



THE BROWNSVILLE TIMES

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SERVING CENTRAL LINN COUNTY, OREGON SINCE 1889

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

Understanding Martin Luther King Jr. Day Beyond the Day Off

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer

Each January, on the third Monday of the month — Jan. 19 this year — communities across the country observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day. For many, it is recognized as a federal holiday, a day when schools close, and some workplaces slow down. Yet the original purpose of the day was meant to go deeper than a break on the calendar, even in places far from the major cities most closely associated with Dr. King’s work.

When the holiday was established in the 1980s, it was intended to honor Dr. King not only as a historical figure, but as a leader who challenged the nation to live up to its own values. He spoke about fairness, dignity, and opportunity for Black Americans, while also challenging the nation to extend those principles to all people. His message focused on nonviolence, civic responsibility, and the belief that ordinary citizens could help improve their communities.

Over time, the way the holiday is commonly understood has changed. Public attention often centers on a few well-known quotes about unity and equal-

ity. While those words are important, they represent only part of Dr. King’s message. He also spoke openly about poverty, unequal access to education, and the need for citizens to speak up when systems are unfair. Those parts of his legacy can be more complex to talk about, especially in communities that may perceive themselves as distant from the civil rights struggles of the past.

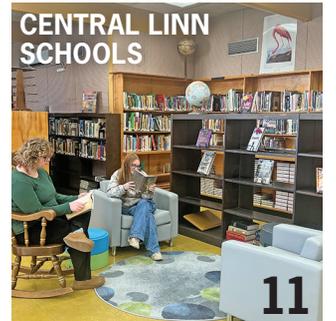
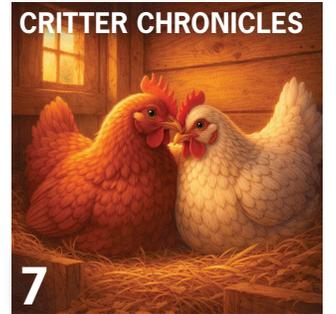
In smaller communities where residents may feel less directly connected to the history of the civil rights movement, Martin Luther King Jr. Day can sometimes feel disconnected from everyday experience, even though the values Dr. King promoted extend far beyond any one group or place. Respect for neighbors, fairness in local decisions, and the willingness to listen to different perspectives are issues every community faces. Dr. King believed that progress often begins at the regional level, with people choosing to treat one another with dignity and to speak up in the face of clear injustice.



The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C., honors the legacy of the civil rights leader with the “Stone of Hope,” a powerful granite sculpture symbolizing his vision of justice, equality and freedom.

MLK continued on page 4

INSIDE



New Era Expands Coverage to Lebanon

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

The Sweet Home New Era published its first issue, serving both Sweet Home and Lebanon, on January 7, 2026. The change represents a shift away from operating the Lebanon Local as a separate print publication and expands the New Era’s weekly coverage to include Lebanon news and issues.



Lebanon has not had a dedicated weekly newspaper since the Lebanon Express ceased publication in 2016. The Express operated for more than 100 years and, at the time of its closure, was owned by the

Albany Democrat Herald and staffed by a single reporter. Later that year, the Lebanon Local began publishing as a monthly paper to provide limited coverage of the community.

Scott Swanson, co-owner of The New Era, said interest in a weekly newspaper for Lebanon had existed for years. Rather than operating two separate publications, the decision was made to fold Lebanon coverage into the existing New Era.

Under the expanded format, The New Era will include coverage of the Lebanon city government, schools, public safety, and community events, alongside its established Sweet Home coverage. The paper will continue to be published weekly.

Other community newspapers in central Linn County, including The Brownsville Times, have noted the transition. Mikayle Stole, editor of The Brownsville Times, said the return of weekly coverage for Lebanon is significant given the city’s size and regional role. The Brownsville Times will continue to focus on its Central Linn County communities while covering broader countywide issues.

ERA continued on page 4

PEOPLE OF LINN COUNTY

Tika Harrison: One Amazing Woman — Many Amazing Facets

By Lauren Sinz, Staff Writer and Columnist



Tika Harrison shares a special moment with her daughters, Addi and Melo, on the evening of Brownsville’s first Lighted Christmas Parade.

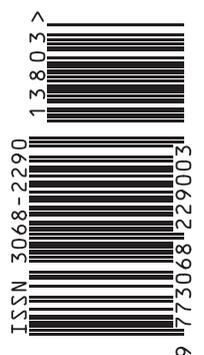
Behind the curtain, Tika Harrison reveals a woman of tremendous grace, insatiable drive, unique passions, and wonderful stories. Peer into the many layers of Tika and you find a depth of character that makes up a very special member of Brownsville’s community.

Many community events in Brownsville are thanks to CONNECT Linn County, a nonprofit that Tika founded with three of her close friends, Leise Rolfe, Melissa Dalebout, and Karmel Curtis. This year’s Lighted Christmas Parade, which they organized, was not only spectacular to behold but a massive success. They have also organized food trucks for last year’s July 4 bash in Pioneer Park, free Wednesday-night dinners, and toy drives and fundraisers throughout the county.

TIKA continued on page 8

MAILING LABEL BELOW

\$2.00



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.

Friday Morning Veteran's Breakfast

Fridays • 8-10 a.m. • Elmer's Restaurant
2802 Santiam Hwy SE, Albany • 541-928-4227

Join fellow veteran's over a cup of coffee and plate of good food as stories are shared, and memories and friendships created. All Veterans are welcome.

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

Oregon's Trail of Tears Exhibit

Tuesday–Saturday • Through Jan. 31 • 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Albany Regional Museum • 136 Lyon St. SW, Albany
\$5 adults, \$3 teens, seniors, and military vets. Age 13 and under free.

A photography and history exhibit examining the 1856 forced march of Native peoples known as Oregon's Trail of Tears. Features landscape photography paired with historic journal entries.

<https://www.armuseum.com> • 541-967-7122

Ten Rivers Soil Amendment Sale

Online ordering deadline: Friday, Jan. 31

Pickup: Friday, March 7 at Benton County Fairgrounds, 110 SW 53rd St., Corvallis

Gardeners can place bulk orders for composts, fertilizers, minerals, and other soil amendments through the annual sale hosted by Ten Rivers Food Web.

Order at <https://www.tenriversmarketplace.com>

Halsey Blood Drive

Friday, January 16 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Halsey Community Center, 100 W. Halsey St., Halsey

Contact City Hall at 541-369-2522 to schedule an appointment. Donors will be entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LX in California.

19th Annual Winter Rod & Speed Show

Friday, Jan. 16 • 6–9 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 17 • 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Linn County Fair and Expo Center
3700 Knox Butte Road E, Albany

Admission: \$10 adults • Kids 8 and under free • Free parking. Friday only: \$5 admission with a canned food donation

https://capitoldragster.com/winter_show.html
503-370-9164

Lady Sofia the Poodle Unveiling

Saturday, Jan. 17 • 11 a.m.

Historic Carousel & Museum • 503 First Ave. W, Albany

Celebrate the official unveiling of Lady Sofia the Poodle, the carousel's newest hand-carved animal, completed after 15 years of volunteer work. Former carousel workers and sponsors will ride first at 10:30 a.m., followed by public rides at 11 a.m. Cake and commemorative merchandise will be available.

<https://albanycarousel.com> • 541-497-2934

Oregon Mid-Winter Square Dance Festival

Friday–Sunday, January 23–25, 2026 • Times vary

Linn County Expo Center
3700 Knox Butte Road E, Albany, OR 97322

Three days of square dancing, round dancing, and clogging with featured callers and instructors. Retro-themed weekend inspired by 1950s–60s culture.

<https://midwinterfestival.org/2026/index.htm>

Murder on the Orient Express

Friday, January 23 • 7 p.m. • Free, donations welcome
Saturday, January 24 • 2 and 7 p.m.

Valley Life Church, 80 E. Vine St., Lebanon

East Linn Christian Theatre presents Ken Ludwig's stage adaptation of the Agatha Christie mystery.

Silver Screen Cinema Classic Movie Night: "Charade"

Friday, Jan. 30 • 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. • \$2

American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184

339 N Main St, Brownsville

Enjoy the classic movie "Charade," starring Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant. To reserve a seat, text your name to 541-915-9322 and pay at the door. Concessions available.

Little Women

Thursday–Saturday, Jan. 29–31 • 7 p.m. (Thu.), 8 p.m. (Fri.), 7 p.m. (Sat.) • \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

Central Linn High School, 32433 Highway 228, Halsey

The Central Linn High School Arts Department presents Little Women, the beloved stage adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel. The production follows the March sisters as they navigate family, love, hardship, and independence during the Civil War era.

Refreshments will be sold at intermission.

Oregon Clover Growers Annual Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 28 • 9 a.m. • Holiday Inn Wilsonville

<https://www.oregonclover.org/pages/meetings.html>

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Jan. 23–Feb. 7, 2026 • 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.

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

A classic tale of duality and obsession based on the Robert Louis Stevenson novel. Tickets and performance schedule available online.

<https://www.albanycivic.org>

Sharing Hands Chili Cookoff & Dessert Auction

Saturday, Feb. 7 • 5–7 p.m.

Pioneer Christian Academy • 331 E. Blakely Ave., Brownsville

Sharing Hands, Inc. will host a community chili cookoff and dessert auction fundraiser. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$6 for children ages 10 and under and includes chili sampling plus a bowl of chili with fixings. Chili entries will be accepted beginning at 4:30 p.m. A dessert auction and raffles begin at 6 p.m. For more information, call 541-466-3110.

Robert Potts, The Unseen Collection – Exhibit Opening

Friday, February 6 • 5–7 p.m.

Albany Regional Museum

136 Lyon St. SW, Albany, OR 97321

The Albany Regional Museum invites the community to a free opening reception for its newest exhibition, "Robert Potts, The Unseen Collection." The exhibit features rarely seen photographs from Robert Potts's extensive and remarkable photographic collection. Guests are welcome to explore the gallery, enjoy the opening reception, and learn more about this unique collection. The exhibition will remain on view through May 30, 2026.

<https://www.armuseum.com> • 541-967-7122.

See page 10 for Brownsville Library events

Winter Showcase of Speed and Sound**Custom cars, live music, and community spirit roll into Albany**

ALBANY — The 19th Annual Winter Rod & Speed Show returns to the Linn County Fair and Expo Center on January 16–17, bringing more than 100 show vehicles under one roof. Car fans can expect an up-close look at hot rods, muscle cars, customs, classics, bikes, low riders, trucks, and race cars from across the Northwest.

