



THE BROWNSVILLE TIMES

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SERVING CENTRAL LINN COUNTY, OREGON SINCE 1889

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

Brownsville's Festival of Trees Brings the Holidays Home

Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6

By Cyndi Anderson, Staff Writer

Come downtown on Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6, for Brownsville's Home for the Holidays Festival of Trees. Twenty-six decorated trees will be displayed in eighteen locations throughout historic downtown. New sites this year include Poppi's Place, The Brownsville Times office, Joe Glow Massage on Spaulding, and the building in Randy's Main Street Coffee parking lot housing Flat Earth Herbs. Look for the red and gold bows marking each stop. Tree guides listing locations, artists, and themes will be available at all locations.

The trees are Nordmann firs grown by Glen Walker of Lebanon. They stand 5 to 6 feet tall, are extra full this year, and are known for holding their needles well. Members of the Brownsville Women's Study Club cut the trees just days before the event to ensure freshness.

Anyone interested in taking home a fully decorated tree — or donating one to a family, church, or care facility — can join the silent auction starting at 10 a.m. on Friday, or when businesses open. Bidding ends at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Write your name, phone number, and bid amount on the sheet at each tree. The minimum bid is \$50, with \$10 increments. Winners will be contacted immediately after bidding ends and can pay at the Brownsville Community Library by 5 p.m. or arrange alternative pickup as explained in the tree guide.

The winner is responsible for transporting the tree, but Central Linn High School students will be on hand to help carry and load trees into vehicles. Each tree comes with a

FESTIVAL OF TREES continued on page 9

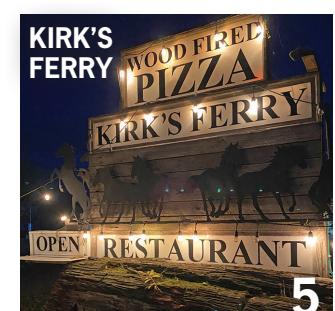


A "Christmas Vacation"-themed tree during the 2023 Festival of Trees.

INSIDE



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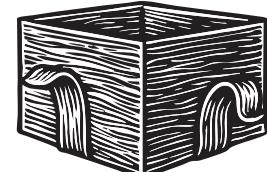
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WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The USS Arizona (BB-39) burning after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. The ship sank and is resting on the harbor bottom. The supporting structure of the forward tripod mast has collapsed after the forward magazine exploded.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A navy photographer snapped this photograph of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, just as the USS Shaw exploded. The stern of the USS Nevada can be seen in the foreground.

Remembering December 7, 1941: A Day That Changed a Nation

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

Each year, communities across the country pause on December 7 to remember the morning that reshaped American history. Pearl Harbor Day honors the lives lost in the surprise attack on the United States naval base in Hawaii in 1941, a moment President Franklin Roosevelt later called a date which will live in infamy. For many small towns, the observance is not only a national remembrance but also a tribute to local families whose loved ones served during World War II.

In the hours before sunrise on that Sunday morning eighty-four years ago, thousands of service members were beginning what they thought would be an ordinary day. At 7:48 a.m., the first wave of Japanese aircraft descended on the harbor, targeting battleships, airfields, and docked vessels. The attack lasted less than two hours but left more than 2,400 Americans dead and pushed the nation into a war that would define a generation.

Many small communities still feel a personal connection to that day. Some residents remember the stories told by parents or grandparents who enlisted immediately after hearing the news on the radio. Others recall local service members who never returned home. Photographs in family albums, names engraved on memorials, and aging letters preserved in attics continue to bear witness to the sacrifices made.

Across the country, December 7 is marked with ceremonies, flag displays, and moments of silence. In towns large and small, residents come together to honor the courage of sailors, soldiers, nurses, and civilians who faced unimaginable danger. Schools teach younger generations about the importance of the day, ensuring that its lessons and legacy are not forgotten.

Pearl Harbor Day serves as a reminder of the strength that emerges when a nation is tested. It asks communities to reflect on the cost of freedom and the resilience that carried the country through one of its darkest chapters. By remembering the events of that morning and honoring those who served, towns preserve the history that continues to shape the nation's shared identity.

ONGOING EVENTS**Not Your Grandma's Bingo**

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

Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent

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

Free Coffee, Donuts, & Fellowship

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

Not Rocket Science Trivia

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

Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent

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

Karaoke Saturdays at The Honey Hole

Saturdays • 7 p.m.

The Honey Hole Bar & Grill, Halsey

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See page 8-9 for Home for the Holidays events

Albany Civic Theater — 'Barefoot in the Park'

December 5-20 • Evening and matinee showtimes

Albany Civic Theater, 111 W. First Ave., Albany

The 75th Anniversary Season continues with Neil Simon's classic romantic comedy "Barefoot in the Park," starring Aja Cook and Ben Sulzberger. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, and 19. Matinees are at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 7 and 14. Tickets are \$18 general admission and \$16 for those under 18 or over 60. Purchase online at <https://albanycivic.org> or at the box office 45 minutes before curtain.**Connect Linn County Holiday Food Drive**

Saturday, December 6 • 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lebanon Walmart

Connect Linn County will collect canned and nonperishable food items, along with monetary donations, to support local food banks and school programs that assist families in need. All contributions stay within the community to help provide extra support during the winter season.

K-2 Winter Concert: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Wednesday, Dec. 10 • 6 p.m.

Central Linn Elementary School Gym, Halsey

Kindergarten through second-grade students perform a holiday mini musical, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Families, grandparents, and community members are welcome.

Brownsville Lighted Christmas Parade

Friday, Dec. 12 • Parade 7 p.m.; Tree lighting to follow

CONNECT Linn County hosts the annual lighted parade with decorated floats, tractors, bikes, wagons, and more, followed by the community tree lighting at City Hall. Pre-register online or sign up at the staging area. Call 541-451-0673 or 541-497-4154 for details.

Post 184 Christmas Frolic

Friday, December 19 • 6 p.m.

Travis Moothart Post 184, Brownsville

A festive roast beef dinner for members and invited guests, with attendees asked to bring a homemade dessert to share. Wear bright holiday attire or a fun Christmas sweater. A humorous gift exchange (gift under \$25) will be part of the evening. Tickets are \$20 each, with 50 available.

See what's happening in Central Linn and add your event:<https://brownsvilletimes.org/community-calendar>**Former U.S. diplomat to discuss "Diplomacy in Action" at OSU Dec. 5**

CORVALLIS — The Oregon State University Peace Studies program will host former U.S. State Department official and humanitarian aid expert Mark Ward for a free public lecture, "Diplomacy in Action: Serving on the Global Frontlines," at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5, 2025.

The event will be held at Milam Auditorium on the OSU Corvallis campus. Ward will leverage his experience as a conflict zone negotiator and humanitarian aid leader to explain how international diplomacy can handle crises and promote a more sustainable global future.

Milam Auditorium is on the west side of Milam Hall, across from the Memorial Union. The address is 2520 SW Campus Way, Corvallis, OR 97331. For more information, including a campus map, visit <https://events.oregonstate.edu/event/diplomacy-in-action-serving-on-the-global-frontlines>.

Visitors can park in the Reser Stadium parking lot, where payment is required until after 5 p.m. at on-site pay stations or by purchasing a permit ahead of time. From the stadium, attendees can ride OSU's Beaver Bus and be dropped off near Milam Hall. Riders should board only buses labeled "Northeast Route" or "LBCC Corvallis Route." Buses leave the stadium lot about every 10 to 15 minutes and stop near the main entrance of Milam Auditorium.

The event is free and open to all community members interested in international affairs, peace studies, and sustainable solutions to global challenges. ☀

John Nilsen in Concert at Spirit of the Valley UMC

HALSEY — Spirit of the Valley United Methodist Church, 611 W. Third St., will host a special solo piano concert with acclaimed Oregon musician John Nilsen on Sunday, December 7, at 2 p.m.

The free performance will feature a blend of Christmas music, Nilsen's original compositions, and selections from classical, folk, and jazz traditions. Donations will be accepted to help cover his travel costs, and CDs and sheet music will be available for purchase.

Nilsen has performed in all 50 states and on four continents, averaging more than 240 performances annually before the pandemic. He founded the Magic Wing recording label in 1987, releasing 19 internationally distributed albums. His earlier recordings on Eagle Records, along with 15 additional licensed titles abroad, have contributed to more than one million albums sold worldwide — a rare milestone for an independent artist.

In recognition of his contributions to Oregon's music community, Nilsen was inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame on Oct. 12, 2024. ☀

'Trees For Hope' Fundraiser Benefits Addiction Recovery and Local Families

Adult & Teen Challenge PacWest opens its annual "Trees For Hope" Christmas tree lots this Saturday and runs through Dec. 22 or until sold out. The fundraiser supports the organization's residential drug and alcohol recovery programs, and every premium, fresh-cut tree sold helps provide a tree to a local family that could not otherwise afford one.

Adult & Teen Challenge PacWest has been a nationally recognized residential recovery program for more than 40 years. The program helps individuals overcome addiction and rebuild their lives through a holistic, faith-based approach that includes evidence-based counseling, vocational training, and community outreach.

The tree lots operate across the Willamette Valley, with locations in both Lebanon and Albany. One hundred percent of the proceeds support the recovery programs.

