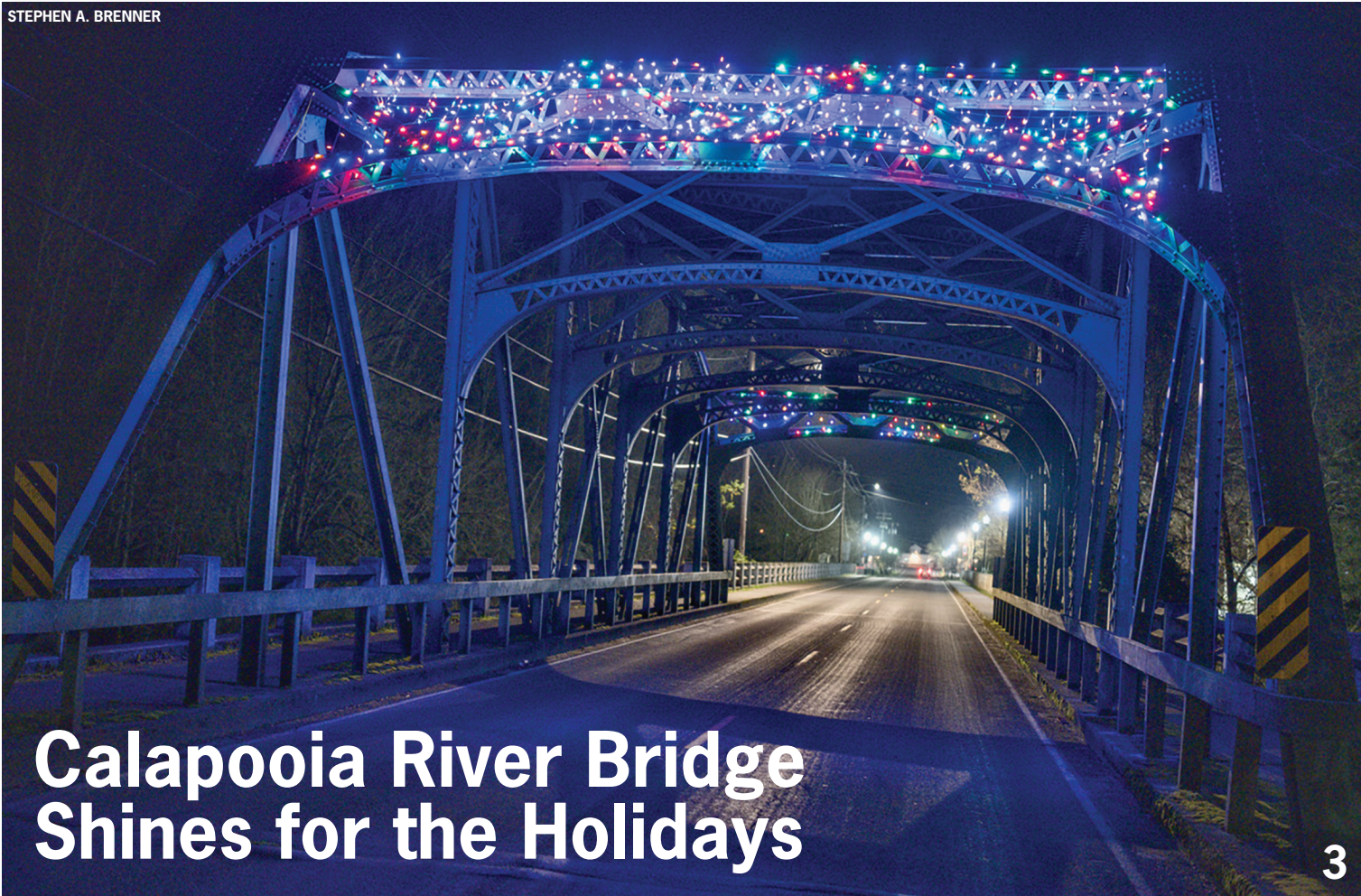




STEPHEN A. BRENNER



Calapooia River Bridge Shines for the Holidays

3

The Calapooia River Bridge glows with holiday lights for the first time in more than 20 years, according to longtime resident Kathleen Swayze. The bridge, made famous in the 1986 film "Stand By Me," was relit this season through a coordinated community effort.



STEPHEN A. BRENNER

Brownsville Lights Up the Night with First-Ever Christmas Parade

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer

WOWZA is right — it was a truly magical night in Brownsville.

Glowing lights, flying candy, bundled-up families, and smiling children lined the streets as the community came together for its very first Lighted Christmas Parade. With 57 entrants, the event was an impressive debut and a shining example of what happens when a small town shows up with a big heart and holiday spirit.

Among the many joyful moments was one that carried special meaning. Ray and Linda McCormick were named the first reigning Mr. and Mrs. Mistletoe, an honor that alone made the evening memorable. But the moment became extraordinary when the couple rode in a 1956 Chevy, the exact make and model Ray once owned and drove decades ago. It was a touching example of Christmas magic reaching back through memory and wrapping it in warmth.

For Linda, bringing her husband out into the cold was not an easy task, but seeing him seated behind the familiar dashboard, surrounded by festive lights, music, and cheering neighbors, made it all worthwhile. The scene was profoundly moving — a reminder that moments where joy, memory, and love intersect are the ones that last forever.

Heartfelt thanks go to Connect Linn County for organiz-

PARADE continued on page 8

BROWNSVILLE WOMEN'S STUDY CLUB

Festival of Trees Wraps Up Another Successful Year

By Cyndi Anderson, Festival of Trees Coordinator

The Brownsville Women's Study Club wrapped up its annual fundraising event during Brownsville's Home for the Holidays on December 5 and 6. Members agreed it was a gratifying success. There were 26 beautifully decorated trees in 17 locations throughout downtown. Having trees placed all over quaint, historic downtown Brownsville creates a festive atmosphere, attracts out-of-town visitors, and gets residents visiting shops and locations, such as the Moyer House, often for the first time. The participating

shopkeepers graciously keep their doors open until 5 p.m. on Saturday so winning bidders could retrieve their trees. Organizers hope this event helps businesses and brings in new customers. There was a joyful hustle and bustle in the town during the two-day event.

The Study Club members on the Festival of Trees committee stay busy for months leading up to the event, securing a supply of trees, handling publicity, finding tree artists, con-



MIKAYLE STOLE

Ameica Henson-Whistler poses with the Linn County Pioneer Association's Photo Gallery tree, themed "Baby, It's Cold Outside," during the Festival of Trees.

FESTIVAL continued on page 8

INSIDE



2 ELF ADVENTURES

HOLIDAY SWEET TREATS

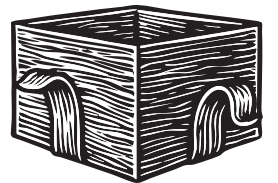


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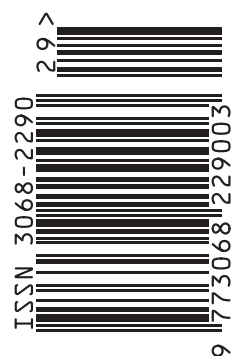
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ONGOING EVENTS

Not Your Grandma’s Bingo
Mondays, Now–Mar. 2, 2026 • 6:30–8 p.m.
Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent
Tangent Together hosts an adults-only bingo night featuring cheeky humor, cash prizes, and \$1 game cards. Ages 21+ only.

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

Not Rocket Science Trivia
Thursdays • 6:30 p.m. (ongoing) • Free
Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent
Weekly pub trivia with bragging rights on the line. Bring a team and play every Thursday night.

Karaoke Saturdays at The Honey Hole
Saturdays • 7 p.m. • 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>

Holiday Concert: Spirit of the Season
Saturday, December 20 • 1:15–3 p.m. • Free
Russell Tripp Performance Center at LBCC Tadena 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 Seven 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.

Christmas by Candlelight
Wednesday, Dec. 24 • 6 p.m. • First Baptist Church 27910 Seven Mile Lane, Brownsville
Join First Baptist Church for its annual candlelight Christmas service, featuring hymns, a devotional message, and the singing of “Silent Night” as candles are lit throughout the worship center. All are welcome. 541-642-3000
<https://www.fcbbrownsvilleoregon.org>



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 these letters to the North Pole; however, the Lebanon, Halsey, and Shedd post offices will accept letters without postage through Dec. 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. 🌟

Christmas by Candlelight Returns Dec. 24 at First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church of Brownsville will host its annual Christmas by Candlelight service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m. The community is invited to gather for a reflective evening centered on the hope and light of Christmas.

The service features traditional Christmas hymns, a devotional message, and a quiet, meaningful moment when attendees light one another’s candles throughout the worship center while singing “Silent Night.”

Pastor Michael Beach said the candlelit tradition offers “a beautiful way to usher in Christmas,” inviting families and neighbors to pause, reflect, and celebrate together.

The service will be held at First Baptist Church, 27910 Seven Mile Lane in Brownsville. For details, call 541-642-3000 or visit <https://www.fcbbrownsvilleoregon.org>. 🌟

MONTEITH HISTORIC DISTRICT

Caroling by Carriage

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. 19 and 20 from 5 to 8:45 p.m., with guests boarding the Chafin Farms horse-drawn wagon outside the Monteith House.



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. 🌟

CONNECT LINN COUNTY

Snickerdoodle Elf Adventure Launched

CONNECT Linn County kicked off its Snickerdoodle Elf Adventure on December 5, inviting families to explore local businesses throughout the month in search of Snickerdoodle and friends. The festive scavenger-style activity encourages children to visit participating shops each week as the elf moves to a new location.

Each time a child spots Snickerdoodle, they may add their name to a raffle entry jar at that week’s business. Multiple finds throughout December mean multiple entries. Just before Christmas, CONNECT Linn County will draw one name to win a special holiday prize basket. 🌟



Snickerdoodle spotted out front of Jenna Stutsman’s office on Dec. 5

A Reader Responds to ‘Lonely Earthlings’

In response to Stephen A. Brenner’s column, “Lonely Earthlings,” published in the Dec. 11 issue.

