

ONGOING EVENTS

Not Your Grandma's Bingo

Mondays, Now-Mar. 2, 2026 • 6:30-8 p.m.

Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent

Tangent Together hosts an adults-only bingo night featuring cheeky humor, cash prizes, and \$1 game cards. Ages 21+ only.

Free Coffee, Donuts, & Fellowship

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

Not Rocket Science Trivia

Thursdays • 6:30 p.m. (ongoing) • Free

Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent

Weekly pub trivia with bragging rights on the line. Bring a team and play every Thursday night.

Karaoke Saturdays at The Honey Hole

Saturdays • 7 p.m. • 10 W 1st St, Halsey

Sing your heart out every Saturday night! Enjoy \$3 Coors draft specials and a \$15 club wrap with fries while you take the stage.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Christmas Storybook Land

Now through Sunday, Dec. 21

Sat-Sun 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Mon-Fri 5-8 p.m.

Linn County Expo Center, Albany

Walk through a gigantic indoor forest of more than 150 handcrafted displays featuring nursery rhymes, fairy tales, and family movies, plus model trains and a Victorian village. Free admission; nonperishable food donations encouraged for Fish of Albany.

<https://christmasstorybookland.org>**Wisemen Still Seek Hi**

Sunday, Dec. 14 • 9:30 a.m. Potluck

10:30 a.m. Program

Central Valley Church, 657 American Drive, Halsey

The youth of Central Valley Church present their annual Christmas program. A potluck-style Christmas brunch will be held at 9:30 a.m., and all are welcome to attend before the children's program begins at 10:30 a.m.

Holiday Concert: Spirit of the Season

Saturday, December 20 • 1:15-3 p.m. • Free

Russell Tripp Performance Center at LBCC Takena Hall, 6500 Pacific Blvd SW (Ellingson Road SW), Albany

Celebrate the holidays with the Willamette Valley Concert Band at a free community concert filled with festive music, cheerful energy, and classic seasonal favorites. The afternoon begins with a lobby performance by WVCB's Christmas Tuba Choir from 1:15 to 1:45 p.m., followed by the full concert at 2 p.m.

<https://www.wvcband.org>**Blue Christmas Service**

Sunday, Dec. 21 • 4-5 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Brownsville, 27910 7 Mile Lane, Brownsville

A gentle, "come as you are" service for anyone finding the Christmas season difficult. Includes music, readings, candle lighting, and quiet reflection in a compassionate, hope-filled setting.

*See page 13 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>**Parlour Tour Keeps It Old School in Albany**

ALBANY — Step back in time with Albany's Annual Christmas Parlour Tour on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 2 to 7 p.m., in Historic Downtown Albany. This old-fashioned holiday celebration invites guests inside several of the city's most intriguing historic homes, each decorated in festive style and showcasing a variety of architectural periods.



COURTESY MONTEITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In addition to the home tours, visitors can enjoy refreshments at the Albany Regional Museum and the Presbyterian Church. Other historic buildings will be open, including the Carnegie library, where a fire in the fireplace and readings of "The Night Before Christmas" will be offered every half hour. Father Christmas will make appearances throughout the event including the library and several tour homes to greet guests and share candy canes.

Tickets are \$20 and available online at <http://monteithhouse.org>. Please note that online purchasers must pick up their physical ticket and wristband on the day of the event at the Albany Visitors Association, 122 Ferry St. SW in Albany, where tickets will also be sold from 1-6 p.m. Guests can then head to the Monteith House to enjoy warm cider and Victorian Christmas décor while they wait for their tour to begin. ☀

Harvest a Christmas Tree in the Willamette National Forest

This winter, bring home a bit of the outdoors by harvesting your own Christmas tree in the Willamette National Forest. With crisp mountain air, snowy landscapes, and miles of evergreen stands, the forest offers a beautiful setting for a family tradition.

A helpful step-by-step guide including how to get a permit, where to go, and tips for staying safe and having fun is available through the Willamette Valley Visitors Association at <https://www.willamettevalley.org/articles/how-to-harvest-a-christmas-tree-in-the-willamette-national-forest>.

Before heading out, be sure to check road conditions, carry winter gear, and follow all Forest Service guidelines. With a bit of preparation, you can enjoy a memorable holiday outing and bring home a fresh tree straight from the Willamette National Forest. ☀

**Caroling by Carriage Returns to Albany's Monteith Historic District**

ALBANY — The Monteith Historical Society is once again offering Caroling by Carriage, a festive holiday ride through Albany's Monteith Historic District. The 45-minute tours take place Dec. 12, 13, 19, and 20 from 5 to 8:45 p.m., with guests boarding the Chafin Farms horse-drawn wagon outside the Monteith House.



COURTESY MONTEITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Riders travel through the historic neighborhood singing classic carols before returning to Albany's first home to warm up with hot apple cider and cookies. The event supports both the Monteith House Museum and Chafin Farms.

Guests are encouraged to arrive 10 minutes early and dress warmly for the outdoor ride. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children and may be purchased at <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/monteithhouse/sleigh-bells-sing-caroling-with-the-monteith-historical-society#>.

The Monteith House is located at 518 SW Second Ave. in Albany. ☀



COURTESY MONTEITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Letters to Santa

HALSEY — Tina, the new Halsey postmaster, is encouraging families to take part in the USPS Letters to Santa program. Children can write a letter to Santa and receive a letter in return. Letters are accepted through December 23.

Mail letters to:

Santa Claus
123 Elf Road
North Pole, 88888

Be sure to include a return address as it is required for Santa's reply. Postage is needed to mail letters to the North Pole; however, the Lebanon, Halsey, and Shedd post offices will accept letters without postage through December 20.

Make Someone's Holiday

Help make holiday wishes come true by adopting a letter and finding the ideal gift to send through the USPS Operation Santa program. You may choose a gift from the online catalog or select one on your own. Visit <https://www.uspsoperationsanta.com> for details. ☀



CENTRAL LINN LIONS CLUB

Poinsettia Sale Supports Lions' Sight and Hearing Programs

The Central Linn Lions Club wrapped up its annual Poinsettia Sale this week, continuing a long-running holiday tradition that supports local sight and hearing assistance. For many years, the sale has been one of the club's most recognizable fundraisers, offering festive plants while raising money for essential community services.



Lynne Heller represented the club at the American Legion Christmas bazaar, where she greeted shoppers and shared information about how each purchase helps. All profits from the sale go directly toward the Lions mission of providing screenings, assistive devices, and financial support for those in need.

Club members noted a strong turnout and expressed gratitude for the community's steady support. ☀



CENTRAL LINN HIGH SCHOOL

Annual Holiday Concert on Dec. 17

Central Linn High School's Music Department will present its annual Holiday Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. in the high school gym. The evening will feature performances by the Junior High Band, Junior High Choir, Concert Choir, Concert Band, and the Blue Notes.

The community is invited to attend and enjoy a festive program showcasing the work and talent of Central Linn's student musicians. Admission is free, and all ages are welcome. ☀

Tarweed Folk School Hosts Second Annual Winter Holiday Market

CORVALLIS — Tarweed Folk School will hold its second annual Winter Holiday Market on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wade Hardware, 400 SW 2nd St. in downtown Corvallis. The event highlights the school's third year and features local artisans, farmers, and craftspeople showcasing handmade goods rooted in traditional skills and regional materials.



This year's market includes a wide range of vendors:

- Jack Rabbit Creative — handmade leather leaf and flower earrings, watercolor cards, and stickers.
- Chris Bentley and Mary Garrard — eco-printed and naturally dyed paper and fabrics.
- Kiko Denzer — wood-turned bowls, wooden wares, stools, brooms, dustpans, and books on handcraft and learning-by-doing.
- Roaming Roo Farm — goat milk soaps scented with essential oils, chamomile salve, and herbal teas.
- Summer Beam Books — curated books for crafters, builders, makers, and cooks, including titles on woodworking, natural building, basketry, and food culture.
- Peace Seedlings — organic, locally grown willow baskets and chairs, dried flowers, garden seeds, garlic and flower braids, za'atar, and other farm products.
- Elderberry Textiles — Scandinavian handwoven craft, including band-woven earrings, bookmarks, table squares, and runners.
- Moon Chaser Farm — organically grown and foraged hair and skincare products, soaps, and body care goods.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Tree Dedicated to Maureen Rose

One of this year's Festival of Trees entries was lovingly dedicated to Maureen Rose, a longtime Brownsville resident known for her warmth, creativity, and devotion to family and friends.