**Tree Lot Locations**

- SuperThrift, 2735 S. Santiam Hwy., Lebanon
- Hope Church, 2817 Santiam Hwy., Albany
- North Albany — corner of Hickory and N. Albany Road

Hours of Operation

- Sunday-Thursday: noon to 6 p.m.
- Friday: noon to 8 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Community members interested in volunteering or arranging a site visit may contact Krista Cunningham at 503-302-4512. ☀

Breakfast with Santa at Sweet Home Elks Lodge on Dec. 7

SWEET HOME — Families are invited to enjoy a festive morning at the Sweet Home Elks Lodge on Sunday, Dec. 7, for a community Breakfast with Santa. The event runs from 8 to 11 a.m. and is open to the public.

Children can visit with Santa and his elves, and photos are welcome. Breakfast includes pancakes, biscuits and gravy, eggs, bacon, sausage, coffee, and juice. The meal costs \$9 per person.

The event is held at Sweet Home Elks Lodge #1972, 440 Osage St., Sweet Home, OR 97386. For additional details, call 541-367-3559. ☀

GREENBELT LAND TRUST

December Events Highlight Conservation Work

CORVALLIS — Greenbelt Land Trust invites the community to two December events celebrating local conservation, habitat restoration, and sustainable building design.

Wreaths and Restoration Dec. 6

Greenbelt Land Trust will host Wreaths and Restoration on Saturday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bald Hill Farm in Corvallis, offering a day of hands-on stewardship and seasonal creativity. Volunteers will help restore the Oak Savanna habitat by cutting and pulling fir trees that compete with native oaks, then warm up with hot chocolate and take part in a free wreath-making class led by local instructor Margot Schwarz.

All ages and experience levels are welcome. Attendees may come and go as needed, but those who want to finish a wreath should arrive by 1 p.m. Registration provides detailed directions, parking information, and preparation guidelines. Find out more at <https://greenbeltdistrict.org/event/wreaths-and-restoration-2>.

The Confluence Open House Dec. 11

Greenbelt Land Trust will also host The Confluence Open House on Thursday, December 11, from 4 to 6 p.m. at The Confluence, 412 SW 2nd St. in downtown Corvallis, inviting the public to explore the organization's future home for conservation and community nonprofits. Built to meet Living Building Challenge standards, the structure features locally reclaimed and urban-salvage wood and is designed for long-term adaptability and material reuse.

Guests can meet partner organizations, learn about the building's sustainable design, and enjoy refreshments while previewing progress on the ultra-efficient space. More details at <https://greenbeltdistrict.org/event/the-confluence-open-house-2025>. ●

Blue Christmas on Dec. 21 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

CONNECT LINN COUNTY

Brownsville's Lighted Christmas Parade Set for Dec. 12

Brownsville will shine brightly on Friday, Dec. 12, as CONNECT Linn County hosts the annual Lighted Christmas Parade, followed immediately by the City Hall Tree Lighting.

The parade starts at 7 p.m. on Templeton Street, heading down Main Street before going to Kirk Avenue, Averill Street, Stanard Avenue, and back to Main. The community tree lighting at City Hall will happen after the parade.

Organizers invite everyone to join in. Floats, tractors, bikes, wagons, golf carts, ATVs, and even well-behaved, festively decorated animals are all welcome. "If it moves, decorate it and bring it," organizers said.

Participants can preregister online at <https://forms.gle/rxg70Shj4E3TLuAW7> or show up at the parade staging area on the day of the parade. For more info, call Karm at 541-451-0673 or Melissa at 541-497-4154. CONNECT Linn County is organizing the parade portion of the evening's events.

Snickerdoodles Sneaky Elf-venture Returns This December

Throughout December, families can participate in the Snickerdoodles Sneaky Elf-venture, a playful scavenger hunt featuring a mischievous elf hiding at local businesses. Children and adults alike can explore Brownsville, find clues, and enjoy festive surprises designed to foster community spirit and celebrate the season.

Toy and Hygiene Drive Underway

In the spirit of giving, CONNECT Linn County is collecting new toys and essential hygiene supplies for families in nearby rural communities. Suggested toy donations include books, puzzles, dolls, cars, games, and other unwrapped presents for children of all ages. Hygiene items needed include toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, feminine care products, socks, and underwear.

Donations may be dropped off at Dollar General in Brownsville throughout the holiday season. ●

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. ●



Albany Post Welcomes Pearl Harbor Veteran David Russell

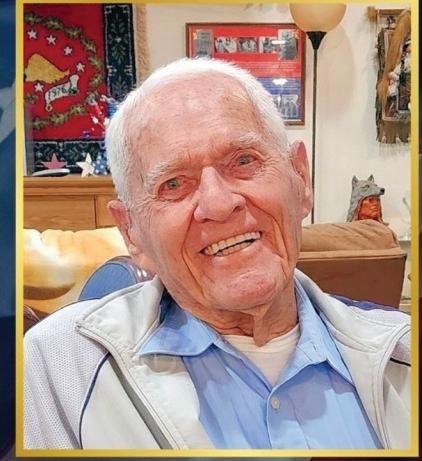
ALBANY — VFW Post 584 in Albany will host a gathering on Sunday, December 7, 2025 from 1 to 3 p.m. at 1469 Timber St, SE, Albany, to honor National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. The post will welcome David Russell, a U.S. Navy veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor, as the distinguished guest.

The community is invited to come remember the battle, the courage, and the resilience displayed by American service members on that historic day.

The event will be a potluck. Guests who are able are encouraged to bring a dish, side dish, dessert, bread, vegetables, fruit, or any other food to share. All contributions are appreciated. "A day that will live in infamy." — President Roosevelt. ●

Thank you for your service

DAVID RUSSELL



United States Navy
Pearl Harbor Survivor, 12/07/1941
Conflict/Era: World War II

Christmas Storybook Land Returns for 49th Year at Linn County Expo Center

ALBANY — Christmas Storybook Land returns for its 49th season at the Linn County Expo Center, welcoming visitors through December 21, 2025. This free, indoor holiday tradition is part of the Mid-Valley Magical Holiday Celebration and includes the famed Pastega Lights.

Guests can stroll through a massive walk-through forest filled with more than 150 handcrafted displays featuring classic nursery rhymes, fairy tales, and beloved family movies. The exhibit also includes two large model train layouts, a Victorian Village, and a visit to the North Pole to see Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Special appearances this year include Party Perfection characters roaming the event on Sunday, December 7, from 1 to 5 p.m., and Caesar the No Drama Llama, who will drop in throughout the season with his handler, Larry McCool.

Additional kid-friendly highlights include cheering up the Grinch, blowing the train horn, and receiving a free candy cane during Santa's visits.

Admission is always free. Non-perishable food donations are encouraged to support Fish of Albany.

Through Dec. 21, Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday – Friday: 5 to 8 p.m.

<https://christmasstorybookland.org> ●

SHARING HANDS FOOD BANK

Barely Meets Thanksgiving Demand

Thanks to generous community support, Sharing Hands Food Bank met the heavy Thanksgiving need last Wednesday.

A total of 44 families lined up for holiday food assistance. Each received a turkey along with additional items to help create a full Thanksgiving meal. By the end of the distribution, only two turkeys remained — an indication of both the strong turnout and the community's vital role in keeping the shelves stocked.

Sharing Hands staff expressed gratitude for the donations that made the day possible and emphasized the ongoing need as the holiday season continues. ☺

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)



Canned & Jarred Goods

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



Please no expired items.

GROCERY DEALS

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SEASONS EATINGS

Family Favorites: Caramel Nut Bars and Biscotti

By Lisa Keith, Staff Writer

If I haven't already mentioned this, here we are, our household loves simple yet delicious recipes. This week's installment comes from my Daughter's Grandmother. The Caramel Nut Bars are a sweet, salty treat that is hard to resist. I was introduced to these when I was pregnant with my daughter, and I attribute a significant amount of my protein intake to these nut bars! The Biscotti are a fan favorite in all flavors and have a surprisingly long shelf life.

Caramel Nut Bars

- 3 cups of flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 cups packed brown sugar
- 1 cup butter



Mix well, press into a 9-by-13 pan, and bake at 350°F for 10–12 minutes.

- 3/4 cup corn syrup
- 1 1/2 cups butterscotch chips
- 1 Tbsp water

Mix in a saucepan and boil for 2 minutes. Set aside.

Sprinkle 3 cups of mixed nuts (or any nut of your choice) over the baked, warm base. Gently press nuts into base. Drizzle hot topping evenly over the base. Return to oven and bake 10–12 minutes. Cool and cut into squares.

Biscotti

(Italian for twice-baked cookie)

- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 tsp vanilla extract

Optional: 3/4 cup dried fruit and/or 3/4 cup nuts

Beat eggs, sugar, and vanilla extract. Mix in the dry ingredients, then add the fruit and nuts, if using. Turn onto a floured surface and knead for about a minute to incorporate. Slice the dough in half and shape each into a rectangle measuring 9 by 4 inches

and 1/2 inch thick. Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes. Cool slightly.

Cut into 1/2-inch slices with a serrated knife, using a gentle sawing motion. Place the slices back on the baking sheet, flat side down. Reduce oven temperature to 325°F and bake for an additional 25 minutes until crisp. Cool. Store in airtight containers for over a month!

