



THE BROWNSVILLE TIMES

VOLUME 137, NO. 23

SERVING CENTRAL LINN COUNTY, OREGON SINCE 1889

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

American Legion Hosts Veterans Day Breakfast in Brownsville

The Travis Moothart American Legion Post 184 invites the community to gather in gratitude this Veterans Day. On Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 7 to 10:30 a.m., the Post will serve up a hearty breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and coffee at their Brownsville hall. All veterans eat free, while civilians are welcome to join with a donation.

More than just a meal, the morning offers a chance to share stories, honor those who served, and celebrate the spirit of service that strengthens the community. 



AI-GENERATED IMAGE

Don't Miss the Albany Veterans Day Parade



The largest Veterans Day parade west of the Mississippi is just up the road in Albany! On November 11, festivities begin at 8:30 a.m. with a Memorial Service at Timber Linn Memorial Park, across from the fairgrounds.

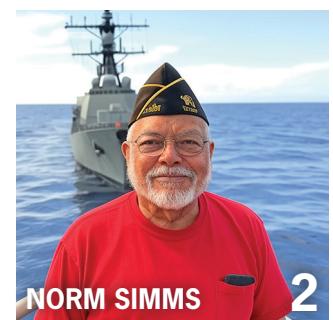
The parade starts at 11:11 a.m. and will last about two hours. For parking, come early to find a spot along downtown streets, or park at the YMCA on Highway

99 and catch a handicapped-accessible shuttle to the parade route.

More than 150 entries are signed up, including floats, marching bands, and military vehicles. You'll also find plenty of food carts and street vendors along the way.

Come join the celebration and honor the men and women who have served our country! 

INSIDE



NORM SIMMS



9

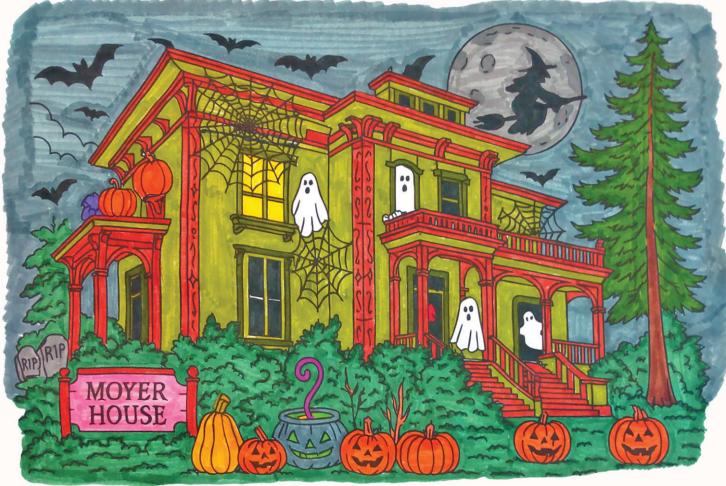


10

Halloween Coloring Contest Winners



Child Winner: Payton Eddy, 9, won a \$25 gift card.



Adult Winner: Jocelyn Francis won a one-year print subscription to The Brownsville Times.

Brownsville Video Owner Larsen Announces Retirement After 18 Years

After 18 years of serving the Brownsville community, Deborah Larsen, owner of Brownsville Video and local state liquor agent, has announced her upcoming retirement.

"It's time for out with the old and in with the new," Larsen said with a laugh. "I've given the state my resignation, and they're in the process of selecting my replacement."

The new agent is expected to be appointed around November 20, after which Larsen will spend two weeks training them before officially stepping away. During that time, she will also begin dismantling the video rental portion of her business — a longtime staple of downtown Brownsville.



Debbie Larsen, owner of Brownsville Video and local state liquor agent, is retiring after 18 years of serving the Brownsville community.

While the video store is being taken apart, soda, tobacco, and other essentials will remain available. It is not yet known whether those items will continue to be offered once the new agent takes over.

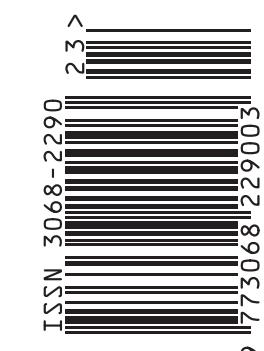
After her final day of work, Larsen says she plans to "go home, throw my stuff in a semi, and be gone" — closing one chapter and beginning a new adventure.

Reflecting on her years of service, Larsen shared heartfelt thanks to the community that has supported her through it all. "The support, friendship, and laughter have made many rotten days easier to get through," she said. "To Sir Paul, who always gave me the time of day — your encouragement, friendship, and hugs kept me going on many occasions. And to the joker who always stole my keys and locked me out — your humor and friendship will be missed more than words can say."

As she prepares to roll into retirement, Larsen leaves Brownsville with one final bit of advice:

"Keep laughing — and don't forget to take the turkey to Thanksgiving." 

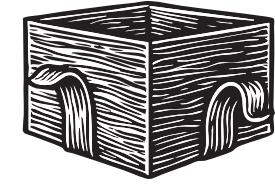
\$2.00



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Not Your Grandma's Bingo

Mondays, Nov-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.

Tangent City Council Meeting

Monday, November 10 • 6:30 p.m.
Tangent City Hall • 32155 Old Oak Dr.

Attend in person or request a Microsoft Teams link before 4 p.m. at jsamaniego@tangentor.gov or 541-928-1020. Citizen comments limited to 3 minutes. <https://www.tangentor.gov>

Halsey Blood Drive

Wednesday, Nov. 12 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Community Center (Lower level of City Hall)
Receive a \$20 e-gift card of your choice, plus a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards. Free A1C testing for successful donations. Free Oregon Ducks T-shirt (via mail while supplies last)

Tangent Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors regular meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 12 • 7 p.m.
TRFD District office, 32053 Birdfoot Drive, Tangent.
The board will consider Ordinance No. 104, which updates the Cost Recovery Billing Program (user fees for the deployment of public safety services within and outside the district) and repeals Ordinance No. 103. The meeting is open to the public.

Abundance of Not2Shabbee

Friday-Saturday, Nov. 14-15 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
836 Kirk Ave., Brownsville • 541-228-6034
A creative mix of hand-crafted, shabby chic, gently used, and lovingly curated items for sale. Perfect for early holiday decorating and gift giving.

Pets & Pajamas Movie Night

Friday, Nov. 14 • 6-9 p.m. • \$22
SafeHaven Humane Society, 32220 Old Hwy 34, Tangent
Kids enjoy pizza, popcorn, and a movie after time with SafeHaven's adoptable pets.
<https://safehavenhumane.org/events>

Caturday at Corvallis Community Center

Saturday, Nov. 15 • 1-3 p.m.
2601 NW Tyler Ave., Corvallis
Join Corvallis Parks & Recreation for a feline-filled afternoon! Make toys, play with cats, and hear from a special guest speaker. Free and open to all ages.

See page 14 for Brownsville Library events

STAY CONNECTED WITH CENTRAL LINN!

Discover upcoming events or add your own to our community calendar:

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

VETERANS DAY EVENTS
TUESDAY, NOV. 11**Breakfast**

7-10:30 a.m. • American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184, Brownsville

All veterans are invited to enjoy a free hot breakfast in honor of Veterans Day, hosted by the American Legion. Stop by for pancakes, eggs, sausage, and coffee served with gratitude and community spirit.

Memorial Service

8:30-10:30 a.m. • Veterans Memorial at Timber Linn Park, Albany

A solemn morning service honoring all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Linn County Parade

11:11 a.m. • Downtown Albany, start at Pacific Blvd.

The 74th annual parade honors Linn County veterans with floats, bands, and military vehicles. Thousands gather each year to show appreciation.

Spaghetti Lunch

Noon-2 p.m. • American Legion Post 10, 1215 Pacific Blvd., Albany

Enjoy a free spaghetti lunch hosted by the American Legion for all veterans and community supporters.

VFW Chili Feed

1 p.m. • VFW Post 584, 1469 Timber St., Albany

Join fellow community members and veterans for a casual chili lunch following the parade.

TANGENT TOGETHER

Come join us for the Linn County Veterans Day Parade

Come cheer on your Tangent Harvest Festival Combine Demolition Derby float at the Linn County Veterans Day Parade on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. The parade begins at 11:11 a.m., and we will be there representing our community's heart and spirit. Linn County's Veterans Day Parade has been celebrating our county's veterans since 1951. We hope you come out to be part of this wonderful celebration to salute our nation's heroes. When you spot our Tangent Together float, give an extra holler to let us know you are there!



COURTESY OF TANGENT TOGETHER
Tangent Together's float rolls through downtown Albany during last year's Linn County Veterans Day Parade.

Share Your Favorite Thanksgiving Recipes!

We're gathering readers' favorite Thanksgiving recipes to feature in upcoming issues of The Brownsville Times! Whether it's Grandma's stuffing, your best pie crust, or a new family favorite, we'd love to share it.

Send your recipe by Wednesday, Nov. 13.

How to send yours:

- Email: editor@brownsvilletimes.org
- Drop off: 343 N Main St, Brownsville — Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-noon | Thurs. 1-4 p.m.
- Mail: The Brownsville Times, PO Box 278, Brownsville, OR 97327

AMERICAN LEGION

From Engine Room to Legion Hall: The Steady Hand of Commander Norm Simms

By an ordinary seaman

The calendar always brings us to the eleventh of November, a day called Veterans Day. It's not about some distant thunder of old wars, but about the plain, solid fact of the veterans right here in our own community. In this valley, where a good number of us live the rural life but still draw a paycheck from the nearby cities, this day is a chance to look at the folks who signed up, served honorably, and then returned. Consider a man who embodies this spirit of service: Norm Simms, the Commander of our own Travis Moothart American Legion Post 184.



MIKAYLE STOLE
The Navy took him when he finished up school in Holley, and for ten years he worked down in the engine room — the throbbing heart of any ship — advancing up to Petty Officer First Class. As a young man, he knew what it was to keep things running, whether on a fleet oiler, a submarine rescue ship, or a fast attack frigate. That kind of experience gets into a man's bones, teaching him what's essential.

Illness brought him home, but a man like Norm doesn't just sit idle. He earned a metallurgy degree and got himself hired by a local manufacturer. His life changed one day, in the Dari Mart parking lot, of all places, when a stranger recognized him for what he was — a veteran — and pointed him toward the American Legion.

And that's the whole of it, really. It's not about grand speeches; it's about coming home, raising a family, and getting involved. Norm and the other hundred or so veterans in Central Linn are the backbone of our schools, our churches, and our local government. They're a good, solid, happy, and grateful bunch, making life better for those around them. They learned what responsibility meant while serving their country far from home, and they brought that knowledge right back here to Brownsville. ☀

Abundance of Not2Shabbee Returns

Lisa and Dayna are bringing back their popular pop-up event, "Abundance of Not2Shabbee," on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 14-15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 836 Kirk Ave., Brownsville.

Shoppers can expect a beautifully eclectic mix of handcrafted, shabby-chic, gently used, and lovingly curated items — perfect for early holiday decorating and gift-giving.

Call for details 541-228-6034. ☀

BROWNSVILLE WOMEN'S STUDY CLUB

Festival of Trees Judges, Jannea and Carol, Can't Wait to See This Year's Trees

By Mandy Cole,
Staff Writer

Jannea Dever and Carol Humphreys, judges for Brownsville's Festival of Trees, are excited to see what the tree artists create for 2025. "It's the talent, creativity, and the sharing of those talents with our community that is so exciting," says Carol. "And we like seeing local businesses getting into the spirit as well," adds Jannea.