Maureen was a Pollyanna in the 1970s and grew up in Brownsville, later working at the bank for many years. She was known for her quilting and sewing skills, which she generously shared with those she loved. Every new baby in the family received a hand-sewn quilt, and many friends were blessed with her thoughtful gifts. Her quilts remain treasured keepsakes.

Her Chex Mix was a favorite treat among kids and grandkids, especially at Christmastime. Home was always central to Maureen, though she also loved to travel — from Hawaii to Singapore and many cruises in between.

She is remembered as a wonderful mom, grandma, and friend whose kindness touched many lives. "Most of all, we never forget her friends," her family wrote. "Much love — Merry Christmas to all." ☀



COURTESY TARWOOD FOLK SCHOOL

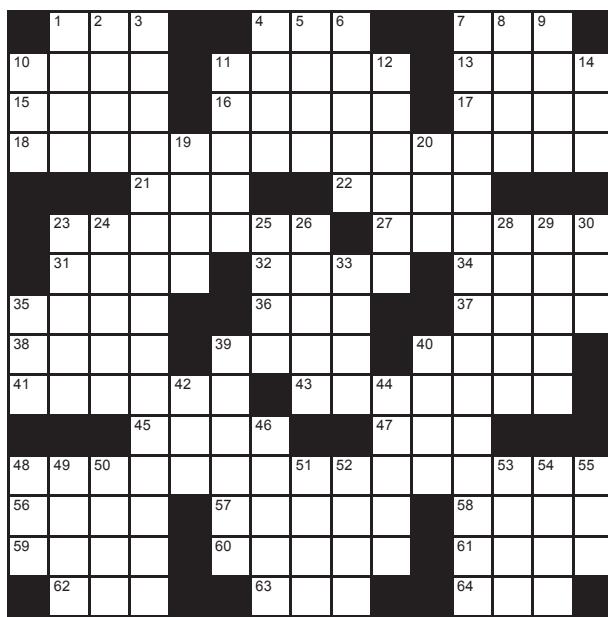
- Whitesnake Arts — earth-pigment watercolors, DIY paint kits, art prints, cards, stickers, and foraged pottery.
- Swamp Acres Wood Works — handmade wooden utensils, bowls, plates, decorative mushrooms, spinning tops, and cutting boards.
- Volehaven Basketry — willow basketry.
- The Reclaim Worker's Cooperative — reclaimed lingcod skin leather products, including bracelets, hair bands, and stickers.
- Wild Yeast Bakery — European-style sourdough breads and whole-grain pastries, including cardamom buns, scones, focaccia, cookies, and bars.
- Ari Drabkin and Ellen Rauenzahn — small metalworks, jewelry, rope baskets, crocheted baby items, and beeswax candles.
- Duncan Ellinwood — handmade wooden chairs, staked furniture, and small wooden wares.
- Rose Holdorf — pack baskets, woodwork, and Tarweed Folk School merchandise.
- Wade Hardware — tools and materials related to Tarweed Folk School classes.

Live music will be provided throughout the day. Scheduled performers include Cucanandy, offering traditional and contemporary Celtic music with fiddle, cello, Irish flute, penny whistle, guitar, and vocals in both Scots Gaelic and English; and Shari Ame, an Irish and Appalachian fiddler who has been performing since childhood. Additional musicians will be announced.

Tarweed Folk School was founded to strengthen traditional skills and community learning in the mid-Willamette Valley. More information about the school and its programs is available at <https://www.tarweedfolkschool.com/about>. ☀



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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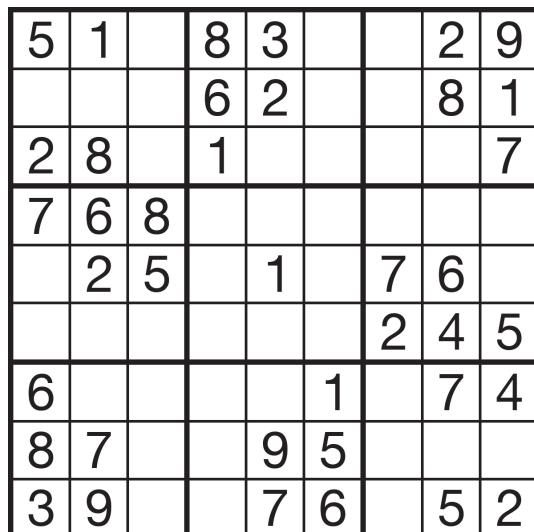
ACROSS

1 Cigar future
4 Sharp curve
7 ___ knows?
10 Samoan capital
11 Genuflected
13 Present
15 Actors Bruce or Laura
16 Daisy-like flower
17 Persia
18 Dry runs of a play
21 Sheep
22 Beer measure
23 Equilibrium
27 Natural gift
31 Flair
32 Minerals
34 ___ collar
35 Ireland
36 Extinct N.Z. flightless bird
37 Filmed
38 Want
39 Heels
40 Solar disk
41 Peril
43 Ugliness
45 Harvest

47 Dignitary (Abbr.)
48 Indisposed
56 Beef or pork
57 Sea duck
58 Oleaginous
59 Shaft
60 Lamentably
61 Bear dipper
62 Distant (Pref.)
63 Parcel of land
64 ND Indian

DOWN
1 Copycat
2 Patriarch
3 Grimm characters
4 Noun suffix
5 Osiris' evil brother
6 Catch some Z's
7 Political campaign circuit
8 Wife of Zeus
9 Spoken
10 Append
11 Actress Allen or Black
12 Attributes
14 Printer's marks

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PUZZLE Solutions on page 14

CRITTER CHRONICLES

Templeton & Piper: The Cats Who Chose Us

As told by Rik White to Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer

We rescued Templeton and Piper from Heartland Humane Society 12 years ago... although if we're being honest, they rescued us. Back then, their names were Joffrey and Cersei — clearly someone on staff was a "Game of Thrones" fan.

Heartland described them as shy. But they say cats pick their people, and we must have exuded just the right kitty mojo. As soon as we walked through the doors, Joffrey perked up from his kitty condo behind the reception desk and locked eyes with us. When my wife knelt down and said, "Well, hello there," it was game on. He laid on the charm immediately — and convinced his sister to join the performance. When we picked them up, and they started purring and grooming right in our arms, we knew we'd been chosen.

There was just one hitch — she was no Cersei, and he was far too charming to be a Joffrey. So, the renaming began. She became Piper, thanks to her unique, talkative meow. And he became Templeton — inspired by the rat from Charlotte's Web and Templeton "Face Man" Peck from the 80s A-Team — because he is handsome, smooth, and always running a scheme to score extra treats.

We learned right away just how intelligent they both were. So much so, we discovered we couldn't even spell T-R-E-A-T or use code words around them — they cracked the code almost immediately. So, we decided to see if we could channel those big brains into learning tricks.

Templeton took to training like it was his personal mission. Piper did too, but very much as a diva who performs only when she feels the spotlight is appropriately bright.



"TEMPLETON" COURTESY RIK WHITE

Once Templeton learned the basics (wave, high-five), we realized he mastered new tricks in just three or four attempts. He also noticed and memorized the pattern in which I cued the tricks. I found this out the day he proudly performed every trick in order without a single prompt. I tried switching to hand signals. He barely blinked. Verbal cues? Also conquered. At this point, we're pretty sure this cat can read, and cue cards may be our last line of defense.

Twelve years later, Templeton and Piper are still proving every day that the best rescues are the ones who choose you — and then proceed to outsmart you at every turn. ☺

Help Sustain Local News Before the Year Ends

There is still time to support our year-end campaign. Your donation helps sustain local journalism and ensures The Brownsville Times can continue delivering reliable, community-focused reporting in 2025. To contribute, visit <https://www.brownsvilletimes.org> to donate online or mail a check to PO Box 287, Brownsville OR 97327. ☺

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SEASONS EATINGS

Two Simple Cookies to Sweeten the Season

By Lisa Keith, Staff Writer

The countdown continues! Just a few more weeks and we are at Christmas! Then New Year's Eve! How does it come around so very fast? Every darn year! These recipes came to me when we lived in Harrisburg in 2009. It probably took me 10 years to try them because I felt they were "cheater" recipes. Meaning that they were too easy to be worth much! Ha Ha Ha! They are great, and I have shared the recipe and the cookies too many times to remember. The first one is the very best of its kind, and people don't believe that it works until I offer them the lovely, moist treat. By default, it is gluten-free. I know quite a few people who need this, especially in this genetically modified age.

