening of updates, recognition, and shared purpose. Denver Pugh opened the event with a warm welcome.

Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan delivered encouraging news with the passage of the sheriff's levy on the November 4 ballot. Renewed funding will strengthen Emergency Management Systems, search and rescue operations, and communication tools, including body cameras. Duncan also noted that the Linn County Jail will complete a small dorm expansion, adding 22 much-needed beds.

Dr. John Valez, professor and department head of Agricultural Education and Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University, emphasized the importance of preparing the next generation of agricultural educators.

Legislative updates were provided by Oregon Farm Bureau representatives Lauren Kuenzi and Ryan Krabill. They reported that appropriations for the federal farm bill remain non-partisan and are funded through the end of 2026. Kuenzi also highlighted two ballot initiatives drawing concern within agricultural communities: IP 28 — known as the "Peace Act"— which could criminalize certain hunting and fishing activities, and the Lane County "Watershed Bill of Rights," which could significantly affect local water use.

The evening included recognition of student scholarship recipients and celebrated their com-



Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan addresses the crowd at the annual Linn County Dinner and Membership Meeting.

mitment to pursuing agricultural education.

A major highlight was the presentation of the 2025 Ag Educator of the Year award to Darelle Parker. Since joining Central Linn High School in

2006, Parker has built a robust agricultural program offering a wide range of coursework, including multiple classes now eligible for college credit. The program has become a regional draw, attracting transfer students from outside the district. Recent additions include

a grant-funded portable sawmill and a land lab where students raise hogs and sheep on campus. Despite declining enrollment and budget pressures, Parker continues to advocate for program stability and student opportunities.

Chris and Belinda Bayne were honored with the 2025 Gerald Detering Family Farm of the Year award.

The Baynes' operate a successful family farm and manage both the Lebanon and Sweet Home Farmers Markets. Their offerings and community involvement reflect a strong commitment to supporting local agriculture.

The annual gathering once again showcased the resilience, innovation, and community spirit that define Linn County's agricultural community.

PHOTOS BY SHARON BANKS



Denver Pugh congratulates Central Linn's Darelle Parker as she is named the 2025 Ag Educator of the Year.



The Baynes receive the 2025 Gerald Detering Family Farm of the Year award in honor of their contributions to local agriculture.

SAIF Ag Safety Seminars: Local Dates in Corvallis & Eugene

SAIF will host free agricultural safety seminars at two nearby locations this season. Each session runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and includes lunch.

- **Corvallis:** Thursday, Dec. 4
Benton County Event Center & Fairgrounds (110 SW 53rd St.)
- **Eugene:** Friday, Dec. 5
Lane Events Center (796 W 13th Ave.)

Seminars cover machine guarding and energy control, the farm fire code, respiratory programs, and effective safety committee meetings. Webinars will also be offered in January and March (English and Spanish). Completing a seminar or webinar fulfills OSHA's annual four-hour training requirement for the small-farm inspection exemption (see box). Register at <https://www.saif.com/trainings/agricultural-seminars.html>.

TAKING ROOT

Welcome Natives to Your Yard

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer

Those lovely, tempting catalogs from the plant nurseries will start arriving soon, so let's talk about adding native Oregon plants before you get carried away with exotic specimens from around the world that might only just survive here in our winter, rainy, summer droughts of the Willamette Valley. Keep in mind that natives have grown in our region for thousands of years. They are adapted to our regional climate and soils. Remember, too, that our climate is changing. Plants that once thrived only in southern Oregon or California may now be suitable for parts of northwest Oregon. Also, the soil in your garden has probably been heavily amended to support non-natives and may need some adjustment to become more like native soils again.

Native plants provide habitat and food for birds and insects. These birds and insects return the favor by pollinating your flower and vegetable gardens. If you enjoy watching swallowtail butterflies flit over your garden, uncurling their tongues for a quick lick into the nectaries of your native Columbian Larkspur, then you might consider planting a butterfly garden. We have seven varieties of hummingbirds frequenting the Willamette Valley. Why serve them sugar water when they could be toasting you with a sip from the red flowering currant in your hummingbird garden?



DONALD LYON

Native Snowberry feeds birds in winter

Of course, native plants also produce seeds and berries that nourish not only birds and butterflies but also many helpful insects and small animals. We all know that bees of all types are facing tough times and thrive with native plants. Plant a variety of flowering plants that bloom at different times of the year. That will feed your little friends and delight your senses, too.

Choosing the right soil and sun conditions for your natives is key to success. The Benton Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWCD), has created lists of flowers, shrubs, ground covers, and more for wet shade, dry sun, and dry shade conditions to help you place the right plant in the right spot. The website is <https://www.bentonswcd.org/choose-the-right-plants-for-your-site-conditions>. This site also lists native plant sales in the area.