This is another one of those super-duper versatile recipes. Some delightful combinations have included: toasted almond (whole nut) with cranberries, matcha with dark chocolate, candied ginger with dried pear, rosemary with apricot, and white chocolate chip with apricot... whatever tickles your fancy!

Thank you again for your ongoing support and kind compliments when we meet around town. Please send any messages with ideas or questions to iamcheflisa@gmail.com. ☺



LISA KEITH



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2345 S Santiam Hwy
Lebanon, OR 97355

TABLE TALK, DINING IN AND AROUND BROWNSVILLE

Kirk's Ferry Trading Post Delivers a Warm Welcome and Great Food

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

It's not hard to see why Kirk's Ferry Trading Post remains one of Brownsville's favorite gathering spots. From the moment my wife and I walked in, we were greeted quickly and shown to a table near the bar, where the atmosphere felt relaxed and comfortable.

Our server for the evening was James Dyer, who also manages the restaurant and bar. He struck the right balance between friendly conversation and attentive service, making sure we had everything we needed without feeling rushed. The staff overall seemed organized and upbeat, creating a smooth dining experience from start to finish.

The menu offers a solid mix of classic comfort dishes and wood-fired specialties. We decided to share a Chicken Bacon pizza, which arrived hot from the oven with a crisp crust and plenty of flavor. The smoky bacon and tender pieces of chicken worked perfectly together, and the melted cheese held everything in place without being too heavy. It was an excellent example of how a simple meal can be done right.



JEFF BROWN

While we didn't sample the full range of offerings, nearby tables were enjoying smoked ribs, burgers, and hearty salads that looked equally appealing. The bar area adds to the overall charm, with a rustic design that fits perfectly in the historic building. It's an easy place to relax with a drink while waiting for your meal or catching up with friends.

The setting itself deserves mention. At the heart of the restaurant is a log cabin dating back to the 1840s, tied to Alexander Kirk and the original ferry that once crossed the Calapooia River. Dining here feels like stepping into a piece of local history, made even better by good food and friendly service.



Overall, Kirk's Ferry Trading Post delivers exactly what a small-town restaurant should — a welcoming atmosphere, hearty food, and people who clearly care about their customers. It's a place we'll happily return to and one I'd recommend to anyone visiting Brownsville. ☀

Mema's Country Kitchen
HAND MADE WITH LOVE

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Brownsville
Natoshya Moffitt
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memascountrykitchen@yahoo.com
Facebook: Mema's Country Kitchen
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International Award-Winning Therapist 'Joe Glow' Opens Studio — Offers Massage, Skincare, and Training in Brownsville

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer

Joe Glow, LMT, LE

Joseph Field, whose business moniker is Joe Glow, has moved into the space where Jenna Stutsman was located at 113 Spaulding Ave. Joe is a Licensed Massage Therapist (LMT) and a licensed esthetician. He is also an award-winning facial massage specialist, known for his signature sculpting technique. He got his training in Salt Lake City. Since then, he has worked in several states and built a reputation for blending therapeutic massage with advanced skincare.

He has worked in several locations since his licensure in 2017. He has worked in Park City, Utah, Lake Tahoe, North Carolina, and now in Brownsville. He is a native of Salt Lake City. In recent years, he has also begun teaching, offering classes for massage therapists and estheticians.

Joe is hoping his new location will help him build a clientele, offer opportunities to teach, and network with others in similar professions. He hopes to bring workshops and small community gatherings to the space. He loves the wooden deck that is outside his office and would like to use it for gatherings.

He can be reached at 801-664-1951 or at joe@joeglow.co. Visit his website at <https://joeglow.co>. ☀



DANIEL R MURPHY

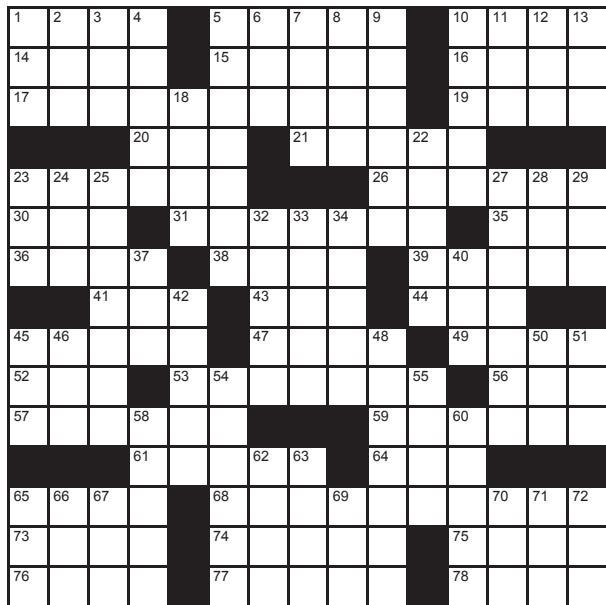


JOSEPH FIELD



JOSEPH FIELD

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



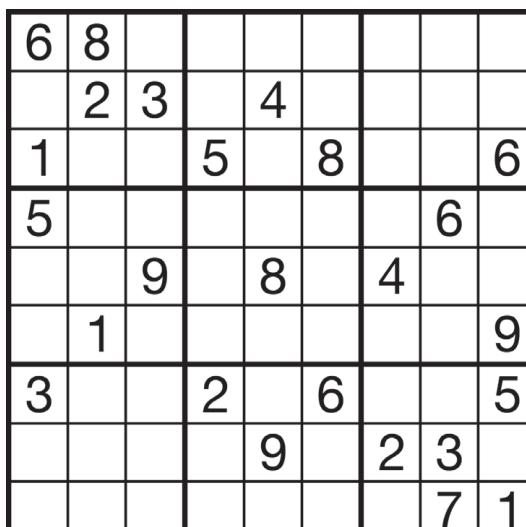
ACROSS

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- 63 Mexican snack
- 65 Assembled
- 66 Pay dirt
- 67 Metallic element
- 69 Rend
- 70 Shoshonean
- 71 Young carnivore
- 72 Ditty bag

SUDOKU DIABOLICAL



WORD JUMBLE

ESDL _____ OJY _____
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 SFIGT _____

PUZZLE Solutions on page 14

CENTRAL LINN HIGH SCHOOL DECEMBER STUDENT ATHLETE

Ethan Denison

Central Linn High School is proud to recognize Ethan Denison as the December Student Athlete of the Month. Ethan is a junior at CLHS, graduating with the Class of 2027, and has distinguished himself as a dedicated and rapidly improving member of the Central Linn cross country program.



COURTESY OF RODNEY BANEY

A third-year runner for Central Linn Cross Country, Ethan has shown remarkable growth since he first joined the team. Over the last three seasons, he has taken his 5K time from 28:12 to an impressive 18:29, demonstrating not only talent but an exceptional work ethic.

"Ethan has become a key member of the boys' varsity squad, consistently contributing strong performances and steady

leadership," said coach Rodney Baney.

Ethan approaches every practice with purpose and every meet with a positive attitude. Coaches describe him as an athlete who "puts in the work," encourages his teammates, and leads by example — qualities that make him invaluable both on and off the course. In addition to cross country, Ethan also competes in soccer for Central Linn.

Ethan and his family moved to Brownsville in early 2023, and he began attending Central Linn that January. He is supported by his close-knit family, including his mom, Mandy Brady, his dad, Ron Denison of Ohio, his step-dad, John Brady, his sisters, Maren Denison and Ally Brady, and his brother, John Brady.

Central Linn congratulates Ethan on this well-deserved recognition and celebrates his hard work, commitment, and contributions to the CLHS community.

CENTRAL LINN ELEMENTARY

December Activities at CLES

Central Linn Elementary is embracing the holiday season with several community-focused events, many open to families, grandparents, and neighbors.

Giving Tree, Dec. 8-18

The annual Giving Tree will be displayed in the school lobby from December 8 through 18. Community members are invited to hang new socks, gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves on the tree. All items will be delivered to Sharing Hands for their Christmas Greetings event on Dec. 20.

Book Fair, Dec. 8-12

The winter book fair runs from December 8 to 12 and will be open during student lunch periods and during the winter concerts on December 9 and 10. Teacher wish lists will be available for anyone wanting to gift a book to a classroom.

K-2 Winter Concert: Dec. 10

The K-2 students will perform their holiday mini musical, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," on Wednesday, December 10, at 6 p.m. in the CLES Gym. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy an evening of music from the youngest Cobras.



Commercial Services

**Genesis Lawn Care**

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Central Linn Athletes Recruited to Play Soccer at George Fox University

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer

An assembly of students, friends, and family gathered Monday, Nov. 24 to celebrate the accomplishments of two Central Linn High School seniors who signed letters of intent to play soccer for George Fox University this fall. Jayne Neal and Addy Wolffe were honored for earning spots on the Bruins women's soccer team, an achievement that reflects years of dedication both on and off the field.



From left: Addy Wolffe; George Fox head coach Simon Date, center; and Jayne Neal after signing to play soccer at George Fox University.

Addy was joined by her parents, Melissa and Charlie Wolffe, while Jayne was accompanied by her parents, John and Johnna Neal, and grandparents Bill and Karen Neal.