Hey Steve — I, too, spend a bit of time pondering the nature of existence, how we humans fit into the big picture. Being a numbers guy, I figure the odds are that, in the vastness of it all, we’re not alone.

If aliens have dropped by our neighborhood, they would have to be a lot smarter, more technologically advanced, and probably more evolved than we are. Maybe they’re just curious, or perhaps they find our antics entertaining and are content to sit back and watch.

Remember ant farms? We’d spend hours

watching the little guys scurry about doing what ants do. Unless we wanted to mess with them — which some, with questionable character, did — we didn’t get personally involved. 🌟

— Michael Worthing

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

BROWNSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Calapooia River Bridge Shines for the Holidays

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

Brownsville Chamber of Commerce Vice President Tishana “Tika” Harrison — who also serves as one of the directors of CONNECT Linn County — has spent the past several weeks coordinating a new holiday tradition: lighting the Calapooia River Bridge.

The bridge, which became nationally recognizable after actors walked across it in the 1986 film “Stand By Me,” now carries a festive glow thanks to a community-wide effort. Harrison began work in November to organize the project, with the Chamber supplying the lights and coordinating permitting and partnerships among all agencies involved.



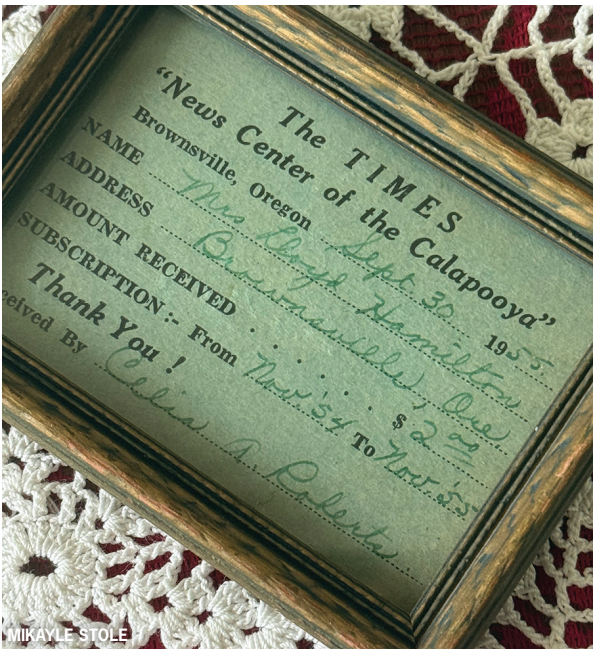
Volunteers and community partners gather during the installation of holiday lights on the Calapooia River Bridge. The project was coordinated by Tika Harrison with assistance from Norm's Electric, Pacific Power, and the Brownsville Rural Fire Department, whose members provided traffic control to ensure a safe work zone.

“Lights are up,” she shared on Tuesday, December 9. “We’re going to test them tonight and see how they look.”

Larry Northern of Norm’s Electric helped lead the installation, assisted by Jackson Royer. Pacific Power’s Todd Hamilton provided additional support. The Brownsville Rural Fire Department handled traffic control, including Nick Drobach, Chief Kevin Rogers, Joe Kirk, Zach Lincoln, Steve Hood, and Jared Sweezy.

Harrison said this first year required extensive coordination, which limited the number of lights that could be installed. But she emphasized that this is only the beginning.

“This year was a runaround trying to get all the bases covered,” she said. “Next year it will be bigger and better now that we know what we’re doing.”



This 1955 subscription receipt records Mrs. Lloyd Hamilton's one-year subscription to The Times, running from November 1954 to November 1955. It was received by Celia A. Roberts on September 30, 1955 — a snapshot of the community support that kept the paper going.

Blue Christmas Service Offers Comfort During the Holiday Season

The Blue Christmas Service is a community event for Brownsville and the surrounding neighboring areas hosted by the First Baptist Church of Brownsville, on Sunday, December 21, 2025, 4 to 5 p.m.

The uncomfortable reality is that, for many, the Christmas season can be incredibly difficult. Grieving the loss of a loved one, financial hardship, broken relationships, infertility, chronic illness, anxiety, and depression are just a few of the struggles that cause some to feel out of sync with the rest of the world. This often leads to feeling even more isolated.

The Blue Christmas service is a softer service with invitations, but no requirements to participate. It is all about making space, during a season that is noisy with celebration, to acknowledge all of our emotions. It creates a compassionate environment infused with hope and serves our community by bearing witness to and offering companionship to those struggling. The service conveys the message that regardless of how you're feeling or what you are facing this Christmas, there is good news and this season is still for you.

This is an informal, “come as you are” service in a quiet, reflective setting. Meeting on Winter Solstice, which has the longest night and the shortest day, is symbolic of our darker nights when we find ourselves grieving, lonely, or facing circumstances that are anything but “merry and bright.” There will be music, Scripture and other readings, candle lighting and opportunities for quiet reflection. Find peace and comfort this Christmas season at the First Baptist Church of Brownsville.



OBITUARY
Doris Ann Whisenhunt

October 19, 1931 – Nov. 28, 2025

Doris Ann Whisenhunt, 94, of Albany, passed away peacefully on November 28, 2025.

Born October 19, 1931, Doris grew up in Tangent, where she attended Tangent Elementary School before graduating from Albany Union High School. She devoted her life to her family and community as a homemaker and piano teacher, sharing her love of music with generations of students.



Doris and her prize Short-horn Bull

Doris had a deep appreciation for the beauty of everyday life. She found joy in quilting, gardening, and canning — skills she lovingly passed down through her family. A gifted musician, she played both piano and saxophone, filling her home with music that reflected her

warmth and spirit.

She was a devoted mother to Barbara Koontz, Ronald Whisenhunt, Donald Whisenhunt, and Andy Paul Whisenhunt. Doris’s legacy lives on through her 10 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her son, Donald Whisenhunt; her parents, Paul Muller and Mary Kreger; and her brothers, Stanley Muller, Gene Muller, and Kent Mueller.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, January 17, 2026, at Harrisburg Christian Church, 601 Smith St., Harrisburg. Refreshments will follow.

In honor of Doris’s memory, contributions may be made to the Mennonite Village Foundation, 5353 Columbus St. SE, Albany, OR 97322, or the Oregon Veterans Home, 600 N. 5th St., Lebanon, OR 97355.

Doris will be remembered for the love she gave so freely to her family and for the beauty she created through music, flowers, and handmade quilts. Her memory will continue to bring comfort to all who knew her.

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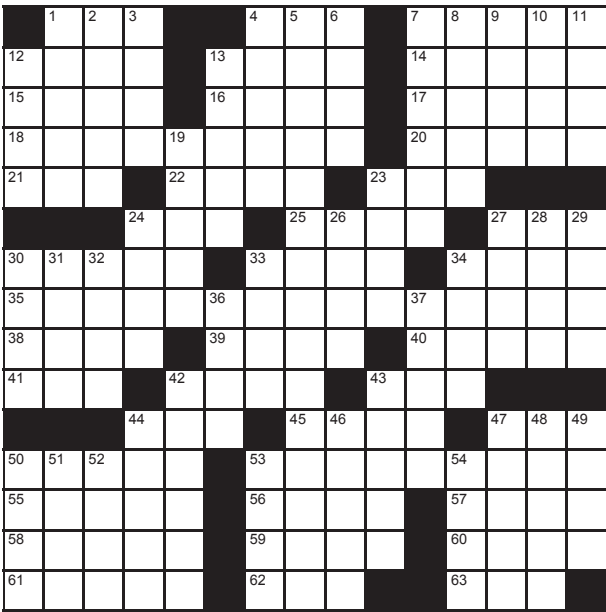
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- ACROSS
- 1 Flying mammal

4 Biz supervision (Abbr.)

7 Senegal capital

12 ____ mater

13 Center

14 Thrill

15 Impartial

16 Toward shelter

17 Quoted

18 Dutch capital

20 Levels

21 Thing, in law

22 Catch one's breath

23 Gaming cube

24 Owns

25 Legal document

27 Time zone

30 Anticipate

33 Buckeye State

34 Card game

35 Solid; unwavering

38 Large and scholarly book

39 Morsels

40 Aeries

41 Fruit drink

42 Mirth

43 Mature
- 44 Noah's creation

45 Replete

47 Used to be

50 Netherlands

53 Coolest

55 Common grape vine

56 Byron poem

57 Contest

58 Oil source

59 Greek god of war

60 Swear

61 Discourage

62 Time periods (Abbr.)

63 Fish catcher
- DOWN
- 1 Find fault

2 Haywire

3 Sharp

4 Forms

5 Man-eater

6 Swarm

7 Duplicity

8 Existing

9 Actress Capshaw

10 Solar disk

11 Scarlet and cerise
- 12 Distant

13 Anxious feelings

19 Muse of poetry

23 Designer name

24 Boost

26 BBQ choice

27 After place and door

28 Mild oath

29 High rocky hills

30 Ionian gulf

31 Golf club

32 Pinnacle

33 Demon

34 Escape

36 People in general

37 Wing bearer

42 Kitchen utensil

43 Gazetteer

44 Higher up

46 Eng. river

47 Interlace

48 Cravat

49 Goulash

50 Footless

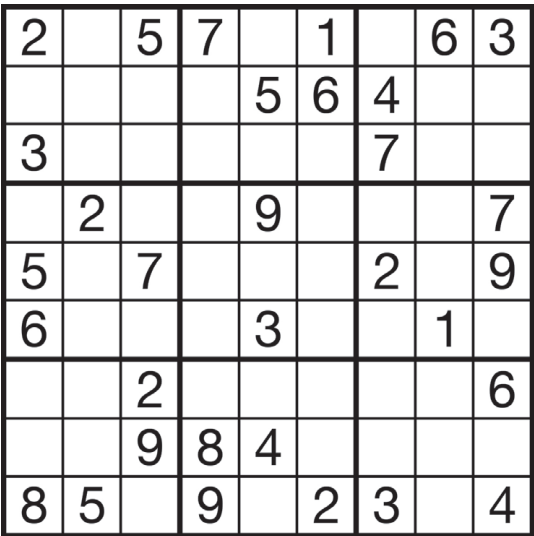
51 Upset

52 Building block

53 Kind of hammer

54 Persia, now

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- LVESE

PUZZLE Solutions on page 11

SAFEHAVEN'S PET OF THE MONTH

Meet Canyon!