Friday night features live classic rock, a special reduced admission with a food donation, and a food drive benefiting FISH of Albany. Saturday expands the fun with a giant indoor swap meet, a scale-model car contest and extravaganza, and vendor booths and concessions throughout the venue. The first 50 adults through the doors each day will receive tickets to either Willamette Speedway or Woodburn Dragstrip, with additional giveaways during the show.

This year's special guests include veteran drag racer Joe "Nitro" Morrison and Carley Brogren, who will be on hand with her award-winning 1939 Lincoln Zephyr, "Amelia." With free parking, family-friendly pricing, and something happening on every corner of the show floor, the Winter Rod & Speed Show is a mid-winter tradition that blends horsepower, music, and community support.

For admission information, see our calendar listing at left or visit https://capitoldragster.com/winter_show.html or call 503-370-9164. ☎

Eugene-Springfield NAACP to Hold Combined MLK March and Celebration Jan. 19

EUGENE — The Eugene-Springfield NAACP will host its annual Martin Luther King Jr. March and Celebration on Monday, January 19, bringing together participants from across the region.

This year's theme, "Together: Together we can. Together we will. Together we are unified," also recognizes "A Day Without Migrants" in partnership with local immigrant communities.

The event begins at 9:30 a.m. near the "X's and O's" plaza outside Autzen Stadium, the University of Oregon's football stadium, located at 2700 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. The march will proceed through Alton Baker Park, a large riverfront park across from downtown, cross the DeFazio pedestrian bridge, and continue into central Eugene.

The march concludes at the John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts, located at 868 High St. in Eugene. The Shedd Institute is a well-known performing arts and education center that hosts concerts, lectures, and community events year-round.

Those who wish to walk only part of the route may park at Alton Baker Park and join the march at Nobel Peace Park, a small memorial park within Alton Baker Park along the river path, between 9:50 and 10:15 a.m.

The indoor celebration at the Shedd begins at 11 a.m. and will include music, a keynote address, recognition of longtime NAACP leader Henry Luvert, and a panel discussion linking MLK Day and immigrant experiences. A shuttle will be available beginning at 12:30 p.m. to transport participants from the Shedd Institute back to vehicles parked near Autzen Stadium. ☎

Mid-Winter Square Dance Festival Returns

ALBANY — The Oregon Mid-Winter Square Dance Festival returns to Albany January 23–25, bringing three full days of music, movement, and community to the Linn County Expo Center. Now in its 66th year, the festival invites dancers from across the region to “Dance Around the Clock” with a theme inspired by the style and spirit of the 1950s and 60s.

The weekend features a full schedule of square dancing, round dancing, and clogging, with opportunities to dance nearly around the clock. Featured caller Ray Brendzy will lead square dance sessions, while round dancers will enjoy cuing by JL and Linda Pelton. Clogging instruction will be led by Andrew Petty, adding even more variety to the dance floors.

Beyond dancing, the festival offers space to shop, socialize, and reconnect with friends old and new. Organizers encourage attendees to dress in the retro theme or wear festival colors — black, hot pink, and white — while keeping all attire family-friendly.

Whether you are a longtime dancer or simply enjoy the energy of live dance culture, the Oregon Mid-Winter Square Dance Festival offers a lively and welcoming winter tradition in the heart of the Willamette Valley. For more details on the event, visit <https://midwinterfestival.org/2026/index.htm> or call 503-873-5241. 🌟

Dual Natures Take the Stage at ACT

Albany Civic Theater opens the new year with a chilling classic, presenting “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,” a stage adaptation by Richard Abbott based on Robert Louis Stevenson’s novel. Directed by Dan Bushong, the production brings Gothic suspense and psychological tension to downtown Albany.

The story follows Dr. Henry Jekyll, a respected physician who believes every person has a dual nature — one good and one evil. Through dangerous experiments with mysterious powders and tinctures, Jekyll succeeds in separating these opposing sides, unleashing the sinister Edward Hyde. As Hyde grows stronger, Jekyll’s carefully ordered life begins to unravel, placing him and those closest to him in mounting peril.

Presented by Albany Civic Theater, the production blends period drama with enduring moral questions about identity, responsibility, and self-control. Multiple evening and matinee performances give audiences several opportunities to experience this suspenseful tale.

Doors open 45 minutes before showtime. Closed captioning will be available at select performances. For exact days, times, and pricing visit <https://www.albanycivic.org> or call 541-928-4603. 🌟



First Taste
OREGON

A can't-miss culinary event

February 6-7, 2026

Friday: 3-9pm | Saturday: Noon-9pm

Linn County Expo Center
3700 Knox Butte Rd • Albany

*150 different vendors featuring
over 300 Oregon Wines & Spirits*

Experience 2 days of:

- Oregon Flavors
- Chef & Culinary Demos
- Mocktails & Mixology
- Tastes & Samples
- Live Music
- One-of-a-Kind Artisan Goods

Treat yourself with VIP tickets!



Join us & Taste the Best of Oregon!

Tickets available online & at the door
www.FirstTasteOregon.com



WINTER WONDERLAND DINNER AT THE CAROUSEL

An evening of community and purpose.

Join us January 25, 2026 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM for our annual fundraiser dinner benefiting Carousel Cares Community Programs. Enjoy a four course sit down dinner catered by Sweet Reds with a wine pairing option.

Your participation helps strengthen our community.

Purchase tickets at:
square.link/u/2T0tbkdK

About Carousel Cares

Proceeds directly support our community programs. Carousel Cares began as a project to uplift children facing hardship. We partner with CASA, hospitals, foster programs, and local agencies to deliver Carousel Cares Packs to children who need extra love and support. Thanks to community generosity, these programs continue to grow. Learn more at the ticket link.



**Please join us for
our annual
Carousel Cares
Fundraising Dinner**



SAFEHAVEN'S PET OF THE MONTH

Meet Zoey!

Zoey is a sweet, affectionate 4-year-old German Shepherd mix searching for her forever family. Offer her a few treats and gentle pets, and she will happily return the favor with the best snuggles. Going for a car ride? Zoey is always ready to hop in and enjoy the trip by your side. She loves spending time with her people, whether playing fetch or settling in for a cozy nap. Zoey enjoys relaxing on the windowsill, watching the world



COURTESY OF SAFEHAVEN

go by. She would do best with dog-savvy children and as the only dog in the home, where she can truly shine as a companion.

Interested in adopting Zoey? Visit SafeHaven Humane Society in Tangent to meet her in person and learn more about the adoption process.

SafeHaven is open seven days a week from noon to 5 p.m. You can also view adoptable pets at <https://safehavenhumane.org> or call 541-928-2789. ☎

ERA continued from cover

The change reflects ongoing efforts by community newspapers to balance sustainability with local coverage. For readers in Sweet Home and Lebanon, the expansion brings broader regional reporting while maintaining a weekly focus on the issues, events, and people of both communities.

Editor's Note: When I moved to the area nearly six years ago, I subscribed to both Sweet Home's The New Era and The Times, as we live midway between Brownsville and Sweet Home. From the beginning, I found The New Era to be a strong example of community journalism — well-reported, consistent, and deeply rooted in its readership. I especially appreciated its local history columns, sheriff's reports, and Scott Swanson's editorials, which reflected a clear commitment to informed civic engagement. As the Brownsville Times continues its own work rebuilding and expanding local coverage, it is encouraging to see weekly community journalism strengthened elsewhere in Linn County. A healthy regional news ecosystem benefits all of our communities. ☎

Chili Cookoff and Dessert Auction to Benefit Sharing Hands

BROWNSVILLE — A warm meal and a good cause come together Saturday, Feb. 7, when Sharing Hands, Inc. hosts its annual Chili Cookoff and Dessert Auction at Pioneer Christian Academy.

The event runs from 5 to 7 p.m. and invites community members to sample a variety of home-made chili recipes while supporting Sharing Hands' local assistance programs. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$6 for children ages 10 and under and includes chili sampling along with a full bowl of chili and fixings.



Chili contestants may begin submitting their entries at 4:30 p.m. Awards will be given for first through fourth place, recognizing standout recipes from local cooks.

In addition to the chili competition, the evening will feature a dessert auction beginning at 6 p.m. and raffles throughout the event. Organizers encourage families and friends to attend, enjoy a winter meal together, and help support neighbors in need.

The cookoff will be held at Pioneer Christian Academy, 331 E. Blakely Ave., in Brownsville. Proceeds benefit Sharing Hands, Inc., a local nonprofit serving the Brownsville area. For more information, contact Sharing Hands at 541-466-3110. ☎

MLK continued from cover

The holiday was never meant to suggest that the work of justice was finished. Instead, it was meant to serve as a reminder that maintaining a healthy community requires ongoing effort. That effort may look different in different places. In some towns, volunteering, mentoring young people, or simply being open to conversations that broaden understanding.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day offers an opportunity to reflect, not on distant history alone, but on how shared values can shape the present. Even in small towns, the principles Dr. King spoke about remain relevant, reminding residents that positive change often begins close to home. ☎

the
RESCUE
project

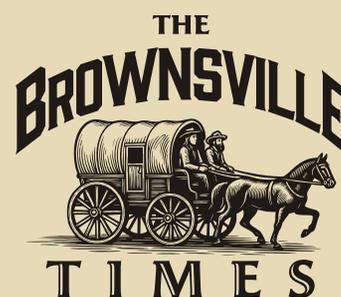
a powerful, story-driven exploration of the Gospel that asks Life's important questions.

A 9-Week Journey into the Heart of the Gospel.
No cost. All are welcome.
Bring a friend.

WEDNESDAYS
beginning January 21 ▪ 5:30–7:15 p.m.

5:30–6:00 — Dinner & Fellowship
6:00–6:05 — Opening Discussion
6:05–6:45 — The Rescue Project Video
6:45–7:15 — Group Discussion

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
104 Blakely Avenue | Brownsville
(541) 220-9942 | Father Scott Baier
holytrinitybrownsvilleor@gmail.com



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TABLE TALK: DINING IN AROUND BROWNSVILLE

Lunch at Kristi's 50's Cafe Feels Like a Trip to Another Era

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

LEBANON — I stopped in at Kristi's 50's Cafe at 638 S Main Street in Lebanon on a recent visit and figured it was time to see what all the talk was about. They bill themselves as a family-friendly cafe with a unique 50s vibe, and honestly, that's no exaggeration. Walking through the door felt like stepping onto a 1950s movie set. The booths, tables, and decorations all fit the theme, and it does not feel forced or kitschy. It feels like a diner that has always been there.

Kristi's is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., with breakfast served until noon. I came in for lunch and ordered the Classic 50s Cheeseburger with fries and a drink. The price was \$14.50, and one thing worth pointing out is that all their burgers and wraps come with fries and a drink. That alone is refreshing these days.