Both athletes have been devoted to soccer since preschool, developing a passion for the sport that has guided much of their lives. As they head to George Fox, they will also pursue academic goals: Addy plans to study nursing to become a pediatric nurse, and Jayne intends to major in psychology with a minor in criminal justice, focusing on forensics and a future career in law enforcement.

George Fox head coach, Simon Date, congratulated the athletes and welcomed them to the George Fox family. He emphasized that the university selected the girls not only for their athletic performance but also for their

academic excellence.

Central Linn coach Robert Arteaga, who has coached both players for the past 2 years at the high school and 3.5 years at the club level, praised their work ethic and achievements. "These girls really deserve this," he said. "I am glad that they have been rewarded with playing at the next level." ☀



From left: Coach Date; Addy with her parents, Melissa and Charlie; Coach Arteaga (center); and Jayne with her parents, John and Johnna, and grandparents Bill and Karen Neal.

TANGENT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

TRFPD Sets Dec. 10 Board Meeting and Public Hearing

The Tangent Rural Fire Protection District will hold its upcoming Board of Directors meeting and public hearing on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the district headquarters, 32053 Birdfoot Drive, Tangent. The meeting will feature standard reports, budget discussions, and a public hearing on an updated cost-recovery ordinance.

The agenda includes the following items:

Citizen Comments and Approvals

Board members will begin with citizen comments, followed by the approval of the previous meeting's minutes and the monthly financial report.

Reports from District Leadership

Standing reports will be presented by the Volunteers Association (Wray), Fire Chief Chapin, Division Chief Hunt, and Chief Chapin again for the monthly activity report.

Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 104

A public hearing will be held regarding Ordinance No. 104, which updates the district's cost recovery billing program — the user fees associated with providing public safety services inside and outside district boundaries. If approved, the ordinance would repeal Ordinance No. 103.

Old and New Business

Under old business, the board will discuss the 2025 OFDDA Conference and plans for the district's holiday dinner.

New business will include a review of the 2026-27 budget timeline and the process for hiring a new lieutenant.

Next Meeting

The board's next regular meeting is scheduled for Jan. 14, 2026.

The meeting is open to the public. For more information, contact Denny Conrad at dconrad@tangentfire.com or 541-928-8722. ☀

CENTRAL LINN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Multiple Job Openings Announced

The Central Linn School District has announced several openings for coaching roles, substitute positions, and budget committee seats, giving community members an opportunity to support local students and schools.

Current openings include:

- Varsity Softball Coach
- Varsity Volleyball Coach
- Substitute Student Transporters
- Substitute Teachers
- Substitute Facility Technicians (Custodial)
- Budget Committee Members

District staff encourage anyone interested, or anyone who knows a potential candidate, to reach out. Applications are available on the district website, or applicants can contact the district office directly at 541-369-2813 or by emailing dena.crowell@centrallinn.k12.or.us. ☀

Albany Civic Theater Presents 'Barefoot in the Park'

Albany Civic Theater is celebrating its 75th Anniversary Season with a "Season of Favorites," featuring productions selected by members and patrons as the most beloved from the theater's long history. Next up is Neil Simon's classic romantic comedy "Barefoot in the Park," starring Aja Cook and Ben Sulzberger as newlyweds adjusting to life — and each other — in a cramped New York City apartment.

Performances run Dec. 5-20 at Albany Civic Theater, 111 W. First Ave. Evening shows begin at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, and 19, with matinees at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 7 and 14. Tickets are \$18 for general admission and \$16 for patrons under 18 or over 60. Tickets may be purchased online at <https://albanycivic.org> or at the box office 45 minutes before curtain. ☀

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BROWNSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Home for the Holidays

Dec. 4-6 • Brownsville

Brownsville's Home for the Holidays weekend brings the whole town to life as shops, churches, and community spaces open their doors for three days of small-town celebration. Enjoy the tree lighting, Festival of Trees, craft bazaars, Santa visits, and the Holiday Lights Contest while supporting local businesses.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 4****Brownsville Library Annual Book Sale**

Dec. 4-13 • During library hours • 146 Spaulding Ave. Browse bargain-priced books for all ages in the Kirk Room.

**Courtney Creek Artisan Market**

Now-Dec. 6
10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily
36744 Courtney Creek Dr.
Handmade goods, antiques, fine art, gourmet foods, wreaths, and bakery treats in the historic schoolhouse.
www.courtneycreek.com

**"All Wrapped Up" at Janky Bird**

Through December 134 Spaulding Ave. Various hours, text 571-482-8866 to confirm. A holiday exhibit of gift-ready art supporting local charities.
www.jankypbird.com

Kim's Kafé Now Open

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Historic Tangent Store • 32050 Birdfoot Dr., Tangent
Serving sandwiches, salads, wraps and BJ's Ice Cream! 541-220-2248

Thompson's Christmas Trees

Open for the season • 37320 Mountain Home Dr.
Family-run farm offering Nordmann, Noble, Turkish Fir, and Blue Spruce trees.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5**Santa Visits the Brownsville Library**

Dec. 5 • 11 a.m. • 146 Spaulding Ave.

Santa joins Story Time for a holiday craft and cheerful visit.

"Something Special for Christmas" — Harrisburg Arts Academy

Dec. 5-14 • Harrisburg Arts Center

A family-friendly holiday production featuring local performers of all ages. <https://jctheater.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/GTCJC>.

Brownsville Tree Lighting

Dec. 5 • 6-7 p.m. • Spaulding Ave. between Main and Averill streets

The annual Brownsville Chamber of Commerce hosted lighting ceremony features caroling, the Blue Notes, candles, and a special guest tree-lighter. Spaulding Avenue will be closed for safety.

**Holiday Lights Contest Begins**

Dec. 5-25 • Throughout Brownsville

Tour creative home displays all month. Map available at <https://historicbrownsville.com>.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5 & SATURDAY, DEC. 6**Women's Study Club Festival of Trees**

Dec. 5-6 • 18 downtown locations

Decorated trees are displayed in shops and offices throughout downtown.

See complete list on page 9.

Abundance of Not2Shabbe Holiday Pop-Up

Dec. 5-6 • 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Brownsville Break Room,
109 Spaulding Ave.

A curated collection of handcrafted, upcycled, and one-of-a-kind items.

Bryan's Woodshed — Christmas in the Shed

Dec. 4-6 • 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
34066 Hwy 228, 4 miles east of Brownsville

Browse handcrafted furniture, garden art, and decor made from reclaimed materials.
541-521-2269
bryanswoodshed.wixsite.com/home

American Legion Holiday Craft Bazaar

Dec. 5-6 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
339 N. Main St.

Local makers offer handmade gifts, decor, baked goods, and more.

Rec Center Holiday Bazaar

Dec. 5 • 2-6 p.m. & Dec. 6 • 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
234 W. Park Ave (up the hill behind city hall)
Vendors fill the Rec Center with crafts, seasonal goods, and treats.

**Photos with Santa**

Dec. 5-6 • Noon-2 p.m.
128 Spaulding Ave.

Stop by Jenna Stutsman Real Estate's new office for holiday photos with Santa.

Moyer House Holiday Festivities

Dec. 5-6 • 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
During Festival of Trees • 204 N. Main St.

The historic Moyer House is decorated for the season and open during event hours.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6**Brownsville Art Association****Holiday Art Market**

Dec. 6 • 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
255 N. Main St.

Two floors of artwork, jewelry, pottery, cards, ornaments, soaps, preserves, and more from over 30 local artists.

**Assembly of God Holiday Bazaar**

Dec. 6 & 13 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Dec. 20 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m. • 313 Washburn St.

Handmade items, baked goods, and seasonal gifts.

Halsey Parade of Lights & Breakfast

Dec. 6 • Breakfast 6:30-10:30 a.m.; Parade 6 p.m.
Halsey Fire Station & Central Linn Elementary School
Enjoy breakfast supporting Meals on Wheels, then return for the annual lighted parade and chili feed.
541-369-2419 • halseyfire@rtinet.com
<https://www.facebook.com/halseyfire>



FESTIVAL OF TREES

continued from the cover

large plastic bag that pulls up around the tree and ties at the top to secure ornaments during transport. Trees are placed in their stands on top of these bags at each location, making it easy for volunteers and students to pull the bag up and prepare the tree for travel.

City Hall staff will judge the trees on Friday morning and award ribbons in several categories. Themes this year include "Baby It's Cold Outside" at the Pioneer Picture Gallery, "Happy Howl-idays" by the Raindrops 4-H Club at the Brownsville Break Room, and OSU Beaver and UO Duck trees at the Rec Center, where an arts and crafts bazaar will also take place. Taking home one of these decorated trees — or gifting one — is a festive way to begin the holiday season and share the spirit of giving. The Brownsville Women's Study Club invites everyone to come home for the holidays and bid on a tree.

Proceeds from this year's fundraiser will support the Brownsville Community Library and Sharing Hands, helping provide programs, materials, and assistance for families in need.

For more information, contact Festival of Trees coordinator Cyndi Anderson at 541-570-1055 or thebrownsvillehouse@gmail.com.