A bright, energetic young pup with curiosity to spare, Canyon is always ready for his next adventure. He loves exploring, playing in the yard, going for long walks, and learning new things — and he brings enthusiasm to everything he does.

Canyon has quickly become one of SafeHaven's Doggy Day Out Rockstars. He's an awesome companion on field trips, does well in the car, enjoys meeting new people, and never turns down a treat. With his joyful spirit and love for life, he's sure to bring excitement and plenty of tail wags to his future family.

It's taken Canyon a little longer than most to find his forever home, but the right match is out there. **To help him land that perfect home for the holidays, his adoption fee is waived through Dec. 24.** If you're looking for a fun and adventurous best friend, Canyon is ready to explore the world by your side!



COURTESY OF SAFEHAVEN

Sponsor a Pet

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

About SafeHaven

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

Give the Gift That Keeps on Licking: SafeHaven's Dec. 23 Adoption Special

TANGENT — SafeHaven Humane Society is helping families find the perfect furry companion just in time for the holidays. On Tuesday, Dec. 23, all animals one year old or older will have a reduced adoption fee of \$25.

The one-day "Give the Gift That Keeps on Licking" special offers an affordable way to bring home a pet in need of a second chance. Dogs, cats, and other adoptable animals are waiting for new homes filled with love — and there's no

better time to add a four-legged member to the family.

SafeHaven is open seven days a week from noon to 5 p.m. Families can stop by the shelter at 32220 Old Hwy 34, Tangent, OR 97389 to meet adoptable pets or preview available animals online at <https://saf havenhumane.org>.

For more information, call 541-928-2789 or email info@saf havenhumane.org.

SHARING HANDS FOOD BANK & THRIFT STORE

Holiday Giving Urged as Pantry Hours Are Limited

BROWNSVILLE — Sharing Hands continues to seek food donations to support local families throughout the holiday season. With limited hours around Christmas and New Year's, organizers encourage donors to give early to ensure shelves remain stocked during this busy time.

Food donations may be dropped off during regular pantry hours on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., as well as during special holiday donation times on Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Wednesday, Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The pantry will be closed on Friday, Dec. 26, and Friday, Jan. 1.

Community members are reminded that even small contributions make a difference, especially as the holidays approach and needs increase.

In addition to donating food, residents are encouraged to shop the Sharing Hands Thrift Store for holiday decorating essentials. The store offers affordable seasonal decor while supporting Sharing Hands' programs and services.

Thrift store hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The store will close early at 1 p.m. on Dec. 24 and will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



MIKAYLE STOLE

Blown glass ice skate ornaments are among the holiday treasures available at the Sharing Hands Thrift Store, where every purchase helps support local families.

Giving early and shopping locally helps Sharing Hands continue its mission of supporting neighbors in need throughout the holiday season.

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)
- ☐Salad Dressings

☐Mayonnaise

☐Ketchup
- ☐Cereals

☐Oatmeal

Canned & Jarred Goods

- ☐Dinty Moore Beef Stew

☐Kraft Mac and Cheese (individual cups)

☐Soups

☐Jellies

☐Syrup

☐Juice



Please no expired items.

WIDOWS' BRIGADE

Finding Yourself

By Mary Canady, Staff Writer

Have you ever thought about who you are? We are many things in our lifetime, and our responsibilities often determine who we are. Many people who lose a spouse suddenly find themselves trying to define who they are now. Our life is spent being a spouse, a parent, a grandparent, a daughter or son, an aunt or uncle. Our friends are usually people whom both spouses know, a coworker, maybe a parent of your children's friends. But who are you really?

After the loss of a spouse, those people you socialized with don't intend to, but often end up not calling or including you in things you did as a couple or as a parent. Many people don't know what to say or even how to help.

Many of us often hear phrases such as you're different, you're not the same person you were before your spouse passed. Frequently, we ourselves withdraw from our former life. We feel like a third wheel, or it's too painful to do those things we used to do with our spouse.

I know that in the past seven years, I have often felt that way. I have even said to others, "I lost my identity, who am I?" Many other widows have shared these same thoughts and experiences.

Would I change the past and how I look at my life? Yes and no. I had a wonderful spouse and life. The only thing I would change is to add "me time" to my life; I would have insisted we both take "me time".

My "me time" is going off on my own, creating a life that does not include your spouse or the rest of your family — taking time to explore your interests and taking a class to learn something new. Develop a social life that is yours. Then, when the inevitable does happen, you will have the one thing that is you and will remain a constant in the new life you will suddenly be traveling alone.

As always, the Widow's Brigade is here to support the widows in our community. We meet on the third Thursday at Central Valley Church at 1:30 pm. However, for this holiday, we have moved our December meeting to Dec. 20 in the Community Room at City Hall in Brownsville. We will meet at noon for a potluck and gift exchange. Gift exchange is bringing a gift under \$20, receiving a gift in return. Call Mary at 541-401-4738 with questions or for more information. ☼





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Rob Reiner's Lasting Connection to Brownsville

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer

Brownsville, Oregon holds a unique place in film history thanks to director Rob Reiner, whose 1986 coming-of-age classic "Stand By Me" transformed the small Linn County town into the fictional Castle Rock, Maine. While the story was based on a Stephen King novella, it was Brownsville's landscape, charm, and authenticity that brought the film to life.

Reiner chose Brownsville for its historic downtown, quiet neighborhoods, and surrounding countryside — features that perfectly captured the timeless feel of a 1950s boyhood adventure. Filming locations included Pioneer Park, the Calapooia River, and the now-iconic railroad trestle, which became the setting for one of the movie's most suspenseful scenes.

During filming, Brownsville residents witnessed Hollywood up close, with a young cast that included Wil Wheaton, River Phoenix, Corey Feldman, and Jerry O'Connell. The production left a lasting impression on the community, and many locals still share memories of those days when their town briefly became a movie set.

Nearly forty years later, "Stand By Me" remains one of Rob Reiner's most beloved films, and Brownsville remains inseparable from its legacy. Fans from around the world continue to visit, drawn by a story about friendship, courage, and growing up — one that forever linked a small Oregon town to a cinematic classic.

Brownsville is mourning the loss of Rob Reiner and his wife, Michele, who were found dead in their Brentwood home on Sunday.

Editor's note: At press time, the New York Times reported that a son of Rob Reiner and Michele Singer Reiner had been arrested following the couple's deaths at their Brentwood, California, home. According to law enforcement officials cited by the New York Times, the couple was found stabbed on Sunday in what police are investigating as an apparent homicide. The son, Nick Reiner, 32, was arrested Sunday night and was being held in Los Angeles County jail on \$4 million bail. No additional details regarding charges had been released. The investigation remains ongoing. ☼

Rob Reiner at the 2016 Montclair Film Festival. Photo by Neil Grabowsky, CC BY-SA 2.0, Wikimedia Commons.

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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.cvchalsey.com>
Sunday Corporate Service 8 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. (during school year)
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
Monday Prayer 7–8 p.m.
Wednesday Community Coffee & Donuts 9:30 a.m.

Crawfordsville Calvary Chapel
38353 Glass St • 541-730-4519
<https://www.crawfordsvillecc.org>
Sunday Service 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Brownsville
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<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://harvesttrbc.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
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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
690 W 2nd St • Halsey • 732-434-3592
<https://vcfhalsey.com>
Sunday Service 10 a.m. & Wednesdays 7:15 p.m.

SEASONS EATINGS

Old-Favorite Sweets for the Holiday Season

By Lisa Keith, Staff Writer

I am so thrilled that you like my contributions to our little paper! You all are so sweet with your compliments when I see you out and about. Here are a couple more recipes for treats that have been favorites for years. I know you all have versions of these, and I'd love for you to share yours so I can compare. The first is a Soda Cracker Toffee that my first mother-in-law, Evelyn McGillivray, gave

me in 1995. I have tried just about every kind of cracker for this: butter, water, pretzels, graham, and they all work splendidly. The second is for a hard-to-resist Crackly Corn from my dear friend Dedee's great grandma in 1999. As always, feel free to send me an email at iamchefflisa@gmail.com with any ideas, suggestions, or questions. Have a great holiday! 🍪



Tip: Works well with butter, water, pretzel or graham crackers.

Recipe from Lisa Keith

Soda Cracker Toffee

INGREDIENTS

Enough crackers to line a cookie sheet (40+)
1 cup butter (no margarine: too watery)
1 cup chopped and toasted nuts
1 cup brown sugar
1 pkg chocolate chips

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Line a cookie sheet with foil or parchment paper, then spray it with non-stick spray.
2. Then line with a single layer of your choice of crackers.
3. Combine butter and sugar in a saucepan and boil for 3 minutes. Pour evenly over crackers and spread as needed to reach the edges.
4. Bake at 350°F for 5 minutes.
5. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with chocolate, then nuts.
6. Return to the oven to melt the chocolate if needed.
7. Cut while warm or let chill and break into random-sized chunks.

Crackly Corn

Makes one pound

INGREDIENTS

4 qt freshly popped corn
1 cup sugar
½ cup butter
½ cup dark corn syrup (can sub honey, agave, maple, or golden syrup)
½ tsp salt
½ tsp vanilla

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix everything but the popcorn in a saucepan, then cook over medium heat, boiling for 5 minutes.
2. Pour over popped corn and stir well.
3. Bake for 1 hour at 250°F. Stirring every 15 minutes.
4. Upon removal from the oven, stir again.