Brownsville's Festival of Trees, happening December 5-6, is a frenzied time for the tree artists. Each artist chooses a theme, gathers ornaments, lights, and unique decorations that enhance it, creating a one-of-a-kind work of art for the highest bidder to take home. "There are very talented tree artists," says Jannea, "and we want to award everyone." "Every Festival of Trees creation is special," says Carol. Award categories are: Inspirational, Whimsical, Kid Friendly, Traditional, Original, Creative, Nature Inspired, Vintage Rustic, Spirit of Christmas, and Judges' Choice.

Jannea and Carol can spend up to two days deliberating, filling out their score sheets independently, careful not to compare notes. Finally, score sheets are tallied and ranked, then tree awards are determined. "Every tree reflects the creativity and talents of the artist. After five years of being judges together, you might think it gets easier, but it doesn't," says Carol.

Looking back over the years, Jannea and Carol can remember some standout winners. "We had a Flamingo Tree by Karen Spurlin that was very well done," says Jannea. Carol adds, "There have been so many incredible trees. One of my favorites was the Winter Warmth Tree decorated with knitted, crocheted, and handmade ornaments."

Watch The Brownsville Times for previews of some of the brilliant decorating ideas revealed by this year's Tree Artists. You could be the highest bidder on your favorite tree. ☺



With two imaginative trees featured in the 2024 Festival of Trees, including one at the Brownsville Library, Wendy Parker brought her unique holiday vision to this cherished community tradition.



WENDY PARKER

WENDY PARKER

TARWEED FOLK SCHOOL

Hands-On Learning in November

CORVALLIS — Tarweed Folk School continues its celebration of practical arts this November, offering a series of hands-on classes at Wade Hardware in downtown Corvallis. Each workshop invites participants to slow down, work with their hands, and learn traditional skills from experienced craftspeople.

On Sunday, Nov. 9, woodcarver Kiko Denzer leads Spoon Carving, a full-day workshop exploring the beauty of transforming green wood into elegant, useful utensils. Students will learn carving grips, knife safety, sharpening, and design principles, discovering the quiet satisfaction of making something both simple and enduring with just a few tools.



Denzer returns Nov. 11 and 13 for Carving Letters: Large and Small, an evening series that introduces the art of cutting letter-forms into wood. Using basic knives and an eye for proportion, participants will practice turning simple triangles and curves into graceful letters. It's a fitting next step for those who enjoy spoon carving or anyone curious about the artistry behind hand-carved signage and ornament.

For those drawn to textiles, Kristine Berg teaches Bespoke Basic Sewing: Make a Patchwork Top on Nov. 15 and 16. Over two afternoons,



students will sew together colorful fabric blocks, adjust fit using a pattern mock-up, and assemble a one-of-a-kind garment made from repurposed fabric. Beginners are encouraged to join, and a few sewing



PHOTOS: TARWEED FOLK SCHOOL

machines may be available to borrow.

The month closes on a playful note with Woodcarving Basics: Carrots! led by Rose Holdorf on Wednesday, Nov. 19. This three-hour class offers a cheerful introduction to carving small wooden vegetables

— starting with carrots, but opening the door to radishes, strawberries, and more. Participants will explore safe knife techniques and finish their work with non-toxic milk paint, turning each piece into a charming ornament or gift.

All classes take place at Wade Hardware, 400 SW 2nd St., in Corvallis, with materials provided unless otherwise noted.

Tarweed Folk School is dedicated to keeping traditional skills alive and accessible to all. Class sizes are small and to fill quickly. To register and see more upcoming classes, visit <https://www.tarweedfolkschool.com/upcoming-classes>. ☺

BROWNSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Brownsville's 2025 Holiday Lights Contest

Show your holiday spirit and help light up Brownsville this December! The annual Holiday Lights Contest, sponsored by Pacific Power, celebrates the creativity and community pride that make our town shine.

Residents and businesses are invited to register their decorated homes or storefronts to be featured on the official 2025 Holiday Lights Map, available online beginning Dec. 5. Then, from Dec. 5 through Christmas night, everyone can follow the map, enjoy the displays, and vote for their favorites.

How to Enter:

Sign up to be included on the 2025 map by Monday, Dec. 1. For full details and the entry form visit <https://www.historicbrownsville.com/holiday-lights-contest>.



JENNA STUTSMAN

First place in Brownsville's 2024 Holiday Lights Contest went to 849 Northpoint Loop, where dazzling displays and festive spirit lit up the neighborhood.

Prizes will be awarded to the top vote-getters — and bragging rights last all year!

Let's make Brownsville sparkle even brighter this season, thanks to Pacific Power and all of you who keep the tradition glowing. ☺

Halsey Pumpkin Carving Contest Winners Announced

HALSEY — The results are in for the annual Halsey Pumpkin Carving Contest! This year's event brought out plenty of creativity from all ages. Each winner will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card and a certificate signed by the mayor. The City of Halsey thanks everyone who participated and helped continue this fun community tradition. ☺



Adult Division: Nicklaus Rousseau – "Melting"



Teen Division: Roxanne McMillen – "Bob's Beautiful Mansion"



Kid's Division: Avery Rousseau – "Frankenstein"



Random Drawing (Kid's Division): Anthony Jones – "67"

BROWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

From Chaplaincy to City Hall Paint: Council Covers Broad Agenda

By Sravya Tadepalli, Staff Writer

At the October Brownsville City Council meeting, Nick Drobak spoke about his nonprofit organization Thin Line Chaplaincy (TLC). As a chaplain, he helps first responders and the people they serve deal with critical incident stress. "One call, I might be hanging out giving water to guys on a fire, keeping them hydrated and keeping their spirits up, and on another call, I might be doing more difficult things for family members," said Drobak.

A presentation on the Brownsville Art Association was rescheduled for November.

Sergeant Steve Frambes said that September had been a slow month.

"When things pop up, we'll try to address them, but if you see a month where deputies are spending time addressing chickens, rather than crime, or graffiti, or juvenile issues... we're doing perfect," said Frambes.

Elizabeth Coleman, administrative assistant for planning, spoke about proposed federal and state regulations that will have an impact on Brownsville. She plans on providing public comment to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Land Conservation and Development regarding the city's concerns.

Librarian Sherri Lemhouse talked about events happening at the library, including story time, the stitchery group, and a monthly book club.

City Manager Scott MacDowell discussed legislation that passed during the 2025 session, including the repeal of the wildfire risk maps and the middle housing omnibus bill.

Councilor Mike Winklepeck said the American Legion has identified veterans to honor through banners hung on lampposts throughout the city.

During public comment, Donald Lyon [disclosure: Donald Lyon is a board member of The Brownsville Times] thanked the Council for supporting the Calapooia Food Alliance (CFA) but said that its decision to cut funding to the CFA would raise costs. Richard Fries said that there is a need to address school bus safety at the intersection of Linn Way and Depot Avenue. Mayor Adam Craven said this issue would need to be addressed by Linn County.

There was no office report. The public works report was included in the Council packet.

Council passed a resolution to write off uncollectible utility debts and held a first reading of ordinances to develop application processes for public streetlights and public street closures.

The Council also passed a resolution honoring Gary Compton for his service to the Planning Commission. The decision to award the city hall paint project was also moved from the action item section to the legislative section of the agenda.

"The reason I'm doing that is that it falls under a certain class of contract, so when the auditors come and ask, I can just show them the resolution," said MacDowell.

The Council voted to authorize Lebanon-based Great Paint and Renovate LLC to repaint City Hall for \$30,989. The painting will start in the summer.

The Council voted to move the November Council Meeting to November 18, 2025, to avoid conflicting with Thanksgiving travel.

MacDowell said he is in the process of negotiating a franchise agreement with Lumen Technologies (formerly CenturyLink) for fiber internet services.

"You might remember the last franchise agreement took us about a year to get it started and finished to go, and I expect that we'll probably see a similar situation," said MacDowell. "We always try to ask for things that they're [companies] not willing to do because they want all their agreements to be standard." ☀

Sweet Home to Celebrate Nation's 250th Anniversary with Yearlong Series of Events

SWEET HOME — The City of Sweet Home has been awarded a grant from the America 250 Oregon Commission, joining 12 other recipients statewide selected to mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

Grant funding will support a full year of events, enhancements to existing traditions, and public history displays designed to honor the nation's founding while celebrating Sweet Home's unique local heritage.

 "Sweet Home is honored to be among the first recipients of this grant to help us celebrate America's 250th anniversary throughout 2026," said Mayor Susan Coleman. "This grant allows us to recognize America's founding, celebrate our freedoms, and honor the community we proudly call home. We are grateful to the America 250 Oregon Commission for helping us share Sweet Home's story as part of this historic milestone."

The Oregon 250 Grant Program, established through the Oregon Historical Society and Oregon Heritage, helps museums, cities, veterans' organizations, and community nonprofits develop inclusive, community-focused projects that highlight Oregon's diverse histories and cultures. Grants range from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

The City of Sweet Home joins Benton County Historical Society, the Santiam Heritage Foundation, and 10 other organizations across the state in this first round of awards.

According to the commission, the goal is to inspire Oregonians to participate in "the work of forming a more perfect union" — highlighting local history, civic engagement, and the beauty of Oregon's communities.

A second round of funding opens January 5 through March 1, 2026, for additional Oregon 250 projects. More information is available at <https://www.oregon250.org/america-250-oregon-grant>. ☀

TANGENT TOGETHER

October Meeting Highlights

Tangent Together board members and volunteers met Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. to review recent activities and upcoming events.

Community Updates:

- **Tangent Night at LBCC Volleyball** took place on Oct. 22, offering free admission to residents and an opportunity to share feedback on Tangent's Transportation System Plan.
- **Trunk-or-Treat** was held on Oct. 31 at Kim's Kafe, with local participants decorating their vehicles for a fun Halloween evening.
- **Albany Veterans Day Parade**: Plans are underway for Tangent's float, featuring creative work from the Combine Derby team and Complete Ag.
- **2026 Parade Route Planning**: City Manager Joe Samaniego is working with Linn County and ODOT to explore alternative routes to ease traffic during next year's Tangent Harvest Festival parade.
- **Community Giving**: Tangent Rural Fire Department is collecting nonperishable food items for the FISH of Albany food drive. Donations are welcome through the fall. The donations go to anyone in need, with no questions asked.
- **Winter Social**: The group is seeking a volunteer to coordinate this year's gathering; otherwise, the event may be paused in 2025.

Additional Notes:

Members discussed ways to boost sponsorships, expand community grants for family-friendly festival games, and enhance social media engagement.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m. ☀

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CL CROSS COUNTRY

Cobra Runners Excel at Districts and Advance to the OSAA State Championships

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

The Central Linn Cobras turned in an outstanding performance at the 2025 Cross Country District Championships. The girls' team placed third, earning a spot at the OSAA State Championships, while the boys' team finished fourth overall.

For the boys, Jackson Duringer led the way with a seventh-place finish, qualifying individually for state. Other top finishers included Don Ware (personal record, 14th), Creed Mast (personal record, 14th), Wyatt Smith (33rd), Chaz Mast (48th), Ethan Dennison (51st), and DJ Diaz (54th).

The girls were led by Anya Griffith, who placed third with a personal record time of 19:28.95. She will be joined at state by teammates Jayne Neal (8th), Isabelle Curtis (20th), Addie Wolff (48th), Maddie Duringer (50th), Amelia Curtis, and Georgia Wahl.

"Cross Country Districts 2025, and a great showing by the CL Cobras!" said Head Coach Johnna Neal. "A third-place finish for the girls' team and fourth for the boys'! Individual medal winners were Anya (3rd), Jayne (8th), and Jackson (7th). I'm very proud of all their work this season, and most of them are dual-sport athletes in soccer. On to state!"