The cheeseburger showed up loaded with all the basics. Onion, lettuce, pickle, ketchup, cheese, and yes, an actual burger patty underneath it all. It was big, but not ridiculously so. I could actually pick it up and eat it without making a mess of myself, which I appreciate. The fries were solid diner fries, and everything tasted fresh and was made the way you expect, not dressed up or overcomplicated.



JEFF BROWN



MIKAYLE STOLE

The menu goes beyond burgers. They also offer wraps, salads, and sandwiches. I looked at the breakfast menu while I was there, and it has all the usual breakfast standards you'd expect at a place like this.

My server, Karleen, was friendly and efficient without hovering. I asked if it was okay to look around and take a few pictures, and they suggested I check out the bonus room in the back. That room is surprisingly large and would be perfect for parties or large family gatherings.

All in all, Kristi's 50's Cafe delivers exactly what it promises: good food, fair prices, and a fun atmosphere. If you are in Lebanon and looking for a solid place to eat, this one is worth a stop. 🌟

SEASONS EATINGS

Falafel-ing Into the New Year

By Lisa Keith, Columnist

"New Year, New You," right? I hope the holidays went splendidly for you all and that this new year finds you well. I've been making these healthy recipes for quite a few years. I think I've mentioned that my daughter went vegan in Jr High and to be supportive, we tried it too... We also tried the gluten-free movement, paleo, and a few other healthier options for our regular diet. We have mainly stuck to a heavy plant-based diet, with healthy meat choices thrown into the mix. There are so many meatless options that are so delicious, you don't miss the meat. As always, you can adjust the seasoning amounts to your own taste.

Falafel

makes between 12-14

- ½ onion chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, smashed
- 1 bunch flat-leaf parsley, washed
- 2-4 cups of chickpeas (2 cans, drained)
- 2 Tbsp wheatless flour
- 2 tsp cumin
- 2 tsp ground coriander
- salt & pepper to taste
- oil of your choice to pan fry



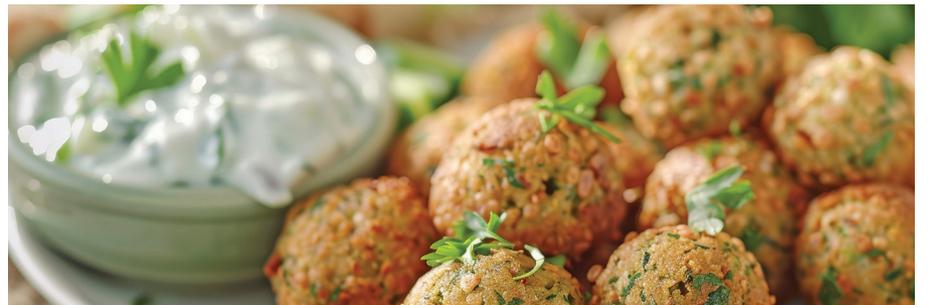
Place the first 4 ingredients into a food processor or blender. Process until incorporated but still chunky... we are not making hummus, this time :)

Add the remaining ingredients and process until the mixture holds together. You may need a sprinkle more of flour to get it right, depending on the humidity. Form into small patties or the traditional balls. Fry until golden. Enjoy in a pita sandwich or just dip in the following sauce.

Tzatziki Sauce

- 1 medium cucumber, grated
- 1 Tbsp garlic, chopped
- 1 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup mayo
- 1 cup sour cream or Greek yogurt
- ⅔ cup fresh dill, chopped

Grate the cucumber and place it in a colander lined with a paper towel or cheesecloth in the sink. Let it set while you measure out the rest of the ingredients. Squeeze excess liquid from the grated cucumbers before you mix everything well. Adjust flavors to your palate. This refreshing sauce is so delicious, you will find plenty of things to dip or smear it over! Contact me at iamchelifisa@gmail.com with any questions or ideas. 🌟



WHERE TO EAT

PIONEER VILLA
RESTAURANT & SALOON
Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner • 5 am-10 pm
33180 Hwy 228, Halsey • 541-369-2801
pioneervillatruckplaza.com

OVR Overton Valley Ranch
OVERTON VALLEY BEEF
GRASS FED • GRASS FINISHED
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No BS. Just quality beef: \$5.29/lb (includes slaughter, cut, & wrap) custom boxes available!
Family owned and operated
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EST. 1860 OVERTONVALLEYRANCH.COM • BROWNSVILLE

BEST BURGERS IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY
Highway 228 & 99, Halsey
THE HONEY HOLE BAR & GRILL
TO GO ORDERS: 541-369-2400
Smoked Meats • In-house Ground Beef

Mema's Country Kitchen
403 N Main St
Brownsville
Natoshya Moffitt
541.405.2147
memascountrykitchen@yahoo.com
Facebook: Mema's Country Kitchen
Mon-Thur (open if lights on) • Fri-Sun 9-6

Armandos
Mexican Restaurant
122 Spaulding
11-9 • Sunday 12-8
Family Friendly
Phone Orders 541-466-3636
\$5 OFF When you spend \$40+

1847 BAR & GRILL
LEBANON OREGON
Buy an entree & receive 50% off an appetizer
505 Mullins Drive, Lebanon • 541-451-1847
Tuesday-Saturday, 4-9 p.m. • Happy Hour, 4-5 p.m.

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners OK Juvenile Records Expungement Contract

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — At their first meeting of the new year on January 6, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger, and Will Tucker approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Youth Authority, which will reimburse the Juvenile Department for expunction of records of young people when they turn 18 years of age.

The agreement is not to exceed \$84,821.31. Reimbursement rates vary: Formal Accountability Agreements, \$223.80; Misdemeanor Cases, \$279.75; Felony Cases, \$324.51.

Expunction of records had been performed by the state until recently, Juvenile Director Torri Lynn told the commissioners. Lynn said youth previously had to apply to the juvenile court to have their record expunged, after waiting five years.

The automated system applies to cases that were informally handled, misdemeanor charges, and some felony charges.

Lynn said the Juvenile Department receives a list of youth from the Juvenile Justice Information System who are eligible for expunction based upon their age and charges. The Juvenile Department then prepares notifications and provides information to other agencies that have juvenile records that may qualify for expunction.

In his written report, Lynn noted that some felony charges will not be expunged. They include Arson I and II, Robbery I and II, Assault II, Kidnapping II, and using a child to display sexual images.

Some misdemeanor charges are not eligible for the automated process, and young people must wait four years before being eligible to apply. Those charges include fourth-degree assault, strangulation, menacing, bias crimes, and reckless endangering.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Accepted a \$35,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Veterans Services for the Linn County Veterans Services Department. Funds will be used to provide transportation to medical services by Quality Medical Transport for local veterans. The grant runs through June 2027.

COMMISSIONERS continued on page 8

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE

Winter Webinars Offer Guidance for Well and Septic System Owners

As winter temperatures fluctuate across the Willamette Valley, homeowners who rely on domestic wells and septic systems are encouraged to take steps to protect their water systems from cold-weather damage. To help residents prepare, the Oregon State University Extension Service is offering a series of free winter webinars focused on domestic well and septic system care.

Freezing conditions often lead to frozen pumps, burst pipes, cracked components, and concerns about drinking water safety. These problems can result in costly repairs and interruptions in water service if systems are not properly winterized. The winter webinar series addresses common seasonal challenges, including protecting pumps and pipes, maintaining septic systems, and understanding basic home well water treatment.

Sessions are scheduled throughout January and early February, with multiple dates and time options covering topics such as Living with Your Domestic Well, Living with Your Septic System, and combined well and septic system care. A separate class focuses on the basics of home well water treatment.

This article is a summary of a longer winterization article by Chrissy Lucas published in the January/February edition of GROWING by Oregon State University Extension Service. Her complete article can be read online at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/newsletter/growing> on page 3.

All classes are free, but advance registration is required. Registration closes 24 hours before each session. To view the full schedule and register, visit <https://beav.es/wellseptic>.

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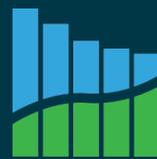
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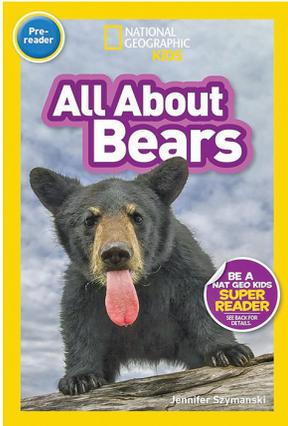
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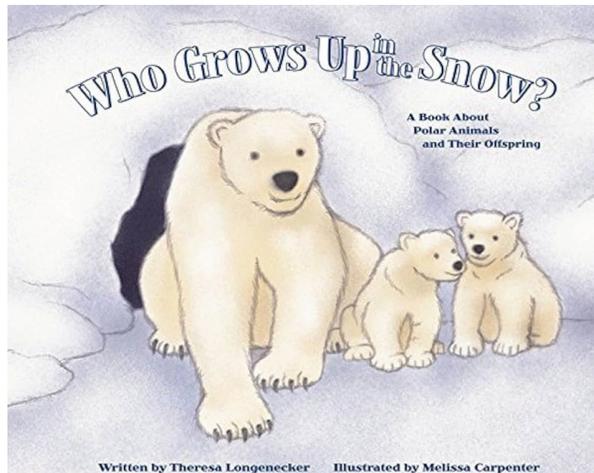
Polar Bears

By Nancy Diltz, Columnist

Do you ever wonder how polar bears can live comfortably in the snow? National Geographic Kids magazine "All About Bears Kids Reader Pre-reader" (2019) has some interesting facts about polar bears. (Available at the Brownsville library on Libby eBooks.) "Polar bears are found in the frozen wilds of the Arctic in Canada, Alaska, Greenland, Russia, and Norway. They can weigh about 1,500 pounds! They are the largest living carnivores (meat eaters) on Earth! Polar bears survive in one of the harshest environments on the planet. They have a layer of blubber, or fat, to insulate them from the cold. They have an incredible sense of smell and can detect the scent of their prey (usually seals) from up to 10 miles away! They can swim very well with their webbed paws and have been seen swimming as far as 60 miles from shore."



Read more amazing information about polar bears, other types of bears, and many other interesting topics in the National Geographic Kids magazines.



Another book you may like is "Who Grows Up in the Snow: A Book About Snow Animals and Their Offspring" (2003) by Theresa Longnecker (available at the Brownsville library). According to the Publisher's Summary, this book describes "animal babies found in snowy environments, including a polar bear, seal, emperor penguin, arctic fox, walrus, caribou, arctic tern, and arctic hare."

Next month, my 19-year-old grandson will head to the Arctic. He must wear special clothing to protect himself from the extreme cold. Do you think he will encounter a polar bear? What other wild animals might he see? How cold do you think it will be? What special clothing do you think he will need?