Recipe from Lisa Keith



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TABLE TALK: DINING IN AND AROUND BROWNSVILLE

Relaxed, Refined, and Tasty: Allred Bites + Bar Review

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

Allred Bites + Bar in Newport caught my eye while my wife and I were in town for what we hoped would be a simple beach day. It turned out to be cold and windy, so we searched for a good place to warm up and get a bite to eat. The Allred came up as a newer option promising relaxed yet refined dining with an ocean view, so we decided to try it.



The restaurant sits in the lobby of the Allred Hotel at 155 SW Elizabeth Street. The setup spans two levels, with couches, lounge chairs, booths, and regular tables. There is also a veranda outside with fire pits. Nearly every seat faces the Pacific or the Yaquina Head Lighthouse, and we were able to get a window spot with a clear view of the water.



PHOTOS BY JEFF BROWN



Their website describes the menu as Pacific Northwest-focused, with small plates, cocktails, and local beer served. The atmosphere matched that idea. It felt casual but with enough polish to still feel like a treat.

Makayla was our server, and she took good care of us without hovering. My wife ordered the Halibut Tacos. I wasn't very hungry, so I went with the Bacon Deviled Eggs, hoping for something light but interesting. I ended up with three stuffed deviled eggs topped with bacon, just as the menu promised. The flavors were surprisingly bold for such a simple dish, and I'd order them again. My wife's tacos were fresh, well-seasoned, and a clear standout.

Before leaving, we even checked out the hotel rooms for a future overnight visit.

All told, Allred Bites + Bar lived up to what we hoped for. The food was solid, the service was good, and the setting made the meal that much better. If you're in Newport and want a relaxed place with a view, it's worth stopping in. We were very satisfied and plan to return.

Calapooia Watershed Council Receives OCF Community Grant

BROWNSVILLE — The Calapooia Watershed Council is among the recipients of Oregon Community Foundation's Fall 2025 Community Grants, receiving funding to expand its freshwater snorkeling program serving youth involved with the Linn County Juvenile Department.

The grant will support the hiring of an eco-wellness instructor to strengthen the hands-on environmental education program, which introduces students to native fish, stream ecology, and watershed health through guided snorkeling experiences in local waterways.

"As an environmental science teacher, I can think of few programs that have been as valuable and impactful on so many levels as the snorkeling program," said Gareth Engler, a West Albany High School teacher. "The evolution of their understanding of the connections between the life below the surface, the surrounding forest, and themselves is exactly what environmental science is about."

Students who have participated echo that enthusiasm. "After we got back to school, everyone could not stop talking about how great it was," said Gracie, a fifth-grade student.

The funding comes through Oregon Community Foundation's Community Grants program, which supports organizations across the state working to strengthen education, environmental stewardship, health, and community well-being.

For Calapooia Watershed Council, the grant reinforces its mission to connect people, especially youth with the natural systems that sustain the Calapooia River and surrounding watershed. More about the council can be found online at <https://www.calapooia.org>.



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PARADE *continued from cover*

ing the parade, to Dave Erickson for generously providing the unforgettable car, and to every volunteer, participant, and organizer who helped turn an idea into a night full of laughter, connection, and lasting memories.

Brownsville didn't just sleigh it — the town wrapped itself in Christmas spirit and reminded everyone why small-town moments matter so much. To see a highlights reel visit <https://youtu.be/wE4cpdwdW8A>. 🎅



STEPHEN A. BRENNER



STEPHEN A. BRENNER



STEPHEN A. BRENNER



SHARON K. BANKS



STEPHEN A. BRENNER

FESTIVAL *continued from cover*

tacting host locations, and more to put on a successful fundraiser and fun event for the community. It also takes many additional volunteers to get everything done, from staffing the Moyer House to collecting bids. The committee would like to thank Norm Simms from Brownsville's American Legion Post 184 for showing up to trim butts off trees to ensure ultimate freshness and trim up limbs, so they fit in the stands. And for the 5th year, Randy Massey, Jeb DeZurney, and Rodney Roccodero, with extra help this year from Tonya Wingren, volunteered as integral members of the tree delivery teams to carry the 26 trees all over downtown, helping to get trees in stands, straight and secure.

What would a festival of trees be without tree artists? These individuals and groups transformed the lovely Nordmann fir trees into elaborate works of art. The decorators invest time, money, and creative talents all for the community's good.

City staff Jannea Deaver and (retired) Carol Humphreys al-

ways take on the difficult task of creating categories for judging the decorated trees and carefully surveying all the trees in their 17 locations to receive their awards. Jannea and Carol handcraft the award ribbons, and they are truly keepsake ornaments. The award categories and recipients were listed in last week's edition of The Brownsville Times.

The organizers usually have a student organization from Central Linn High School help the winning bidders to package, carry, and load the trees, and give their organization \$100 for their service. Unable to interest a school group in the task this year, Kyle Olson and his son, Luke, stepped up to take it on and stayed very busy helping to prep the trees for transport and carefully carried and loaded them into recipients' vehicles. Any groups interested in doing that next year, please get in touch with the Festival of Trees coordinator, Cyndi Anderson (541-570-1055). The committee would like to utilize hometown kid-power and support a Central Linn High School group with a donation.

Finally, the Brownsville Women's Study Club thanks all bidders, especially the winning bidders. They were able to take beautiful trees home and make it possible for the organization to donate almost \$1400 to both Sharing Hands for their food bank and the Brownsville Community Library, which the group has supported since 1911. With expenses paid, the 2025 fundraiser brought in over \$4000. The Brownsville Women's Study Club members thank the community for making this possible. 🎅



MIKAYLE STOLE

The Central Linn Early Literacy Program's Candyland-themed tree and coordinating gift basket on display at the Brownsville Community Library.



The Central Linn Recreation Association's Sandlot-themed tree at the Brownsville Recreation Center.



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Who Is Santa?

By Ira L. White, guest contributor

I was busy in the kitchen making hot chocolate for three chilled girls who had just come in from the cold to admire the Christmas tree in the living room while warming up. While I busied myself with retrieving mugs from the cupboard and carefully heating the milk, I heard the children talking about the holiday that was soon approaching. My daughter, Chrysalis, at eight, the oldest of the three, began the conversation: "I sure hope Santa brings me the My Little Pony bike." Her friend, a couple of months younger than her said, "I want the new Barbie. I hope Santa brings it to me." "Santa isn't going to bring anything because there is no Santa," said Amethyst, my other daughter, who at six was the youngest of the three.

Recognizing that a debate of great importance was about to take place, I took my time making the hot chocolate. This was something I wanted to hear. "Who brings us all the presents?" asked Chrysalis' friend. "It isn't Santa!" exclaimed Amethyst. "Well," said Chrysalis in a serious tone. "Santa writes us notes every Christmas. There is a Santa Claus. You don't know what you are talking about." "Santa doesn't write those notes. There is no Santa Claus," said Amethyst with a smug expression on her face that meant she was ready to drop a bomb. "There is too a Santa!" burst in Chrysalis' friend. "Yes there is," said Chrysalis with an all-knowing tone, "and if you don't watch it, he won't bring you any presents."

"I'll get presents, all right," smiled Amethyst shaking her head up and down emphatically. "No you won't!" the other two girls yelled at the same time. "Yes I will," Amethyst replied coolly. "If there is no Santa, who brings us the presents?" challenged Chrysalis. "Mom and Dad," was Amethyst's reply. "I don't think so," said Chrysalis. "What about the letters? Who writes the letters to us every Christmas?" "Dad," said Amethyst with her smug little smile. "And I can prove it!" "OK, go ahead and prove it," retorted Chrysalis confident there was no proof in the world that would undo her belief in Santa Claus.

This challenge had to be met head-on. Amethyst trotted off to the girls' bedroom. We could hear her rummaging around in there searching for something. I just entered the living room with a tray of mugs filled with steaming hot chocolate and some Christmas cookies stacked neatly on the side when Amethyst popped out of the bedroom, waving a vaguely familiar sheet of paper. "This is the letter I got last Christmas, right?" Amethyst showed the letter all around, and the other girls nodded as they agreed to its authenticity. "Santa," she continued, "Did not write this letter. Daddy did."

"NO!" gasped Chrysalis. "Yes, he did. Just look at the handwriting. It's Daddy's." "I don't think



so," Chrysalis spoke in a worried tone and tried to sound skeptical. Amethyst ran over to the couch and snatched a letter I was writing off the arm. She held the two pieces of paper side by side. "Here," she said triumphantly, "see for yourself." Both girls in the pro-Santa faction examined the evidence with care and considerable skepticism. You

could feel the Christmas excitement in the room deflating like a tire after the nail is extracted. I had to think fast because I knew from experience what was coming next.

"Daddy, are you Santa Claus?" asked Amethyst, her serious and penetrating eyes searching my face for the slightest hint of deception. "Well," I said, pausing to absorb the blow to Christmas and figure a way out of this, "You know Santa has so many kids to visit each year that he has parents help him out." "See, there is a Santa!" exclaimed a suddenly merry Chrysalis. The room was again bright with Christmas. "Santa is Daddy," said Amethyst in an attempt to gain back the ground her iron-clad evidence had failed to hold. "There is a Santa!" squealed the other two girls, taking their mugs in their little hands and grabbing cookies from the tray.

The debate continued for the rest of the afternoon, with both sides confident they had won. But it didn't matter at all, for the spirit of Christmas was still in the house, and even a skeptic like Amethyst enjoyed having the spirit there. ☺

Brownsvillians on the Albany Parlour Tour



MIKAYLE STOLE

Pat McConnel, Bryan Wynant, Barbara DeRobertis, and LeAnne and Joe Ervin were spotted Sunday, Dec. 14, attending the Albany Parlour Tour.

Holiday Traditions Around the World Bring Communities Together

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

Across the globe, the holiday season is marked by traditions that reflect local history, culture, and community spirit. While customs vary widely, each celebration shares a common goal of bringing people together during the darkest months of the year.