The OSAA State Championships will be held Saturday, Nov. 8, at Lane Community College in Eugene. For meet details and schedules, visit <https://www.osaa.org>.



JOHNNNA NEAL

CENTRAL LINN ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Callie Northern

Central Linn's own Callie Northern has made a strong impression this volleyball season, leading the team in kills with an impressive 92 in league play. She also holds the second-highest number of digs, at 141, showcasing her skill both at the net and on defense.

"Callie is motivated and works hard to get better every day," said her coach. "She continues to challenge herself with new goals. Not only that, but she's a humble teammate and supportive of her fellow players."

Her dedication and drive have set the tone for the Cobras' competitive spirit this season, making Callie a standout example of what it means to be a Central Linn athlete.

Submitted by Rodney Baney, School Counselor, Central Linn Elementary, Junior High, and High School.



Callie Northern spikes the ball during a recent league match. The Central Linn standout leads the team in kills with 92 this season.



Central Linn's Callie Northern also ranks second in digs, with 141 so far this season.

Support the Athlete Spotlight

The Brownsville Times is proud to showcase local student-athletes who demonstrate dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship both on and off the field. We are looking for sponsors to help continue this recognition throughout the school year. Sponsorships support coverage of Central Linn athletics and highlight our community's youth achievements.

To learn more about sponsoring an Athlete Spotlight, contact advertise@brownsvilletimes.org. 

CENTRAL LINN SCHOOL DISTRICT NOVEMBER 7–28

Saturday, Nov. 8

CL Youth Wrestling Tournament – All Day

HS Cross Country State meet at Lane Community College – 10 a.m.–noon

Monday, Nov. 10

No School - Staff Wellness Day

Policy Committee Meeting 5:15–6:15 a.m.

School Board Meeting 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 11

No School - Veterans Day

Tangent Fire Board to Consider Ordinance

The Tangent Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors will hold its next regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025, at the district office, 32053 Birdfoot Drive, Tangent.

The board will consider Ordinance No. 104, which updates the Cost Recovery Billing Program (user fees for the deployment of public safety services within and outside the district) and repeals Ordinance No. 103. The meeting is open to the public.

Agenda

Call to Order

Citizen Comments

Approval of:

- Minutes
- Financial Report

Standing Reports

- Volunteers Association — Wray
- Fire Chief — Chapin
- Division Chief — Hunt
- Activity Report

Old Business

- Policies

New Business

- Consideration of Ordinance No. 104

Good of the Order

- OFDDA Conference, Nov. 20–22, 2025, Seaside
- Holiday Dinner, Dec. 5, 2025, Central Electrical Training Center, Tangent, 6 p.m.
- Board Meeting, Dec. 10, 2025, 7 p.m.

Adjournment

Contact

Denny Conrad, Office Administrator

Tangent Rural Fire Protection District

32053 Birdfoot Drive, Tangent, OR 97389

dconrad@tangentfire.com | 541-928-8722**Lebanon High School Wins \$100,000 in T-Mobile Contest**

Community support helps secure funds for Heath Stadium renovation

LEBANON — Lebanon High School received a \$100,000 grant from T-Mobile in the national Friday Night 5G Lights competition, which provides funding to rural schools for stadium upgrades.

Although Lebanon did not win the \$1 million grand prize, the school's impressive display of spirit and statewide support earned a second-place finish and a sizable grant, matching the amount awarded to last year's top winner.

Overall, Lebanon received a total of \$126,000 from T-Mobile: \$1,000 for the application, \$25,000 for being among the top 25 schools nationally (and the only one in Oregon), and \$100,000 for its runner-up placement.

Lebanon's campaign received nearly 1.5 million votes, showing strong community pride and teamwork. All funds will go toward rebuilding Heath Stadium's grandstands, which have been deemed unsafe and are set for demolition.

Lebanon High School thanks everyone who voted, shared, and supported the campaign. A community celebration with T-Mobile is scheduled for Nov. 14, with more details to follow. 

Fernando Ledesma**General Contractor L&F LLC
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- Pressure Washing

Free Estimates

SEASONS EATINGS

Soup! There It Is! (Part 2)

By Lisa Keith, Staff Writer

Hello again, dear foodies! Last time, we warmed up with my Creamy Butternut Squash and Simple Vegan Split Pea soups. I promised more, and since there's always room for one more pot simmering on the stove, here are two set-and-forget favorites that share a crockpot but deliver different vibes.

Slow Cooker Taco Soup

- 1 can of kidney beans, crushed tomatoes, corn, beef stock, and chili peppers
- 1 pound ground beef, chicken, or turkey browned
- 1 packet of your favorite taco seasoning

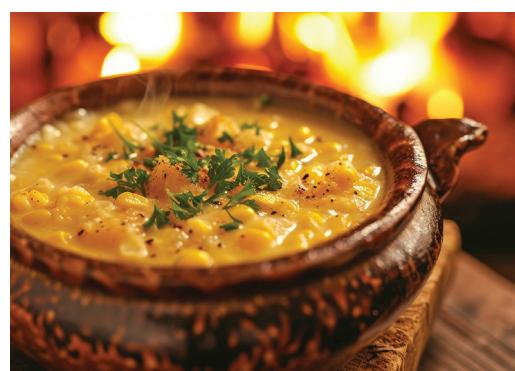
Dump all the cans of ingredients and their liquids into your slow cooker. Add cooked, seasoned meat. Set the cooker on low for 2-4 hours or high for 1-3.

Serve as you would a fully loaded taco bar: grated cheese, diced onions, sour cream, salsa, tortilla chips, diced jalapenos, olives, hot sauce, etc., etc., etc.

Simple, hearty, and perfect for game nights or cold evenings when you want all the flavor with almost no effort — an easy favorite from a Soccer Mom retreat nearly thirty years ago.

Easy Crockpot Chicken Chowder

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 1/2 pounds cubed chicken (can substitute cooked chicken)
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups frozen corn
- 1 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 cup each diced onion, sliced carrots & celery, cubed potatoes
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- Garnish: Snipped fresh chives



gets." Don't be afraid to modify and switch recipes to your personal liking. Keep cooking and email me with any questions or ideas that you have at iamcheflisa@gmail.com. ☺



LISA KEITH

Brown raw chicken in butter. Add remaining ingredients, except cream, to the crockpot. Set on low for 3 hours. Add cream. Heat for another half hour. Garnish each serving. Enjoy!

Crockpot cooking is so easy. I have experimented with an Instapot also, with huge success. Be sure to check your individual manufacturer's guide to play with "new fangled gadgets."

Don't be afraid to modify and switch recipes to your personal liking. Keep cooking and email me with any questions or ideas that you have at iamcheflisa@gmail.com. ☺

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TABLE TALK: DINING IN AND AROUND BROWNSVILLE

Sweet Home's The Point Still Worth a Stop

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

The Point Restaurant and Bar, located across Highway 20 from Foster Lake Reservoir at the far east end of Sweet Home, Oregon, has been a reliable dining spot for us over the years. We've visited several times, and typically, the food and service have been excellent. However, during our latest visit, things did not go perfectly, although it wasn't a total disappointment.

We arrived without a reservation at around 6:10 p.m. on a busy summer evening. The restaurant was packed, but the staff quickly informed us that they could seat us inside right away. While the patio is the preferred choice for dining on a summer night, the inside was still comfortable and well-staffed.



Our server, Kay, promptly greeted us, took our drink orders, and provided menus. I decided to try their meatloaf dinner, which was served with rice pilaf and steamed green beans. My wife opted for the chef salad, which turned out to be an excellent choice. She loved her salad, noting its generous portion size — so much so that she was able to enjoy it for two additional meals after our visit.

On the other hand, my meatloaf was underwhelming. It was overly well-done, resulting in a dry texture, although the tangy barbecue sauce served on top

added a bit of flavor and helped salvage the dish. The rice pilaf was bland, lacking sufficient seasoning to make it noteworthy. However, the warm wheat bread served alongside was a highlight of the meal, soft and fresh.

Given our past experiences, I still consider The Point a solid dining option, even if this visit fell short of expectations. We will undoubtedly return, but I may skip the meatloaf next time. Overall, The Point remains a favorite in Sweet Home, known for its exemplary service and usually tasty dishes. If you're in the area, it's worth checking out for a relaxed dining experience with good portions. ☺



PHOTOS BY JEFF BROWN

CRITTER CHRONICLES

Sophie the Pig Becomes Porch-side Royalty

By Sharon Banks, Staff Writer

Our neighbors bought a piglet at the county auction one summer with the practical idea of "raising some ham." She was small and pink, with curious eyes and a squeal that turned heads. They named her Sophie.



AI-GENERATED IMAGE BY SHARON K. BANKS

At first, she lived in a pen behind the barn, but that didn't last long. The kids in the neighborhood — mine included — were drawn to her like bees to honey. Sophie loved the attention, and soon she was following the children everywhere. She learned to trot beside the family dog to meet the school bus every afternoon, grunting happily as the kids piled out, lunch pails swinging.

Sophie was an excellent garbage disposal, too — leftover sandwiches, apple cores, even the occasional cookie went straight to her. The kids dragged an old sofa onto the porch one day, and Sophie claimed it as her bed. From then on, she'd lounge there like royalty, sunning herself while we sat beside her, scratching her ears.

When summer came, Sophie joined in the sprinkler games. She'd run through the water, snorting with delight, letting the kids soap her up and scrub her with the car-wash brush until she gleamed.

The "ham project" turned into the heart of the neighborhood. Sophie wasn't just a pig — she was a friend, a playmate, and a memory we all still smile about.

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 or two if you have them to editor@brownsvilletimes.org.

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A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The Templetons' Journey to Brownsville and Their Lasting Mark

By Daniel R. Murphy

How many times have you ventured down Templeton Street in Brownsville, or driven past it, without any thought of its origin? It runs north-south on the south end of town. It was named after a family with a substantial history here.

William J. Templeton was 38 years old in 1847 when he and his family came across the plains and over the mountains to Oregon. They had prepared well for the trip, bringing extra wagons with goods for their life once here.

Like many other pioneers, they overestimated what they could take and how much their oxen could pull. They had to leave much of their contents along the trail in Eastern Oregon. Still, their oxen became increasingly weak.

By the time they crossed the Cascades, the oxen were too weak to continue, and the family was all sick with measles. When they finally arrived, the fall rains had begun and did not relent. The rain continued night and day, leaving mud everywhere and making travel even harder. Jonathan Keeney, who knew the Templetons before their journey, came to meet them when he heard of their plight. He brought fresh oxen from Brownsville so they could finish their trip.

Mrs. Templeton was Elizabeth Ramsay, the sister of Barnett Ramsey, the potter in Halsey. She was so sick upon her arrival that she had to be carried to the Keeney house.

The Templetons settled about three miles east of Brownsville. Mr. Templeton was a progressive farmer who enjoyed trying new things. He experimented with growing hops and, at one point, even tobacco.

In 1849, William and many other men from the valley journeyed to California during the Gold Rush. He and his sons came back with \$3000. With that, they bought more land, and his sons built the county's first sawmill.

In 1850, William and his family joined the Wilson Blain Associate Reformed Church in Union Point. In 1856, the Templetons left that church to help the Rev. Edward Geary organize the Brownsville Presbyterian Church. It was initially located just south of the former elementary school on Blakely Street. The Templetons were a growing family; at one point, 40 adults and children with that name were registered at the church.

Daniel R. Murphy is a retired Linn County Circuit Court Judge and former Deputy District Attorney. He serves on the board of The Brownsville Times. Dan is also a Linn County Master Gardener and a Moyer House tour guide.