Would you like to visit the Arctic Circle someday? ☺

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CRITTER CHRONICLES

Pepper the Brave Little Hen

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

Pepper was a spicy little Dominique chicken — named not only for her striking black-and-white feathers, but also for her bold, fearless personality. She proudly watched over her coop-mates, Ginger and Angel, like the proverbial mother hen.

One night, trouble crept in. A fox slipped under the fence and into the chicken coop. But before he could reach the others, Pepper stood her ground. With all the courage packed into her tiny body, she launched herself at the intruder, chasing him off in a fierce, flapping fight.



The next morning, to my dismay, I found a scattering of black-and-white feathers outside the coop — and Pepper lying on her side. Her leg was injured, and she couldn't stand, but she was alive. Ginger and Angel were untouched, thanks to Pepper's brave defense.

I carried her gently to a nesting box, gave her fresh water and feed, and hoped for the best. Day by day, she grew stronger. And after about two weeks, in what felt like a small miracle, Pepper made a full recovery.

The brave little hen, Pepper, had lived up to her name. ☺

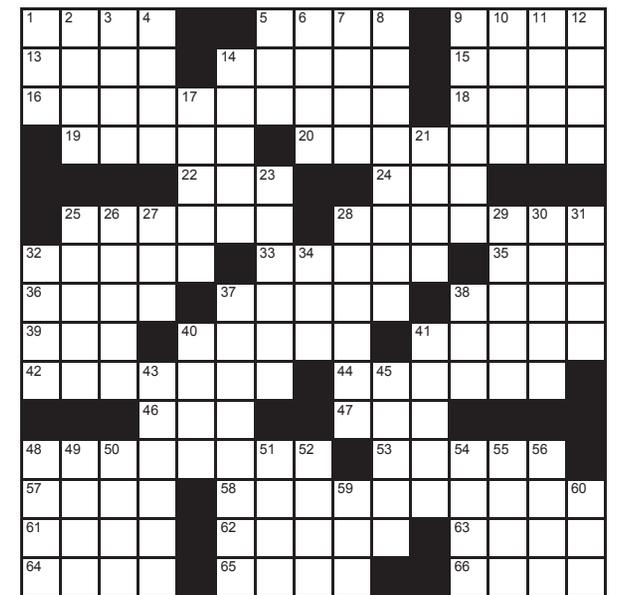
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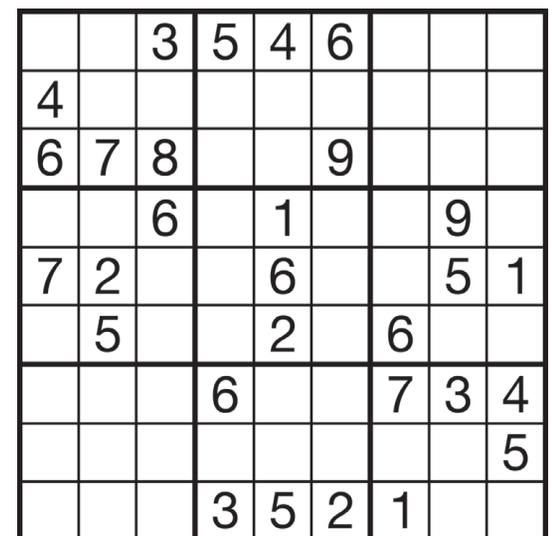
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 53 Rituals | 25 Red Sea peninsula |
| 1 Launching sites | 57 Field game | 26 Kilns |
| 5 Ferry | 58 Possible | 27 "___ Miserables" |
| 9 Weapons | 61 Flair | 28 Wisest |
| 13 At the apex | 62 Tango | 29 Donor |
| 14 Cattle spread | 63 Highway | 30 Dropsy |
| 15 Cleanser | 64 Disclaim | 31 Showy flower |
| 16 Affectionate missive | 65 Was (Lat.) | 32 Student residence |
| 18 Food fish | 66 Wager | 34 Time periods (Abbr.) |
| 19 Reporters, e.g. | | 37 Sway |
| 20 Mileage recorder | DOWN | 38 Time period |
| 22 Grippe | 1 Buddy | 40 Louise or Turner |
| 24 Asphalt | 2 Molecule | 41 Constraint |
| 25 Grave | 3 Pigeon | 43 Serious crime |
| 28 Wasp weapon | 4 Hastened | 45 Bird's nest |
| 32 Frogman | 5 Baseball item | 48 Mocked |
| 33 Will | 6 In the know | 49 Rod |
| 35 Vow words | 7 Played in one stroke | 50 Design |
| 36 Singles | 8 Choke | 51 Nova |
| 37 Eliminate | 9 Abaft | 52 Bunsen burner |
| 38 Sundowns | 10 Defeat | 54 "Gone with the Wind" location |
| 39 Raced | 11 Lion's headdress | 55 Black |
| 40 Curt | 12 Mast | 56 Spline |
| 41 Cream (Fr.) | 14 Kingdom | 59 Perform |
| 42 Fail to detonate | 17 Inmate without parole | 60 Dutch city |
| 44 African desert | 21 Letters | |
| 46 Printer's marks | 23 Doubtful | |
| 47 Oolong | | |
| 48 Ovation | | |

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PUZZLE Solutions on page 12

LINN COUNTY CULTURAL COALITION

Accepting Grant Applications

The Linn County Cultural Coalition (LCCC) is accepting grant proposals to fund projects in the arts, the humanities, and heritage activities in Linn County. The grant application deadline is 5 p.m. on Feb. 1.

The LCCC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization affiliated with the Oregon State Cultural Trust, a statewide entity established to promote and strengthen cultural activities throughout Oregon.

Grants typically range from \$250 to \$2,500. Applicants may receive less than the full amount requested. Most past LCCC grant awards have not exceeded \$1,000. (Larger grants are available directly from the Oregon Cultural Trust. For more information, contact the Oregon Cultural Trust at <https://cultural.trust@oregon.gov> or 503-986-0088, or visit <https://culturaltrust.org/grants>.)

Grants are available to nonprofit organizations with tax-exempt status. An organization or individual sponsored by a qualifying nonprofit may also apply. Full application guidelines are available at <https://linnculture.org>.

Applications should address one or more of the Linn County Cultural Coalition's priorities:

- To enhance funding for arts, heritage, and humanities activities
- To increase public awareness of and encourage participation in cultural opportunities in Linn County
- To improve access to cultural opportunities for people of all ages, income levels, abilities, and ethnic groups throughout Linn County

Coalition board members will review the applications and make award decisions within a few weeks of the Feb. 1 deadline.

Grant applications are available online at <https://linnculture.org>. Applications can be submitted online, mailed to the Linn County Cultural Coalition, P.O. Box 69, Albany, Oregon 97321, or emailed to linnculture@gmail.com.

For more info, contact Rebecca Bond at 541-928-0911 or Linda Ziedrich at 503-707-1539. 🌻

COMMISSIONERS *continued from page 6*

- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Linn County Road Department and the city of Millersburg for stormwater code implementation. The agreement allows the city to administer, inspect, and enforce erosion and sediment control and post-construction stormwater requirements on portions of Old Salem Road, Nygren Road, Conser Road, and Morningstar Road. The roads are within the urban growth boundary outside city limits. There is no cost associated with the agreement.
- Approved a pass-through services contract with Jimco Electrical to provide a backup generator at the Sweet Home Community Center. Funding is not-to-exceed \$81,718 and is provided by the Oregon Health Authority. The contract runs through June 30, 2026.
- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement to accept up to \$78,079 from the Criminal Justice Commission to support the Linn County Mental Health Court. The agreement runs through November 30, 2027.
- Approved an amendment to a Personal Services Contract between the Intercommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization and Linn County's Maternal Child Health program. The agreement is not-to-exceed \$185,473 and runs through December 31, 2026.
- Approved a Behavioral Health Provider Agreement between the Intercommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization and Linn County. Approved new compensation rates of \$34 for mental health services and \$8.50 for substance use disorder.
- Appointed Candy Bliss to the Position 4 seat on the Linn County Transportation Advisory Committee.
- Announced that a management staff meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7, in the basement meeting room of the Linn County Courthouse. 🌻

AMERICAN LEGION POST 184

Post-Holiday Dust Ups

By An Ordinary Seaman

The Christmas decorations have finally retreated to their packing crates, marching toward the barn in a plastic-tote infantry. The tree is now out in the yard, currently serving as a luxury high-rise for the local finches. Inside, the house feels, what's the word... "spacious!" My wife prefers "barren," which is just a polite way of saying it's time to find a reason to leave the house.

Lucky for us, Post 184 moves on a schedule as reliable as a vintage tractor.

Bingo

Each Saturday this month (Jan 24 and 31) at 6 p.m., we have Bingo. It's a night of high gaiety, infectious laughter, and "non-enormous" prizes. Look, you aren't going to retire to the French Riviera on these winnings, but you might clear enough for a decent sandwich and the satisfaction of knowing you are a winner.

Silver Screen Cinema

If you prefer your drama on screen, join us on January 30 for the Friday Movie. For a cool \$2, we're showing "Charade." It's got Audrey Hepburn, Cary Grant, and enough Parisian intrigue that people call it "the best Hitchcock film Hitchcock never made." It's stylish, witty, and vastly cheaper than an actual flight to France.

Veteran of the Quarter

Speaking of class acts: we're looking for our Veteran of the Quarter. We all know them — the folks coaching Little League or leading church groups who traded their uniforms for community service. They won't nominate themselves, so we need a spouse or friend to blow their cover. Call Jim Weger at 541-619-8976 to get the ball rolling.

Valentine's Day Dinner

Finally, circle February 14 on your calendar for our Valentine's Dinner. It's \$20 for food, bingo, and maybe a movie. We're still ironing out the menu, but it's guaranteed to be a good time. Besides, at those prices, you can't afford not to be romantic. 🌻

TIKA *continued from cover*

road, we saw in front of us a sign that said there was a town just a mile away. A kind local helped them get gas and even paid for a place to stay for the night."

Tika joined the Air Force at 17 and served as an MP in Security Forces. It gave her a great understanding of the world. But her most unexpected joy is her children. Of Tika's three children, her son is grown, and her two daughters still live with her.

Tika believes that to be a good parent, it is important to model for the children the kind of person



Tika Harrison serves up pancakes at the Pioneer Picnic breakfast in June 2025, lending a helping hand behind the scenes at one of Brownsville's longtime community traditions.

they should grow up to become. And Tika exemplifies this in everything she does. She not only volunteers with the Brownsville Fire Department as an emergency medical responder (EMR), but she is also going to school part time to further her nursing degree; she wants to take in all aspects of the medical field.