In many European countries, Christmas markets fill town squares with handmade goods, warm food, and bright lights. Germany's long-running markets are among the most famous, drawing visitors for mulled cider, wooden toys, and choirs that perform throughout December. In Sweden, families observe Saint Lucia Day with processions led by a girl wearing a crown of candles, symbolizing the return of light.

Farther south, Mexico's communities celebrate Las Posadas, a nine-day reenactment of Mary and Joseph's journey. Neighborhood gatherings include singing, candlelit walks, and piñatas filled with sweets. Across much of Latin America, families also gather for late-night meals on Christmas Eve, followed by fireworks at midnight.

In Japan, the season takes on a more modern tone. Many families enjoy a festive meal that often includes fried chicken, a trend popularized in the 1970s. Illuminated city streets and winter festivals draw large crowds, even though Christmas is not a national holiday.

Jewish communities worldwide observe Hanukkah with the lighting of the menorah. Each night, an additional candle is lit to mark the miracle of the oil that lasted eight days. Families enjoy traditional foods such as latkes and doughnuts cooked in oil, as well as games and songs passed down through generations.

In India, celebrations vary by region and religion. Christians decorate homes with paper stars and attend midnight services, while other communities take part in winter festivals such as Diwali earlier in the season. In the Philippines, one of the world's longest holiday seasons features parols, star-shaped lanterns that light homes and streets from September through January.

Even countries with minimal snowfall embrace their own seasonal traditions. In Australia and New Zealand, families gather on beaches for Christmas barbecues and outdoor concerts. South Africa's towns and cities celebrate with open-air markets and community feasts, often tied to summer vacation.

Though the customs differ, each tradition reflects a familiar message of hope, generosity, and connection. Whether through candles, lanterns, shared meals, or music, communities around the world mark the season by celebrating what brings them together. ☺

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State and Federal Grants Transform School Safety and Learning Spaces

More than \$8 million in competitive grants fund seismic upgrades, security improvements, and classroom technology

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer

Central Linn School District (CLSD) has garnered an impressive array of federal and state grants over the past six years, bringing in more than \$8 million to make our schools safer and better equipped. In 2020, the district received a \$2.5 million seismic rehabilitation grant to strengthen the elementary school’s library and surrounding classrooms and to install new roofing. Built in 1936 in a classic Art Deco design, the nearly 90-year-old building is listed on Oregon’s Register of Historic Places.

In 2022, CLSD secured another \$2.5 million from the same state-funded Business Oregon seismic rehabilitation program — this time to reinforce the high school gym and cafeteria to “immediate occupancy standards.” A third seismic grant, awarded in 2025 for yet another \$2.5 million, will fund reinforcement of the elementary school gym and cafeteria, with construction scheduled for summer 2026.



A federally funded interactive Smart Board is now installed in every Central Linn classroom, supporting hands-on, technology-enhanced learning.

In addition to state-funded seismic upgrades, CLSD has secured major federal funding. A Community Oriented Policing Services grant, totaling \$572,000, will significantly enhance security at both campuses, providing interior and exterior surveillance cameras, exterior door card locks, an electronic security gate at the high school, and

video systems for controlled visitor access. The improvements funded by this grant are being implemented in the 25/26 school year.

Another federal award — the \$1.26 million RUPS grant shared with the Harrisburg School District, the Alsea School District, and CLSD — has equipped every Central Linn classroom with a new interactive Smart Board and a dedicated laptop, giving teachers and students powerful new tools for learning. Smart Boards increase student engagement through hands-on, interactive lessons that support all learning styles. They allow teachers to incorporate videos, diagrams, online resources, and collaborative activities, streamline classroom technology, and save or reuse lessons, making instruction more dynamic and efficient.

Behind all of these successes is one driving force: Celeste Van Cleave. As the district’s Business Manager, she has served as the fiscal agent for these highly competitive awards, crafting exceptional applications that highlight CLSD’s rural nature, financial need, and commitment to student safety and success. Her work has not only modernized our schools. Still, it has also positioned CLSD facilities as valuable community resources, especially as seismically reinforced hubs that could serve emergency organizations like the Red Cross when the long-anticipated major earthquake eventually strikes. 🌀

Board Reviews Instructional Programs, Policies, and Facilities

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer

The Central Linn School District Board met for its regular monthly meeting on December 8 in Halsey, covering district policy updates, instructional programs, facilities progress, and student performance. The meeting opened with roll call and a review of leadership reports.

Consent Agenda & Presentations

The Board approved the prior meeting minutes and acknowledged committee reports. Staff updates included the resignations of two coaches: Miranda Leatherman, Assistant Girls Varsity Soccer Coach, Madison Marlatt, JV Girls Volleyball Coach, and the resignation of Heather McEvoy, Temporary Special Education Teacher.

Marcus Pitts of Brown & Brown Insurance presented the district’s insurance update, noting an overall increase of 10.55 percent after accounting for a significant decrease in workers’ compensation rates.

Dr. Kim Tyskiewicz shared updates on the FLEX program, which complements the district’s online partnership with Greenways Academy. FLEX provides personalized, at-home learning for students who need acceleration or additional academic support. Participants may earn an Oregon diploma and remain eligible for athletics and school events, though they may not meet requirements for a CLHS diploma.

Dr. Hess announced that the district received a grant providing 100 seats in the Accellus Program, an online platform offering self-paced, video-based instruction, automated feedback, and real-time teacher monitoring. Accellus will support students needing credit recovery, individualized learning pathways, or an alternative academic structure.

Old Business

The Board held second readings of updated policies related to sexual harassment and discrimination procedures.

The Facilities Committee reported positive news: Pacific Power will replace the aging gym transformers with higher-capacity units installed outdoors. These new transformers will supply power for the entire school, with the district’s portion of the cost totaling approximately \$50,000 over five years.

New Business

The Board conducted first readings of new policies addressing:

- Drug-free workplace expectations, electronic communication systems, and ethical use of artificial intelligence.
- Related administrative regulations were introduced.
- Policy updates included discussions about services provided by external mental and behavioral health professionals, and workplace accommodation for nursing staff.

The district reaffirmed its commitment to safe, drug-free schools, and responsible use of AI in education.

District Reports

The financial report was presented, noting that overall revenues and expenditures remain on track for the year. The superintendent also provided updates on the district’s annual school report cards and ongoing instructional initiatives.

Student Demographics & Performance

The district serves 461 students, with demographics including 82 percent White, 13 percent Hispanic/Latino, 23 percent experiencing poverty, and 31 percent English learners. Regular attendance decreased by 6 percent, with 67 percent of students attending more than 90 percent of school days. Academically, 39.2 percent of students met grade-level expectations in English Language Arts, while 75.9 percent met expectations in math.

Additional Notes

Community members were encouraged to participate in public comment, with reminders that personnel issues should be addressed privately with the superintendent. The Board continued its ongoing discussion about strengthening communication with district leadership. 🌀



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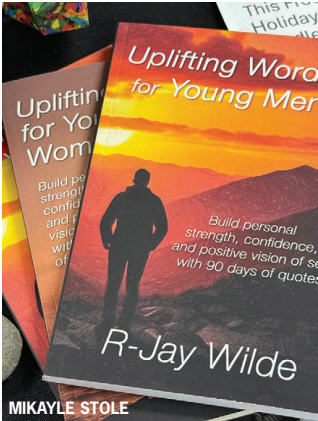
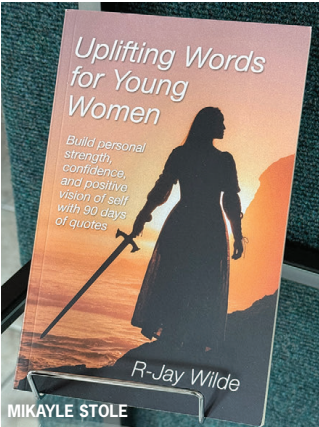
BROWNSVILLE ART ASSOCIATION

Member Shares Free Book Bundle Focused on Encouragement and Growth
By Mikayle Stole, Editor

A member of the Brownsville Art Association is using his work as an artist and author this winter to support local families by offering a free Holiday Book Bundle, while inviting the community to give back if they are able.

Artist and author R-Jay Wilde is offering five of his books as free downloadable PDFs on his website, allowing readers to enjoy, print, and share them. The project aims to spread encouragement while also helping to address food insecurity in the region.

The Free Holiday Book Bundle features inspiring titles like “Uplifting Words for Young Women” and “Uplifting Words for Young Men,” which focus on building personal strength, confidence, and a positive self-image through 90 days of quotes and reflections. The entire bundle is meant for readers of all ages and can be shared



with friends, family, classrooms, or community groups.

“There is no cost to download the books,” Wilde said. “You can read them, print them, and share them with anyone you like.”

Although the books are free, Wilde encourages those who can, to donate

to help keep families in this part of Oregon fed during the winter. A suggested donation of \$10 is listed for the entire bundle, but any amount — including \$0 — is appreciated.

Wilde said, “Your presence and your sharing still matter.”

Fifty percent of all donations collected through the project will go to local organizations that tackle hunger and basic needs, including Fish of Lebanon, the Lebanon Soup Kitchen, and the River Center. The remaining funds will support the ongoing creation of books and artwork.

The complete Holiday Book Bundle can be downloaded from <https://rjaywilde.com>, where visitors also have the option to donate.

The book-giving initiative is part of the larger creative community supported by the Brownsville Art Association, which continues to provide opportunities for learning and connection through the arts.

In January, the Art Association will offer new classes for teens and adults, including Easy Art with Diane Piro on Saturday, Jan. 17, and Watercolor Batik with Mishelle Tourtillott on Saturday, Jan. 31. Both classes will take place at the Art Association gallery located at 255 N. Main St. in Brownsville.