OSU EXTENSION

Turning Oregon Sap Into Syrup

OSU Extension offers new guide for maple and walnut syrup makers

A recent update to Oregon's Farm Direct Marketing Law allows property owners to turn sap collected from maple and walnut trees into syrup for direct sale to consumers — without a state-issued food processing license.

To help Oregonians take advantage of the change, Oregon State University Extension has released a detailed guide on how to safely collect, process, and bottle syrup in compliance with state rules. The publication outlines everything from tapping techniques and equipment needs to sanitation, labeling, and quality standards.

The new guide emphasizes that syrup must meet a 66 degree Brix concentration to qualify as maple or walnut syrup and that no additional ingredients may be added.

For full details, including step-by-step instructions and legal guidelines, visit <https://bit.ly/4oQ6mkj>.



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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.cvcchalsey.com>

Sunday Corporate Service 8 a.m.

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

Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Monday Prayer 7-8 p.m.

Wednesday Community Coffee & Donuts 9:30 a.m.

Crawfordsville Calvary Chapel

38353 Glass St • 541-730-4519

<https://www.crawfordsvillecc.org>

Sunday Service 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Brownsville

27910 7 Mile Ln • 541-642-3000

<https://www.fbcbrownsvilleoregon.org>

Sunday Services and Nursery 9 and 10:45 a.m.

Halsey Mennonite Church

910 E 1st St • 712-432-8773

<https://www.halseymennonite.org>

Sunday Service 10 a.m.

1st & 3rd Sunday evening 6 p.m.

Prayer meeting 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

Harvest Reformed Baptist Church

411 W 2nd St • Halsey • 541-220-1902

<https://harvestrbc.org>

Sunday School 9 a.m.

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Fellowship Meal Noon

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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

holytrinitybrownsvilleor@gmail.com

Weekday Mass Wednesday Noon

Sunday Service 11:30 a.m.

Oakville Presbyterian Church

29970 Church Dr • Shedd • 541-758-0647

<https://oakvillechurch.org>

Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Riverside Christian Fellowship

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

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Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Valley Christian Fellowship

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<https://vcfhalsey.com>

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

WIDOWS' BRIGADE**Planning Ahead with a 'When I'm Gone' List***By Mary Canaday, Staff Writer*

Preparing for a life after we are gone requires some planning and a lot of thinking. This month, I want you to consider your WIGs (When I'm Gone lists). These are the smaller items you might not have given much thought to. Maybe your jewelry, fishing gear, hunting equipment, special dishes, family heirlooms, collectibles, or a collection.

When you're gone, who will receive them, and how would you like them distributed? Recently, I heard about a grandma with cancer who wanted to ensure her family members received certain items, so she created a WIG list. She used Post-it notes, wrote the name of the person who was to receive each item, and stuck the note to the item.

I've considered this and plan to do something similar. I will get a spiral notebook, write a description of the item, who I want to have it, and why. You might also take photos and number them to match your notebook. For example, I have several necklaces my son gave me for Christmas when he was a teenager; I will give those to my daughter-in-law, or if he has a daughter, they will go to my granddaughter.

While we're at it, let's think about some of your clothing. Many people like the idea of using them in a memory quilt or even making memory bears or pillows. Ask your loved ones if they would be interested in having anything like that made

from your clothes. Maybe you did something with a grandchild, and they remember how you always wore the same thing when you gardened or baked with them. Perhaps you have a favorite jacket or sweater you always wear on visits or outings with them. If they have a special piece, they should let your spouse or someone else know. This may be written in your notebook and might include a picture or a story with it.

I mention clothing items because of a situation I encountered with a family member after a loved one passed away. Mrs. E was struggling with Mr. E's death after a long illness. Within the first two weeks, she got rid of his personal belongings, including his clothes. After their daughter had removed and donated them, one of the granddaughters expressed a desire for a memory bear. It was too late because all the clothing was gone.

So, consider talking with family and friends to see how they feel about you leaving a WIG list behind. While you're at it, ask if they want any of those items. Make sure your spouse knows about your list and your wishes, and consider writing down the memories to go with them.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 20 at 1:30 pm at the Central Valley Church in Halsey. This month, we will be making blessing jars. Everyone is welcome. ☺

Samaritan Radiation Oncology Achieves National Accreditation

CORVALLIS — Samaritan Radiation Oncology has received national accreditation from the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) through its APEX — Accreditation Program for Excellence®. The credential, valid through July 2029, recognizes radiation oncology centers that meet the highest standards for safety, quality, and patient-centered care.

"The APEX accreditation aligns with the largest radiation oncology society in the world," said Dr. Norman Yeh, radiation oncologist and medical director of Samaritan Radiation Oncology. "We are proud to demonstrate our commitment to providing our patients with only the highest quality of care."

APEx accreditation involves a voluntary, multi-step review process assessing a facility's safety protocols, quality assurance measures, and communication with patients. More than 400 U.S. facilities have earned this designation.

Samaritan has also received accreditation from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, and is a member of the Association of Cancer Care Centers.

Learn more about the Samaritan Cancer Program at samhealth.org/Cancer. ☺



Danielle M. Myers, Esq.

Attorney at Law, LLC

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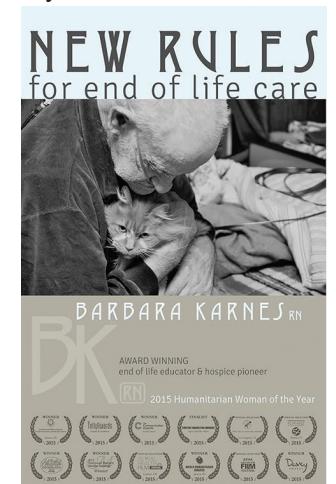
Film Screening on Nov. 12 Explores 'New Rules for End of Life Care'

ALBANY — Samaritan Evergreen Hospice invites community members to a free screening and discussion of "New Rules for End of Life Care" on Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Samaritan Evergreen Hospice House, 4600 Evergreen St. SE in Albany.

Created by hospice educator Barbara Karnes, RN, the award-winning film offers practical guidance for those caring for loved ones nearing the end of life — whether at home, in a nursing facility, or in a hospital. The 30-minute film helps viewers understand how care changes as death approaches and explores what families can expect during the process.

Following the screening, hospice team members will lead a discussion and answer questions about end-of-life care and available support services.

Registration is free. To attend, email ksautel@samhealth.org. For more details visit <https://samhealth.org/event/a-film-screening-new-rules-for-end-of-life-care-valley/2025-11-12>. ☺

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors: The Heart of Sharing Hands

By Anne Clarke, Staff Writer

I popped my head in over at Sharing Hands yesterday, a Wednesday, which is a food distribution day for the Food Pantry. Everyone was in good spirits, chattering away, organizing staples, frozen foods, and fresh produce. There were one or two people outside, waiting to come in to shop. I was delighted to hear a woman asking where to park her vehicle to make a donation. The shelves were stocked in anticipation of this week's needs.

Speaking with the Director, Debra Gruell, I asked about how our community is faring. Debra's number one priority is this: ensuring that our families can continue to put healthy meals on their tables each and every day. Not such an easy task if you're running a food bank. I admire Debra. As a former volunteer on restocking Tuesdays, I witnessed her seemingly magical ability to procure supplies from her well-developed contribution networks.

At times, there was an excess of frozen foods — only because we don't have enough freezer space. Some weeks, we had to quickly close the door on our little freezers, hoping nothing would fall out! Combining grant money and donations, Debra recently had enough money to order a walk-in freezer. But new tariffs have added an additional \$12,000 onto the cost, delaying the purchase. Only \$2,000 of this has been collected so far. With this new unit, she could fill it with frozen items purchased at lower prices, particularly during this harvest season, ensuring food availability throughout the leaner months.

Watching the news recently has been a roller-coaster ride. As I write, our federal government is still shut down. Americans are becoming increasingly at risk of genuine food insecurity as politicians use us in their partisan battle over legislation. Images of hungry, or unhoused people lining our streets, or arrested for protesting peacefully, here in America, are reminiscent of what we once thought of as a problem for those in other, foreign lands.

Governor Tina Kotek has now declared a State of Emergency in Oregon. This will release funds to our Food Banks. Unfortunately, it cannot cover what our federal government provides. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has funds earmarked specifically for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). They are not being released despite federal requirements to do so. Politicians are hearing from concerned constituents who are pleading with them not to allow Americans to go hungry. But partisanship prevents agreement on this, also, as Legislators shut down emergency bills to move SNAP funds into the hands of Americans.

Consider contributing locally — a few dollars to our food bank. Or drop off extra produce from your garden. Purchase a few more loaves of bread, or shelf-stable food (nothing expired, please!) for our neighbors in need. At this Thanksgiving time of year, this is the true spirit of who we are as Americans, regardless of our differences. ☺

CENTRAL LINN GRADUATES: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

"Little Scoop" and Her Lifetime Adventure: Kermit and Marlene Logan Celebrate 50 Years

Marlene Eagy played on the girls' basketball team and was crowned queen of the Sadie Hawkins Dance before graduating from Central Linn High School in 1971. During her senior year, she also volunteered at The Times, then owned by John Roberts. She typed articles on an old manual typewriter and proofread others' work. Her boss appreciated her dedication and kept her energized with snacks. Marlene's mother, Darleen, affectionately nicknamed Roberts "Scoop." Before long, the nickname stuck — and soon Marlene became known around the office as "Little Scoop."

After graduation, she began working for the Central Linn School District, where she learned budgeting and bookkeeping. That same year, Marlene met a young man from Junction City named Kermit Logan. At first, Marlene thought



Marlene Eagy, Central Linn Class of 1971, was crowned Sadie Hawkins Dance Queen and served as a student volunteer for The Brownsville Times, where she earned the nickname "Little Scoop."

he was a little scary — his fast, loud hot rods and rowdy reputation didn't help. But for Kermit, it was love at first sight. He kept after her until she realized the good heart behind that tough exterior. From that point forward, they were inseparable.

In 1975, Kermit and Marlene were married, and in 1978, just before the birth of their first child, the couple purchased a home at the end of Northernwood Drive, six miles south of Brownsville, where they raised their family and still live today.

When son Rip was born, The Times ran a sweet announcement penned by Marlene's old boss, "Scoop" Roberts, welcoming "Baby Scoop" into the world. Daughter Kaci arrived in 1982, followed by son Kole in 1986. All three children graduated from Central Linn High School and

SCOOP continued on page 16

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Haunted House Brings Chills and Laughter to Brownsville

BROWNSVILLE — The American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184 transformed its hall into a haunted maze of frights and fun for this year's Halloween weekend. Volunteers spent days crafting spooky scenes, from eerie hallways to jump-worthy surprises, creating an experience that drew families, teens, and thrill-seekers alike.

The event offered more than just scares — visitors also enjoyed treats, games, and the chance to meet local Legion members who help organize community events throughout the year. Proceeds support veterans programs and community outreach efforts.

"It's a great way to bring people together and raise a little money for a good cause," said Commander Norm Simms. "We love seeing the smiles — even behind the screams."



American Legion Commander Norm Simms rises from the dead to welcome visitors to the Travis Moothart Post 184 Haunted House in Brownsville.



The Travis Moothart American Legion Post 184 in Brownsville transformed into a haunted house for Halloween weekend, drawing visitors of all ages for a night of spooky fun.



Barbara Andersen greeted guests outside The Brownsville Times, guiding them toward the photo area set up with a haunted house backdrop.



Cash and his mom Rachel



Addie as Princess Belle



Carson (skeleton), Penny (princess), Abigail (Ru), Elizabeth (Barbie cheerleader)



Eva (Wicked Witch of the West) with Cooper (flying monkey) and Kate (mushroom)



Owen (Mario riding Yoshi) and Sloan (Harry Potter)



Alicen (Cinderella), Archer (Spiderman) and Maddlyn (Belle)



Preston as Joe Dirt



Acklin made a special delivery of The Brownsville Times.