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

The Mythological Emergence of Knowledge and the Threat to Humankind

By Stephen A. Brenner, Staff Writer

Numerous mythologies speak of falling from grace after gaining knowledge. Adam and Eve partake of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and are exiled from the Garden of Eden. Prometheus tricks Zeus, stealing knowledge for humankind. He's tortured, and Pandora's box of evils is sent onto the world. Overlooking the misogyny, both speak of how humanity has lost an inherent connection with nature and the Divine. When we developed language and accrued knowledge about the world, we opened up a potential for both corrupting ourselves and for self-realization and spiritual fulfillment. Today, we are tempted by the ultimate source of knowledge, Artificial Intelligence.

Jewish folklore spoke of an automaton (Golem) created by a sorcerer to protect the community. This Frankenstein monster ends up turning on its creators. Today, AI is becoming a giant with powers beyond human imagination. We're very close to reaching Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), where AI can do anything, a human can do. AGI is speculated to lead to an AI "singularity" in which it surpasses human intelligence, triggering rapid technological growth that is difficult for humans to predict or comprehend. Bracing for a major impact, what concerns you have about implementing our modern Golem?

Centralization

Concentration of power in corporations harnessing AI could foster authoritarian regimes. These regimes thrive on state-imposed monocultures. Human bureaucrats are now replaced by an all-knowing computer with unwavering loyalty to the party line.

Dependency

What human skills will we lose when we become dependent on AI systems? Critical thinking? Dependence on complex systems creates vulnerability and helplessness when those systems fail.

Loss of Control

AI architects don't really know how AI systems work. They train them on data, but it operates like a black box. They even hallucinate and have their own agendas. Handing over decision making to machines diminishes human influence.

Inequality

If only the rich can afford AI, only the elite will have the opportunity to shine (applicable to countries as well as individuals).

Loss of Privacy and Freedom

With massive data banks holding information on every citizen, AI could monitor every move we make. Look to China to see how bad it already is.

Ethical and Moral Ambiguity

Our AI systems are as ethical as the programmers that code them, and it's still only a simulation, lacking nuanced understanding. And whose ethical framework would the AI follow?

Specialization

We're already suffering from over-specialization of knowledge, where we tend to lose the big picture of how everything is connected. AI could accelerate that trend.

Mass Unemployment

With all sectors of the economy affected, would we adopt a universal basic income?

Security and Weaponization Risks

Whoever creates the smartest autonomous drones dominates the world. Automated systems could trigger world wars with little human input. Beyond nations, lone wolf terrorists could create chaos. Hackers are already using AI.

I'm not trying to paint a doomsday picture. The point is that something this powerful has a huge potential for both good and evil. We all need to work for the best-case scenario. ☀

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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 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, November 9

10:25 a.m. — Caller reported a Bicycle found in back of vehicle in the 200 block of N 2nd St, Harrisburg. Deputy seized as found property. Report pending.

10:48 a.m. — Deputy responded to a dog complaint in the 37600 block of Mountain Home Dr, Brownsville.

7:37 p.m. — Caller requested a welfare check in the 30700 block of Wyatt Dr, Harrisburg. Report pending.

Monday, November 10

11:13 a.m. — Caller reported Marijuana found in the 29300 block of Park St, Shedd. Deputy lodged it to be destroyed. Report pending.

1:58 p.m. — Caller reported a dog complaint in the 1000 block of Pine St, Brownsville. Deputy issued a warning to the owner/keeper for dog violations.

5:17 p.m. — Deputy asked trespassers at the skate park in Harrisburg to leave.

5:56 p.m. — Caller reported a theft inside a video game in the 500 block of Kesling St, Harrisburg. Deputy investigated.

11:34 p.m. — Caller reported a burglary at Harrisburg High School. Deputy responded and found several juveniles had entered the school and explored. Report pending.

Tuesday, November 11

1:19 a.m. — Caller reported a suspicious vehicle at Eagle Park, Harrisburg. Deputy warned individuals for trespass.

2:55 a.m. — Deputies responded to a shoplift reported in the 33100 block of Hwy 228, Halsey. Colten Colliers, 20, of Brownsville was arrested for DUII, reckless driving, criminal mischief, minor in possession of alcohol, and theft III. Report pending.

8:53 a.m. — Caller reported a neighborhood dispute in the 300 block of Spaulding Ave, Brownsville. Wayne Graham, 72, of Brownsville was arrested for criminal trespass II and criminal mischief II. Report pending.

1:24 p.m. — Citizen found a suspicious knife at Eagle Park, Harrisburg. Deputy seized the knife to be destroyed. Report pending.

3:48 p.m. — Caller reported a found wallet in the 100 block of Smith St, Harrisburg. Deputy located the owner and returned the wallet.