Together, Wilde’s book project and the upcoming January classes showcase the Brownsville Art Association’s dedication to fostering creativity that benefits both individual development and the broader community. 🌟

DON'T AGONIZE, ORGANIZE

Episode Six: Tagging Heirlooms
By Sandra Beckwith, Staff Writer

Nostalgia is so much a part of the holiday season. We remember family traditions and those who used to sit around the table. Often, we pull out objects we’ve inherited, and they often stand the test of time. Yet, what echoes most are the stories attached to the items, and they can get lost from memory like water down a drain.



I recently pulled out an antique red tablecloth that was made with a special dye popular in the 1800s. It has a special name that my mother told me, but I couldn’t remember it. Lucky me, my 100-year-old Mother still has a decent memory, but even she couldn’t call it up. I had previously recorded the original owner and style of cloth, but the paper must have slipped out of the storage pouch. Frustrating.

I should have gone the extra step of taping the description to the plastic pouch or affixing a proper label. That might sound too fastidious, but most of the fun of owning things is the story behind them and what they represent to you: a wonderful vacation, a funny incident, perhaps a tender exchange with a loved one.

We’re in the midst of many rainy days, and a good project is to systematically go through and label what you’re storing, especially if you inherited it. For boxed items, I used fun wrapping paper and then labeled the outside (tea sets, glassware, etc.) who they were from, the year, and any special info. It also made storing them in my hutches more attractive and easier to use.

Some folks attach string labels to items or use acid-free paper. How old is it? Where is it from? Who gave it? How much was it purchased for? Can you sit with older relatives and record these stories?

As much as I enjoy a good estate sale, they often make me wistful that the story of the object is now separated from the owner. Taking a little time to preserve the story of objects makes them more meaningful to own and pass on. By the way, I found out my antique tablecloth color is called turkey red! Some of you in historic Brownsville might own one, too.

Contact me with any questions or ideas at sbeckwith1@mac.com. 🌟

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CENTRAL LINN SCHOOLS

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Families can help Central Linn schools earn cash throughout the year simply by saving Box Tops from everyday products. The traditional clip-and-send labels are being phased out, but many items still include them. These can be cut out and sent to school as long as they have a valid expiration date.

Most new Box Tops are now digital. Instead of clipping, parents and supporters can download the free Box Tops app, shop for participating products, and scan their receipt within 14 days of purchase. The app automatically credits earnings to Central Linn, making the process quick and convenient.



Every Box Top — whether clipped or scanned — adds up. These small contributions help fund classroom needs, school activities, and student programs across the district.

Learn more or download the app at <https://BTFE.com>. 🌟

PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 4

B	A	T		M	G	T		D	A	K	A	R	2	4	5	7	8	1	9	6	3		
A	L	M	A		C	O	R	E		E	L	A	T	E	9	7	8	3	5	6	4	2	1
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A	M	S	T	E	R	D	A	M		E	V	E	N	S	5	8	7	6	1	4	2	3	9
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D	E	T	E	R		W	K	S		N	E	T			ELVES								

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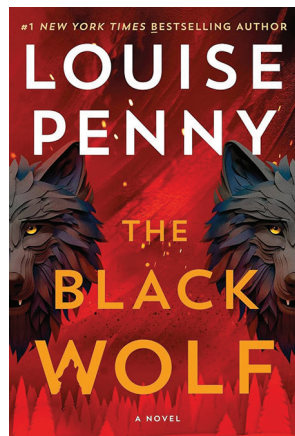
A Welcome Stack of New Reads

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

Adult Fiction

"The Things Gods Break" by Abigail Owen is the second book in the Crucible series. This series is best enjoyed in order.

"The Picasso Heist" by James Patterson and Howard Roughan is about a world gone crazy when a new Picasso painting is put up for auction. A first-rate art thief is calculating her odds of stealing it before auction day. Author James Patterson is a patron favorite.



"The Black Wolf" by Louise Penny. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec and his team uncover and stop a domestic terrorist attack, but the person behind it is planning more.

"The Missing Pages" by Alyson Richman is a story where Harry Widener is lost on the Titanic, holding tight to a priceless book. Decades later, Violet, recovering from her own great loss, is working at the Harry Widener Memorial Library when strange things begin happening. She wonders if Harry's ghost is trying to help her solve the mystery.

"Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley is a lovely replacement copy for the library.

Adult Non-Fiction

"Hotshot" by River Selby features a female firefighter in a man's world. This book explores overcoming personal obstacles and the realities of fire service.



Several cookbooks were donated by patrons just in time for the holiday and the recovery season in January.

"Creative Cookie Decorating" by Emily Hutchinson offers plenty of inspiration. If you make something, please bring samples.



"Pioneer Woman Cooks: A Year of Holidays" by Ree Drummond is another fabulous cookbook by the Pioneer Woman. We also have her first autobiography, "The Pioneer Woman: Black Heels to Tractor Wheels." What a fun story.

"The Healthy Meal Prep Cookbook" by Toby Amidor includes recipes that look easy, tasty, and quickly to go from fridge to table.

"Make Ahead Paleo" by Tammy Credicott features paleo recipes that avoid grains, legumes, dairy, and sugar. Check it out and try something new.

"Diabetes Cookbook" by Taste of Home editors offer recipes that are tried-and-true deliciousness, formulated specifically for diabetics.

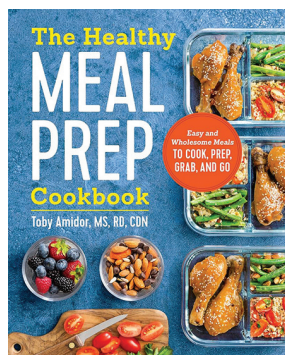
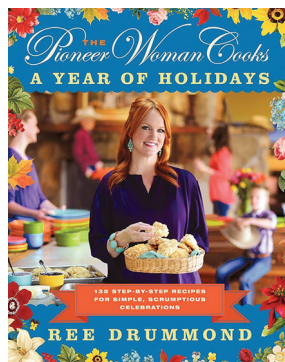


Young Adult

"Never Ever After" by Sue Lynn Tan is a not-so-happily-ever-after dark and fierce re imagining of the Cinderella fairy tale.

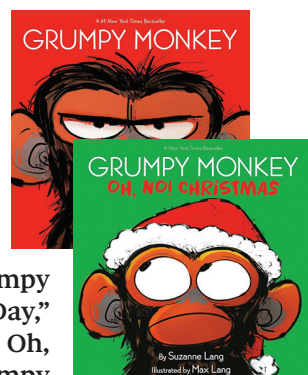
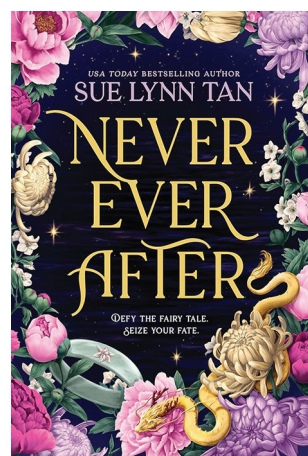
Children

"Grumpy Monkey" by Suzanne Lang. I may have gone overboard ordering these hilarious books about 'Jim Panzee'. Also available are "Grumpy Monkey Mom for a Day," "Grumpy Monkey Oh, No! Christmas," "Grumpy Monkey Party Time!," "Grumpy Monkey Play All Day," "Grumpy Monkey Up All Night," and "Grumpy Monkey Valentine Gross-Out."



Junior

"Dog Man: Big Jim Believes" by Dav Pilkey is the newest installment in the Dog Man graphic novel series.



BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

Making Community Through the Double Doors

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian



MIKAYLE STOLE

As we approach the holiday, I would like to thank each of you for your support of the Brownsville Community Library. Our local library is a hub in our community. When our friends drop in, we share information about local happenings, book talk, stories, small tech help, and more. During all this, we are making a community through the double doors. Thanks for dropping in and making community with us.

Story Time will be held Fridays, December 19, 26, January 2, and beyond. Story Time begins at 11 a.m. with songs, rhymes, and more. A simple craft with Ms. Thea follows this. This program is free and open to the public. Of course, Library manners are expected, and childcare is not provided. Join the fun.

Our Stitchery Group meets each Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m. The Thread Wizards (doesn't that sound so hip?) Work on small in-hand projects and chat. This is the real reason we meet weekly... to chat about life, joys and sorrows, and celebrate life's mile markers while stitching.

MED-Project provides FREE and safe options for residents of Oregon to dispose of unwanted medicine. The Brownsville Library offers free mail-back envelopes for disposing of unwanted prescription medicine. We recently received boxes to dispose of used prescription inhalers and sharps safely. Why wait for a take-back event? Drop by and pick up an envelope and safely dispose of your unwanted prescriptions today.

The Brownsville Library will be closed for Christmas, December 24-25, New Year's Eve, December 31, and New Year's Day, January 1.

We wish you all the best this holiday season. 🌟

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SILVER SCREEN CINEMA

A Christmas Farewell to Arms: Rock Hudson Hits the Legion Hall

By an ordinary seaman

Well now, folks, if you're anything like me, by the day after Christmas, you're either bursting at the seams with holiday cheer or you're just plain bursting. The kids are wound up tighter than a drum on New Year's Eve, the house smells faintly of burnt sugar, and you might just be hankering for a bit of peace, quiet, and a good old-fashioned picture show.

Good news, the American Legion Hall is coming to the rescue this December 26 with a special screening of the iconic 1932 film "A Farewell to Arms." That's right, Gary Cooper and Helen Hayes on the big screen, and you don't even have to fight for a parking spot at the multiplex.

Now, this picture's got a story behind it almost as compelling as the one flickering on the screen. Released in 1932, it marked the first time one of Ernest Hemingway's novels ever made the leap from page to picture show. Director Frank Borzage, known for his tender touch with romantic dramas, brought the tale to life during Hollywood's pre-Code days, when filmmakers still had a little breathing room to tell



with nominations for Best Picture and Best Art Direction. Not bad at all for an early talkie finding its footing.

See for yourself at the American Legion, 339 N Main St., Brownsville, Friday, December 26, 7 p.m., \$2 —popcorn, candy, and maybe some hot dogs to purchase. ☼

grown-up stories without too many raised eyebrows from the censors.

