



NASA's Remembrance Day

By Jim Isenburg, Columnist

On the fourth Thursday of January every year at Arlington National Cemetery, NASA commemorates three of the darkest days in its history: the fatal Apollo 1 fire on January 27, 1967, which killed astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee; the fatal Challenger explosion on January 28, 1986, which killed the entire seven-person crew; and the reentry disaster of the Columbia space shuttle on February 1, 2003, which also resulted in the death of the entire crew. Many Americans remember the widely publicized two space shuttle disasters. Much less familiar to most Americans is what happened to Apollo 1 more than 50 years ago. This is partly because it was so long ago, but also because it did not happen during a space launch; it occurred in the evening, and the news media were far less extensive back then.

Prior to the Apollo 1 tragedy, NASA's manned space program was remarkably successful. Yes, the Soviet program was "in the lead," with longer, more numerous, and more spectacular orbital spaceflights. However, NASA's program



COURTESY OF NASA

Apollo 1 prime crew astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee are pictured during training prior to the Jan. 27, 1967, ground test fire that claimed their lives.

— Mercury and Gemini — had an essentially spotless record of success from its beginning in 1961 onward. NASA was very optimistic about the future of the Apollo program, with its aim to put a man on the moon before the end of the decade (as promised by JFK). The plan was for the first Apollo flight

NASA continued on page 3

INSIDE

CHILI CONTEST



3

SEASONS EATINGS



4

RURAL LIVING



9

CRITTER CHRONICLES



5

Vet of the Quarter: Mike Farnsworth — Service in the Atomic Age

By An Ordinary Seaman

There is a specific kind of logic that only the United States Army truly masters. It goes something like this: You find a young man with a shiny new Business Administration degree from Portland State and two years of experience at the Atomic Energy Commission; naturally, you don't put him in a lab or a spreadsheet bunker. You draft him, hand him a set of fatigues, and send



COURTESY OF MIKE FARNSWORTH

Mike Farnsworth during his service in Vietnam in the late 1960s, where he was assigned to the 1st Logistical Command and later awarded the Bronze Star for exemplary service.

him to Vietnam to oversee the disposal of tanks that have been — to use the technical term — blown to bits.

Meet Mike Farnsworth, our American Legion Post 184 Veteran of the Quarter.

Mike is a native Oregonian who, back in 1968, traded the relative calm of the Atomic Energy Commission for the humidity of Long Binh. Assigned to the 1st Logistical Command, Mike became the military's ultimate "fixer" of things that were beyond fixing. If a piece of heavy machinery met a catastrophic end, Mike was the man tasked with the paperwork, the disposal, and the "in-country" sales. It's the kind of

job that requires the patience of a saint and the organizational mind of a CPA, which, as it turns out, is exactly what Mike became.

He returned home in 1970 with a Bronze Star for exemplary service — a fancy way of saying he did a difficult, dangerous job with the kind of integrity that makes the rest of us look like we're still figuring out how to color inside the lines.



JOHN MORRISON

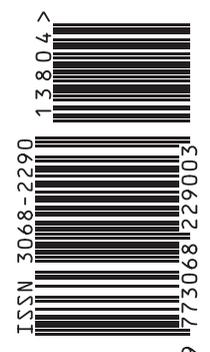
Mike Farnsworth, left, is presented with recognition as American Legion Post 184's Veteran of the Quarter by Dan George. Farnsworth served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and has remained active in community and nonprofit service for decades.

After the Army, Mike didn't exactly slow down. He returned to the Atomic Energy Commission in Tennessee, realized he had missed the rain, and moved back to the Northwest to work for the Department of the Interior. Somewhere in between, he picked up a master's degree in federal taxation and a CPA license.

VET continued on page 3

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>

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.

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>

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.

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>

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.

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.

Valentine's Day Dinner for Two

Friday, Feb. 14 • Noon-9 p.m.

Kirk's Ferry Inn, 217 W Bishop Way, Brownsville

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a special Dinner for Two at Kirk's Ferry Inn. The evening features a four-course dinner designed for a romantic night out in one of Brownsville's most historic settings. Reservations are recommended.

For menu details, visit <https://kirksferry1846.com>.

For reservations or questions, call (541) 466-5614.

See page 6 for Brownsville Library events

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**Central Linn High School Brings 'Little Women' to the Stage**

The Central Linn High School Arts Department will present "Little Women" Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 29–31, at Central Linn High School in Halsey.

Orchestrated by Jacqueline Goldfinger, this stage adaptation brings the beloved March sisters to life as they navigate family, love, hardship, and independence during the Civil War era. The production is directed by Joe Demianew.



PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

An illustration by Jessie Willcox Smith inspired by Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women," depicting the March sisters, from "Boys and Girls of Bookland" by Nora Archibald Smith, 1923.