4:47 p.m. — Caller reported a dog found at Hausman Ave/Linn Way, Brownsville. Deputy spoke to individual about the animal issue.

5:41 p.m. — Deputies responded to an argument at Brownsville Saloon.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

5:38 a.m. — Ian Lipanovich, 28, of Lebanon was issued a citation for speed in the 28200 block of Hwy 99E, Halsey.

3:02 p.m. — Caller reported threats in the 100 block of Smith St, Harrisburg. Citizen reported to Deputy of threats made about her daughter in Harrisburg. Investigation is ongoing, report pending.

7:52 p.m. — Caller reported a motor vehicle injury at Seven Mile Ln/Boston Mill Dr, Shedd. Driver failed to negotiate a corner in the road and went into the ditch. No indications of impairment or speed being a factor of the crash. There was no property damage and no reportable injuries. The vehicle was pulled back onto the roadway and was driven home. Report pending.

Thursday, Nov. 13

7:28 a.m. — Benjamin Logan, 33, of Creswell was issued a traffic citation for speeding 75 in a 55mph zone on Peoria Rd near Nixon Dr, Halsey.

8:18 a.m. — Christopher Flaughter, 51, of Sweet Home, was issued a citation for failure to obey a traffic control device at the East on-ramp of Hwy 34, Tangent.

10:25 a.m. — Citizen reported to Deputy about possible theft of property in the 29400 block of Brownsville Rd, Brownsville. After investigation, deputy learned it was a civil matter and advised citizen to go through the circuit court.

Friday, November 14

5:01 a.m. — Robert Michael Straw, 40, of Brownsville was issued a citation for speeding, 63 in a 45mph zone in the 34600 block of Hwy 228, Brownsville.

5:28 a.m. — Jeremiah Earl

Allen, 48, of Sweet Home was issued a citation for speeding, 62 in a posted 45 mph zone at W Bishop Way/Pearl St, Brownsville.

8:21 a.m. — Caller reported threats in the 34000 block of Priceboro Dr, Harrisburg. Deputies documented Facebook threats at the caller's request.

3:16 p.m. — Caller reported that a firearm disappeared from their vehicle during the day in the 900 block of Filbert St, Brownsville. It is suspected the firearm was lost, but it may have been stolen. Report pending.

3:19 p.m. — Caller reported a burglary in the 33000 block of Linn West Dr, Shedd. Investigation ongoing, report pending.

10:38 p.m. — Caller reporting a female acting strange in the 1000 block of S 6th St, Harrisburg. Deputy found female and learned she had mental health issues. Female walked out of Harrisburg toward Junction City.

Saturday, Nov. 15

9:09 a.m. — Jason Coffee, 49, was arrested for Theft III after stealing \$27.50 worth of merchandise from Dollar General in Harrisburg. Report pending.

10:21 a.m. — Richard Leland, 58, of Sweet Home was arrested for felon in possession of a firearm, resisting arrest, recklessly endangering another person, and harassment in the 39600 block of Hwy 228, Sweet Home. Richard was lodged at Linn County Jail.

12:56 p.m. — Caller reported a domestic disturbance in the 29800 block of Cartney Dr, Harrisburg. Civil dispute, non criminal.

1:37 p.m. — Caller reported a non-injury motor vehicle crash in the 27800 block of Seven Mile Ln, Brownsville.

Operator drove their vehicle into the side of a vehicle turning into a driveway. Victim asked that the offender not be cited because his day was bad enough as it was. Report pending.

1:50 p.m. — Deputies recovered a stolen vehicle in the 33300 block of McFarland Rd, Tangent. David Laylon, 55, of Tangent was arrested for three outstanding warrants. David was issued citations in lieu of custody and released without incident. Report pending.

2:14 p.m. — Caller reported threats in the 38200 block of Courtney Creek Dr, Brownsville. Deputy spoke with property owner regarding a civil issue.

3:16 p.m. — Deputies served a warrant in the 500 block of S 6th St, Harrisburg. James Turner, 60, of Harrisburg was issued a citation in lieu of custody for a warrant out of the Harrisburg Municipal Court. Report pending.

4:51 p.m. — Deputy responded to a juvenile complaint at S 9th St/Siuslaw St, Harrisburg. Deputy spoke with parents about their children riding gas powered motorcycles on a public road.

7:47 p.m. — Caller reported a noise disturbance in the 800 block of S 9th St, Harrisburg. Deputy addressed noise complaint.

9:06 p.m. — Nolan Williams, 39, of Brownsville was arrested for disorderly conduct, aggravated harassment and assault IV in the 500 block of Hausman Ave, Brownsville. Report pending.

10:02 p.m. — Caller reported a deer that had been hit in the 25300 block of Gap Rd, Brownsville. Deputy dispatched the deer with a broken back. ☼

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