What unfolds is a war-time romance told with a quiet, steady hand — an American ambulance driver finding love amid chaos, duty, and loss on the Italian front of World War I. The film doesn't rush things or sugar-coat the cost of war, and that honesty paid off. Audiences and critics alike took notice, and the picture went on to earn Academy Awards for Best Cinematography and Best Sound, along

KIDS' KORNER

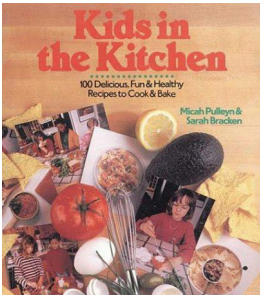
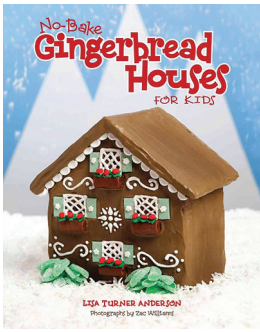
Holiday Food Crafts

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer

Here is a fun idea to get you ready for the holidays. Make a no-bake gingerbread house for kids. Graham crackers, cookies, frosting, and candies are the main ingredients for these fun, handmade holiday decorations. You can also add nuts, cranberries, and pretzel sticks to create doors, windows, and walls for your gingerbread house.



Complete instructions and sample ideas can be found in "No Bake Gingerbread Houses for Kids" by Lisa Turner Anderson (2010). According to the publisher's summary, "Everyone from budding gingerbread architects to accomplished food designers can have fun with this new take on an old favorite. Every holiday (and even ordinary days) can be spiced up with the graham cracker building blocks and straightforward instructions that make these creations easy and enjoyable for the whole family." The book is available through the Brownsville Library's Libby



eBooks collection.

Another fun way to enjoy the holidays is to bake cookies. One helpful resource is "Kids in the Kitchen" (1994) by Micah Pulleyn and Sarah Bracken. Inside, you will find easy directions for making treats and cookies, including a recipe for animal cookies. Homemade desserts can make thoughtful and delicious gifts.

The publisher notes that "this kids-only guide provides step-by-step instructions for real recipes, from breakfast in the Good Morning section to main dishes. Kids can sample a variety of nutritious recipes to serve to the family or share with friends. The Sweets and Party Goodies sections each feature tasty morsels." This book is available at the Brownsville Library. ☼

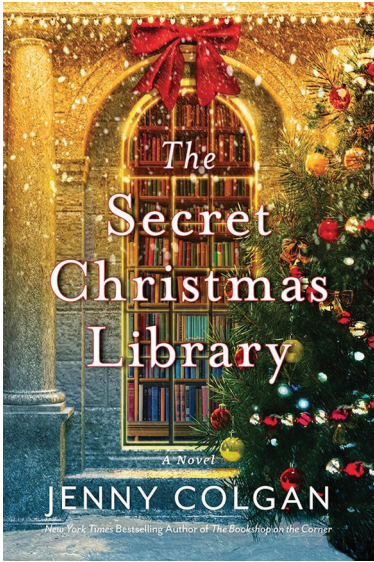
BOOK REVIEW

How About a Holiday Romance?

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer

Here is a brand-new 2025 Jenny Colgan novel recently added to the Brownsville Library shelves in both regular-print and large-print formats. It's a timely holiday romp in classic Colgan style.

According to ThriftBooks, "The Secret Christmas Library" is "a treat for book lovers and treasure hunters alike," serving up "a delicious mystery with a hint of romance and plenty of holiday spirit." The story is set in the Scottish Highlands and follows Mirren Sutherland, who stumbles into a career as an antiquarian book hunter after discovering a priceless antique book in her great-aunt's attic. As Christmas approaches, she's hired to track down a rare book so valuable it could save an entire ancestral estate.



ThriftBooks describes it as "a new holiday story set in the Scottish Highlands to warm book lovers' hearts" from the New York Times bestselling author of "Midnight at the Christmas Bookshop."

Fans are already weighing in. Friends

and Fiction, in an Oct. 31, 2025, Facebook post, calls the book "an adventure and mystery with a touch of romance," adding, "Set in a castle in the Scottish Highlands, it is a comfort read for the holiday season and beyond into winter. A castle, a snowstorm, a mystery, old books, puzzles to solve, and a Scottish laird named Jamie — what more could you want?"

One reader, Jenny Flynn, writing for Book Lovers, put it simply: "This has become my favorite Jenny Colgan book. A great Christmas cozy read."

Perhaps it will be yours as well. ☼

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Georgia-Pacific Halsey Receives Employer of the Year Award for Safety Excellence

By Donna Black, Georgia-Pacific Halsey Mill

Georgia-Pacific’s Halsey mill was honored with the Employer of the Year Award at the Western Pulp, Paper & Forest Products Safety & Health Conference in Portland for its outstanding commitment to reducing workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.



Austin Callahan, Halsey Mill manager, and Chris Duncan, facility safety leader at Georgia-Pacific’s Halsey mill.

Halsey’s multi-layered safety culture is built on communication, collaboration, and continuous improvement. Key programs include a proactive Central Safety Committee, cross-departmental Safety Champions meetings, leadership walks, and department meetings in which safety leads every agenda. The mill also prioritizes employee well-being through its Mill Activities “Fun” Committee, which supports mental, physical, emotional, and financial health.

Transparent communication is central to Halsey’s approach, with operators, supervisors, and leaders jointly participating in safety investigations. Robust training — delivered in the classroom and on the floor — ensures employees receive ongoing development and health-related education.

The mill also leverages the TRAX system to document and track safety concerns, analyze trends, and drive hazard reduction.

Through its comprehensive programs and strong safety culture, Georgia-Pacific Halsey continues to set a high standard for workforce protection and a safe, healthy workplace. 🌟

THE BROWNSVILLE TIMES

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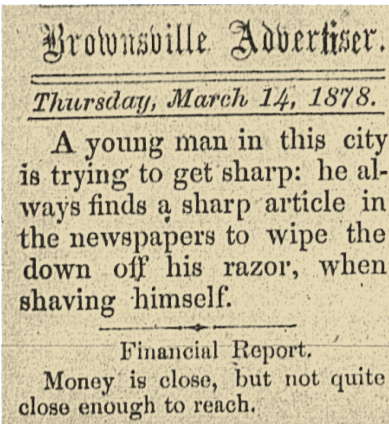
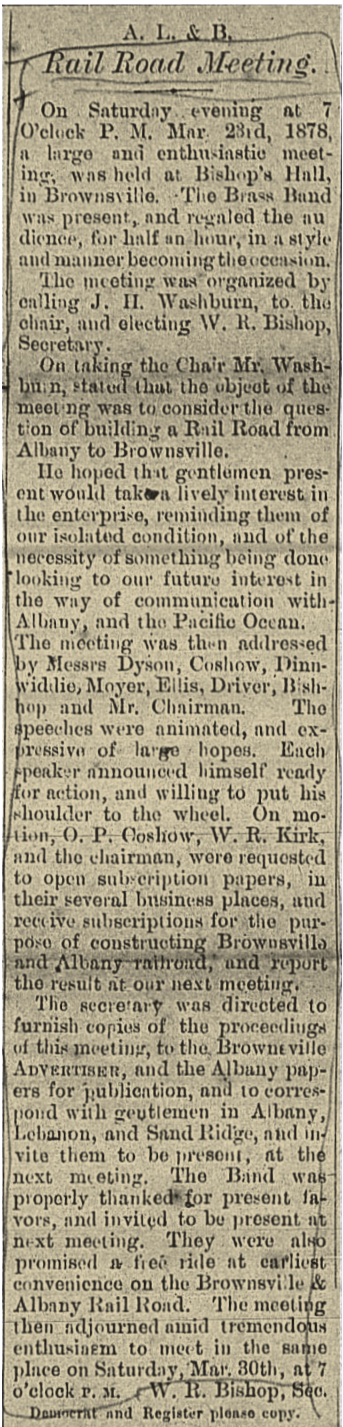
By Allen L. Buzzard, Staff Writer

Interest in a Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) branch line — originally built as a narrow-gauge railroad serving Brownsville — began with this author’s fascination with trains, the original SPRR Brownsville Depot (today’s Linn County Historical Museum), and local history. That research led to three early discoveries:

- The Brownsville Advertiser, published from 1878 to 1879 in North Brownsville, predates The Brownsville Times by a decade.
- Community advocacy for building an Albany, Lebanon, Brownsville Railroad appeared throughout the Advertiser’s articles, op-eds, and letters to the editor.
- A Chinese laundry once operated in downtown North Brownsville, documented on several late-19th-century Sanborn Fire Insurance maps.

Digging deeper into obscure and often difficult-to-read archival materials — stored at the University of Oregon Special Collections & University Archives, Oregon State University’s Special Collections & Archives Research Center, the Library of Congress, and the Women’s Study Club Room in the Brownsville Community Library — revealed a rare collection known as the George Allan Dyson Papers.

This repository includes excerpts from The Brownsville Advertiser, printed semi-monthly from January 31, 1878, through January 30, 1879. Among them is a March 28, 1878, broadsheet (Vol. 1, No. 5) that passionately advocates for a local railway. Readers will find the headlines “A. L. & B. Rail Road Meeting” and “A. L. & B. R. R.” in columns 3 and 4 of page 3. Additional news and advertisements from 1878 further illuminate Brownsville’s early



A lighthearted 1878 news brief and a short financial report show the mix of local commentary and practical notices that appeared in the Brownsville Advertiser.

development. (...to be continued.) 🌟
Allen L. Buzzard is a retired educator. He especially enjoys sharing local history and traveling the world.

The Brownsville Advertiser’s detailed account of an 1878 A. L. & B. Rail Road meeting documents early local advocacy for a rail connection between Albany and Brownsville.