Full List of Trees, Locations, Artists, and Themes

1. Armandos Mexican Restaurant, JR Farms 4-H Club, "Cows"
2. Brownsville Art Center, Brownsville Art Association, "Christmas at the Cabin"
3. Brownsville Break Room, Lisa Keith, "Christmas Magic"
4. Brownsville Break Room, Raindrops 4-H Club, "Happy Howl-idays"
5. Brownsville Break Room, Harmony Morris & Family, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town"
6. Brownsville Community Library, Joyce Nelson & Julie Reed, "Blue and Silver"
7. Brownsville Community Library, Central Linn Early Literacy Program, "Candyland"
8. Brownsville Rec Center, A'verie M'aed Over, "OSU Beavers"
9. Brownsville Rec Center, A'verie M'aed Over, "U of O Ducks"
10. Brownsville Rec Center, Central Linn Recreation Association, "Sandlot"
11. Brownsville Stitching Parlor, Brownsville Stitching Parlor, "A Merry RED Christmas"
12. Flat Earth Herbs, Carolyn Jackson & Library Story Time Children, "Feed The Birds"
13. Janky Bird, Janky Bird, "All Wrapped Up"
14. Jenna Stutsman, Hybrid Real Estate, Connect Linn County, Whimsical
15. Joe Glow Massage, Deborah Maskal, "Christmas Homemade Remembered"
16. Linn County Pioneer Association, Linn County Pioneer Association, "Baby, It's Cold Outside"
17. Main Street Reflections Salon & Day Spa, Rebekah, Mary, Stacy and Kori, "Firehouse"
18. Main Street Reflections Salon & Day Spa, Krista Bass & Missy, "Cowboy Christmas"
19. Mema's Country Kitchen, Breonna Smith, "Highland Cows"
20. Moyer House - Linn County Historical Museum, Pollyanna Club, "A Christmas Waterfall"
21. Moyer House - Linn County Historical Museum, P.E.O. Club DD, Sweet Home, "There's Snow One Like You"
22. Moyer House - Linn County Historical Museum, Sharing Hands, "A Village Christmas"
23. Moyer House - Linn County Historical Museum, Pollyanna Club, "In Memory of Maureen Rose"
24. Poppi's Place, Dayna Hansen, "Falalalala"
25. Randy's Main Street Coffee Company, First Baptist Church, "Gingerbread"
26. The Brownsville Times, The Brownsville Times, "Victorian Punk"



Linn County Pioneer Association's 2023 Festival of Trees, decorated by Karmel Curtis, on display in the Picture Gallery.

LONG GRAY BRAID MUSINGS

'Twas the Day Before Christmas

By Annie Swensen, Staff Writer

'Twas the day before Christmas and all through my house
Tufts of fur were aflyin' while I ran for a mouse.
All the light strings were blinking, but blink they should not,
And, tho' on for an hour, still the oven's not hot!
I expected the gifts Halloween I'd have wrapped —
Appeared now, through the season, ol' Santa had napped
Or the elves took a break and forgot to tell me,
So 'twas off to the mall for some sort of a spree.

Once back home I had packages, fuses, a bird...
And the rest of my story will sound quite absurd.
Not the part where the stove and the strobing I fix
Or the bags that were stacked full of fav'rite kid picks,
But the truce that I called, with our Christmas so near,
When I bowed to the mouse as he shook Buck's big ear.
So now pressed into service, Buck vacuumed the floor
Then he licked clean the tile and a few places more.

As was I, in my apron, baking cookies and pies,
On his own (he could tell by the look in my eyes)
The smart mouse called some friends to help tape and make bows.
In short time a tall mound of wrapped presents arose.
The mice ribboned round Buck who pulled all to the tree
Then he nosed them around where they needed to be,
While the team of mice scurried the stockings to fill,
Without tasting the candy to prove their good will.



As the time hastened by and the turkey was done,
Buck sat still in one spot, not one hair on the run.
Into each of the stockings jumped one of the mice
Wriggling down to the toe, round the ball past the dice.
When the doorbell is rung and our guests have arrived—
Well, at least we can say, "with our friends, we survived."
But they're tugging my arm, as though I'd forget
That there's still one more thing we have to do yet...

From our hearts we send wishes of Joyous and Bright,
To each one of our fam'ly and friends out of sight.
Merry Christmas to all and a year of good luck
With our deepest of love, Mickey, Annie and Buck! ☺

KIDS' KORNER

Holiday Table Talk

By Sandra Beckwith, Staff Writer

Do you get bored at family dinners? Are you counting the minutes before you can leave the table? Did you know that interesting people surround you and you didn't know it?

My friend, if you're stuck for what to say, you're not asking enough questions. Everybody is interesting if you look deep enough. I'm going to share some of my favorite questions to get the table talk going and then watch the fun begin.

Everyone has had challenges, funny things happen to them, lived during interesting times, and gone places you've never been. Ask them. The dinner table is the perfect place to ask and then listen.

This Holiday season, try asking these questions:

- What's the story of how you got engaged?
- Where's the most interesting place you've ever been?
- If you could live at any point in history, when and where would it be?

There are so many ways to open an interesting conversation. You may learn fascinating sides of the people you think you know. It's like an adventure that you never know where it's going to take you.

To learn more about table talk, table manners, and even how to be a good host, look for the new book coming out, *Master Keys for Kids for Families*. www.MasterKeysforKids.com by myself, Sandra Beckwith. ☺



Illustration of "Dinner at the Palace" by Sandra Beckwith from "For Whom the Dinner Bell Tolls," in *A Manner for All Seasons Series, Master Keys for Kids*

WORSHIP DIRECTORY**Brownsville Assembly of God**

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

Brownsville Christian Church

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

Brownsville Community Church

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

Brownsville Mennonite Church

34795 OR-228 • 541-466-5622

Central Valley Church

657 American Dr • Halsey • 503-602-6796
<https://www.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
holymtrinitybrownsvilleor@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.

Keeping Local News Alive: A Community Effort

The Brownsville Times briefly stopped publishing last December, but a community effort brought the 137-year-old paper back just six months later. Seven local members formed a new nonprofit board, and over 40 volunteer writers — including several published authors — volunteered to help bring the paper back. The first issue of the revived Times was released on June 5.

Rising costs for printing, paper, and postage have been difficult, and the newspaper currently has just one paid staff member to handle professional editing and design. Donations have helped cover office space, legal support, furniture, and supplies, while volunteers assist with pre-editing, fact-checking, and office hours.

A significant financial obstacle remains due to the paper's six-month closure; Oregon law prohibits it from printing legal notices until it has been publishing again for a full year. This delay means the Times cannot access an estimated \$30,000 in yearly legal-notice revenue until June of next year.

The Times publishes 1,000 newspapers each week and currently has 464 print subscribers, more than 100 digital subscribers, and increas-

ing newsstand sales. To ensure long-term sustainability, the nonprofit aims to reach 800 print subscriptions.

This year's fundraising effort includes a \$4,000 matching challenge from a local supporter, doubling all donations up to that amount. Board members say the match comes at a critical time, helping the paper close the financial gap created by last year's shutdown and the temporary loss of legal-notice revenue.

As the holiday season nears, the Board encourages readers to support local journalism. Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to:

The Brownsville Times

PO Box 278

Brownsville, OR 97327

Community support continues to be essential for maintaining the region's connectedness and safeguarding a historic local institution. ☀

**The Students Who Drew Up a Plan to Stop Armageddon**

By Stephen A. Brenner, Staff Writer

In 2021, a survey of 10,000 young people found that most were fearful of the future, with more than half convinced humanity might be headed for extinction. Today's students face overlapping existential threats, yet one major danger is far less threatening than it once was: the prospect of a world-destroying asteroid strike. That decline in risk owes much to a remarkable project undertaken by a group of MIT students in the 1960s, when fears of asteroids first gripped the American public.

The anxiety began when astronomers identified asteroid Icarus, whose orbit passed uncomfortably close to Earth. In 1965, researchers noted that even a slight deviation could cause it to hit Earth during its 1968 pass. Scientists publicly reassured people that a collision was unlikely, but they acknowledged a fundamental truth: any number of unseen asteroids could pose a future threat.

In 1967, one year before Icarus's approach, MIT engineering professor, Paul Sandorff, launched an unusual graduate course. Students would be tasked with designing a realistic plan — using only existing technology — to prevent Icarus from striking Earth. Initially skeptical, the 21 students quickly embraced the high-stakes scenario Sandorff laid out: a hypothetical impact on June 19, 1968, generating a mid-Atlantic blast equivalent to 500 billion tons of TNT and a tsunami killing millions.

Dividing into specialized teams, the students discovered that asteroid defense depends on early detection. If a dangerous asteroid is found decades in advance, a spacecraft can intercept it at the slowest point in its orbit and apply a small

push — enough to shift its path away from Earth. Unfortunately, they concluded, it was far too late to apply this method to Icarus.

Instead, they developed Project Icarus: a coordinated mission using six Saturn V rockets, each carrying a hydrogen bomb with a yield of 100 million tons of TNT. Detonated near (but not on) the asteroid, the bombs' radiation would vaporize part of the surface and impart a sideways "kick," nudging it off course. Backup detonations could push further or destroy dangerous fragments. Their plan wasn't perfect, but the students estimated a roughly 71 percent chance of success.

Their proposal attracted national attention, but after Icarus passed Earth harmlessly in 1968, interest waned. Public attitudes shifted again decades later. A near-miss in 1989, and the dramatic 1994 comet collision with Jupiter finally convinced policymakers to take planetary defense seriously. NASA incorporated asteroid detection into its core mission, and scientists have since mapped the orbits of roughly a million asteroids — none of which threaten Earth. Modern spacecraft have even demonstrated the exact deflection technique the MIT students envisioned.