Gluten-Free Peanut Butter Cookies

- 1 cup peanut butter (creamy or chunky-your choice)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla

Place everything into a bowl. Mix well. Roll into 1-inch balls. Place on a baking sheet. Use a sugared fork to make the crosshatch pattern. Sprinkle a little extra sugar on top, if needed to sparkle. Bake at 350°F for 7-10 minutes. Makes about two dozen cookies.

Great as is, with a jam sandwiched for a PB & J cookie, with chocolate chips, or even dipped in melted chocolate.



LISA KEITH



LISA KEITH

Any Flavor Whippersnaps

- 1 box of dry cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup neutral oil
- Powdered sugar to coat

1. Mix all ingredients except powdered sugar. The mixture will be very sticky.
2. Use a scoop or two spoons to drop the dough ball into the powdered sugar to coat.
3. Carefully roll into ball-like shapes and drop onto a cookie sheet.
4. Bake at 350°F for 7-10 minutes.

Over the years, we have tried just about every flavor of cake mix cookie and have enjoyed them all.

I hope these easy recipes put a smile on your face and make your taste buds happy.

Feel free to contact me at iamcheflisa@gmail.com with any ideas, suggestions, or questions.

Have a great day! ☺

SHARING HANDS

Holiday Food Donations Still Needed

Sharing Hands is still in need of food donations to help local families through the holidays. Please continue to give what you can and drop off items during regular pantry hours Wednesdays and Fridays 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the special holiday donation times listed below.

- Wednesday, Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Closed Fridays Dec. 26 and Jan 1.

GROCERY LIST

Holiday Items

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



Condiments

- Salad Dressings
- Mayonnaise
- Ketchup

Breakfast

- Cereals
- Oatmeal

Canned & Jarred Goods

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



Please no expired items.

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CENTRAL LINN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Winter Cobra Preview

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

There's a change of venues from fields to gyms and mats as winter sports at CLHS get underway.

Head Coach Mike Day, who leads both the boys and girls wrestling teams, notes that the boys' team is a bit on the small side: six boys, with three of them returning from last year's squad. Colton Hein is the only district placer, with Jacob Helms and a healthy Gradi Spencer also returning. Three new wrestlers join the team: Jeremiah Donahue, Ethan Fuston, and freshman Kurry Travis. Additionally, the team has been moved to a new league with 18 teams from across Northwest Oregon.

At their first competition at CL, four of the six wrestlers finished in the top three: Kurry, Colton, and Gradi took second place, and Jacob finished third. Coach Day said, "It was a great way to start the season."

The Cobras will participate in the Scio Tournament December 12-13.

Girls' Wrestling

Regarding the girls' team, there are eight wrestlers this season, a mix of veterans and "newbies". Returners include State qualifier Hannah Travis and district placers Lily Diaz, Nikki Billington, and Lucy Kennedy. They are joined by Autumn Spellman, Sage Grissom, Josie Steele, and Ali Williams.

In their first action at the CL Invite last week, Hannah finished first, Lily and Ali finished second, and Lucy and Autumn came in fourth.

"Great performance by our returning ladies and a great effort and experience for our younger wrestlers," Day said.

Girls' Basketball

The Lady Cobras have high goals and expectations for this season. Coming off a 21-7 record last year and with a strong core of senior returners, a repeat as League Champions and a run in March at the OSAA State Championships are well within their reach. A preseason schedule featuring several top 10 teams (Clatskanie, Creswell, Bandon, and Heppner) will create a "battle-tested" squad as they head into January and league play.

Coach Wendi Farris noted, "They know hard work, discipline, and a chemistry that sets them apart."

Returning players for 2025-2026 include All-State/All-League Addie Wolff, All-State/All-League Peyton Gaskey, and All-League Defensive Team Janye Neal. Other strong performers include Georgia Wahl, Isabelle Curtis, Maddie Durlinger, and Ruby Nielsen.

Over the last weekend, the Girls defeated Clatskanie 44-40 and will play Riverdale at home on Dec. 11 and at Oakland on Dec. 13, both at 6 p.m.

Boys' Basketball

As of press time, no details have been given about the Boys Basketball Team.

For game times, ranking and roster visit <https://osaa.org>.

Support Central Linn Schools by Saving Your Box Tops

Families can help Central Linn schools earn cash by saving Box Tops from everyday products. While traditional clip-and-send labels are being phased out, many items still include them. Clip any with a valid expiration date and send them to school.

Most Box Tops are now digital. Download the free Box Tops app, shop for participating products, and scan your receipt within 14 days. Earnings are credited automatically to Central Linn.

Every Box Top supports classroom needs, school activities, and student programs. Learn more or download the app at <https://BTFE.com>.

Greenways Academy Partners with Central Linn School District to Expand Student Opportunities

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer

Students in the Central Linn School District now have access to a wider range of free learning options thanks to a new partnership with Greenways Academy, an accredited online school known for its flexible, student-centered approach. The collaboration marks an important step for the district as it works to support a growing number of learners who benefit from alternative paths to academic success.

Central Linn School District is working hard to make sure students have as many options as possible. This partnership aims to retain students in the Central Linn School District, maintaining much needed State funding, while giving students access to learning at their own pace.

Greenways Academy, founded more than two decades ago, specializes in personalized online education for students from kindergarten through high school. Their programs are designed for learners who need a different pace, schedule, or environment than a traditional classroom can offer. For Central Linn, this means giving families more tools to customize their child's education while keeping them rooted in their local district community.

Under the partnership, students will remain enrolled in Central Linn schools while taking selected courses through Greenways Academy. This model allows students to pursue specialized classes, receive individualized attention, and work within a flexible structure without losing access to district resources, staff, or extracurricular activities. Students who enroll through Central Linn can graduate with a Central Linn High School diploma as long as requirements are met. If they only meet the State requirements, they will get an Oregon diploma. Students remain fully eligible to participate in sports, clubs, and milestone events like prom.

District leaders emphasize that the partnership is not about replacing traditional classrooms but enhancing them. Many students need additional pathways: competitive athletes with demanding schedules, students with learning disabilities who learn at their own pace, advanced learners seeking accelerated coursework, or those who simply thrive in a quieter setting. Greenways Academy provides an online framework that adapts to these needs while maintaining academic rigor and support from certified teachers.

Families will also benefit from improved continuity. Instead of relying on outside online programs that may not align with district expectations, the partnership ensures that coursework matches Central Linn's academic standards and graduation requirements. Students can blend online classes with in-person instruction, reducing the risk of lost credits or inconsistent support.

For the district, this collaboration reflects a broader commitment to innovation and equity. By expanding learning options, Central Linn hopes to keep local students engaged, enrolled, and supported — no matter how they learn best. Early feedback from parents and teachers has been enthusiastic, highlighting the potential to reach students who might otherwise slip through the cracks.

As the district finalizes implementation details, Greenways Academy courses are available now! Together, the two organizations aim to provide a more adaptable, accessible educational experience — one that reflects the realities of modern learning and the diverse needs of today's students.

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CENTRAL LINN SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Works to Reverse Enrollment Decline

By Sravya Tadepalli, Staff Writer

For many years, Wendy Cunningham distrusted public schools. After homeschooling her children for several years, she decided to send them to Central Valley Christian School in Tangent when her oldest child entered the fifth grade.

When her son was entering high school, private school became cost prohibitive, and she decided to give Central Linn School District (CLSD) a try. Years of hearing people around her speak negatively about public education had made her skeptical, but she was pleasantly surprised at how supportive CLSD staff had been and how much progress her children made after transferring.

"I wish I would have done it sooner and saved myself thousands and thousands of dollars paying for private school," said Cunningham. "I just have not seen what people are talking about, because it's really good. It's a good school, it's a good education."

Despite Cunningham's experience with CLSD, the district has seen enrollment decline for several years. During the 2015-2016 school year, 638 students were enrolled in CLSD. Current enrollment is 458 students — an approximate 28 percent drop from 10 years ago.