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SHERIFF'S REPORT

Information in the Sheriff's Report is provided by The Linn County Sheriff's Daily Media Log of Dispatched Calls and Cases. Incident details may be limited or delayed depending on agency availability prior to our weekly publication deadline. Addresses typically reflect the location of the incident or arrest, though in some cases they may indicate the origin of the call.

An individual's arrest or citation reported here does not imply guilt. Guilt or innocence is determined only through the judicial process.

The following is a list of abbreviations that may appear in our log reports: LCSO (Linn County Sheriff's Office); OSP (Oregon State Police); LCCC (Linn County Circuit Court); LCJC (Linn County Justice Court); AMC (Albany Municipal Court); FTA (failure to appear); FTC (failure to comply). A roman numeral listed after a charge means that the charge is that numbered-degree: theft I (first-degree theft).

Sunday, December 7

8:54 a.m. — Caller reported a customer damaged the fueling station at Chevron in the 33100 block of Hwy 228, Halsey. Report pending.

1:34 p.m. — Deputy assisted with stranded motorist who drove into ditch at W 1st St/Seefeld Dr, Halsey until friends came to pull her out.

3:31 p.m. — Citizen reported civil dispute with past tenants and deputies advised citizen of her options in the 3400 block of Priceboro Dr, Harrisburg.

5:17 p.m. — Caller reported a male, 17-20 years-old came to his door in the 800 block of Maple St, Brownsville, claiming to be a cub scout selling wreaths, the caller purchased one at \$40. The wreaths were never delivered and other community members reported not receiving theirs as well.

9:30 p.m. — Caller requested a welfare check on a customer in the 33100 block of Hwy 228, Halsey. Deputy transported the customer to local hospital per customers request.

Monday, December 8

12:12 a.m. — K. Wolf, 65, of Central Point received a traffic citation for driving while suspended and a warning for failing to obey a traffic control device at W 2nd St/W D St, Halsey.

9:16 a.m. — Douglas Barnes, 74, of Albany, was cited for speeding 85 in 55mph zone in the 1800 block of Hwy 99E, Halsey.

9:30 a.m. — Deputy located a loose sheep in a field with no fence at Seefeld Dr/W 1st St, Halsey. Owner was contacted to come and remove it.

10:01 a.m. — Caller reported a theft from a motor vehicle in the 31900 block of Cinema Way, Tangent. Five Stihl chainsaws were stolen along with a battery operated saw and climbing gear. Value of stolen items estimated to be \$10,000. Report pending.

12:15 p.m. — Caller reported threats in the 100 block of Smith St, Harrisburg. A verbal confrontation between adults occurred in the Harrisburg dog park. Information documented.

12:33 a.m. — Caller wanted to speak to a deputy about neighbors suspicious activities in the 700 block of Templeton St, Brownsville.

1:35 p.m. — Caller reported fraud in the 30900 block of Wyatt Dr, Harrisburg. Deputy began an investigation. Report pending.

3:23 p.m. — Deputies responded to a reported online dispute between gamers with one gamer threatening to "doxx" the other in the 800 block of 5th St, Halsey. Information was documented for the reporting party.

4:14 p.m. — Alysha Postle, 31, of Harrisburg was issued a citation for driving uninsured in the 600 block of Territorial St, Harrisburg.

4:31 p.m. — Caller reported a dog complaint in the 37600 block of Mountain Home Dr, Brownsville. Everett Chase, 53, of Brownsville was cited for dog at Large x2 and

failure to license a dog x2. Report pending.

8:10 p.m. — Caller reporting ongoing issues with ex-husband withholding child after parenting time in the 39200 block of Crawfordsville Dr. Information documented.

Tuesday, December 9

7:46 a.m. — Julia Tremain, 30, of Brownsville was issued a citation for speeding in the 30000 block of Seven Mile Ln, Shedd.

10:39 a.m. — Caller reported a theft at Spaulding/Averill St, Brownsville. Monitoring Facebook, caller learned of a male who was trespassing. Deputy searched the area but was unable to locate. Don't know who the victim is at this time.

11:34 a.m. — Vincent Keiser, 48, of Sweet Home, was arrested for driving with a revoked driver's license in the 200 block of S Main St, Brownsville. Deputy intercepted the vehicle as OSP was receiving driving complaints about Vincent's vehicle.

12:05 p.m. — Deputy contacted a residence in the 400 block of Moyer St, Brownsville and asked them to move leaves at the request of the city.

2:06 p.m. — Extra patrol was requested for trucks violating posted no truck route signs in the 27100 block of Falk Rd, Halsey.

2:17 p.m. — Ashley Readon, 34, of Eugene was issued a citation for failure to carry proof of insurance in the 200 block of N 3rd St, Harrisburg.

7:30 p.m. — Patrick Wood, 48, of Albany, was cited for speeding 90 in a posted 55mph zone at Lake Creek Dr/Hwy 99E, Halsey.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

8:02 a.m. — Caller reported theft in the 700 block of N 9th St, Harrisburg. Caller said packages were delivered to the wrong address totaling \$89.89 in lost items. Report pending.

11:00 a.m. — Deputy noticed a disabled vehicle parked on the side of the road in a residential neighborhood in the 100 block of Moore St, Harrisburg. Expired tags and terminated insurance. Deputy tagged it for city ordinance violation.

11:19 a.m. — During a routine patrol in the 700 block of LaSalle St, Harrisburg a vehicle was discovered parked directly in front of a no parking sign. Deputy issued a citation.

1:41 p.m. — Caller reported a vehicle blocking their driveway in the 300 block of Kesling St, Harrisburg. Deputy discovered the vehicle belonged to the caller's neighbor.

2:31 p.m. — Deputies assisted a caretaker with getting their patient into vehicle in the 100 block of S Main St, Brownsville.

2:36 p.m. — Caller reported damage to their trailer in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr, Harrisburg. Caller suspects their neighbor threw a rock at it. The estimated repair cost is \$500.

Thursday, Dec. 11

2:21 a.m. — Caller reported a suspicious vehicle at Washburn Heights/Sperry Dr, Brownsville. Deputy contacted the couple of the vehicle at the top of Washburn Heights. Determined it was non-criminal.

10:54 a.m. — Caller attempted to publish a book with a company over the phone. The company turned out to be a scam. The caller located in the 600 block of LaSalle St, Harrisburg lost \$2,098 in paid fees to the fake company.

2:57 p.m. — Caller requested extra patrol in the 35600 block of Courtney Creek Drive, Brownsville due to large equipment trucks operating without proper equipment and causing hazardous conditions.

4:39 p.m. — Caller reported threats in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr, Harrisburg. Deputy docu-

mented caller's statements.

5:54 p.m. — Deputies responded to a dog hit and run by a vehicle at Moore St/S 3rd St, Harrisburg. Deputies located the dog owner, unknown if dog had injuries, and was unable to locate vehicle that struck the dog. Report pending.

6:14 p.m. — Deputies responded to a traffic complaint where a citizen was reporting another driving a 90 ton dump truck on a county road at Courtney Creek Dr/Timber Rd, Brownsville.

9:02 p.m. — Deputy contacted person with ongoing mental health issues reporting suspicious activity. Deputy documented her report in the 28500 block of Ogle Rd, Shedd.

Friday, December 12

1:59 a.m. — Deputies responded to a non-injury crash. Five cows were standing in the roadway at Tangent Dr/Seven Mile Ln, Tangent and were struck by a vehicle. Report pending.

8:48 a.m. — Deputy responded to report of suicidal subject who wanted help in the 24300 block of Peoria Rd, Harrisburg. Upon contact, the individual advised he was not suicidal and did not need any help.

9:12 a.m. — Donald Keller, 84, of Harrisburg passed away and an investigation was conducted in the 30100 block of Substation Dr, Harrisburg.

3:10 p.m. — Deputies gave a female going through a mental health crisis in the 100 block of Heckart Ln, Harrisburg, a courtesy ride to the hospital.

7:06 p.m. — Deputies responded to a non-injury motor vehicle crash where the vehicle went into the ditch in the 25000 block of West Brush Creek Rd, Sweet Home.

8:49 p.m. — Benjamin Klein, 46, of Harrisburg, was issued a citation for speeding 69 in a posted 55mph zone on Peoria Rd near Oakville Rd, Shedd.

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Cobra Wrestlers Post Strong Finishes at Jefferson and Scio

By Mike Day, Head Coach, CLHS Wrestling

Central Linn High School wrestlers delivered two strong performances last week, competing at the Jefferson Santa Hat Tournament and the Scio Invitational, with solid results in both the boys' and girls' programs.

The Cobra wrestling teams traveled to Jefferson on Wed. Dec. 10 for the Santa Hat Tournament and went 3-1 in dual meets during the evening. Central Linn scored wins over North Douglas (31-21), Monroe (24-18), and Santiam (18-12), before losing to the host Jefferson, 21-6, in the finals.

Several athletes celebrated milestone moments at Jefferson, including first wins of the season — moments Coach Mike Day described as "priceless." Lily Diaz, Hannah Travis, Josie Steele, Jacob Helms, and Grady Spencer each went undefeated on the night.

"It was a great night of wrestling," Day said. "Great day to be a Cobra."

The Cobras had a long but productive day at Scio High School, competing in a 19-team tournament with six boys and seven girls. The girls' team finished second overall, with every Central Linn competitor placing. Lily Diaz won first place, while Sage Grissom, Nikki Billington, and Hannah Travis each took second. Autumn Spellman, Lucy Kennedy, and Josie Steele all earned third-place finishes.

The boys' team also delivered impressive results at Scio, led by Jacob Helms with a third-place finish. Kurry Travis, Colton Hein, and Grady Spencer each came within one win of finishing in the top four. Meanwhile, Ethan Fuston and Jeremiah Donahue also had strong performances



throughout the day.

Central Linn returns to the mat at home on Friday, Dec. 19, hosting a three-way meet against Toledo and Santiam. Wrestling starts at 6 p.m. at Central Linn High School. 🌀

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