The Addams Family: Hannah, Darius, and Tre



Cooper and Skyler



Daphne as Olaf



Amieca Henson-Whistler as a Victorian widow from the Haunted Mansion



Holly as Moana



Hadley and Harlen both dressed up as Bluey



Jaws, the victim, and a lifeguard who was too late



Kian (panda) and Aria (bumble bee)



Jospeh as a police officer



Jasmine



Krystine and Laney (bats)

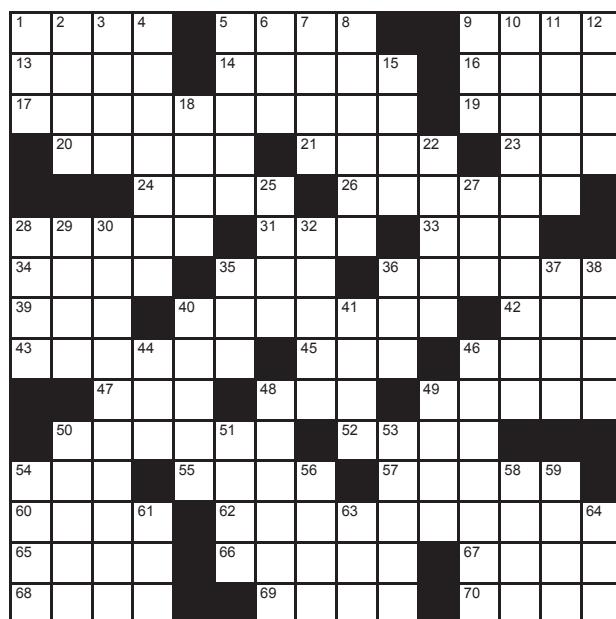


Keziah (Woody) and Shahaley (Jessie)



Frogs: Wyatt, Kassidie, Madison, Cassandra

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47 Raven author
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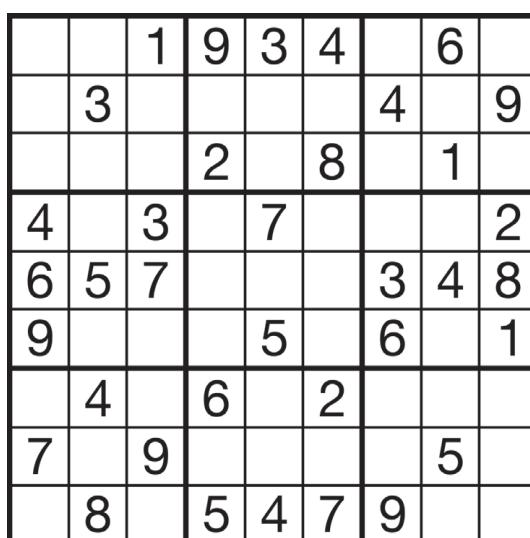
50 Swimming pool tent
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7 Between amo and amat
8 Trusted advisor
9 Before carte or mode
10 Dining table hoop
11 Forest

12 Whirlpool
15 Lyric poems
18 Expression
22 Hazy
25 Dirt
27 River inlet
28 Spline
29 Root vegetable
30 Line of work
32 Leg joint
35 Fundy, for one
36 Doleful
37 Dutch cheese
38 Adventure story
40 Cereal grass
41 Succeeds
44 Seagull
46 More repentant
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PUZZLE Solutions on page 17

KIDS' KORNER

Table Talk

By Sandra Beckwith, Staff Writer

Do you get bored at family dinners? Maybe the talk doesn't seem to mean much to you. Instead, I'm going to invite you to be an explorer, a reporter, and a podcaster all in one.

Everyone has a story and has done things that are interesting. You just need to get good at asking the right questions and then listening. That's what clever podcasters do when they interview their guests.

November is a big month for family events. It's an ideal time to try this out. Here are some fun conversation starters. See where it takes you! There are many questions you could ask, but this will get you going.

- Where's the most interesting place you've ever been?
- If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?
- What are you most thankful for today? What are you least thankful for today?

HINT: When you are asked a question, try not to give a one-word response; it will stop the conversation. "How was your day?" "Fine." The talk will go nowhere.



COURTESY OF SANDRA BECKWITH

My First Dinner Party. We laughed a lot!

Remember, everyone has a story and has lived during interesting times. Be a good detective and ask questions to bring out their story. Their answers might surprise you! ☺

LINN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners considering Accessory Dwelling Units

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — At their October 28 meeting, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker began consideration of a proposed Code Text Amendment that will allow Accessory Dwelling Units in the Urban Growth Area-Rural Residential and the Rural Residential zoning districts throughout rural portions of the county.

Linn County Associate Planners Kate Bentz and Julia Fox told the commissioners during a Public Hearing that Planning Commission members approved the proposal at their Oct. 14 meeting.

Linn County has allowed ADUs in Urban Growth Boundary areas since 2018, but none have been constructed, according to Planning Manager Alyssa Boles.

According to the Planning & Building Department staff, an ADU cannot be more than 900 square feet and must be placed within 100 feet of a primary house. They must be on property that is at least two acres in size.

The property must have an adequate water supply, septic waste capacity, adequate road access, adequate access for emergency services and environmental protection standards for special habitat zones, such as density standards.

ADUs cannot be used as short-term rentals,

although long-term rentals are permitted.

There can only be one ADU per property and the property cannot be divided into two separate parcels that would split the primary structure from the ADU.

An ADU can be attached to the primary structure, within it (such as a basement or garage conversion), or detached as a separate unit.

The proposed text amendment would allow historic homes to qualify as ADUs. They would have to be within the Rural Residential Zone and have been constructed between 1850 and 1945. There is no square footage rule, but the building could not be altered to exceed 120 percent of the original square footage.

No members of the public spoke for or against the proposal.

Because a proposal to change the allowable ADU size from 800 to 900 square feet was made after the Planning Commission approval, Commissioner Sprenger made a motion to keep the record open for a week.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Were told by Juvenile Director Torri Lynn that there were 17 young people from Linn County, 10 from Benton County, two from Clackamas County, and one each from

COMMISSIONERS continued on page 18

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Local News Crisis Deepens

By Stephen A. Brenner, Staff Writer

The U.S. faces a record number of local news deserts as newspaper closures continue, and federal funding cuts to public broadcasting threaten to worsen the situation, according to Northwestern University's 2025 Medill State of Local News Report.

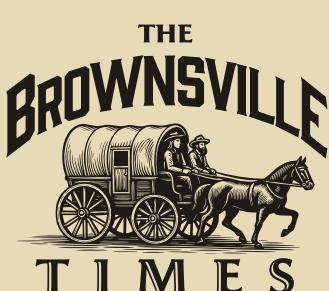
The report found 213 counties now lack a local news outlet, up from 206 last year, with another 1,524 counties down to a single source. Nearly 50 million Americans have little or no access to local reporting. Newspaper closures rose to 136 in 2025, many of them small, family-owned papers succumbing to financial strain. An estimated 365,460 people worked at newspapers in 2005, and now that number is down to 91,550, a 75 percent loss.

Since 2005, the number of newspapers published in the United States has dropped from 7,325 in 2005 to 4,490 now. The number of closures in the past year is on par with what it has been re-

Newspaper Closures by owner type



DATA: 2025 STATE OF LOCAL NEWS MAP: AXIOS VISUALS



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Local newspapers 2005



MAP SOURCE: LOCAL NEWS INITIATIVE DATABASE CREATED WITH DATARWAPPER

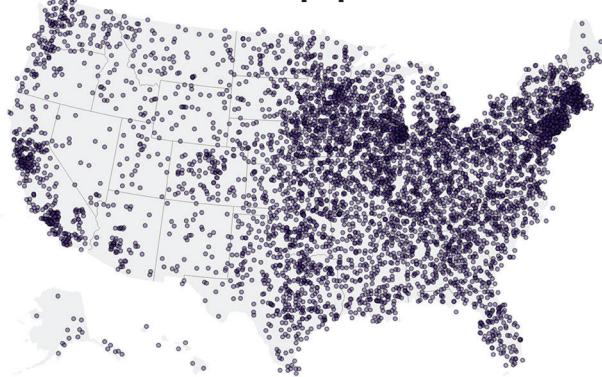
cently. The difference is that the majority of the shuttered newspapers last year were not the result of consolidations by big chains, but longtime independent owners who have given up.

Researchers also warned that defunding public radio could accelerate the crisis. In nine counties, public radio is already the only remaining news source. Predictive modeling suggests 250 more counties are at risk of becoming news deserts within a decade.

Despite the grim trend, the study found signs of renewal: more than 300 local news startups have launched in the past five years, mostly digital-only and concentrated in urban areas. Digital readership, however, has dropped sharply — web traffic to major newspapers has fallen 45 percent since 2021.

“News deserts are expanding even as hundreds of startups emerge,” said Tim Franklin,

Local newspapers 2025



Medill professor and director of the project. “The question is whether parts of the U.S. will be left behind.”

Locally, our own community is attempting to buck this trend by reviving the Brownsville Times that closed six months earlier. Subscriptions are increasing, but we have still not reached the point at which the paper is sustainable. If you appreciate the nonprofit community effort that goes into making this paper, there are a number of things you can do to help us thrive. We can use new reporters, or you can let us know about stories of local people and events. There’s always a need for staffing our office hours. And of course, spreading the word and encouraging friends and family to subscribe would be very helpful.

Rural newspapers are unique due to their smaller, more intimate scale. The people you read about in the paper are the ones you encounter on the street. The paper is more than a source of news; it builds a sense of belonging to one’s community. Please join us in this effort to enhance Brownsville.

This article was digested from sources at APNews and Axios. ☀

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BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

An Evening in Provence Comes to Brownsville

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

The Brownsville Library has hosted many wonderful travel programs these past 10 years. This November will be no exception.

La Belle Provence

On Thursday, November 20, at 7 p.m., Don Lyon will present 'La Belle Provence' in the Kirk Room. Mr. Lyon, a former professional photographer and tour guide, has led photographers worldwide for more than 20 years. La Belle Provence, in the southeast corner of France, is an area known for azure skies, orderly olive groves, beautiful stone cottages with painted shutters and so much more. There will be photographs of the beautiful lavender fields and acres of vineyards, scattered with the area's history. Join our local traveler, Don Lyon, for an enjoyable evening as he takes you on a tour of the south of France.

Other travel programs include pictorial tours of Turkish Treasure, February 19, 2026, and Australia's Wild Places, March 19, 2026. All programs are free and open to the public.

Festival of Trees and Story Time

The Story Time children will be helping with the Festival of Trees again this year. Carolyn Jackson-Smith will guide us in making natural bird feeders using pinecones, peanut butter, and bird seed. Join us at this special Story Time on Friday, November 21, at 11 a.m. We have Story Time every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon.

Holiday Hours

The Brownsville Library will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, in honor of Veterans Day. We will reopen with normal hours on Wednesday, November 12. Other Holiday hours include Thanksgiving Holiday, November 27-29; Christmas, December 24-25, and New Year's Eve and Day, December 31-January 1. ☀

BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY CALENDAR

Parents & Pals Story Time

Wednesdays • 10-10:15 a.m.

A short story time followed by free play together.

Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Fridays • 11 a.m.

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

Brownsville Stitchery Group

Wednesdays • 1-3 p.m.

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

Holiday Closure — Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 11

Library Advisory Board Meeting

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

Kirk Room

Monthly meeting of the Library Advisory Board.