Declining public-school enrollment is a statewide issue. Over the last 10 years, public school enrollment in Oregon has dropped by about 5 percent, with small, rural school districts seeing the highest number of students leave. Because state funding is tied to school enrollment, having fewer students means schools have fewer resources to support the students they have.

Many students live in the Central Linn School District boundary but are not enrolled in public school. Pioneer Christian Academy, a private school founded in 2019, has around 100 students. According to the Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District, which monitors and tracks homeschool registration, there are currently 120 students living in the CLSD boundary who are enrolled in homeschool. Other students are enrolled in online charter schools or other school districts, and the number of transfers from CLSD to these alternatives has grown.

"When you do the math, and you add up all the different people that are doing private school,

charter, virtual, transferring out, you probably have maybe 450 kids here [at Central Linn] and another 3 or 400 that are doing other things," said CLSD Superintendent Rob Hess. "That's a sign that there's a lack of confidence in the schools because people are making other choices."

According to data provided by CLSD of student transfers from the 2023-2024 school year through the current school year, most individuals who transferred out of CLSD enrolled in some form of online school or transferred to in-person instruction in another school district. From the 2023-2024 school year through the 2025-2026 school year so far, 79 students transferred from CLSD to virtual charter schools or online programs offered by other school districts.

During the same time period, 63 students transferred to in-person education at other school districts, with the highest number of transfers going to the Harrisburg School District. Meanwhile, 61 students transferred from other school districts and educational programs to in-person or online education at Central Linn.

The 2024-2025 school year saw the highest number of students transferring out of the district over the last five school years. Superintendent Hess said that at least part of this exodus was a result of the school district changing from a four-day school week to a five-day school week, a decision the district has since reversed.

Hess said the district has seen students return to CLSD after introducing two new programs, Central Linn Online Academy and the Central Linn FLEX Program. The district started these programs to respond to the growing interest in online schooling that has continued post-pandemic.

The Central Linn Online Academy uses licensed teachers through the distance learning center, Greenways Academy, to offer online courses. The program assesses progress through formal grading, progress reports, and transcripts similar to a typical in-person school.

The Central Linn FLEX Program is effectively a homeschooling program with district support. Parents can educate their children at home with curriculum chosen from approved options, and a school district advisor verifies progress through

regular check-ins.

Both programs offer special education services coordinated with the Central Linn School District and offer full access to CLSD athletics and activities. Students who graduate from both programs receive a CLSD diploma.

Rose Leon had originally sent her children to virtual school because she was anxious about the safety of in-person education during the COVID-19 pandemic. When cases started to slow down, Leon asked her children if they wanted to return to in-person school, but they did not want to. Leon said that their reluctance is likely because her kids had been bullied the last time they attended in-person school.

Leon is satisfied with the quality and rigor of education offered at Oregon Charter Academy (ORCA), where her children attend, and does not plan on sending her kids to in-person education at Central Linn unless her children want to go back. She said she is open to considering enrollment in CLSD's online program, but she would need to learn more about it.

"I'd have to see what the rules are," said Leon. "How many online live classes do they have to be in? What is the time allotted for them to finish their work? And what's the content of their work, and how long is it going to take, and what's the flexibility if they have some other activities that we schedule for the day?"

Superintendent Hess said that the district is seeing evidence that the new online programs are bringing back students and improving enrollment levels. However, he said that the school district is aware that it needs to create more academic and career opportunities that make people want to stay. A new welding program and other plans to build out the district's career and technical education are pillars of the district's strategy to increase enrollment.

"There's a lot more choices for people out there, so we need to do great work and attract students and offer them things that they can't get at other places," said Hess. "We need to look at what we do really well and market that." ☀

Show Your School Spirit with New Central Linn Cobra Gear

The Central Linn PTC has launched its online Cobra Swag Store, making it easy for families and fans to show their school pride. The shop offers a rotating selection of apparel and accessories featuring updated Cobra designs — from hats and hoodies to mugs, tumblers, and T-shirts. New items will be added throughout the year, so supporters are encouraged to check back often for fresh styles.

All purchases directly support the Central Linn Parent Teacher Committee and its work benefiting students and teachers across the district.

Cobra gear can be ordered online at: <https://merchlink.com/collections/central-linn-elementary-school>. ☀



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BROWNSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber Tree Lighting Opens the Holiday Season

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

The Brownsville Chamber of Commerce welcomed a large crowd to Spaulding Avenue on Friday, Dec. 5, for the annual Tree Lighting, an event that officially marks the start of the town's holiday season. Chamber President Jenna Stutsman opened the evening with a rundown of the many festivities happening throughout Brownsville this past weekend — from Festival of Trees bidding and craft bazaars at the Rec Center, Senior Center, Assembly of God, and Break Room, to the Library Book Sale and an open house at the Moyer House. She also reminded families that Photos with Santa will take place Saturday from noon to 2 p.m., and that voting is now open for the Holiday Lights Contest.



Chamber President Jenna Stutsman addressed the crowd as Vice President Tishana Harrison stood behind her during Friday's Tree Lighting.

Stutsman emphasized that the spirit of the event is rooted in community traditions and the people who keep them alive. "Brownsville shows up for one another in big and small ways," she said. "These holiday events only happen because our community continues to care, volunteer, create, and celebrate together."

The evening also featured music by the Blue Notes and carols led by the Brownsville Women's Study Club before the traditional candle-lighting ceremony. Stutsman invited attendees to light a candle and take a moment for personal reflection. "Maybe it's a wish for the future, maybe in honor of someone you've lost, or maybe a general hope for mankind," she said. "Whatever your rea-



MIKAYLE STOLE
Joe and LeAnne Erwin prepared to light the community tree after being honored as this year's tree lighters.

son, I hope this brings you peace and warmth."

Each year, the Chamber selects a member of the Brownsville community to light the tree, and this year's honor went to Joe and LeAnne Erwin. Stutsman invited them forward as the crowd applauded, noting that few families have impacted downtown Brownsville as deeply.

For 40 years, the Erwins operated Brownsville Pharmacy and Gifts — a business that became both an essential service and a beloved gathering place. Joe managed the pharmacy, providing trusted care and expertise in a town where maintaining a full-service pharmacy was no small undertaking. LeAnne oversaw the business side and curated the gift shop's signature selection, turning the store into a must-stop destination for locals and visitors. Together, their partnership shaped a Main Street landmark.

Stutsman emphasized how much their presence meant to Brownsville. "Joe and LeAnne have supported countless events and organizations," she said. "They always greeted us with smiling faces and compassion, and they were there for the community in ways big and small."

"We miss seeing them behind the counter," Stutsman said, "but we are thrilled that they've been able to retire and focus on the things that bring them joy. I know I speak for the entire community when I say thank you for your service to our town."

The crowd offered warm applause as Joe and LeAnne stepped up to lead the countdown and light Brownsville's community tree. ☀



MIKAYLE STOLE
Vada, Madelynn, and Richard joined in carols while holding candles at the Tree Lighting.

CITY OF HALSEY

Annual Light Parade Brings Festive Cheer to Halsey

By Larissa Gangle, Staff Writer and Halsey Correspondent

The streets of Halsey were glowing on Saturday, December 6 during the Annual Holiday Light Parade. This event, organized by Halsey Fire, is a tradition that marks the beginning of the holiday season and is eagerly awaited by many Halsey residents. Parade floats



LARISSA GANGLE

this year ranged from ATVs, UTVs, and tractors to large, elaborately decorated semi-trucks. Parade participation has increased each year, which is a wonderful sight to see for the little community of Halsey. The parade followed its traditional route, beginning at Central Linn Elementary School, heading south down West Third Street, turning right on West O Street, and lastly heading north down West 4th Street back to the Elementary School. As usual, many parade spectators took advantage of the parade route layout — watching the parade pass on West Third Street before scurrying over to West Fourth Street to enjoy the show a second time.

Held annually on the first Saturday in December each year, the parade coincides with the Halsey Fire Winter Breakfast held at the Fire Station, a fundraiser to benefit local Meals on Wheels programs. New this year, Halsey Fire also hosted a community chili feed after the parade, giving neighbors a chance to warm up and enjoy time together after the evening's festivities.