Today, Sandorff's teaching model feels newly relevant. In an age where students can feel powerless in the face of climate change, nuclear risks, and emerging technologies, the Project Icarus story offers a powerful lesson: when people are given a concrete mission and permission to think boldly, they can devise solutions that make the world safer.

This article was digested from a National Geographic article by Dagomar Degroot, November 11, 2025. ☀



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AMERICAN LEGION

The Legion's Part in Operation Evergreen, Chapter 2

By an ordinary seaman

When the Legion's leaf blowers become silent, the trees are delivered to their 18 display points and turned over to the tree artists. That's a descriptive term, and rightly so. These are the folks who, in a two-day fever of creation, transform simple wood and needle into spectacles of whimsy, tradition, and bright innovation. By Thursday night, judges from City Hall have made their rounds, choosing the winners in various categories.

The real fun begins on Friday and Saturday, the days of intense bidding. Crowds visit all 18 locations, and numerous bids are placed. Oh, there's a little polite pushing and shoving near the bid sheets — but thankfully, injuries are uncommon. The Festival of Trees is just part of the larger Home for the Holidays event, which includes bazaars, carolers, the town's tree lighting, and possibly Santa himself making a brief appearance.

The true spectacle, however, happens Saturday at four o'clock, once the bidding ends and the sheets are collected. That's when onlookers gather to witness the most enjoyable and adventurous

part of the whole festival: The Great Christmas Tree Departure.

Pickup trucks pull up to the tree locations, and the winning bidders rush in to assess the glorious, complex, and potentially branch-breaking task of moving their prize. Under-the-tree gifts are quickly moved to the safety of the truck's cab. The crucial tree bag is pulled over the treetop for protection. Then, the decorated giant is carefully hand-carried to the truck bed and securely anchored in place. Onlookers often admire the movers' dexterity and calmness, and on occasion, even offer to help. It is at this moment that the Christmas spirit is truly tested: the final decision of who will stand in the truck bed and hold the tree, acting as a human anchor against the Brownsville breeze.

Once settled, the truck engine whistles, and away they all fly like the down of a thistle, carrying their festive load out of sight. And if you listen closely, you just might hear the happy driver exclaim: "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"

Peoria Road Farm Market Marks 12th Annual Craft Fair

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer

Peoria Road Farm Market held its 12th annual Craft Fair this past Saturday, November 22. Owners Justin and Margaret Henderson, long committed to supporting local makers, began the tradition out of a love of locally-made wares and a desire to give artisans a welcoming place to sell their items. What

started as a small event in one room of the market has grown to fill that room as well as all three greenhouses, drawing large crowds and keeping vendors busy throughout the day.

A favorite feature each year is the raffle basket, created from items donated by every vendor. Tickets are sold for \$1, with all

proceeds going to Samaritan's Purse, a nonprofit that supports people affected by war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine around the world. This year's raffle raised \$416.

Mark your calendar for next year, Saturday, November 21, 2026.

The Brownsville Times Receives \$2,500 Grant for Rural Direct-Mail Campaign

The Brownsville Times has received a \$2,500 grant from the Roundhouse Foundation to support a direct mail subscription campaign that will expand access to local journalism for rural residents in the Central Linn region of Linn County. The funds will be used to design, print, and mail postcards encouraging subscriptions among households that are difficult to reach through digital outreach.

Many rural residents — especially seniors and low-income individuals — lack reliable internet or digital devices. Direct mail remains the most effective way to ensure they stay connected to local news, civic updates, and community stories. Increasing subscriptions is essential for the newspaper's long-term sustainability.

The project will begin with finalizing the postcard design in January 2026. Two mailing cycles will reach 4,882 households in Brownsville, Halsey, Shedd, Tangent, Crawfordsville, and Harrisburg — first in January–February, then

again in March–April 2026. The Times will track responses and new subscriptions through December 2026.

According to Sharon Banks, Board Chairperson for the Brownsville Times, "the road to financial stability is to increase our subscriber base."

Project goals include achieving a 10–15 percent response rate, gaining 150–225 new subscribers, expanding awareness of the newspaper in underserved areas, and reducing reliance on grants and donations by the end of 2026.

The campaign has the support of community partners who help connect the newspaper with residents. These include the City of Brownsville, Brownsville Chamber of Commerce, and the Central Linn School District.

This project ensures rural voices are heard and that residents without digital access remain informed. The grant strengthens The Brownsville Times' mission to provide reliable, community-centered journalism for everyone.



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ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

**BUCKET LIST PHASE TWO****A New Chapter of Challenges on the PCT**

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer

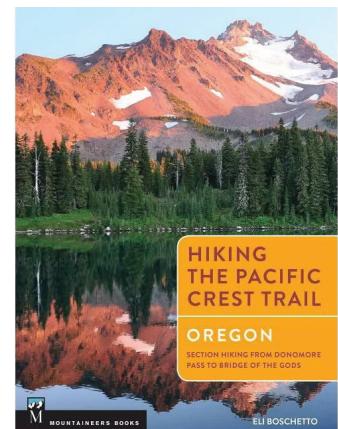
Previously, I shared my bucket list goal of walking the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Now, in my 70s, I realize my bucket list lacks challenges, so I am working to fix this by creating a new list. It will include a return to the PCT for a long day hike, preferably in the spring.

Why? To further my sense of self-discovery and confidence, and strengthen my profound connection to nature. Perhaps it's to prove to myself that I can still do anything I set my mind to, despite the difficulty (and the 7th-decade hurdles: arthritis, cataracts, less enthusiasm for discomfort).

For a day hike, the easiest access from Brownsville is through Eugene. A twelve-mile hike can be reached via Highways 58, 242, and 20. The "Diamond Express" is an Amtrak train that connects Eugene to Oakridge in 60 minutes. Oakridge offers an access point for day hikes and is located 27 miles west of the PCT. There, you will find local guides providing shuttle service from Oakridge to the trail and back. You can start day hikes, backpacking trips, or long-distance thru hikes from this location. If you prefer to drive, take Highway 58 East from Goshen just south of Eugene. Once in Oakridge, follow Highway 58 to milepost 62.5 just past Willamette Pass Ski Area. The signed trailhead is on the north side of the highway. A Day Wilderness Self-Issue Permit is required and can be obtained at the trailhead or purchased in advance.

You can also connect at the Santiam Pass Trailhead, just past Hoodoo Ski Bowl at 4,817 ft. elevation. From McKenzie River Highway 126, continue north where it joins Highway 20. This is a day-use fee area. Federal passes are accepted.

Make sure you're properly prepared for a mountain hike in the wilderness. An excellent resource is "Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, Oregon."





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BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

At the Library this Week: Books, Santa, and Trees

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

Join us at the Brownsville Library this week! Your local library is a community hub in the wheel of happenings.

Book Sale

Our Annual Book Sale starts on Thursday, December 4, at 1 p.m. Books are available for adults, juniors, and children; both non-fiction (true stories) and fiction (made-up stories). Many of these books are donated by our community, while a few have been removed from the library collection. Paperbacks are priced at \$0.50. Hardback, audio, and video items cost \$1. Each year, we also offer a limited number of creatively and beautifully wrapped blind date books starting at \$5 each. Each wrapped book includes a brief description inside and some additional clues on the outside. The sale runs from Thursday, December 4, through Saturday, December 13, during regular library hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 1 to 7 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shop early, shop often!

Santa Visits Story Time on Friday



Community Library for the eBooks (Libby by Overdrive) service. ☺

We invited Santa to Story Time! Join Santa

and us for a special story session on Friday, December 5, at 11 a.m. Ms. Thea will have a special craft for children to make. This is the third year Santa has been able to attend Story Time.

The Brownsville Library hosts the Festival of Trees. We will also display two fully decorated trees on December 5 and 6. There will be 25 beautifully decorated trees at 18 downtown businesses. Bidding begins on Friday, December 5, at the start of the business day and ends on Saturday, December 6, at 4 p.m. The Brownsville Women's Study Club will donate funds to Sharing Hands and the Brownsville



Take a chance on a mystery read. Blind Date books are wrapped, labeled with just a few clues, and ready to surprise you.

Human Rights Day Calls for Kindness and Respect

Human Rights Day, observed each year on December 10, serves as a reminder that dignity and fairness belong to every person. For small communities like ours, the day encourages residents to look out for neighbors and recognize the shared humanity that ties the town together. The observance marks the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document that set a common ideal for freedom and justice. This year's reflection invites simple acts of kindness, inclusion, and compassion. It offers a moment to reaffirm that every individual has value and deserves to be treated with respect. ☺

LITERARY

BROWNSVILLE BOOK CLUB

The Truth is Hard to Swallow

By Barbara DeRobertis, Staff Writer

In the epilogue of this month's book, "In the Time of the Butterflies", by Julia Alvarez, the author states, "A novel is not, after all, a historical document, but a way to travel through the human heart." More perfect words were never spoken regarding this historic, fictionalized, well-imagined novel. Inspired by actual events and real-life heroes, this book tells the courageous, tragic tale of the Mirabal sisters, who were part of an underground movement that stood up for justice during the 31-year dictatorship (1930-1961) of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. Three of the four sisters were ambushed, beaten, and murdered on November 25, 1960, while on their way home from visiting their imprisoned husbands.