Book Club Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

BROWNSVILLE BOOK CLUB

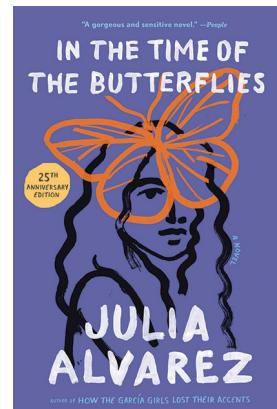
'The Guncle' by Steven Rowley

By Sandra Weingarten, Staff Writer

What a dilemma! Patrick O'Hara, a semi-retired TV star, is put in charge of his niece and nephew, ages 9 and 6, after their mother has died, and their father has gone into rehab. To make things more challenging, Patrick lives in Palm Springs, while the children live in Connecticut. Patrick and the kids do not really know each other, and Patrick is gay. Hence, the Guncle — gay uncle... Patrick becomes GUP — gay uncle Patrick to the children.

As the summer progresses, we see this trio begin to get to know each other, to adapt to the differences in their lifestyles, and to deal with the grief of their respective losses. The story becomes a beautifully written tale of acceptance and love, told with great humor and sensitivity.

At the meeting of the Brownsville Book Club, all members present expressed their enjoyment of this book. We appreciated how the author handled the delicate balance of humor and conflict as relationships developed, as well as the presentation of difficult personal issues in each character's life. Some found the book uplifting in the author's gentle use of humor to handle sensitive subjects and allow all the characters to grow. The book is available at the Brownsville Library, and maybe soon, the sequel.



STEVEN ROWLEY

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 19, at the Brownsville Library at 7 p.m. This month's book is "In the Time of the Butterflies" by Julia Alvarez. New members are always welcome. Please contact Barbara DeRobertis by email at bderobertis@yahoo.com with any questions.

HALSEY LIBRARY

Invites Community to Share Art and Recipes

The Halsey Library is working on several creative projects this fall, including a new student art exhibit and a community cookbook.

Currently on display at the library is an art exhibit featuring work by students from Central Linn Elementary School. Families are encouraged to visit and see the colorful collection created through recent classroom art projects.

The library is also launching a Community Cookbook — a "living book" that will keep growing over time. Residents are encouraged to bring their favorite recipes, along with a short story or note about the recipe's background or importance. Submitted recipes will be copied so others can borrow and try them at home, helping to preserve and share local food traditions.

Librarian Kaitlyn Watts has more seasonal events planned, offering neighbors additional chances to connect through creativity and learning. For more information, visit the Halsey Library or contact at library@halseyor.gov. ☀

THE LONG GRAY BRAID

Did You Forget?

By Annie Swensen, Staff Writer

I have put so much information into my head that even daily incidental stuff, like where I put my keys, is becoming a frequent curiosity. Social media is filled with the good-humored pictures, poems, and memes about old people forgetting why they entered a room, or where they left their glasses and purses. We contribute to this conspiracy theory. We laughingly attribute our inability to instantly remember something to getting old. Really????

"Where's your coat?" I ask my 7-year-old grandson as I walk him from the bus stop.

"I forgot it at school," and he shivers in the 30-degree temperature.

Later, "Where did you put your backpack?"

"I forgot."

"Why didn't you take out the garbage?"

He whines, "I forgot!"

My own experiences in my 20s led to a career, a husband, and a meaningful life. Then the next 30 years became a blur of making a family, raising two daughters, working a full-time job, meeting obligations, and bonding in shared favorite pastimes. When I was overcome by the busyness of life, it seemed so natural not to be able to remember everything... it all just sifted into an order of importance. I expected things to fall off the grid. "Oh no, I forgot to stop by the dry cleaners," or "I forgot you needed cupcakes for school," or "Darn, I forgot to get milk." I was so preoccupied with the fact that we needed milk, when someone asked if I remembered the name of the lead singer in my favorite band, I drew a blank. I didn't assume I didn't know it... I just "forgot" in the moment. "It'll come to me in a minute..." And all the way to the minimart, all I thought about was the band, and got it! Back home, running through the door, I hollered, "It's Stevie Nicks." I was greeted by wide-eyed stares. "Did you get the milk?" Shoot!!!

When I retired, the intensity of ongoing daily activity crashed to a halt. I spent some time lost in hundreds of pictures in a box tucked under the bed... the images of two daughters, family camping trips, holidays, grandkids, and tail-wagging best friends brought back the feelings attached to these memories. I now believe we are born to look forward and live each moment fully to leave remembrances for those we love.

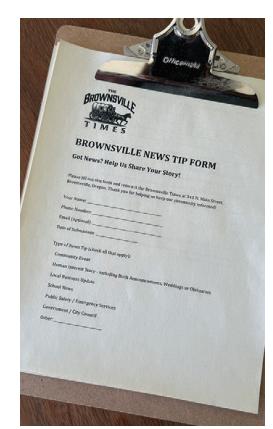
And by staying busy, we are destined to forget. Today, when I forget the milk, I am quick to say, "Oh, well... I don't need it." I am very good at retracing my steps and checking my purse, coat pockets, and the top of the dryer to find my keys. I easily find something to do in any room I enter and eventually remember why I went there in the first place.

So maybe all of my life, I have been learning how to be the best forgetful I can be.

But, to my grandson... I always remember to take out the garbage. ☀

Have a News Tip to Share?

Do you have a story idea, community update, or news tip? We'd love to hear from you. Call us at 458-266-0511 or stop by 343 N Main St, Brownsville, or send us an email at editor@brownsvilletimes.org and help us keep our community informed. ☀



NATURE & WELLNESS

A Hike to Remember: How One Bucket List Goal Led to the Unexpected

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer

My Bucket List is short, but it contained one item: to hike the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) before I turn 65.

I began hiking after retiring from teaching High School. Starting with friendly day-hiking, I quickly became a huge fan. A lifetime of toxic stress melted away as I walked in nature. At age 64, I read Cheryl Strayed's autobiography, "Wild," describing her solo PCT hike. Maps taught me about the trail, which extends from the Mexican border up to British Columbia. I inspired three friends to join me for a day-hike on one segment northwest of Los Angeles.



COURTESY OF NANCY DILTZ
Nancy Diltz pauses for a moment along the Pacific Crest Trail, fulfilling a lifelong dream to experience the beauty and challenge of long-distance hiking.

We could not have foreseen the unexpected events of that day. It was hot and we were tired, with seven miles to go, when suddenly, the hiker in front of me slipped and fell down the cliff. She grabbed a bush as she slid downhill to stop her descent, but could not climb back up the steep slope. How to rescue her? I lay down on the trail and reached over the edge for her arm while my friends held onto my legs. Holding onto my wrist, she was able to scramble back up to the trail. But her wrist was dangling unnaturally, broken, and swollen to twice its size.

Heading down now, a "fellow hiker" blocked the trail. With diamond-patterned scales, he was curled up and rattling his tail fearfully. We weren't going to mess around with a Western Diamondback rattlesnake. Luckily, he decided to slither off after a bit. Then, a shy but curious coyote joined us, following politely behind us for a bit. We finally reached our car, and we took our fellow hiker to the ER, where she was treated with a cast.

Afterwards, my first thought was, "We made it!" Was it what I had expected? No. It was far more rewarding. We had walked on unblemished land and interacted with wildlife. I relied on my own instincts to resolve what could have resulted in serious injury. I felt such a wonderful sense of accomplishment. My stress had abated, freeing me of anxiety. Overall, I had a sense that life itself can be an incredible adventure!

From Brownsville, there are several places to link to or access the PCT, which lies 27 miles west of Oakridge, where services there can provide you with hiking information and access. ☀

Public Input Open for Oregon Recreational Trails Plan

SALEM — Oregonians have until Nov. 28 to provide feedback on the draft 2026 Oregon Recreational Trails Plan, which will direct priorities for trail funding and improvements statewide over the next decade.

The plan covers both non-motorized and motorized trails on public lands and waterways, including hiking, biking, equestrian, ATV, snowmobile, and non-motorized boating routes. Developed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), it also offers guidance for local, state, federal, and private partners.

Trail users, land managers, and community members can review the plan and submit comments online through the end of the month. A recording of the informational webinar held on Oct. 30 is available for those who missed the live session.

"We appreciate the time and energy trail users and partners have invested in helping us develop the next trails plan, which will guide investments to improve our trails in the future," said Jessica Horning, OPRD's statewide trails planner. "Each year, more than 80 percent of Oregonians use trails, generating over \$890 million in spending at local businesses."

After the public review period ends, staff will incorporate feedback and present the final plan to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission for approval.

For more information or to review the draft, visit the OPRD website at <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/prp/pages/pla-statewide-trails.aspx> or contact Statewide Trails Planner Jessica Horning at Jessica.r.horning@oprd.oregon.gov.

TAKING ROOT**November in the Garden**

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer

Leaves are falling and blanketing the ground. Not so good for the lawn, but great for the garden. Mulch weeded garden beds with up to four inches of leaves. Need more leaves? Check Pioneer Park. Leaf mulch suppresses weeds, builds soil, and prevents soil compaction. Be wary of fruit tree leaves that may be harboring mummified fruit or diseases. Maple leaves are great and plentiful.

Trim chrysanthemums to five inches after they finish blooming. Leave ornamental grasses alone for the winter, then cut them to a few inches in early spring. Prune roses (tea and floribunda, but not climbers and ramblers) to around three feet in height to prevent winter damage. There is still a short window to plant spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and crocuses, as well as garlic. Do you have peach trees? One month after leaf fall, spray for leaf curl. Now is a good time to reduce the slug and snail population with pet-safe phosphate baits. Hand picking at night with a headlamp and a bucket of salty water to put them in is very effective and can be a great adventure to share with the kids.

Try propagating rhododendrons and camellias with cuttings. They will have to be kept warm and watered, so the kitchen window ledge is ideal. Cut five-inch lengths of stem, strip off remaining leaves. Dab some rooting hormone (available at nurseries) on the bottom end, then stick them in a pot filled with an acidic medium, such as a mix of peat moss and sand. It may take all winter to see any growth. Keep it watered and covered with a plastic bag to maintain humidity. Another form of propagation suitable for begonias and many other woody and herbaceous plants is leaf cuttings. Cut full-grown leaves and stick the stem into a mix of vermiculite and sand. Keep the cuttings warm and watered with a plastic bag over them. Watch for new growth after one month. If propa-



CONNIE BULL
Don Lyon and Blue spread leaf mulch on veggie beds

gation and/or free plants interest you, my guide is Lewis Hill's "Secrets of Plant Propagation." It covers grafting and so many other ways for humans and Mother Nature to harmonize.

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

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SCOOP *continued from page 9*

Marlene Eagy, Central Linn Class of 1971.



Kermit and Marlene (Eagy) Logan on their wedding day in 1975. This September marked 50 years of marriage for the couple, who built a lifetime together south of Brownsville.

today have successful careers and loving families, adding grandchildren, Waylon, Karsen, Grayson, and Emerson. Today, Rip is the general manager of a large oil and gas supply company in Texas; Kaci works as a dispatcher for the Sweet Home Police Department; and Kole supervises a team for NW Natural Gas.

Throughout their 50 years together, hunting has been one of the Logans' favorite pastimes. Shortly after their wedding, Kermit took up bow hunting. The season overlapped with their anniversary, and for ten years in a row, Kermit spent that day in the woods. Marlene took it in stride, buying herself an expensive gift each year and charging it to Kermit's credit card. He paid the bill without complaint.

Eventually, Marlene took up hunting too. She became an accomplished rifle hunter and helped feed the family through the winter — though she admits she cried every time she pulled the trigger.

Marlene's bookkeeping and clerical skills served her well during her seven years at Central Linn. Later, Marlene spent another seven years working for the Harrisburg School District. She completed a year of accounting courses at Lane Community College then went on to work for more than eleven years at Guaranty Chevrolet in Junction City, followed by several years at CSS in Eugene.