Many people know Tika around town for all her volunteer work, but not many know her "nerdy thing." Tika

is passionate about gardening and especially her carnivorous plants. "They have a mind of their own." She loves how carnivorous plants adapt to survive — bladderworts that eat mosquito larvae and sundews with tentacle-like traps that fascinate kids. Tika lights up talking about how smart these plants are, and teaching others about them is one of her favorite things.

Tika may not have been born or raised in Brownsville, but she is Brownsville through and through. Of all her passions, helping people matters most to her. "I love solving problems and making people smile."

How can people not smile when seeing Tika? Tika is a mirror. You smile at her, and she smiles right back! 🌻

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PAST TIMES

Brownsville's Chinese Laundry & Railroad Context, Part 2 of 5

By Allen L. Buzzard, Columnist

In 1862, the U.S. Congress awarded contracts to build America's first transcontinental railroad. Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) would lay tracks west from Omaha, NE, into Utah, while Central Pacific Railroad (CPRR) would build rail east from Sacramento, CA, into Utah.

Moving dirt and rock by pick, basket, shovel, and wheelbarrow while grading railroad beds was arduous work. Many white laborers on the CPRR quit such hard work* and instead tried their luck at gold or silver mining; perceived to be more lucrative given equivalent hours of backbreaking work. This presented a dilemma for Leland Stanford (Stanford University's namesake) and his fellow owners of the CPRR. They knew more workers would be needed as construction rose out of the Sacramento Valley flats and up into the foreboding and dangerous granite cliffs of the Sierra Nevada mountains ahead. Plus, they were under tremendous pressure from shareholders to keep labor costs low, and the U.S. Congress to quickly complete CPRR's portion of the transcontinental railroad, measured in miles of track laid per day.**

Hilton Obenzinger, Ph.D. (past lecturer of American Studies at Stanford University, concurrent Associate Director Emeritus of the Stanford Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project and Associate Director at Stanford's Hume Writing Center for Honors Writing) — together with Stanford Professors Gordon H. Chang, Ph.D. and Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Ph.D. — describe the difficult decision [see especially the first of four historical periods about immigrant Chinese men who worked on North American railroads from 1862 through mid-1865 in the "Introduction" of the scholarly anthology: *The Chinese and the Iron Road | Building the Transcontinental Railroad*; ©2019 Stanford University Press, pp. 1-24] made by Mr. Stanford and his associates to hire Chinese workers from nearby mines in early 1864 for a trial period.

After a short time on the job, they began hiring multitudes of Chinese men from southern China at lower wages* to fill the demanding manual labor shortage. When construction was completed at Promontory, Utah on May 10, 1869, many Chinese railroad laborers were laid off; even abandoned* despite being lauded as excellent railroad builders† in the widely circulated article "The Chinaman as a Railroad Builder;" later reprinted in column 1, page 75, Volume XXI, No. 5 [New Series] of the July 31, 1869 issue of the *Scientific American* journal (<https://bit.ly/49gyIPU>, retrieved December 30, 2025). Hence, these Chinese immigrant men had to seek jobs elsewhere.

Digging canals or ditches, working for other railroads, including former Confederate naval war-rant officer Thomas Egerton Hogg's Willamette

Valley and Coast Railroad (WV&C), which broke ground in Corvallis, Oregon, on May 17, 1877, mining, and opening restaurants and laundries were common substitute vocations.‡

Then, the "Panic of 1873" — the severe national recession from 1873 through 1879 — only exacerbated anti-immigrant sentiments. Compounding employment prospects for immigrant Chinese workers during the 1870s was the growing xenophobia among whites who resented Chinese laborers' willingness to accept reduced wages while competing for the same jobs. Despising the cultural differences of immigrant Chinese, many thought ridding the United States of America of Chinese was the answer. Congress agreed and wrote "The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882." President Chester A. Arthur signed the bill into law on May 6, 1882; it was the first federal law to restrict immigration based on race. Expanded and extended for ten additional years under the "Geary Act of 1892," it wouldn't get repealed until 1943, when Americans needed their Chinese allies' help to defeat the imperial Japanese during World War II.

To be continued in the next issue. ☺

Allen L. Buzzard is a retired educator. He especially enjoys sharing local history and traveling the world.

Footnotes

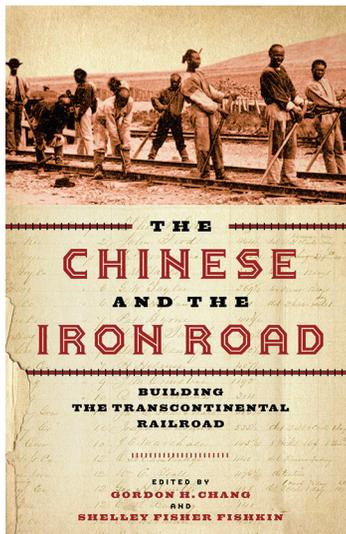
*Chang, G. H., & Fishkin, S. F. (Eds.). (2019). *The Chinese and the iron road: Building the transcontinental railroad*. Stanford University Press.

**Chang, G. H., (Presenter). (2025, June 5, Thursday). *Inside The Vault | Building the Transcontinental Railroad with Dr. Gordon Chang*. Online presentation sponsored by The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

†Fishkin, S. F. (2019) Bibliographic Essay for "The Chinese as Railroad Workers after Promontory." (pp. 19-21, 30, 48-49). Retrieved Dec. 30, 2025, https://web.stanford.edu/group/chineserailroad/cgi-bin/website/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/The_Chinese_as_Railroad_Builders_after_Promontory_Fisher_Fishkin.pdf.

‡Scientific American. (1869, July 31). *The Chinaman as a railroad builder*. *Scientific American*, 21(5), 75, New York.

‡Albany Regional Museum. (n.d.). Albany-Santiam Canal static display and Chinese Labor & Chinatown static displays. Permanent Gallery, Albany, Oregon.



CLASSIFIED AD

PUBLIC STORAGE AUCTION NOTICE

Halsey Mini Storage will hold an online public auction Tuesday, Jan. 28, beginning at 9 a.m., at <https://www.storagetreasures.com>. The storage units are located at 1140 Crowell Lane, Halsey, OR 97438. Units to be sold at public auction include #355, John Gregory, and #116, Tim McBride.

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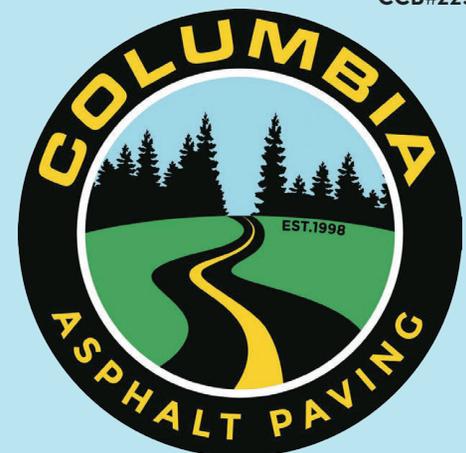
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BOOK REVIEW

A Chilling Choice for Winter Reading

By Nancy Diltz, Columnist

Noticing the title “The Winter People” by Jennifer McMahon at this cold time of year immediately caught my attention. Sometimes a book’s title alone is enough to spark curiosity, but we also choose books based on reviews, recommendations, or trusted sources. I will be honest — I have not yet read “The Winter People,” but based on reader responses and the publisher’s description, it has quickly moved onto my must-read list.

One reader shared this reflection after discovering the novel: “When I was younger, I was completely obsessed with horror books, and of course, I had every ‘Goosebumps’ title on my shelf. But as life got busier, I stopped reading for a long time. Then I stumbled across ‘The Winter People’ by Jennifer McMahon and figured I’d give it a shot. I’m so glad I did. This book pulled me in completely. The eerie atmosphere, the layered storytelling, the slow unraveling of secrets — I was hooked from the first few pages, and I couldn’t put it down. It reminded me of how much I truly love to read.” The review was posted by a reader identified as CRich on <https://www.barnesandnoble.com>.

According to the publisher’s summary, the novel follows “the New York Times bestselling author of ‘Promise Not to Tell’” as she returns “with a simmering literary thriller about ghostly secrets, dark choices, and the unbreakable bond between mothers and daughters — sometimes too unbreakable.” Set in Hall, Vermont, the story weaves together past and present, beginning with the mysterious 1908 death of Sara Harrison Shea and unfolding through the eyes of 19-year-old Ruthie, who awakens one morning to find her mother missing. As Ruthie searches for answers, she uncovers a hidden diary that pulls her deeper into a mystery that may be repeating itself.

Reading “The Winter People” sounds like a fun way to spend a snow day. This and several other Jennifer McMahon books are available on Libby eBooks and Libby Audiobooks at the Brownsville Community Library. ☺

BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY CALENDAR

Parents & Pals Story Time

Wednesdays • 10–10:15 a.m.

A short story time followed by free play together.

Brownsville Stitchery Group

Wednesdays • 1–3 p.m.

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

Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Fridays • 11 a.m.

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

Brownsville Book Club

Thursday, Jan. 21 • 7 p.m. • Kirk Room

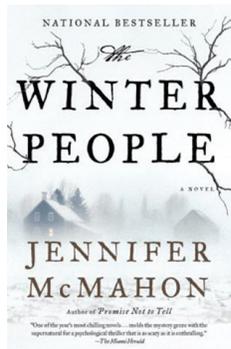
A friendly, informal discussion of the month’s selected book. New readers are always welcome.

Estate Planning: Advance Directives

Thursday, Jan. 22 • Noon–1 p.m. • Kirk Room

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BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

Playing the Long Game: A Librarian’s Month of Patience

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

The book world is currently crazy. There are some terrific books being written and published. Getting them into the hands of patrons is a game of Patience that, according to Hoyle, has 52 different ways to play. I’ve played them all. On December 9, the library placed its usual monthly order. As of January 6, that order hadn’t been boxed for shipping. It’s still sitting in the computer, waiting.

Our library has used Ingram to order books for more than 20 years. We do not ask for processing or special labels. Just new books in a box that we open together. (These videos are fun and becoming popular! Check out the Brownsville Community Library YouTube page for yourself! @brownsvillecommunitylibrar2547)

So, I jumped on their Chat. Persevering through AI to a real person, I connected. She checked. Our order is still “processing.” But it’s been on order since December 9! She apologized. They are very behind. Two large suppliers of the library world, Baker and Taylor, went out of business at the end of the summer. This closure forced libraries across the US to create accounts with Ingram. So, I asked this nice lady when we can expect this order to be packed and shipped? Let me check on that, she said. OK. I’m interested! I’ll wait. Another game of Patience played. She came back before I could finish that particular game and said, “It looks like they will be working on your order on Friday.” Exactly a month after ordering.