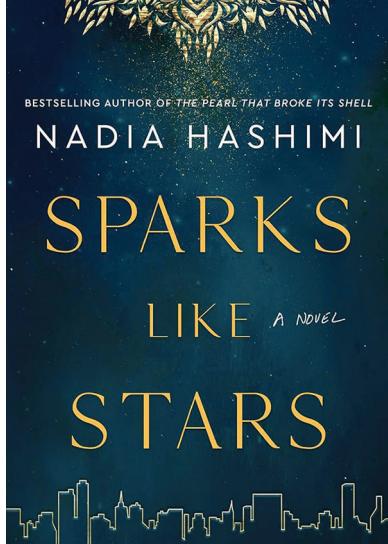
The story is told in the voices of all four sisters (known as "las Miraposas" or "the Butterflies"), one of whom survives to tell their story. It is a story of resistance, bravery, and sacrifice that deeply stirs its readers' emotions. Although we know from the very beginning that these sisters die, we are lured into listening to their story. What we discover will leave a lasting imprint on our hearts. Because we were aware of their demise early on, many of us said we tried to maintain some emotional distance from these "characters." It certainly would have been an easier tale to swallow if the story weren't true. The truth IS hard to swallow. In alternating chapters, we hear each sister's individual life story. We learn who they are, how they differ from one another, and how they all join together for the greater good.

This book made for some lively discussion. Like many others, I had not heard of this incident before reading this book. One member mentioned that there are currently 61 active conflicts occurring around the globe and that we don't hear about them. I verified this fact. According to the 2025 Global Peace Index, which is a near-accurate number and the highest since WWII. Source: <https://www.visionofhumanity.org>.

The Mirabal sisters paid the ultimate price for a cause they believed in. Their actions and strong convictions inspired a nation to liberate itself. In honor of the Mirabal sisters, November 25 has been declared by the United Nations as "The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women." Coincidentally, I am submitting this article to The Brownsville Times on November 25, 2025, the 65th anniversary of their murder. Also of note, the author, Julia Alvarez, was born in the Dominican Republic and fled with her family in 1960. She was compelled to share this important story. Hopefully, by doing so, she raises awareness and will embolden us to stand up for what we believe in.

Next month, we will be discussing "Sparks like Stars" by Nadia Hashimi. Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month (December 17) at 7 p.m. in the Kirk Room of the Brownsville

Community Library. New members are always welcome — questions: email bderobertis@yahoo.com. ☺



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POWERING LINN

New Solar Farm Turns Tough Brownsville Field into a Long-Term Asset

By Kayl Enders, Staff Writer

A new community solar project has just been completed on Highway 228, turning an 11-acre clay field west of Brownsville into a steady power plant and retirement asset.

The project sits immediately west of the Calapooya substation at 34336 Highway 228. It uses roughly 4,700 high-efficiency ZNShine solar modules and 17 inverters to deliver about 951 kilowatts AC of capacity into Pacific Power's local grid. That output is enough to cover the annual electricity use of roughly 150 typical homes, depending on operating conditions. The project draws on several specialist partners: Arcadia manages community solar subscriptions, and CFE LLC (Puerto Rico based) serves as the electrical contractor of record. Based on industry patterns and field evidence, it is also likely that Renewable Acres acted as the EPC builder, with firms such as AMCO NW Construction and The Harver Company providing civil and structural support during construction.



The land belongs to Willem and Carolyn Rodenhuis. Their soil is classified as Class IV and lower — heavy clay with rock that bakes hard in summer and turns to mud in winter. Initial plans for filberts proved uneconomical, and even leasing the ground for sheep would barely have covered property taxes.

Solar changed the equation. Because photovoltaics do not depend on fertile soil, and the parcel borders an existing substation, the site is almost tailor-made for a grid-tied project. After a long courtship with developers and regulators, the Rodenhuis family signed a 25-year lease that pays roughly five times more than a grazing lease, without fertilizer or crop risk.

On paper, the project has been in motion for years. It was pre-certified in the Oregon Community Solar Program, then worked through environmental review, archaeological checks and Linn County land-use approvals before construction began. Now complete, it will operate as a shared facility: utility customers subscribe to a

portion of the output and receive bill credits for their share.

For Brownsville, the project lands in the middle of a heated regional debate over solar on farmland. The much larger Muddy Creek Energy Park proposal south of town targets prime soils and has drawn fierce opposition. By contrast, the Rodenhuis array shows what happens when solar is steered toward marginal ground beside existing infrastructure.

Instead of fighting poor soil for uncertain crop income, the landowners now have a predictable 25-year revenue stream. There is still a strong potential for using the land for farm use in relay with the solar farm — also known as agrivoltaics. The community gains local construction work, a modest block of shared solar capacity and a visible reminder that not every project has to come at the expense of the county's best farmland. ☀

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





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Photo by: www.sharonbanks.com

ODHS Urges EBT Cardholders to Take Action Now to Prevent Benefit Theft

The Oregon Department of Human Services is urging SNAP and TANF recipients to immediately strengthen security on their EBT cards after nearly \$86,000 in food and cash benefits were stolen in October alone.

According to ODHS, about 223 Oregon households reported theft of \$85,902 in benefits last October, including \$68,794 in SNAP food benefits and \$17,108 in TANF cash. Criminals often use card skimmers, fake websites, and online scams to steal card numbers and PINs, then make online or out-of-state purchases to drain accounts — often immediately after benefits are issued at the start of the month.

ODHS Director Liesl Wendt urges all EBT cardholders to take easy steps now to safeguard their benefits. Recommended actions include:

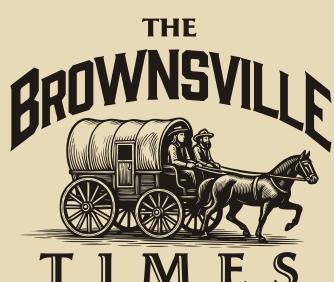
- Use only the official ebtEDGE website and mobile app.
- Freeze your card between uses through ebtEDGE under “Freeze Card.”
- Block online and out-of-state transactions under “Protect My Account.”
- Change your PIN regularly and never share it or write it on your card.
- Check card readers for tampering before use and monitor your account for unfamiliar charges.
- Ignore texts, calls, websites, or social media messages asking for your card number, PIN, or case information.



A card-skimming device disguised as a card reader attachment. Scammers use devices like this to capture EBT card numbers and PINs without the user's knowledge. Photo provided.

ODHS can replace TANF benefits stolen due to fraud if families report within 30 days, but the agency can no longer replace SNAP benefits because federal replacement funding expired on December 21, 2024.

More information, including brochures, wallet cards, and how-to videos, is available at <https://benefits.oregon.gov> under “Protect Your EBT Card and Benefits.”



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Pacific Power Urges Customers to Watch for Holiday Billing Scams

As the holiday season approaches, Pacific Power warns customers to watch out for a spike in utility scams. The company reports that fraudulent calls and messages often increase around this time, with scammers posing as utility workers and threatening immediate disconnection.

One common tactic is telling customers their service will be shut off within 30 to 60 minutes unless they make an immediate payment. Pacific Power stresses that it never demands same-day payment to prevent disconnection and warns customers to be cautious of anyone insisting on instant payment.

Another red flag is when you're asked to buy a prepaid card and give the card number over the phone. The company states it does not accept payments by prepaid cards, and customers are always free to choose how they pay their bills.

Customers who receive a suspicious call are advised to ask the caller to confirm their account number and compare it to the one listed on their bill. Legitimate customer service representatives will always have this information. Pacific Power also notes an increase in text-based scams and emphasizes that it will not request payment via text message.

Scammers may also fake caller ID information to make it seem like the

call is from Pacific Power. Anyone who gets a suspicious call or message should hang up and contact the company directly at 1-888-221-7070.

Pacific Power urges customers to report scam attempts, including the caller's number and any details that could help authorities identify the perpetrators. More information is available at <https://www.pacificpower.net>.

PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 6

M	A	Y	A		T	R	I	P	S		I	D	L	E	
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5	3	8	9	1	4	7	6	2		TOYS	
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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. 22

12:54 p.m. — Deputy documented information on female who's dog escaped on leash and ran to sheep at Seven Mile Ln/Linn West Dr, Brownsville. No injuries reported.

1:51 p.m. — Robert Di Pietro, 50, from Salem was issued a traffic citation for speeding 41/25 mph in the 30500 block of Diamond Hill Rd, Harrisburg.

5:44 p.m. — James Olson, 63, of Harrisburg was arrested for a Lane County warrant during a warrant service in the 33000 block of Priceboro Rd, Harrisburg. Report pending.

10:17 p.m. — Minor in possession reported at the 36200 block of Courtney Creek Dr near Timber Rd, Brownsville. Deputies were unable to locate after a search of the area.

Sunday, November 23

2:26 a.m. — N. Buehler, 49, of Eugene received a traffic citation for failure to obey a traffic control device at 2nd St/W E St, Halsey.

8:08 a.m. — Joshua Grant Kennedy, 42, of Brownsville was issued a citation for illegal window tinting and also warned for obstructed license plate in the 23600 block of Hwy 99E, Harrisburg.