Thank you to Halsey Fire for organizing another successful parade and continuing the tradition of bringing holiday joy to Halsey residents year after year! ☀



LARISSA GANGLE

Members of the parade band — from left, Grant Davidson, Angus Smith, Isaiah Ropp, and Josiah Borntreger — perform during Halsey's Light Parade on Dec. 6.

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A Look at the Standouts from the Festival of Trees

The 2025 Festival of Trees brought festive creativity to downtown Brownsville once again, with 26 decorated Nordmann firs displayed across local businesses and historic sites. City of Brownsville staff served as judges this year, awarding ribbons in several categories — from Traditional to Whimsical — to recognize standout designs. Below is a selection of this year's featured winners, highlighting the artists, themes, and locations that made them shine. ☺



Sharing Hands' tree, "A Village Christmas," received the Creative ribbon for its detailed miniature village scene and handcrafted touches at the Moyer House.



The P.E.O. Club DD Sweet Home tree, titled "There's Snow One Like You," received the Nature-Inspired ribbon at the Moyer House for its snowy palette and winter-themed natural elements.

FESTIVAL OF TREES PHOTOS: MIKAYLE STOLE



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Decorated by the JR Farms 4-H Club, the "Cows" tree at Armando's Mexican Restaurant won the Kid-Friendly ribbon for its playful and child-friendly character.



The Brownsville Art Center's entry, themed "Christmas at the Cabin," received the Most Original ribbon for its handcrafted rustic details.



Decorated by First Baptist Church, the tree themed "Gingerbread" at Randy's Main Street Coffee earned the Judges' Choice award for its detailed candy-inspired design.



Carolyn Jackson and the Library Story Time children created the tree-themed "Feed the Birds," at Flat Earth Herbs which earned the Traditional ribbon for its classic woodland style.



Decorated by Joyce Nelson and Julie Reed, the tree, "Blue and Silver," at the Brownsville Community Library earned the Inspirational ribbon for its peaceful winter palette and uplifting tone.



Connect Linn County's entry located at Jenna Stutsman's Hybrid Real Estate new office, titled "Whimsical," won the Whimsical ribbon for its imaginative styling and joyful mix of color and texture.

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 Classes Wednesday 7 p.m. all ages

Brownsville Christian Church

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

Brownsville Community Church

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

Brownsville Mennonite Church

34795 OR-228 • 541-466-5622

Central Valley Church

657 American Dr • Halsey • 503-602-6796

<https://www.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

1111 North Main St • 541-570-2903

Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Valley Christian Fellowship

690 W 2nd St • Halsey • 732-434-3592

<https://vcfhalsey.com>

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

Lonely Earthlings

By Stephen A. Brenner, Staff Writer

I have an interest in physics (as it relates to the human condition) so I was quite surprised to find a podcast from a physicist who was actually able to convey complex concepts in a way that was understandable and enjoyable by mere mortals. This was Brian Cox from the Big Think Substack at YouTube.com/watch?v=KZX_c6zfJ2w. He initially talked about the history of black holes and why they hold the secret to time-space. It's an intriguing mystery, and I'll let our local physicist, black hole expert, and Times staff writer, Jim Isenberg, provide you with those details.

What interested me the most was the second chapter of his talk about the Fermi Paradox. The basic premise is that the Milky Way Galaxy has 400 billion suns, and trillions of planets, and yet with over 14 billion years of existence, we've yet to encounter extraterrestrial life. The question is — Why? Let's break down the possibilities.

1. No one ever evolved. Microbial life has been on the planet for 3.8 billion years, but multicellular life evolved only 1.5 billion years ago. That totals to one-third the age of the universe. Microbial life may indeed exist elsewhere, but it is a big leap to human-like sentience. So, it's a rare, slow process.

2. The Rare Earth Hypothesis. Earth was fortunate to be at the right distance from the sun to maintain a stable orbit, to have ample water, a protective magnetosphere, and a helpful moon, etc. It then has an unbroken chain of life existing for 4 billion years, with a stable life support system, and no disruptive events like major asteroid

collisions, supernova explosions, etc. that wipe out all remnants of life. It's a violent world, and not every planetary biosphere will survive it.

3. The distances between solar systems is too great. It's too far for conventional spacecraft or even the transmission of signals.

4. The Dark Forest or Quarantine Hypothesis. They choose to be hidden or not to interfere with us (like the prime directive in Star Trek).

5. Civilizations live and die, and the sheer time scales make it difficult for them to coexist.

6. The Great Filter Hypothesis. Civilizations advance their technology beyond their wisdom to use it and destroy themselves.

7. Aliens and their technology are way beyond our ability to detect.

Brian's perspective may be dated. In 2025, many believe they've seen aliens. The Government's UAP Disclosure Act is collecting data on unidentified anomalous phenomena and non-human intelligence. A concept Brian didn't mention is that aliens may be from another plane of existence. If our own souls can travel outside the body into the astral plane (transcending time and space) maybe highly evolved beings exist there and can materialize on earth. They may even be home-grown "daemons from our ID" like in the 1956 movie "Forbidden Planet". In any case, it seems likely that if they are here, they will come forward soon before we validate the Great Filter Hypothesis. Be sure to brush up on your telepathy skills if you want to greet them. :-(

HALSEY MAYOR'S CORNER

Year-End Reflections and Priorities Ahead

By Jerry Lachenbruch, Mayor of Halsey

Welcome to December! I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and were grateful for every day and everything that you have been graced with. I know that I am a little more so this year. As we close out another year in our wonderful community of Halsey, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished together and share what's ahead as we move into the holiday season.

December is always a special time in Halsey. Our streets feel a little warmer with lights in the windows, neighbors lending a hand, and families preparing for traditions that make this time of year meaningful. I continue to be grateful for the spirit of cooperation and kindness that defines our city.

City Projects Progress: Work continues on improving our streets, parks, and public spaces, as well as our water and wastewater infrastructure. Our Public Works department continues to impress with its skills and abilities. Thank you as a community for your patience as these upgrades help maintain the safe and welcoming environment that Halsey prides itself on.

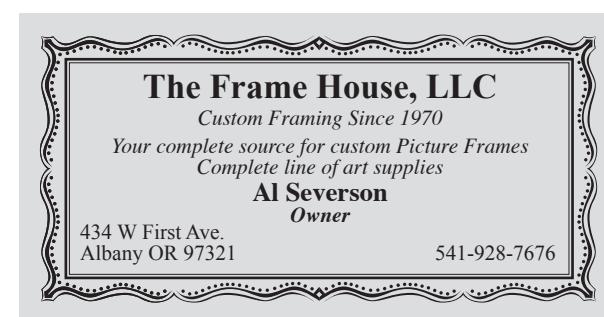
Winter Preparedness: As temperatures drop, please remember to check on neighbors who may need assistance and keep emergency supplies handy. The Public Works team is prepared for

winter weather and updates will be posted on the city website and Facebook as needs arise.

Holiday Events: Keep an eye out for our community festivities and local gatherings that bring us together each year. These events are wonderful opportunities to support local volunteers and enjoy a bit of seasonal cheer.

The City Staff, Council, and I are already planning for the coming year with a focus on infrastructure, community safety, and maintaining the small-town charm that makes Halsey such a great place to call home. Your input continues to guide our priorities, so please don't hesitate to share your thoughts at council meetings, by contacting City Hall, or by emailing me at mayor@halseyor.gov.

As we enter the holidays, I hope each of you finds time to rest, reconnect, and celebrate in the ways that matter most to you. Thank you for your continued support, civic involvement, and commitment to making Halsey a place we're proud to live in. From my family to yours, happy holidays and warm wishes for a bright new year. As always, I remain your mayor. The Council and I work for you, so please let us know how we can help you and what you need us to do to make Halsey even better. :-)



Samaritan Outlines MultiCare Partnership Plan as Residents Raise Questions

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

Samaritan Health Services is moving forward with plans to affiliate with MultiCare Health System, a nonprofit based in Washington. The proposed partnership is intended to strengthen local health care, expand services, and bring long term financial support to the region. Although the affiliation still requires regulatory review, both organizations expect the process to be completed in 2026.