When the books arrive, they are processed in-house. Each book is entered into the system and receives a barcode, a spine label, an identifying genre sticker, and a label on the back inside cover that refers you to other authors you might like. Finally, it is ready to be covered. The library is fortunate to have two dedicated volunteers who put the covers on the books.

Why not order from Amazon, you ask? We get a 40 percent discount from Ingram. Then add back \$1.50 per book for shipping and handling. (Think of it like buying a book from Costco. Yes, I’ve done that before and will probably do more of it in the future. But they don’t get all the books that are ordered each month.) As much as I love delivery people, our book budget would run out twice as fast.

If you see me banging my head on my desk, you will understand why. More than one month to get new books. We will wait. I’ll keep placing orders and playing Patience.

Visit the library for more information at <https://www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org> or by calling 541-466-5454. ☺

SHERRING BOOKS

Worth the Wait: Patron Picks and Page-Turners Finally Arrive

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

Adult Non-Fiction

“Into the Hush” by Arthur Sze, from the 25th U.S. Poet Laureate, took six months to order a copy for our Library. This was a patron request.

“The Last Days of Marilyn Monroe,” a True Crime thriller by James Patterson and Imogen Edwards-Jones, explores what might have happened to Marilyn Monroe. Her 100th birthday would have been on June 1, 2026.

“Original Sin” by Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson is a Patron request.

Adult Fiction

“In the Pines” by Kendra Elliot is book 3 of 6 in the Columbia River series. We are working on getting the whole series. Let us know what you think!

“The First Death” by Kendra Elliot is the 4th mystery that is set on the Columbia River. Detective Evan Bolton thrives on unraveling tough cases.

“At the River” by Kendra Elliot, the 5th mystery in a series of 6 set on the Columbia River by an author who grew up in the Pacific Northwest.

“False Witness” by Phillip Margolin is about a lawyer who was set up, imprisoned, and disbarred, only to be vindicated and reinstated, and then to find out who set her up. Mr. Margolin was a practicing attorney in Multnomah County. Available in regular and Large print

“Guilty by Definition” by Susie Dent sounded interesting to me. Here’s a teaser for you. ‘She knew there’d be ghosts in Oxford, she just didn’t think they’d make their way to the dictionary.’

“The Heir Apparent” by Rebecca Armitage is an irresistible modern fairy tale about a British princess who must decide between her duty to her family or to her own heart.

Children

“The Christmas Sweater” by Jan Brett is her newest delightful story.

“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” is a new copy of an old story donated by Ray and Linda McCormick.

Junior

“I Survived the Dust Bowl, 1935” by Lauren Tarshis — “I Survived” books are so popular. Juniors are learning something new about a historical event in each! We have many in book and audio (Playaway) form.

“Lafayette! (Nathan Hale’s Hazardous Tales #8): A Revolutionary War Tale” is a graphic novel about the French nobleman and war hero.

Young Adult

“When We Were Monsters” by Jennifer Niven is about a teacher who is found dead at an elite boarding school. Four students had every reason to want her gone. Who is the monster? This is on my to-read list. ☺

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District Uses State Grant to Revitalize Libraries

The Central Linn School District has used a \$10,000 State of Oregon grant to revitalize its high school and elementary school libraries.

The funding, provided through the Oregon School Library Revitalization program, was used to purchase new furniture and rugs to improve library spaces and new books for students.



SHARON K BANKS
Duncan Simmons explores balance and movement on the popular "Happy Caterpillar" seating at the Central Linn Elementary School Library.

At Central Linn Elementary School, the district added picture books, fiction, graphic novels, and nonfiction titles. Nonfiction purchases focused primarily on natural science and space, with additional purchases including cookbooks.

At the high school, new materials include teen graphic novels, popular young-adult and middle-school fiction, and nonfiction titles. Nonfiction subjects include health and medicine, farm machinery and rodeo, an atlas of Oregon Native American tribal place names, and a horse encyclopedia.

District officials said the updates are intended to make library spaces more inviting and provide students with current, engaging reading materials. ☀



SHARON K BANKS
Madison Durringer, Mia Fiorito, and Grant Wahl settle into a new lounge seating area.

CENTRAL LINN ELEMENTARY GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Cobras Tip Off Season With Convincing Win

The Central Linn Cobras elementary girls' basketball team opened its season with an impressive 26-12 victory over the Veneta Tigers in its first game of the year at the Brownsville Rec Center.

The team, made up of 10 girls in third and fourth grade, showed determination and teamwork in what was the first-ever game for many of the players. Both teams played hard, with athletes learning key fundamentals such as dribbling while running, accurate shooting, guarding opponents, and transitioning between offense and defense.

Alexys (#8) led all scorers with 10 points. Avery (#12) followed with six, Charlotte (#2) added four, and Maya (#32) chipped in two.

Referees were lenient with foul calls, allowing the young players to focus on learning the game and building confidence on the court.

The crowd was enthusiastic and supportive of both teams, and the girls demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout the game.

With the win, the Cobras start the season undefeated at 1-0. ☀



BONNIE BURNETT
The Central Linn Elementary girls' basketball team poses following its season-opening win at the Brownsville Rec Center. Players, from left: Charlotte (2), Avery (12), Reya (9), Maya (32), Ingrid (18), Jewel (10), Lily (27), Alexys (8), Harper (11), and Emalina (21). Coaches Carrier and Geider are pictured in the back.

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CENTRAL LINN SCHOOLS SPORTS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Friday, Jan. 16

- The Oregon Wrestling Classic will be held in Redmond Friday and Saturday, Jan. 16-17.
- Central Linn High School basketball will host Crosshill. Junior varsity girls play at 3 p.m., junior varsity boys at 4:30 p.m., the varsity girls' game is at 6 p.m., and the varsity boys' game tips off at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 19

- There will be no school in the Central Linn School District.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

- Central Linn High School wrestling will compete at Siletz in an all-day meet.
- Central Linn High School basketball will travel to East Linn Christian Academy. Junior varsity girls play at 3 p.m., junior varsity boys at 4:30 p.m., the varsity girls' game is at 6 p.m., and the varsity boys' game tips off at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

- Central Linn Junior High wrestling will take place at CLES from 6-8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23

- Central Linn schools will observe a regular school day.
- Central Linn High School basketball will host Waldport. Junior varsity girls play at 3 p.m., junior varsity boys at 4:30 p.m., the varsity girls' game is at 6 p.m., and the varsity boys' game tips off at 7:30 p.m.

Central Linn Schools Transition to New Phone System

The Central Linn School District has upgraded its phone system to better serve students, families, and the community. As a result, all school and district contact numbers have changed. Please update your records with the new numbers listed below.

Main Office Lines

Elementary School Office: 541-762-6151
Jr./Sr. High School Office: 541-762-6150
District Office: 541-762-6149

Fax Lines

Elementary School Fax: 541-762-6137
Jr./Sr. High School Fax: 541-762-6152

District officials thank families and community members for their patience during the transition to the new system. ☀

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PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 7

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State's First Measles Cases of 2026 Confirmed in Linn County

Health officials warn public about two locations where affected individuals spent time

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

PORTLAND — Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Linn County public health officials are investigating two cases of measles and want people to know about locations where they may have been exposed to the highly infectious virus.

The affected individuals developed measles symptoms — rash, fever, cough and runny nose — on Jan. 5. OHA is not identifying the individuals' gender, age, or county of residence.

People might have been exposed if they were at the following locations during these dates and times:

- Lebanon Community Hospital Emergency Department, between 8:53 p.m. Jan. 6 and 7 a.m. Jan. 7.
- Albany General Hospital Emergency Department, between 4:59 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. Jan. 7.

People who were at these locations during these dates and times should immediately contact their health care provider and let them know they may have been exposed to someone who has measles. The health care provider can determine whether they are immune to measles based on their vaccination record, age, or laboratory evidence of prior infection.

"Measles is here in Oregon and rates are increasing nationally, which is why we encourage everyone to make sure they're protected by talking with their providers about being up to date on vaccinations," said Howard Chiou, M.D., Ph.D., medical director for communicable diseases and immunizations at OHA's Public Health Division.

Facts about measles

Measles spreads through the air after a person with measles coughs or sneezes. People are contagious with measles for four days before a rash appears and up to four days afterward. The virus particles also can linger in the air for up to two hours after someone who is infectious has left the area.

Measles typically starts with a fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes. A rash usually follows, beginning on the face and spreading to the rest of the body. Symptoms begin seven to 21 days after exposure to a person with measles. Common complications of measles include ear infection,

lung infection and diarrhea. Swelling of the brain is a rare but much more serious complication.

Measles can be dangerous, especially among infants and children younger than 5, adults older than 20, pregnant people, and people with weakened immune systems. In developed countries in recent years, one or two out of every 1,000 measles cases has been fatal.



A child with measles shows the characteristic rash that typically begins on the face and spreads, one of the virus's most recognizable symptoms.

The measles vaccine is highly effective at providing protection, as two doses of the MMR vaccine is 97 percent effective at preventing measles. The risk of severe disease from measles for people who are up to date on their vaccines is very low.

What to do if you suspect measles in your household

Public health officials urge people experiencing symptoms of measles not to arrive unannounced at a medical office if they:

- Have a measles-like rash, or
- Have been exposed to measles within the previous 21 days, and have any other symptom of measles (such as fever, cough or red eyes).

Individuals planning to seek medical care should first call a health care provider or urgent care center by telephone to create an entry plan to avoid exposing others in waiting rooms.

Learn more about measles at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/measles.aspx>.

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POLLYANNA CLUB

Marking 100 Years of Community Care

By Nancy Diltz, Columnist

The Pollyanna Club, a service group meeting in Brownsville since 1926, held its first regular meeting of 2026, one hundred years later!

To recap the meeting... two new officers were elected in November for the 2026 year. A thank-you card was received in recognition of Pollyanna's generous donation to The Brownsville Times, which will provide newspaper subscriptions to the community. This year's Festival of Trees submission from the Pollyanna Club was a success, and ideas are being generated for next year's Christmas tree theme.

Each month, a Pollyanna member volunteers to present information of interest at the meeting. On January 8, Deanna shared information from a 1939 Pollyanna meeting. The Roll Call roster included many names familiar to members and the Brownsville community. A portion of the meeting minutes read: "...the Curtains Committee reported they had investigated the condition of the (high school) gym stage curtains, which were found to be damaged to quite an extent. The sewing instructor, Miss Huffman, advised them that her class would make protectors immediately and do what they could to further care for the curtains."