Kermit worked for 34 years at the Halsey Mill without ever missing a single call-in day. After retirement, the couple purchased a cabin on 480 acres in Zumwalt Prairie, in Eastern Oregon — the middle of prime elk and deer country. Marlene even handles the occasional rattlesnake with calm precision and a single well-aimed shot.

This September 19 marked Kermit and Marlene's 50th wedding anniversary, and this time Kermit



The Logan Family — Back row, from left: Kermit, Tammy, Kole, Rip, and Kaci. Front row: Waylon, Karsen, Marlene, Ang holding Emerson, and Grayson.

made sure to celebrate properly. He surprised Marlene with a custom-made Christianson Arms .270 Short Mag rifle — no credit card needed.

Marlene is a member of the Life Bible Church in Harrisburg. She cherishes her lifelong friends: Rhonda Roome Horner (besties since the 6th grade), Kimmie Bass, Sally Ruckert Dvorak, and Wanda Turner Wilson.

Kermit and Marlene invite friends and family to join them for a casual drop-in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, November 15, from 1–4 p.m. at The Pioneer Villa. Stop by to congratulate the Logans on half a century of love, laughter, and adventure.

When asked if she'd do it all again, Marlene smiled and said, "I would do it all over again. I couldn't imagine being married to a milk toast." And Kermit? Definitely not that. ☺



Central Linn's undefeated girls' basketball team, 1971.

The Dirt on Biosolids: Farmland Application vs. Landfill Disposal

A choice between resource recovery and contaminant containment faces Oregon regulators and wastewater managers.

By Steven L. Haney, Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager, City of Lebanon

LEBANON — Wastewater treatment plants produce nutrient-rich organic materials called biosolids, and officials face a constant challenge in deciding their fate. The two main paths, using them as fertilizer on agricultural fields or disposing of them in landfills, pit the goals of a circular economy against the need for secure waste containment.

Applying biosolids to farmland has long been a widespread practice. Proponents say they are a natural source of nitrogen and phosphorus, reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers. Their organic matter improves soil structure, helps retain water, and reduces erosion by recycling nutrients and turning a waste product into a valuable resource.

The primary concern, however, is contamination. Biosolids can contain heavy metals from industrial discharge and lingering pathogens. A growing worry is the presence of "forever chemicals" like per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, pharmaceuticals, and personal care products that could enter the food chain. Improper application can also lead to nutrient runoff into waterways and odor complaints.

For biosolids with high contaminant levels, landfilling is the main alter-

native. Landfills provide a controlled environment to contain hazardous materials, and they are a necessary option for biosolids that do not meet the stringent quality standards for land application.

Still, landfilling is a costly solution that treats biosolids as waste, not a resource. It consumes finite landfill space and contributes to climate change through the production of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

The management of biosolids is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the national level. The EPA often delegates authority to states to manage their own programs. In Oregon, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the agency responsible for implementing and enforcing these standards. The DEQ issues permits and ensures that all land application practices meet or exceed the federal minimums.

While recycling biosolids on farmland aligns with sustainability goals, the risk of long-term contamination demands caution. The future of biosolids management hinges on balancing resource recovery with public health and developing better technologies to remove emerging contaminants from wastewater. ☺

25th Annual Willamette Valley Ag Expo

Nov. 11–13, Linn County Expo Center, Albany



ALBANY VISITORS ASSOC.

The Willamette Valley Ag Expo celebrates its 25th year at the Linn County Expo Center, located at 3700 Knox Butte Road E in Albany, covering over 200,000 square feet. The event takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; and Thursday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission costs \$5 per person, with free entry for children 12 and under, and parking is free.

Visitors can explore hundreds of exhibits featuring equipment, technology, and agricultural products, attend seminars and classes, and enjoy local cuisine at "Dine Around Oregon." The Oregon Women for Agriculture will host an educational area, and 4-H and FFA members are especially encouraged to attend this event, suitable for all ages. For more information, visit <https://wvaexpo.com>, call 800-208-2168, or email info@wvaexpo.com. ☺

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Oregon Building Codes Division Warns of Wire Transfer Scam

The Oregon Building Codes Division (BCD) warns Oregonians about a phishing scam targeting those waiting for project approvals from local building or planning departments.

Scammers are emailing applicants, pretending to be representatives from city or county offices, claiming that a project has been approved and requesting payment via wire transfer. The fake messages include convincing project details and often specify that "all correspondence be conducted by email to ensure transparency and record-keeping."

"Your local building or planning department will not ask you to send money to them via wire transfer," said Alana Cox, administrator of BCD, a division of the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services.

Officials advise residents to verify that any message is from the correct city or county by visiting the jurisdiction's official website and using the contact information provided there. A list of local building departments is available at <https://oregon.gov/bcd/jurisdictions>.

BCD advises never to send money or personal information to unknown people, be cautious when clicking links or downloading attachments, and ignore pop-ups or unsolicited requests for account details. ☀

Dear [REDACTED],
We hope this message finds you well.
Thank you for your continued engagement regarding your application to rezone the subject lands from Urban Holding (UH10) to a combination of:

- Limited Residential (R3)
- General Residential (R4)
- High Density Residential (R5)

We are pleased to inform you that municipal staff have reviewed your application and are recommending approval of this rezoning request. This is an important milestone, and we now require your action to finalize the process.

Invoice for Application Approval Fee – Action Required
Attached to this email, you will find the invoice for the Application Approval Fee. Settlement of this invoice is **mandatory** in order to proceed with the formal approval and finalization of your application.

★ Why this fee is important:

- It directly supports the processing and administration of your application.
- It ensures timely management of required documentation, internal coordination, and reporting.
- It allows the planning department to allocate resources effectively for both your file and other concurrent applications.
- It contributes to streamlining municipal services related to zoning and land use.

This approval fee is an essential part of the administrative process, and settlement is required before the application can proceed to final endorsement and issuance of the formal approval notice.

Next Steps

Please carefully review and complete the following steps:

1. Reply to this email to request payment advice and the wire transfer instructions (if not already included).
2. Settle the invoice using the wire instructions provided.
3. Email a copy of the wire receipt to the designated address noted in the instructions for confirmation and tracking.

Important: All correspondence must be conducted via email only to ensure transparency and accurate record-keeping for auditing purposes.

Should you have any questions or require clarification regarding the payment process or your application, feel free to contact us directly by replying to this email.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to your prompt response so we can proceed toward finalizing your rezoning application.

Example of a fraudulent email claiming a project has been approved and requesting payment via wire transfer.

PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 12



Oregon's 2025-30 Natural Hazards Plan Approved

FEMA approval keeps state eligible for disaster mitigation grants

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) announced federal approval of the 2025-30 Oregon Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Between 2020 and 2025, Oregon faced 51 declared emergency events. The revised plan details strategies to lessen long-term risks from wildfires, earthquakes, floods, droughts, and landslides. It includes new data and highlights community-based planning that considers vulnerable populations.

More than 340 participants contributed to the 20-month update, including representatives from local governments, Tribal nations, nonprofits, academia, and the private sector.

The plan's approval maintains Oregon's eligibility for FEMA hazard mitigation grants that fund projects to reduce disaster risks. It also aligns state and local planning efforts and supports investments in long-term resilience.

Next steps involve assisting local governments with updating their mitigation plans, seeking funding for projects, and increasing public education and outreach.

The full 2025-30 Oregon NHMP can be found on the OEM website https://www.oregon.gov/oem/emresources/Plans_Assessments/Pages/CEMP.aspx as Volume 1 of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. ☀

Be Ready for the Next Storm: Pacific Power Shares Outage Prep Tips

With fall and winter weather approaching, Pacific Power urges customers to plan ahead for potential outages and to be ready to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours.

The company states its meteorology team monitors incoming systems and crews are prepared to respond swiftly, but individual readiness remains crucial. Customers can:

- Update contact information to ensure the company can reach you.
- Sign up for outage alerts by text, email, or phone.
- Restock outage kits (flashlights, batteries, water, nonperishable food, medications) and keep mobile devices charged. Use Pacific Power's free app to track outages or update account information.
- Text "OUT" to 722797 to report an outage or "STAT" to check status.
- Visit <https://www.pacificpower.net/outages> for maps and restoration estimates.

Safety first: Keep a safe distance from any downed power line — treat it as live even if it isn't sparking. Stay away from trees or branches tangled in lines and keep children and pets well clear.

To report a downed line, call 911 and notify Pacific Power at 1-877-508-5088. ☀

BROWNSVILLE WOMEN'S STUDY CLUB

A Day Well Spent Supporting At-Risk Youth

By Barbara Andersen, Staff Writer

On October 17, seven members of the Brownsburg Women's Study Club set out to visit the Corvallis operations of the remarkable Jackson Street Youth Services program. Jackson Street offers a wide range of services to homeless and at-risk youth in Linn and Benton Counties, ranging from live-in respite care for ages 10-17 to street outreach, mentoring, drop-in groups, queer support, and a myriad of others.

We first toured the Corvallis House; there is also an Albany House, and we saw the thoughtful redesign of a classic old Corvallis home on Jackson St. to fit the needs of the program and the kids. We were all impressed.

After the tour and a discussion of the program with Hannah covering the wide-ranging list of things that need to be considered when providing these services, we went over to the administrative office. We packed over 800 bags of supplies that youth may help themselves to at the upcoming Skate Park After Dark programs they host around the two counties. We were led in this project by Susan, who shared her story of being a homeless youth on her own at 16.

Once again, we were impressed with the work being done at Jackson Street and by the people who are doing it. We all came away feeling it was a day well spent! ☀



Members of the Brownsburg Women's Study Club — back, from left: Sandra Saltzer, Mandy Cole, Barbara Andersen, Linda Morrison, and Trisha Thompson. Front: Adrienne Olson and Carol Humphreys.



Carol Humphreys and Trisha Thompson pack bags of supplies.

COMMISSIONERS

continued from page 18

Lincoln and Marion counties, held during September. There were 36 referrals and 188 youth were in the Probation Unit. The Victim Advocate made 128 contacts. Lynn said that the Sweet Home Fire District has received a grant and a portion of it will help fund the Juvenile Department's fuels reduction program.

- Were informed by Ryan Vogt, executive director of the Community Services Consortium, that the organization that serves Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties, is dealing with financial issues. Vogt said strengthening the organization's financial condition is a key goal.
- Approved a request by the Linn County Sheriff's Office to issue a Request for Proposals to contract with area vehicle towing companies. The plan is to divide the county into five geographic zones and companies can bid on the entire package, or individual zones. Contracts will be for four years, with an option for two, two-year extensions.
- Approved the purchase of two F250 Ford pickup trucks for the Road Department from Northside Ford in Portland for \$98,962.39. The purchase is through the OregonBuys program.
- Approved the transfer of .04-acre of county property to Joel and Gwendolyn Beer to conclude a property line adjustment on Country Lane between Lebanon and Sweet Home.

Announced that the Board of Commissioners will not meet on Tuesday, Nov. 11, which is the Veterans Day holiday. ☀

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POWERING OREGON

Grid-Tied Solar

By Kayl Enders

Oregon homeowners are increasingly turning to solar power as utility costs rise and wildfire risks grow. A grid-tied solar system connects solar panels to the local electric grid, allowing homeowners to use their own electricity first and send any excess back through a process called net metering. This setup reduces utility bills and strain on power lines, which are often the cause of major wildfires across the West.