COURTESY SAMARITAN HEALTH SERVICES

Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital in Lebanon

To explain the proposal and address community questions, Samaritan leadership has been holding a series of public town hall meetings across the region. Samaritan President and Chief Executive Officer Marty Cahill led each of these sessions, providing an overview of the planned affiliation and taking questions from residents. At the meeting attended for this report, Cahill spoke with clear enthusiasm and outlined what he described as a major opportunity for the future of regional health care.

"Our communities deserve that we thrive, not just survive," Cahill told attendees. He emphasized the pressures facing community hospitals nationwide and explained that Samaritan reviewed 38 potential partner organizations before selecting MultiCare. According to Cahill, MultiCare stood out due to shared goals, similar nonprofit missions, and long-term financial strength.

Cahill said the affiliation would open access to more than \$700 million in investment over the next ten years, with the possibility of additional support later. Planned investments include facility upgrades, expanded behavioral health services, improved technology, and increased inpatient capacity at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis, among others. These improvements are intended to help Samaritan meet rising demand and maintain access to care across the region.

Residents used the town hall setting to raise questions about governance, insurance, staffing, and the expected timeline for changes. Cahill responded that Samaritan would retain its local identity and leadership structure. He added that patients should not expect immediate changes to how they schedule appointments, use MyChart, or receive care. He also stated that both boards are confident the affiliation will move forward.

Some questions reflected common concerns about how joining a larger system may affect local decision making. Cahill addressed these points directly and reiterated that the goal of the affiliation is to strengthen services, not reduce community influence. He noted that the partnership is intended to support the long-term stability of the health system, improve recruitment, and expand access to needed services.

Samaritan plans to continue public outreach as the affiliation review process advances. Residents across the region are likely to watch closely as the proposal progresses and as more details emerge about how the partnership may shape local health care in the coming years. ☀

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AMERICAN LEGION Post 184 Frolic

By *an ordinary seaman*

We stand now at the close of another year, the ledger pages turned, and the honest truth is that the work of Travis Moothart Post 184 has been good work. We have kept faith with the veterans, supported the families, and affirmed the hard-won place of our Legion here in Brownsville.

And so, we call a pause for the necessary gathering of the people who make the machinery of service run. We have all seen those movies from the '50s or '60s where alcoholic beverages flowed, and social boundaries collapsed. "Desk Set" and even "Mr. Fezziwig's party" in "A Christmas Carol" come to mind.

We aren't doing any of that!

Our Christmas Frolic is scheduled for Friday, December 19, beginning at 6 p.m. We will serve a proper roast beef dinner. Members and invited guests are asked to bring a dessert to share, that individual, homemade sweetness that reminds us the world is still rich. We invite you to wear your festive attire, a bright, ridiculous Christmas sweater, maybe a Santa hat, to help season the atmosphere. And yes, there will be the ritual of the humorous gift exchange (a small gift, under \$25), a chance for a shared, sardonic laugh at the absurdity of the world outside the post walls.

The tickets are \$20 each, and there are 50 available. Christmas is simply a time for all of us, the men and women who have given their time to serve the veterans and the community, to share a laugh together. Because the story is never over, and a good sit-down among friends is the best preparation for the next chapter. ☀



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BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

**Library Book Sale
Ends Saturday as New
Programs Arrive**

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

The Annual Book Sale wraps up this Saturday, December 13, at 2 p.m. The Friends use these funds for many different projects throughout the year.

One of our recent projects was to take The Brownsville Times from 2022, 2023, and 2024 to Cirano's Book Binding in Corvallis and have them hardbound. These tangible books are a terrific resource for our community and beyond. How cool is it to look up what was happening in our town the week you were born? Without these hardbound editions, we would be driving to the U of O Knight Library and viewing them on microfiche. Please come in and check out our 124 years of The Brownsville Times! While you are at it peruse the Book Sale one more time.

Rock Painting

On Thursday, December 18, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., join librarian Sherri in the Kirk Room for an evening of rock painting. Bring your own idea or transfer a simple kids tattoo! All supplies included. We have rocks, tins, and tiles to inspire your creativity. This event is a free program for adults and teens.

Winter Story Time

Story Time continues each Friday of December! Patrons and Ms. Thea said, "Let's do it!" We will have Story Time Fridays, December 12, 19, 26, January 2, and beyond. Story Time begins with songs, rhymes, and more. A simple craft with Ms. Thea follows this. All this fun is free and open to the public. Of course, Library manners are expected, and childcare is not provided. Join the fun each Friday beginning at 11 a.m.

Holiday Hours

We will be closed for Christmas, December 24 – 25; New Year's Eve, December 31, and New Year's Day, January 1. ☀

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BOOK REVIEW

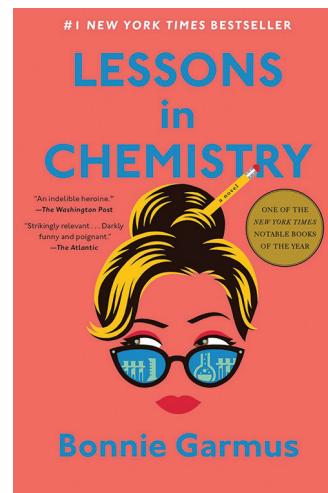
Cooking = Chemistry

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer

If you have not already read "Lessons in Chemistry" or watched the current Apple TV series, you are in for an intelligent, witty, thought-provoking treat. "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus examines discrimination in the 1960s and offers a new perspective on cooking.

"Lessons in Chemistry" was truly surprising to me. A captivating story for readers of all kinds, my husband enjoyed it as much as I did. I admit, I was initially put off by the book's cover. I assumed it was a teenage romance or something along those lines. I was very wrong. This is a deep story that manages to combine chemistry, not just high-school-level textbook lessons, but also the connections between chemistry, cooking, and life itself. The author highlights areas of American society and culture that have changed since the story's 1950s and 60s setting, as well as those that still require change today.

One of my favorite passages in the book describes the main character, Elizabeth Zott, and her televised cooking show, Supper at Six: "Despite



what Elizabeth Zott will tell you, Supper at Six is not just an introduction to chemistry, it's a thirty-minute, five-day-a-week lesson in life. And not in who we are and what we're made of, but rather who we're capable of becoming."

The New York Times Book Review wrote, "Elizabeth Zott... has courage. She's a groundbreaker: irresistible, satisfying, and full of fuel. It reminds you that change takes time and always requires heat."

From the publisher: "Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, 'Lessons in Chemistry' is as original and vibrant as its protagonist."

I recently walked by a golf course employee on break who was reading "Lessons in Chemistry." When I asked if it was a good book, she emphatically said that it definitely was. Shortly afterward, I read the book and watched the mini-series with my husband. We wholeheartedly agree.

This book is available at the Brownsville Library. ☀

KIDS' KORNER

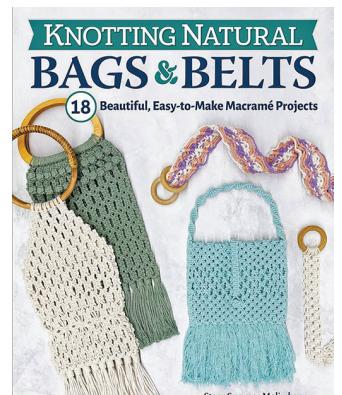
Handmade Holiday Ideas for Kids

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer

"Children ages three to eight can make unique presents for moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, friends, teachers — all of the special people in their lives. Create a Made-It-Myself mouse pad personalized for Mom. Dad will love the peaceful chimes of his terra cotta music maker, and grandparents will be delighted with the Picture Puzzle. From the card to the wrapping paper, and everything in between, '101 Great Gifts Kids Can Make' has dozens of perfect gift ideas that will make gift-giving meaningful," according to the publisher's summary. Available at the Brownsville Library on Libby eBooks.



Handmade gifts for older kids can be found in "Knotting Natural Bags and Belts" by Stacey Summer Malimban. According to the publisher, "Use natural materials to create chic retro macrame bags and belts with a laid-back bohemian style. With 18 step-by-step projects that slowly increase in difficulty, you will learn to create over a dozen macrame knots as you design fashion accessories using recycled cotton fibers and some jute or your own preferred materials such as hemp and raffia. This book is perfect for crafters of all skill levels." Also available at the Brownsville Library. ☀

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CENTRAL LINN FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Committee Recommendations Support Central Linn's 'Grow' Vision

By Jason Curtis, guest contributor and Central Linn school board chair

The Central Linn Facilities Committee met for its monthly meeting on December 6, offering several exciting updates and making key recommendations for upcoming district improvements.