The next regular meeting of the Pollyanna Club will be on February 12. 🌟

NEW ENERGY

A Story on Hybrid Water Heaters

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

When the old water heater in the corner of the garage began rattling loudly, the family knew it was nearing the end of its life. That was when a plumber suggested a hybrid water heater, also known as a heat pump water heater, shifting the decision from a simple replacement to a reconsideration of how hot water is produced.

Unlike traditional water heaters, hybrid models do not generate heat directly. Instead, they draw heat from the surrounding air and transfer it into the water stored in the tank. The system works much like a refrigerator in reverse. A heat pump captures warm air, compresses it, and moves that heat into the water. Electricity is still required, but mainly to move heat rather than create it, resulting in higher efficiency.

Efficiency is the primary benefit. Hybrid water heaters can use 60 to 70 percent less energy than conventional electric units. Over time, this reduction can lead to lower utility bills, particularly in homes with higher hot water demand. Reduced energy use also lowers a household's carbon footprint. In some cases, financial incentives further improve affordability.

Consumers Power currently offers an instant rebate of \$1,800, making a hybrid water heater less expensive than a conventional model. Details are available at <https://cpi1.gpfulfillment.com>. Pacific Power customers may qualify for a \$700 rebate through Energy Trust of Oregon. Information can be found at <https://www.energytrust.org>.

There are limitations to consider.

Because the heat pump pulls warmth from the air, hybrid water heaters perform best in warm or moderate climates and in areas that remain above 40 to 45 degrees. In colder garages or basements, the unit may rely more frequently on built-in electric heating elements, reducing efficiency. The process also cools and dehumidifies the surrounding air, which can be beneficial in summer but less desirable in winter.

Hybrid units are generally larger than standard water heaters and require adequate space and airflow. They can also produce a low, steady hum like a window air conditioner. Recovery time may be slower if multiple users draw hot water in quick succession.

Overall, a hybrid water heater is similar to a fuel-efficient vehicle. The up-front cost may be higher, and performance depends on the right conditions, but the long-term savings and energy efficiency can make it a practical upgrade for many households. 🌟

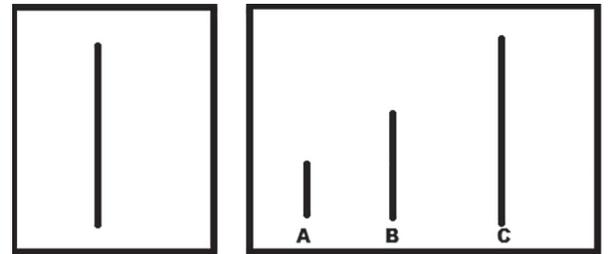
OPINION

The Illusion of Consensus is Powerful

By Stephen A. Brenner, Columnist

In 1951, during the tense years of the Korean War and the Rosenberg espionage scandal, psychologist Solomon Asch conducted one of the most famous experiments on conformity at Swarthmore College. Students were told they were participating in a vision test. They were shown three lines of obviously different lengths and asked to choose the one that matched a target line. What they didn't know was that the other "participants" were actors, instructed to give the wrong answer.

Despite the simplicity of the task, 75 percent of subjects conformed at least once, overriding their own clear perception, to align with the erroneous majority. Asch demonstrated how powerful social pressure can be: people often choose to be wrong rather than stand apart from the group.



This diagram illustrates Solomon Asch's classic conformity experiment, showing how individuals may abandon clear evidence to align with an incorrect majority. Illustration: Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA.

Today, Asch's findings resonate even more strongly. Our "majorities" are now ambient cultural forces amplified through social media, where trends shift faster than we can form informed opinions. The loudest voices can easily be mistaken for consensus, and we often feel pressure to signal alignment with prevailing views, even when they may be illusions of majority opinion.

The philosopher John Stuart Mill, writing a century before Asch, warned about this "tyranny of prevailing opinion." While laws can coerce, social norms shape us subtly, encouraging conformity through fear of judgment rather than overt punishment. Mill argued that the real threat is imitation: when we absorb the beliefs of our community so fully that it no longer occurs to us to think differently.

This internalized conformity shows up in modern psychological concepts. The false consensus effect leads us to assume "everyone" thinks the way our immediate circle does. Pluralistic ignorance describes situations in which people publicly agree with an idea they privately doubt, because they falsely believe others genuinely support it. Thus, illusions of consensus arise, maintained by people who are each privately unsure.

Mill believed genuine independence requires embracing doubt and being willing to challenge group beliefs, not to be contrarian for its own sake, but to ensure our convictions are truly our own. Social "friction," such as skeptical looks from friends or an awkward silence in a group chat, is not evidence that we are wrong. It is evidence that our ideas are being tested, which is necessary for intellectual integrity.

Nonconformity today does not always mean disagreement; sometimes it means refusing to declare an opinion at all. When public debates turn every issue into a moral litmus test, silence is often treated as complicity. Yet withholding judgment, due to uncertainty, lack of information, or simple exhaustion, can be as radical as dissent. In a climate where the "correct" stance seems to shift weekly, the pressure to perform agreement can replicate Asch's experiment on a societal scale.

Asch's subjects may have laughed in relief after learning the truth, or felt shaken by how easily they yielded. Mill would say this discomfort is valuable: the starting point of self-awareness and the seed of independent thought.

This article was digested from a Dec. 4, 2025 article by Laura Kennedy in Big Think Media. 🌟

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Crawfordsville Calvary Chapel

38353 Glass St · 541-730-4519
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27910 7 Mile Ln · 541-642-3000
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Halsey Mennonite Church

910 E 1st St · 712-432-8773
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Sunday Service 10 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday evening 6 p.m.
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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
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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

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Sunday Service 10 a.m.
Sunday School 11 a.m.

Spirit of the Valley

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spiritofthevalleyumc@gmail.com

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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Valley Christian Fellowship

690 W 2nd St · Halsey · 732-434-3592
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PAST TIMES

Memorial Pines in Halsey

By Margaret Standish-Carey and Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer & Columnist

In 1976 Margaret Standish-Carey wrote another article for the Brownsville Times in the Past Times section. This was about two pine trees that had been landmarks in Halsey. Standish-Carey wrote:

It stands straight and proud, the tallest tree along Highway 99E running through Halsey — that vigorous pine tree in front of the Christian Church.

Those who have lived in the community for 50 years or more remember that pine and its brother well.

The two pine trees were planted by a group of Boy Scouts and their leader, Dr. Henry Garnjobst, as memorials to the Halsey men who lost their lives during World War I.

Carefully transplanted from their wooded homes, the two trees were set out as living remembrances of Ruel Bond and Ralph Savage. The Boy Scout troop planted one tree at the southeast corner of the Methodist church lot in honor of Bond, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Bond, and the other tree in front of the Christian Church (now the Harvest Reformed Baptist Church) in memory of Savage, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Savage.

In 1976, when Mrs. Standish-Carey wrote the original article, one tree remained standing, the one in front of the Christian Church. The other tree was brought down by the Columbus Day storm on October 12, 1962. The last tree would be cut down much later.

When Dr. Garnjobst learned of the fate of the first tree, he asked a friend to gather pinecones so he could plant their seeds. Garnjobst was a be-



loved doctor working in Halsey in the early 20th century. He would later work in Brownsville and then his final years were in Corvallis beginning in 1926. He was revered because he continued to make house calls long after they were common and was otherwise a very dedicated doctor.

Today there is no trace of either tree except for the stump left on the NE corner of the Baptist Church lot just a few feet from the building and in front of the stump is a metal plaque. The engraving on the plaque is long gone so we cannot read it.

This among other things is a reminder that trees are not permanent and should be cared for. It is also a reminder that memorials to the fallen soldiers in our wars should be more permanent structures, so they are not forgotten. How many of the people of Halsey remember Ruel Bond or Ralph Savage?

(A future article will be devoted to Dr. Garnjobst. Special thanks to Erica Broad of Halsey for locating the stump and plaque.) ☼

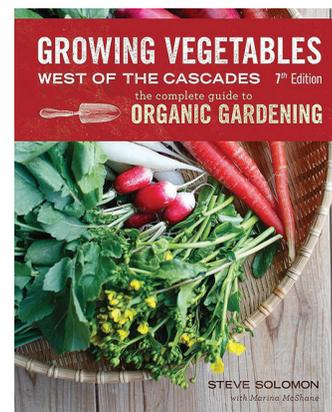
TAKING ROOT

Act Now to Buy Bulk Soil Amendments

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist

Ten Rivers Food Web, the Corvallis-based nonprofit, offers this annual opportunity to purchase hard-to-find or expensive soil amendments at bulk prices. Order online through January 31 and pick up your purchases at the Benton County Fairgrounds on March 7.

Experienced gardeners often say, "I don't grow vegetables, I grow soil," and the soil grows the vegetables. That is why we rotate our crops and add various fertilizers and microbes, fungi, and other members of the soil micro-herd. Just search for Ten Rivers Food Web and scroll down to the Soil Amendment Sale, where you can shop by category. The "Compost and Organic Matter" category features cubic-foot bags of fish compost for \$7.50. The "Liquid and Soluble Fertilizer" category includes Fish Emulsion, ideal for feeding seedlings and individual plants, at \$18.75 per concentrated gallon. If you follow Steve Solomon's "Growing Vegetables West of the Cascades" and want to mix up some of his fertilizer recipes, the "Minerals" category will



speak to you. Here are the hard-to-find ingredients he recommends, such as dolomite, glacial rock flour, and oyster shell flour. In "Trace Nutrients," you'll find the boron, manganese, and zinc you have been searching for.

This winter is a great time to pick up a copy

of Solomon's book and start your deep dive into organic gardening. You'll never look at dirt the same way. I get my potting soil second-hand from Peoria Gardens, but if you want to mix up some fresh stuff of your own, check out the "Propagation Supplies" category to find perlite, the little grains of volcanic rock that make up 30 percent of most potting soils. Peat moss and coco fiber (coir) are there, too.

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



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SHERIFF'S REPORT

Information in the Sheriff's Report is provided by The Linn County Sheriff's Daily Media Log of Dispatched Calls and Cases. Incident details may be limited or delayed due to agency availability before 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); APS (Adult Protective Services); DHS (Department of Human Services); 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 of that numbered degree: theft I (first-degree theft).

Monday, January 5

1:57 a.m. — Joseph Gutierrez, 28, of Springfield, was cited for driving uninsured and failure to register a vehicle in the 200 block of Monroe St., Harrisburg. Passenger Brandi Linerud, 43, of Eugene, was arrested on an outstanding warrant and issued a citation in lieu of custody; report taken.

7:29 a.m. — Deputies responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of Smith St., Harrisburg, and arrested Joseph Gutierrez, 28, of Springfield, and Brandi Linerud, 43, of Eugene, for possession of meth; report taken.