Miles Henderson of Pure Energy explains, "In Oregon, you will always use your own solar electricity first on the property in real time. You export only when you have overproduction, like in spring and summer. Most utilities give you the overproduction back in the winter months to offset your bill, but this isn't the case for every utility. Salem Electric, Central Lincoln PUD, EWEB, and other co-ops only store your overproduction on a month-to-month basis, and their 'bank of kWh' resets every month. How we size the system for these co-op homeowners is different."

When your panels produce more energy than your home uses, that excess energy flows back into the grid, essentially spinning your meter backward. It's a great way to offset your power bill year-round while easing strain on Oregon's electric grid.

By consuming electricity where it's produced, solar reduces the need for new transmission lines — and with fewer lines, there's less chance of fire ignition from aging infrastructure. But one thing surprises many homeowners: when the grid goes down, so does their solar. That's because

of UL 1741 and IEEE 1547 anti-islanding standards, which require grid-tied inverters to shut off during outages to prevent back-feeding and protect line-workers. To keep your power on, you need a battery or hybrid inverter that can safely isolate your system and run independently.

When people ask why their solar shuts off during a power outage, I tell them it's not a design flaw — it's the law. The anti-islanding rule protects linemen and ensures grid safety. A battery- or hybrid-inverter system makes true energy independence possible.

Currently, Oregon homeowners with grid-tied solar are credited for exported power through net metering, but this policy may change. Pacific Power has begun shifting to an avoided-cost rate, which pays only 4-6 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), compared to the retail rate of about 14 cents per kWh. This difference means storing and using your own energy is becoming far more valuable than sending it back to the grid. ☀

About the Author: Kayl Enders, a Brownsville native, graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in environmental science and a minor in geographical information systems. He works as a consultant for Advanced Energy Systems in Eugene and has owned Fellows Services, LLC for more than 15 years, specializing in grant writing and solar business development. Enders also serves on the board of the Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association, helping to advance renewable energy initiatives across the state.

Mazama Says Newberry Project Sets Record for Hottest Enhanced Geothermal System

BEND — Mazama Energy says it has created the world's hottest enhanced geothermal system at Newberry Volcano in Central Oregon, reaching a bottom-hole temperature of 629 degrees Fahrenheit (331 Celsius) during recent tests. The company says this marks a step toward producing around-the-clock, carbon-free power for data centers and electric grids at under 5 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Backed by Khosla Ventures and Gates Frontier, the Dallas-based company connected an injector and a deviated producer well at the Newberry site. It confirmed that water was circulating between them. The project used advanced drilling tools, high-temperature well materials, and Mazama's own "Thermal Lattice" stimulation process to create and map the underground fractures that move heat from the rock to the fluid.

Mazama plans to move next to a 15-megawatt pilot project in 2026, followed by a 200-megawatt development at Newberry. The company also hopes to eventually drill into "super-hot" rock areas above 400 degrees Celsius to increase power output while using less water and drilling fewer wells.

John McLennan, a reservoir expert with the Utah FORGE geother-



COURTESY MAZAMA ENERGY

Mazama Energy operations at Newberry Volcano, Oregon, where the company reports reaching 331 degrees Celsius bottom-hole temperature.

mal program, said the results validate decades of research aimed at linking wells and circulating a working fluid to create power from deep heat.

Sources: Mazama Energy news release (Oct. 28, 2025, via FlashAlert); trade coverage from DOE and geothermal industry publications. More information about Mazama Energy at <https://mazamaenergy.com>. ☀

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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).

Monday, October 27

12:46 p.m. — Caller reported theft at the 200 block of N 3rd St, Harrisburg. Business reported approximately \$4,000 in merchandise stolen by an employee. Investigation ongoing.

7:18 p.m. — Deputy assisted with juvenile runaway situation at the 200 block of N 3rd St, Harrisburg.

Tuesday, October 28

7:19 a.m. — Kaley Corliss, 35, of Junction City was issued a citation for speeding at Stroda Ln/Coburg Rd, Harrisburg.

7:31 a.m. — Niyka Wood, 31, of Junction City, was cited for speeding and driving without insurance at Stroda Dr/Coburg Rd, Harrisburg.

8:05 a.m. — Lindsey Braun, 37, of Junction City was issued a citation for speeding in a school zone Heather Turn/S 9th St, Harrisburg.

10:19 a.m. — Juvenile arrested for Burglary II in the 700 block of N 8th St, Harrisburg. Juvenile was lodged at Oak Creek Juvenile Detention Center.

11:46 a.m. — Sean Thome, 36, of Sweet Home was cited for cellphone use while driving at Crowell Ln/W 2nd St, Halsey.

3:29 p.m. — Caller concerned about possible fraudulent advertising online reported in the 31900 block of Boston Mill Dr, Shedd.

3:43 p.m. — Caller reported a dog on the loose at N 3rd St/Smith St, Harrisburg. Deputy transported the

dog to Linn County Animal Control.

4:15 p.m. — A teacher was warned regarding her chosen parking location in the 200 block of S 6th St, Harrisburg.

4:20 p.m. — Caller reported a theft in the 300 block of N 3rd St, Harrisburg. Deputy began investigation. Report pending.

7:48 p.m. — Deputies addressed juvenile situation in the 800 block of S 8th Pl, Harrisburg.

7:49 p.m. — Amber Kemry, 54, of Junction City was arrested for an outstanding warrant in the 95700 block of Hwy 99E, Harrisburg.

10:29 p.m. — Deputy cleared a traffic hazard in the 30700 block of Diamond Hill Dr, Harrisburg.

10:49 p.m. — James Nix, 41, of Albany was issued a citation for driving uninsured in the 300 block of S 3rd St, Harrisburg.

11:36 p.m. — Heather Bergstrom, 46, of Junction City was issued a citation for driving without proof of insurance at S 6th St/LaSalle St, Harrisburg.

Wednesday, Oct. 29

11:52 a.m. — Caller reported a dog complaint in the 800 block of Burton St, Harrisburg. Deputy issued written warning to dog owner for dog violations.

3:43 p.m. — Deputy responded to burglary of abandoned warehouse in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr, Harrisburg. Investigation is ongoing, report pending.

5:17 p.m. — Caller reported a narcotics offence in the 100 block of N 1st St, Harrisburg. Four rolls of pennies were located near the river in a zip-lock bag. Seized and held as found property.

Thursday, Oct. 30

9:27 a.m. — City ordinance violation was reported in the 400 block of Hausman Ave, Brownsville. A travel trailer was parked on the right of way for a long period of time. Deputy tagged it to be removed.

9:43 a.m. — City ordinance violation was reported in the 1000 block of Pine St, Brownsville. A travel trailer parked in the right of way for over a year. Deputy tagged it to be removed.

12:49 p.m. — Caller reported a noise disturbance in the 35300 block of Washburn Heights Dr, Brownsville. A state agency was conducting law enforcement operations

in the area. All parties were aware and this call service was non-criminal.

12:51 p.m. — Noah Pruitt, 20, of Sweet Home was issued a citation for careless driving following a crash in the 34400 block of Tangent Dr, Tangent. Report taken for motor vehicle injury.

4:41 p.m. — Deputy responded to report of theft in the 39200 block of Crawfordsville Dr.

7:12 p.m. — Payten Guggenmos, 18, of Albany was stopped for rolling the stop sign on Hwy 228/99E and was found to have a suspended driver's license violation. His vehicle was towed as a nuisance. During the search of the vehicle, a large amount of marijuana was located inside. Mr. Guggenmos was cited for minor in possession of marijuana while operating a motor vehicle and driving with a suspended driver's license.

8:04 p.m. — Deputies responded to crash at Hwy 228/Falk Rd, Halsey. Lui Huiqiang, 44, of Melden Massachusetts was issued citations for a dangerous left turn and failure to carry proof of insurance.

Friday, October 31

3:22 p.m. — Juveniles caught stealing from Dollar General, Harrisburg. Deputy trespassed them from the store.

4:46 p.m. — Caller reported harassment in the 500 block of S 6th St, Harrisburg. Deputies advised male of the consequences of unwanted physical touch and trespass. Information given to all the parties involved. No further action.

5:53 p.m. — Caller reported a mental health issue in the 600 block of E 2nd St, Halsey. Elderly female on a fixed income was trying to evict her son. Her son continues to abuse her mentally and emotionally through verbal and text messages.

Son has until Nov. 2 to leave the home per the eviction notice. At this time, it is non-criminal.

6:13 p.m. — Caller reported middle school-aged

juveniles playing with realistic-looking toy guns in the 500 block of Smith St, Harrisburg. Deputies warned them about the potential dangers of their behavior and the serious consequences that could result if someone mistook the toys for real weapons. The juveniles agreed to put the toys away for the evening.

8:41 p.m. — Caller reported eggs being thrown in the 200 block of S 6th St, Harrisburg. Deputy checked the area.

9:37 p.m. — Caller reported a juvenile complaint in the Harrisburg Skate Park. Deputy contacted a dozen juveniles and moved them along.

10:47 p.m. — Caller reported an overdose ingestion poisoning in the 1000 block of Siuslaw St, Harrisburg. Deputy assisted with Harrisburg Fire Dept. A 14-year-old female from Junction City was referred to the Lane County Juvenile Department for minor in possession. Juvenile was released to parent.

Saturday, November 1

10:03 a.m. — Deputy responded to a fraud report in the 34800 block of Lake Creek Dr, Brownsville. Report taken, report pending.

1:12 p.m. — Caller reported a theft in the 200 block of LaSalle St, Harrisburg. Contractor had \$200-300 in tools stolen from a job site. Report taken, report pending.

5:18 p.m. — Deputy responded to a DHS 307 referral in the 35800 block of Courtney Creek Dr, Brownsville. Deputy performed a welfare check on a 10-month-old child. During the investigation, the deputy found there to be no crimi-

nal activity and no concern at this time for the living conditions. Parents are new parents and have resources to help them figure things out. No further action.

7:30 p.m. — Deputies responded to a welfare check in the 37600 block of Mountain Home Dr, Brownsville.

9:20 p.m. — Caller reported a domestic disturbance in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr, Harrisburg.

Sunday, November 2

12:21 a.m. — Matthew Green, 33, of Tangent was issued a citation for speeding in the 23900 block of Hwy 99E, Harrisburg.

10:03 a.m. — Deputies responded to a suspicious circumstance in the block of 33900 McFarland Rd, Tangent. Investigation is ongoing, report pending.

1:36 p.m. — Deputy removed a deceased fox out of the roadway in the 36100 block of Hwy 228, Brownsville.

5:35 p.m. — Deputy spoke with parents regarding a civil issue in the 23600 block of Hwy 99E, Harrisburg.

6:13 p.m. — Caller reported an altercation between father and son in the 25100 block of Little Valley Ln, Brownsville. Appears alcohol and word choice played a factor. At this time, due to limited information and the unwillingness from the parties involved, LCSO left the residence. Family believes they can work it out amongst themselves and come to a resolution.

8:31 p.m. — Deputies assisted with a mental health situation in the 32700 block of Twin Buttes West Dr, Halsey.

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A packed gymnasium filled with community members gathered for the live auction during Pioneer Christian Academy's annual Fall Festival and Benefit Auction on Oct. 25 in Brownsville.

PIONEER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Rain Doesn't Dampen Spirits at Annual School Fundraiser

BROWNSVILLE — Despite steady rain, families and supporters packed the gym at Pioneer Christian Academy on Oct. 25 for the school's annual Fall Festival and Benefit Auction. The event featured classic carnival activities, local food favorites, and an energetic live auction led by Paul Schultz. Students helped run booths, sold raffle tickets, and presented handcrafted projects during the evening auction. "It was wonderful to see so many people come out despite the weather," said Principal Chad Schrock. "The community's support means so much to our students and staff." Funds raised will support classroom programs and campus improvements. ☀

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