Gym Upgrades

The gym furnace has been fully repaired by Stephens Heating and is performing exceptionally well. In addition, the new gym sound system—generously donated by Boshart Farms, LLC—has been installed by district staff and is “rocking the Cobra Dome like never before.” A big thank-you goes out to Todd Boshart for this contribution.

Major Power Infrastructure News

Pacific Power has offered to replace the existing 300 kVA transformers in the gym and upgrade them to 500 kVA units placed on an outdoor vault. This proposal comes at no upfront cost to the district, with an estimated maximum district contribution of around \$50,000 spread over five years through monthly power-bill adjustments. Considering previous estimates of over \$1 million, this offer represents tremendous savings and opens the door for future expansion in the CTE building. Additional cost estimates for necessary district electrical equipment upgrades are currently being gathered.

The committee voted to recommend that the school board accept Pacific Power's proposal. They also recommended approval of Pivot's Phase 1 CTE classroom and bathroom design, heating

and cooling upgrades for the Central Linn High School office and the Elementary School kindergarten classroom, and the pursuit of contracting with an electrical company to wire the CTE building for welding stations so additional classes can be offered soon.

Boiler and Heating Updates

A committee member recently earned their CL1 Boiler License. The district is now exploring the steps required to conduct an internal assessment of whether district boilers can be safely brought back online for use during the winter months.

Seismic Grant Awarded

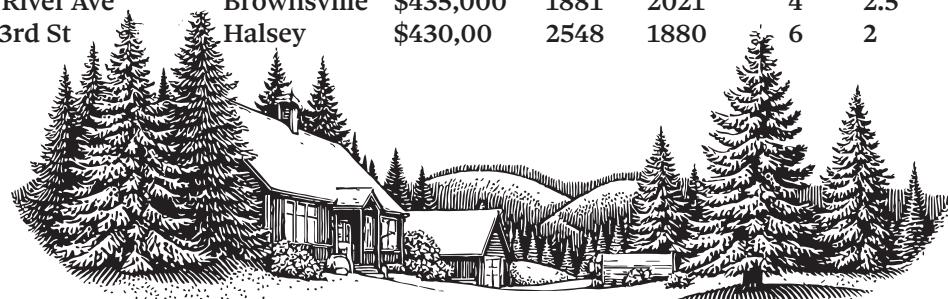
The district has been awarded approximately \$2.5 million through a seismic rehabilitation grant for the Elementary School. The RFP process has begun, and committee members, alongside district employees, will participate in the selection process. Interviews with Pivot and WRK Engineering for the initial design phase are scheduled for December 9. The facilities committee also voted to partner with district administration to help oversee the construction process.

Central Linn's students, staff, and community continue to demonstrate tremendous momentum. With major projects underway and new opportunities emerging, the district is well-positioned for meaningful growth. The seeds are planted, the care is steady, and together the community is helping Central Linn GROW! ☺

HOME SALES REPORT

November 2025 Property & Home Sales in Central Linn

Sale Date	Street Address	City	Sale Price	Sq Ft	Year Built	Beds	Baths	Acres
Nov. 7	810 River Ave	Brownsville	\$435,000	1881	2021	4	2.5	0.11
Nov. 7	817 3rd St	Halsey	\$430,00	2548	1880	6	2	0.32



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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 craft activity.

Brownsville Stitchery Group

Wednesdays • 1-3 p.m.

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

Book Club Meeting

Wednesday, December 17 • 7 p.m. • Kirk Room

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

Rock Painting

Thursday, December 18 • 5-7 p.m. • Kirk Room

Bring your own idea or try a transfer. All supplies including rocks are included. Free and open to teens and adults.

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FAMILY TREE RELIEF NURSERY**Relief Nursery Invites Local Families to Access Support**

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

Family Tree Relief Nursery, a nonprofit serving families across Linn County, is working to raise awareness about the support it offers to parents and young children in communities such as Brownsville, Shedd, Halsey, and Harrisburg. The program, which also has offices and classrooms in Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Albany, focuses on helping families facing increased stress and limited resources.

The organization provides monthly home visits for expectant parents and families with children from birth through age six. These visits can take place in the home or at a public location, depending on what is most comfortable for each family. During these visits, staff help parents navigate community resources, referrals, parent education, and child development questions. Families can also receive supplemental supplies such as food boxes, hygiene items, diapers, and wipes.

For children ages two through five, Family Tree Relief Nursery offers Therapeutic Early Childhood Classrooms that emphasize social and emotional development. While classrooms are not located in every community, families from anywhere in Linn County may attend if they are able to self-transport.

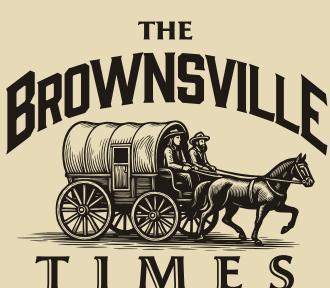
The program is open to families experiencing a wide range of stressors, including food insecurity, low income, unstable housing, mental health struggles, or substance use concerns. Staff emphasize that support is individualized and based on the goals and needs each family identifies.

Family Tree Relief Nursery operates as a self-referral program. Families interested in learning more or signing up for services can call the Director of Therapeutic Early Childhood Program Services, East Linn County, Ashley Greiner, directly at 541-905-7341 or contact the main office at 541-967-6580.

Greiner, who grew up in Brownsville, hopes local families will reach out. She notes that strengthening families strengthens the entire community, and she looks forward to expanding support in the Brownsville area. ☺



COURTESY FAMILY TREE RELIEF NURSERY



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**Donation in Honor of Dick May**

BONNIE BURNETT

Danielle Myers has donated \$250 to the Brownsville Times in honor of her dear friend Dick May, a Navy veteran remembered for his warm hugs and joyful spirit. Danielle and Dick enjoyed many Friday nights together playing bingo at the American Legion. Dick passed away in 2020 at the age of 95, but his memory continues to shine brightly in the community.

Danielle has not returned to bingo since his passing, sharing, "He made the game fun and I surely miss him." According to Dick's daughter, Bonnie Burnett, Dick adored Danielle and would worry if she was even a few minutes late for bingo. Known for his cheerful disposition, Dick was loved by all — unless you were in the Army, in which case he considered it his duty to tease you endlessly.

Danielle's generous donation was matched by an anonymous donor, bringing the total contribution to \$500. ☺

PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 4

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

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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).

Saturday, Nov. 29

7:41 a.m. — Asa Mikai Strange, 27, of Junction City was issued a speeding citation for traveling 80 in a 55mph posted speed zone in the 29400 block of Hwy 99E, Shedd.

8:33 a.m. — Caller reported a suspicious person in the 300 block of N 3rd St, Harrisburg. Individual left location prior to deputies arrival. Information documented.

10:05 a.m. — Trevor Grissell, 39, of Portland was cited for a warrant in the 25000 block of Peoria Rd, Harrisburg. Report pending.

2:11 p.m. — Jordan Owens, 30, of Sweet Home was issued a citation for speeding, 93 in a 55mph posted zone on Hwy 99E south of Substation Rd, Harrisburg.

5:08 p.m. — Caller reported a suspicious circumstance of an open door at a local business in the 800 block of W 1st St, Halsey. Deputy arrived and found it was for the sprinkler room and the deputy did not see signs of forced entry.

5:36 p.m. — Staff at the Chevron station in the 300 block of W. 2nd Street in Halsey reported a possible theft. A customer filled his tank, but the pump did not shut off. He later contacted the business requesting reimbursement and was unhappy with the amount provided. The incident was determined to be non-criminal and was documented for information.

6:23 p.m. — Deputy assisted a motor vehicle non-injury crash where the individual crashed into a ditch in the 34700 block of Harrison Rd, Brownsville. Report pending.

Sunday, November 30

8:02 a.m. — Trevor Harris, 41, of Albany was arrested for an outstanding warrant near the intersection of Hwy 99E and Driver Rd, Tangent. Report pending.

10:49 a.m. — Caller reported theft in the 800 block of S 9th St, Harrisburg. A trailer ball hitch with a \$70 value was stolen from local resident's pickup truck.