9:17 a.m. — Deputies assisted with returning a found dog back to its owner in the 100 block of Smith St., Harrisburg.

9:23 a.m. — Deputy handled a non-injury crash involving a vehicle driving into a field in the 34500 block of Plainview Dr., Shedd.

11:52 a.m. — Deputy per-

formed a BLM forest timber patrol in the 25600 block of Timber Rd., Brownsville. Two people were target shooting. They said they would make sure the area was clean when they left. One person was out walking their dog. Nothing suspicious noted.

1:37 p.m. — Kimberly Westlake, 48, of Veneta, was issued citations for driving while suspended and driving uninsured at Smith St./N 2nd St., Harrisburg.

4:22 p.m. — Douglas Pickle, 41, of Sweet Home, was cited for failure to obey a traffic control device on Boston Mill Rd., Shedd.

4:24 p.m. — Peter Sabatino, 61, of Harrisburg, was issued a citation for failure to carry proof of insurance in the 500 block of Territorial St., Harrisburg.

5:29 p.m. — Deputy responded to an overdose in the 34200 block of Powell Hills Loop, Shedd. The individual was transported by ambulance to the hospital in Lebanon.

6:33 p.m. — Caller reported a civil dispute with a solar panel business in the 800 block of Pebble St., Brownsville. Deputy documented information, non-criminal.

7:36 p.m. — Deputy responded to a domestic disturbance in the 600 block of LaSalle St., Harrisburg, involving a juvenile assaulting their mother, causing minor injury. Case was forwarded to the Juvenile Department. Report taken.

Tuesday, January 6

11:08 a.m. — Deputy responded to a non-injury crash on BLM land in the 25100 block of Little Valley Lane, Brownsville. The operator's vehicle went off the side of a 100-foot embankment after the operator attempted to avoid a collision on a blind corner. Report taken.

4:46 p.m. — Julio Aceves Arenazas, 50, of Harrisburg,

was cited for traveling 85 mph in a 55 mph zone in the 24900 block of Hwy 99E, Halsey.

5:05 p.m. — Mary Phiroz, 62, of Salem, was cited for speeding in the 23600 block of Hwy 99E, Harrisburg

9:39 p.m. — Deputy received a Department of Human Services (DHS) 307 referral regarding a domestic violence incident earlier in the day in the 33100 block of Fuchsia Lane, Tangent.

Wednesday, January 7

9:48 a.m. — Caller reported a knife found near Brownsville City Hall. Deputy retrieved the knife.

1:29 p.m. — A mandatory reporter reported an assault in the 800 block of Sommerville Loop, Harrisburg. The incident was already reported by the victim. Deputy provided the mandatory reporter with the case number.

6:14 p.m. — Deputy responded to a homeless pregnant woman in the 400 block of N Main St., Brownsville. Deputy provided resource information for potential shelter assistance.

10:34 p.m. — Seth Coult, 29, of Tenmile, Oregon, was cited for driving while using a cell phone in the 34100 block of Hwy 228, Halsey.

Thursday, January 8

1:39 a.m. — Deputy contacted a male sleeping in a van down by the river in the 100 block of N 1st St., Harrisburg. Deputy warned the male.

8:11 a.m. — Caller reported a non-injury motor vehicle accident in the 24800 block of West Brush Creek Rd, Sweet Home. The vehicle was crashed and abandoned on a private timber property owned by Giustina Resources. The investigation is ongoing, report taken.

9:46 a.m. — Jared Christensen, 36, of Wood Village, was issued a citation for failure to obey a traffic control device in the 32900 block of Hwy 228, Halsey.

12:22 p.m. — Deputy responded to concerns regarding a possible no-contact condition violation in the 33100 block of Fuchsia Ln., Tangent; the concerns had been previously reported and were determined not to be a violation.

1:12 p.m. — Caller reported a person knocked on their door late at night in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr, Harrisburg. The caller believed it was a neighbor's son and wanted their statements documented.

2:21 p.m. — A local business located in the 400 block of Peoria Rd., Harrisburg, reported the attempted theft of power equipment totaling \$18,000. Report taken.

6:59 p.m. — Deputies responded to a report of a juvenile leaving their residence in the 800 block of S 8th Pl., Harrisburg, without permission from their parents.

Friday, January 9

10:20 a.m. — A single vehicle non-injury crash occurred in the 29700 block of American Drive near the intersection of Creek Dr., Halsey

2:38 p.m. — Clayton Baunach, 64, of Junction City was issued citations for driving while suspended at the violation level and driving uninsured in the 700 block of S 2nd St./S 3rd St., Harrisburg.

3:08 p.m. — Enrique Atunez, 46, of Harrisburg, was issued a criminal citation in lieu of custody for driving while suspended at the misdemeanor level. He was also issued a citation for driving uninsured in the 300 block of S 3rd St., Harrisburg.

3:31 p.m. — Deputies responded to a report of threats in the 33900 block of Powell Hills Loop, Shedd.

4:00 p.m. — Deputies responded to a fight at a convenience store located in the 300 block of S 3rd St., Harrisburg, and contacted all involved parties. The

investigation is ongoing, report taken.

6:03 p.m. — Levi Baker, 30, of Eugene, was arrested for an outstanding warrant in the 27700 block of Peoria Rd., Halsey. Levi was transported to the Linn County Jail without issue. Report taken.

10:24 p.m. — Deputy found juveniles in Eagle Park, Harrisburg, after hours. The juveniles were verbally warned for trespassing.

Saturday, January 10

4:37 p.m. — Jerrime Urban, 47, of Albany, was arrested for resisting arrest, obstructing governmental or judicial administration, and disorderly conduct II in the 1000 block of Pine St., Brownsville. Report taken.

7:14 p.m. — Deputy was alerted to a theft in the 100 block of S 3rd St, Harrisburg. The business wanted the juvenile offender to be trespassed from the store.

9:12 p.m. — Deputies responded to a shooting in the 30700 block of Territorial Dr., Harrisburg. A person accidentally shot themselves. Non-criminal, report taken.

Sunday, January 11

5:00 p.m. — Brayden Waid, 23, of Junction City, was issued a citation for speeding at Cartney Dr/Hwy 99E, Harrisburg..

5:23 p.m. — Deputy responded to a criminal mischief call in the 900 block of Pine St., Brownsville. Approximately \$600 in damages to a vehicle. Investigation ongoing, report taken.

7:50 p.m. — Deputies responded to a death investigation in the 800 block of Sommerville Loop, Harrisburg. Report taken.

8:28 p.m. — Deputies assisted OSP on a traffic stop in the 31800 block of Lake Creek Dr./Hwy 99E, Halsey.

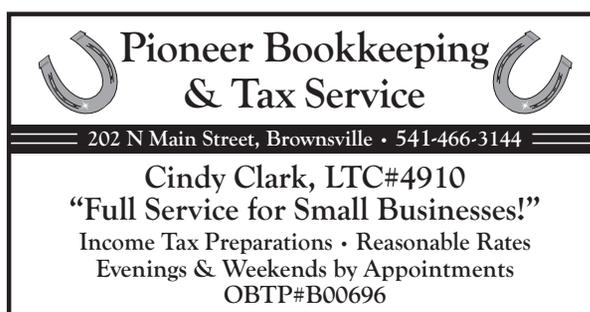
10:33 p.m. — Caller reported a sex offense in the 39100 block of Hwy 228, Sweet Home. Investigation ongoing, report taken. ☼

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CENTRAL LINN GRADS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Don Wirth: A Life Rooted in Soil, Innovation, and Community

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer and Tangent Correspondent

Don Wirth never doubted that he wanted to be a farmer. By age eight, he was driving a tractor and never missed an opportunity to work alongside his dad.

Born in 1946, Don and his family moved from Crabtree to Tangent when his father — then a logger — decided to try farming. New to agriculture, Don's father brought a willingness to experiment and try new ideas, a mindset that strongly shaped Don's own approach to farming.

Don attended Shedd Elementary School and later Central Linn High School, becoming part of the first class to complete grades 7–12 entirely in the new CLHS building, graduating in 1964. Active in 4-H and FFA, Don's determination was sometimes underestimated. His high school agriculture teacher once told him, "Wirth, you won't amount to a hill of beans," a remark that only strengthened Don's resolve to prove him wrong.



Don Wirth stands with his family on the land that has shaped generations of work and tradition. Born in 1946 and a 1964 Central Linn High School graduate, Wirth has spent more than six decades farming, innovating soil health practices, and building a lasting family legacy at Cala Farms.

Don met his future wife, Maryanne, in 1959 when her father came to see a fertilizer spreader Don's father had built. Their friendship grew into romance when Don asked her to be his date to the 1963 Albany Timber Carnival. The couple married in 1967 while both were attending Oregon State University. Don graduated in 1968 with a degree in Mechanical, Technical, and Agricultural studies.

That fall, Don and Maryanne purchased the family homestead and began farming the family-owned acres along with leased land. After Don's brother Dennis graduated, the brothers divided the family acreage to pursue independent farming goals. Don named his operation Cala Farms, after the Calapooia River.

Don and Maryanne welcomed two children, Tim and Lisa. The family was devastated by the loss of Tim to cancer at age 19, but they remain proud of his legacy as Central Linn High School's first male cheerleader and the first recipient of an FFA Regional Award for Alternate Crops. In Tim's memory, Don and Maryanne established a high school scholarship. Today, Cala Farms is operated by Lisa and her husband, Dave Goracke.

For 60 years, Don has centered his work on two goals: improving soil health and



LISA GORACKE

Don Wirth pauses in the field at Cala Farms near Tangent, reflecting a lifetime rooted in agriculture. A lifelong farmer and advocate for soil health, Wirth has helped pioneer cover crop use in Oregon following the state's field-burning moratorium and continues to champion stewardship and education in farming.

building a lasting farming legacy. Following Oregon's "Black Tuesday" field-burning moratorium in 1969, Don actively sought alternatives to burning. He co-founded Oregon's first cover crop seed business, Saddle Butte Ag, and has spent decades testing and promoting cover crops throughout Oregon and the Midwest.

A lifelong learner, Don believes education is essential. "If I talk to someone and don't learn anything, that's a problem," he said.

Don's service includes more than 40 years of involvement on agricultural boards, school board leadership, volunteering as a firefighter, and serving as an elder at Oakville Church. Among many honors, his proudest recognition was receiving the 2023 Distinguished Service Award from the Agricultural Communicators Network.

Today, Don looks forward to family milestones in a blessing-filled 2026, including the birth of grandson Cole's first child (Don's first great-grandchild), granddaughter Clara's spring wedding, and grandson Cole's college graduation. Still committed to farming, Don is confident that with good stewardship, both his soil and family legacies will endure. ☺

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