8:48 a.m. — Stacey Laise Woods, 54, of Harrisburg was issued a citation for expired registration in the 400 block of S 3rd St, Harrisburg.

9:29 a.m. — Rueben Ray Reeser, 64, of Shedd was issued a citation for expired registration at S 3rd St/Kesling St, Harrisburg.

10:41 a.m. — Ramon Ceballos Gonzalez, 50, of Harrisburg was issued a citation for a canceled driver's license and expired registration.

11:36 a.m. — Devin Scott Roan, 46, of Eugene was issued a citation for illegal window tinting. Warned for no front plate and obstructed rear plate in the 500 block of S 3rd St, Harrisburg.

12:07 p.m. — Samuel Gordon Conrad, 36, of Springfield were issued a citation for expired registration in the 300 block of N3rd St, Harrisburg.

12:39 p.m. — Citizen reported gunshots in the 700 block of Westview St, Brownsville. Deputy investigated and was unable to locate any one shooting in Brownsville at the time of the report.

2:00 p.m. — Colton Lee Neuschwander, 35, of Harrisburg was issued a citation for failure to stop at a stop sign in the 100 block of N 7th St, Harrisburg.

2:35 p.m. — Erica Nicole

Ojeda, 36, of Harrisburg was issued a citation for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, and an expired registration. She was warned for failure to register a vehicle in the 300 block of N 3rd St, Harrisburg.

2:46 p.m. — Caller reported identity theft in the 31400 block of Peoria Rd, Shedd. Deputy took report. Investigation ongoing, report pending.

3:42 p.m. — Robin Leanne Claypool, 39, of Eugene was issued a citation for illegal window tinting and driving uninsured. She was also warned for failure to change address on her license.

3:59 p.m. — Deputy responded to juveniles trespassing at abandoned house in the 900 block of Sommerville Loop, Harrisburg and warned them for trespassing.

9:12 p.m. — Attempted warrant service at the 600 block of Loucks Way, Brownsville and was unable to locate suspect.

9:21 p.m. — Caller reported a civil dispute in the 32700 block of Twin Buttes West Dr, Halsey. Deputy documented caller's statements in a civil matter.

Monday, November 24

9:55 a.m. — Deputy responded to a burglary at the 600 block of LaSalle St, Harrisburg and detained a 12 year old who skipped school and broke into the home of a friend to play video games and wait out the day. He was returned to a guardian. Report sent to juvenile department but victim did not want to pursue charges.

12:33 p.m. — Gary Johnson, 67, of Brownsville, was cited for driving with a suspended driver's license and driving without insurance at Sage St/Kirk Ave, Brownsville.

1:09 p.m. — Male cut his wrists with a kitchen knife in the 31900 Block of B St, Shedd and lost roughly 3 liters of blood. Halsey/Shedd Fire Department and LCSO responded and the male was transported to a local hospital where he was treated for his injuries.

Tuesday, November 25

7:16 a.m. — Malachi Nickelson, 31, of Harrisburg, was located and arrested at Dairy Mart in Harrisburg and transported to jail on multiple warrants. Malachi had fled on foot earlier in the morning from a Deputy. Report pending.

7:43 a.m. — Branden Tigue, 46 of Veneta, was cited for failing to carry proof of insurance and driving without a valid driver's license at Territorial St/N 2nd St, Harrisburg.

9:54 a.m. — Female was nearly scammed out of \$14,600 in the 900 block of Red Clover Ct, Harrisburg from a free word-per-minute typing test website. Female's friend made her aware the incident was a scam before she sent any money.

2:05 p.m. — Deputy took a report of a Toyota Prius that was stolen off BLM land near the 23000 block of Brush Creek Road. The vehicle was taken sometime between Nov. 20-25. No suspects at this time. Report pending.

10:29 p.m. — Benito Manuel, 18, of Halsey was issued a citation for speeding in the 26500 block of Hwy 99E, Halsey.

Wednesday, Nov. 26

7:30 a.m. — Driver hit a deer in the 28700 block of Peoria Rd, Halsey causing damage to vehicle. No injuries. Report pending.

9:32 p.m. — Deputies responded to a non-injury

non-property damage single vehicle crash at Brownsville Rd/Harrisson Rd, Brownsville. The driver of the vehicle, Kerkepesep Daniel Gazzarini Panno, 20, of Lebanon, was cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured. The vehicle was towed. Report pending.

Thursday, Nov. 27

4:13 p.m. — Roderick Erickson, 48, of Brownsville was issued a traffic citation for permitting unlawful operation of vehicle for allowing his 13-year-old son to drive outside of Brownsville at Harrison Rd/Seven Mile Ln.

Friday, November 28

8:39 a.m. — Caller reported a physical disturbance between a grandmother and her juvenile teenage grandson in the 400 block of W F St, Halsey. Report pending.

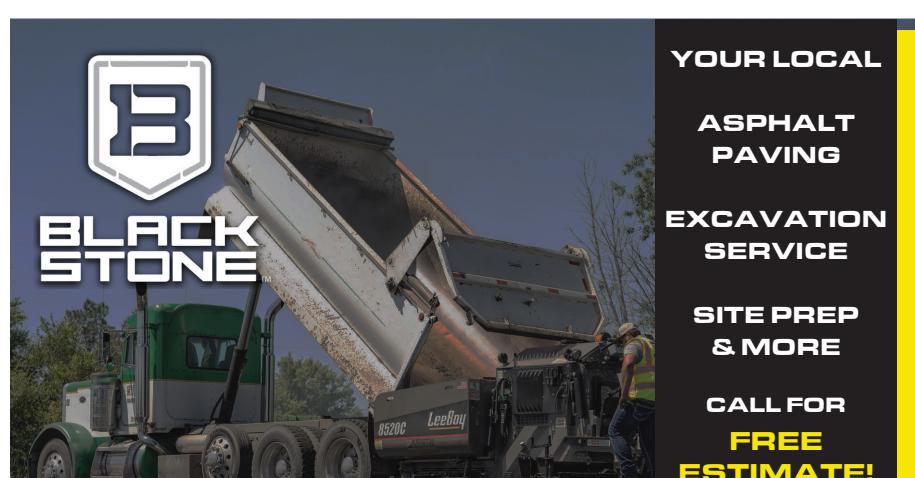
4:40 p.m. — Caller reported a suspicious male walking around business parking lot. Male left without incident prior to law enforcement contact in the 33100 block of Hwy 228, Halsey.

4:45 p.m. — Caller reported a non-injury motor vehicle crash at N Coburg Rd/Diamond Hill Dr, Harrisburg. Report pending.

5:44 p.m. — Deputies responded to an animal complaint in the 29100 block of Lone Pine Rd, Brownsville.

8:52 p.m. — Deputy was called by an individual alleging her mother committed crimes in the 37800 block of Hwy 228, Brownsville.

11:49 p.m. — Deputies investigated an armed disturbance in the 35600 block of Courtney Creek Drive near Hwy 228, Brownsville. Investigation ongoing, report pending. ☀



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Disaster at Proxy Falls

By Daniel R. Murphy

Last July, Central Linn residents, Roselyn Leon and her family went for a summer hike at Proxy Falls in the Willamette National Forest off Highway 242, which features both upper and lower falls.

Roselyn noticed many fallen trees across the trail, though plenty of people were still hiking. The trail itself was in fair condition aside from the fallen trees, which they had to climb over or under. It was a very hot day. They had climbed up to the upper falls and were on their way down to the lower falls when they heard a sharp, explosive sound. It all happened fast.

A log went flying through the air. In the chaos that followed, Roselyn's first concern was that her children or husband would be injured. Her son, Johnny, was hit on the head with a chunk of wood but not seriously hurt. Her husband, Angel, and their daughter, Rose, were not injured.

The log struck Roselyn and went over her. It had traveled about three yards before hitting her, breaking her left tibia in multiple places. She was also struck by debris from the explosion, causing a large laceration to her face along with other bruises and cuts.

Johnny dove into a spot that offered more protection from the debris. Rose was with her father and was unhurt. She saw her mother tumbling



COURTESY OF THE LEON FAMILY

Proxy Falls in the Willamette National Forest, where a local family's summer hike turned into a serious medical emergency after a tree exploded in the heat.

down and hitting large rocks. Roselyn later said she thought she was going to die and had great difficulty breathing.

There was no cell signal. The children ran to Belknap campground to summon help while other hikers stopped to assist. Nearly two hours passed before EMTs arrived. During that time, Roselyn lay on the ground and began to get cold. As a nurse, she recognized that she was likely in shock.

Angel dragged her 10-15 feet to get her out of immediate danger, but her leg was broken and unstable, and she could not go farther. It took another two hours for the ambulance to transport her to the hospital in Bend.

At the hospital, doctors opted for a brace rather than a cast, and she used a walker. She underwent surgery, which included installing nine screws and a metal plate to stabilize her leg. She could not bear weight on the leg for more than ten weeks and will not be released for work until January.

A ranger later explained that when it is very hot, and a tree has absorbed large amounts of water, it can explode — likely what happened in this case.

Roselyn is deeply grateful that none of her family members were seriously injured and that she survived. She has hiked solo in the past, but this incident convinced her that doing so would be unwise. ☺

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