10:52 a.m. — Caller reported a person at the Pioneer Villa truck stop in Halsey seeming disoriented and got into another customer's vehicle while they got gas. Person left area on foot without issue and was not located.

11:42 a.m. — Caller reported a sex offence in the 34100 block of Powell Hills Loop, Shedd. Report pending, investigation is ongoing.

3:47 p.m. — Caller reported a single motorcycle crash at Linn County Rd 211/Potter Rd, Halsey. Operator sustained non-life threatening injuries. Report pending.

9:37 p.m. — Caller reported shots heard in the 35400 block of Washburn heights Dr, Brownsville. Juveniles were intentionally making a vehicle backfire and were contacted and warned.

11:42 p.m. — Destiny Damico, 26, of Salem, was arrested on a parole violation warrant in the 700 block

of N Main St, Brownsville. She transported to the Linn County Jail Report pending.

Monday, December 1

2:01 a.m. — Deputy responded to the report of a possible vehicle crash at Ogle Rd/Hwy 228, Halsey. The vehicle was not located.

4:14 a.m. — Gary Dawson, 38, of Junction City was issued citations for driving uninsured and driving while suspended in the 300 block of Territorial St, Harrisburg.

5:13 a.m. — Noel Pettigrew, 38, of Halsey was issued a citation for speeding in the 24900 block of Hwy 99E, Halsey.

10:47 a.m. — Deputies responded to an assault at Central Linn Elementary School. Report pending.

2:55 p.m. — Caller reported identity theft by providing information to a deputy about threats of "doxing" (the action or process of searching for and publishing private or identifying information about a particular individual on the internet, typically with malicious intent) through a video game named Roblox in the 800 block of 5th St, Halsey. Deputy documented the information reported.

4:34 p.m. — Deputy assist Halsey Fire with a smoke investigation in the 31800 block of Hwy 228, Halsey.

6:15 p.m. — Caller reported a license plate stolen from a vehicle parked on the roadway in the 1000 block of Applegate Pl, Harrisburg.

9:40 p.m. — Caller reported an overdose ingestion/poisoning in the 31600 block of Country Rd, Tangent. No public narrative.

Tuesday, December 2

2:52 a.m. Deputies responded to a civil dispute in the 700 block of Amelia Ave, Brownsville.

11:03 a.m. — Deputy responded to a sex offence report in the 28500 block of Ogle Rd, Shedd. Report pending.

1:28 p.m. — Caller report-

ed stray dogs in the 36700 block of Courtney Creek Dr, Brownsville. Dogs were returned to the owner prior to deputies' arrival.

3:21 p.m. — Deputy assisted with traffic control while tractor trailer in ditch as tow company pulled truck and trailer out of ditch in the 39000 block of Hwy 228 east of Crawfordsville.

5:05 p.m. — Caller reported a suspicious circumstance in the 1000 block of W 1st St, Halsey. Deputy observed an open door on the building. Deputies secured the building.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

10:19 a.m. — Caller wanted to report a suspicious person seen on video surveillance the night prior in the 900 block of Pine St, Brownsville.

11:04 a.m. — Caller reported a missing firearm in the 800 block of S 9th St, Harrisburg. Through investigation, deputies discovered the firearm was in the possession of the Salem Police Department. The owner of the firearm would need to work with Salem PD to get it back.

1:26 p.m. — Caller reported a civil dispute in the 37200 block of Sunset Dr, Brownsville. Report pending.

4:18 p.m. — Jason Woodall, 54, of Veneta was cited for failing to carry proof of insurance in the 26500 block of Hwy 99E, Halsey.

9:31 a.m. — Deputy followed a mail carrier in unmarked vehicle to look for possible theft suspects as USPS expressed concerns of being followed recently in the 200 block of Smith St, Harrisburg.

11:10 a.m. — Richard Leland Jr, 58, of Sweet Home, was arrested for a felony warrant in the 39600 block of Hwy 228, Sweet Home.

12:36 p.m. — Deputies respond to criminal mischief call involving cut fences of livestock areas in the

29900 block of Manning Rd, Brownsville.

4:10 p.m. — Caller reported their vehicle was tampered with overnight in the 500 block of Spaulding Ave, Brownsville. The caller asked that the incident be documented and requested extra patrol.

6:27 p.m. — Caller reported a juvenile complaint in the 000 block of E 3rd St, Halsey. Deputy assisted individuals with the juvenile situation.

8:47 p.m. — Caller reported a suicidal subject in the 500 block of S 6th St, Harrisburg. Deputy spoke with an intoxicated male with mental health issues.

2:36 p.m. — David Durden, 53, of Harrisburg was arrested for a supervisory authority warrant at N 7th St/Riley Way, Harrisburg.

Friday, December 5

11:38 a.m. — Caller reported being scammed over the phone in the 800 block of Sommerville Loop, Harrisburg. Report pending, investigation is ongoing.

2:46 p.m. — Deputy conducted welfare check on citizen reported from a family member in the 24600 block of Powerline Rd, Harrisburg. The person appeared in good health.

8:56 p.m. — A driver was issued a citation for careless driving related to burnouts in the 200 block of W Bishop Way, Brownsville.

Saturday, December 6

1:57 p.m. — Citizen reported to a deputy a possible violation of a restraining order from a male in another state in the 31900 block of North Lake Creek Dr, Tangent. Investigation is ongoing.

6:13 p.m. — Caller reported a disturbance in the 200 block of W Blakely Ave, Brownsville. Siblings were verbally arguing over an on-line gambling game. One sibling spent the others money and had lost a substantial amount. An agreement was made. No further action. ☺

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A Hometown Path: Stan Cuzick and Complete Ag Resolutions

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer and Tangent Correspondent

When Stan Cuzick talks about his life, he doesn't talk about big moves or big cities — he talks about people, opportunities, and community.

Born in California, his family moved to Oregon, settling on Fayetteville Drive in Shedd, where he began fourth grade and planted the roots that would define his future. By age 13, he was working spring breaks and summers for local farmer Jack Pimm — a connection to the agricultural world he would never fully leave.

A member of Central Linn's class of '86, Stan's early influences were shop teacher Joel Pynch, wrestling coach Manny Lopez, and local farmer Mac Cannell. Shop class helped keep him in school and shaped his skills and confidence.

Originally planning to attend UTI in Arizona, life took him in another direction. After graduation, he continued with Jack Pimm Farms, had a short stint at NW Pellet Mill, but returned again to the farm. It was during those years that he met Jim Vaughn, a mobile ag mechanic. Jim took Stan under his wing, teaching him the craft and encouraging him to apply at Fisher Implement, where he began work as an ag mechanic in March 1991.

At Fisher, Stan found mentors in field technician Eric Stritzke and supervisor Mark Miller. Over nearly two decades, he advanced to service

manager, carrying with him a piece of company wisdom he still follows today: "If you keep the company, customer, and yourself in mind, then you will make a good decision."

2010 was a hard turning point with Stan and Fisher parting ways. With support from good friend, Jeremy Ott, he regrouped, enrolled in a year-long SBA program, and charted a new path. On July 1, 2011, he launched Complete Ag Resolutions, a mobile agricultural equipment repair service. With help from his daughter, KC, the business grew quickly, opening a shop in Albany in late 2012.

Still, he knew he wanted to return to the Shedd/Tangent area. Local farmers Jim and Bob Lindsay — longtime customers and friends — helped open that door. One evening in 2013 around a firepit, Jim asked if Stan wanted to rent his shop on Lindsay Drive. By 2020, Stan had purchased



Stan at Complete Ag Hose Shop Dec 2025

the entire property, including the house and shop.

Complete Ag has continued to grow, adding Complete Ag Hose and Fitting in Tangent in 2024, offering hose and hydraulic repair services. Across both locations, he now employs 12 people — something he still finds humbling.

Firmly rooted in the community that raised him, Stan gives back in meaningful ways. He serves on the Advisory Committee for LBCC's Diesel Program,

volunteers with Tangent Together's Combine Demolition Derby planning team, supports local 4-H and other community events, and even hosts occasional free lunches at the Hose Shop.

Stan credits vocational education for shaping his life and advocates for expanding CTE opportunities so more students can discover their strengths. More than a business owner, he is a true hometown success story — built on hard work, strong mentors, and a deep commitment to the community he never left. ☺

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