The cast includes Hannah Travis as Jo March, Kahaeli Morris as Meg March, Lily Diaz as Amy March, and Paesi Baney as Beth March. Also joining them are JJ Baney as Marmee, Reine Franklin as Laurie Laurence, and Enrique Luis Gonzalez as John Brooke.

Performances are scheduled for Thursday at 7 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., and Saturday at 7 p.m. at Central Linn High School, 32433 Highway 228, Halsey. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, with refreshments available for purchase during intermission.

The production showcases the talents of Central Linn students both on stage and behind the scenes, offering audiences a classic story told through local voices. 🌟

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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

Banff Mountain Film Festival Brings World-Class Adventure Films to Corvallis

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer & Columnist

CORVALLIS — Outdoor and adventure film fans will have two opportunities this winter to see the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour, which returns to Corvallis on Friday, February 6, and Saturday, February 7.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is internationally recognized for showcasing some of the best adventure, outdoor, and mountain films from around the world. The festival began more than four decades ago in Banff, Alberta, as a gathering of climbers and explorers sharing stories from the mountains. Each fall, filmmakers submit hundreds of films to the Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival. A selection of the top films is chosen to travel as part of the World Tour, bringing the festival experience to communities worldwide.

In Corvallis, the films will be shown at the historic Whiteside Theatre, located at 361 SW Madison Avenue. Screenings are scheduled for Friday, February 6, and Saturday, February 7, with films running from 7 to 10 p.m. each evening. Both nights include an intermission.

Each night of the festival features a different program. This means the films shown on Friday are different from those shown on Saturday. Tickets are sold by program, and attendees who wish to see both nights will need tickets for each evening. For those planning to attend both screenings, a discounted ticket option is available, offering \$5 in savings when both nights are purchased together.

Each program typically features six to eight short films covering a wide range of outdoor subjects. Audiences can expect stories focused on mountain sports such as climbing, skiing, snowboarding, biking, paddling, and trail running, as well as films centered on exploration, environmental themes, and personal journeys. The blend of fast-paced adventure and thoughtful storytelling is a hallmark of the Banff Film Festival and appeals to both seasoned outdoor athletes and general audiences.

A Banff Film Festival screening is more than a traditional movie night. The atmosphere is social and community-focused, drawing outdoor enthusiasts, students, families, and local residents. Many attendees arrive early to visit with friends and fellow film goers, and local hosts often add raffles or giveaways during the intermission, enhancing the event's atmosphere.

Tickets for the Corvallis Banff Mountain Film Festival are available online at <https://www.livetoplay.com>. Ticket availability is limited, and the festival often sells out, so purchasing tickets in advance is strongly recommended. The LiveToPlay website provides program descriptions, dates, and ticket options to help attendees plan their visit.

Whether attending one night or both, the Banff Mountain Film Festival offers a chance to enjoy world-class adventure films, stunning scenery, and inspiring stories, all on the big screen and close to home. 🌟

VET *continued from cover*

Most people retire to work on their golf swing or argue with the TV. Not Mike. He's the Treasurer for LOVE INC of Linn County, audits books for the Intertribal Timber Council, and keeps the lights on at the Obria Medical Clinic and the Salvation Army.

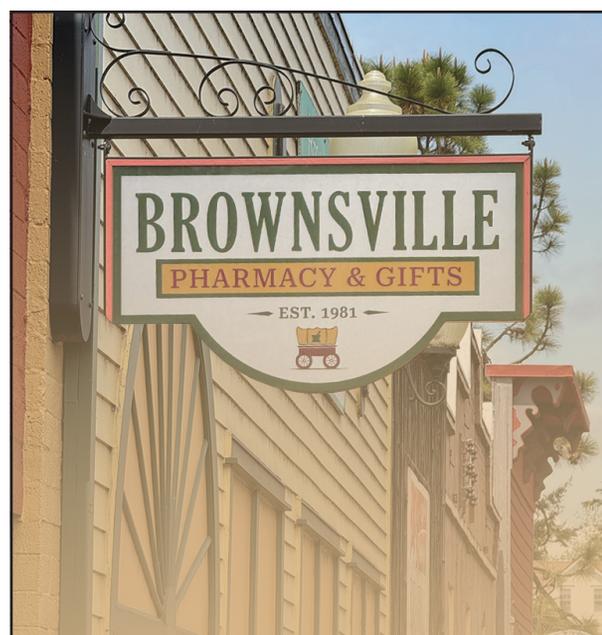
In our part of the world, we value folks who show up. Mike Farnsworth has been showing up — for his country, his church, and his community — for over five decades. 🌟

NASA *continued from cover*

— on the newly developed Saturn rocket — to be launched early in February 1967. Two of the astronauts to be included in the three-person crew were quite experienced. Gus Grissom was one of the original seven astronauts and had flown on both Mercury and Gemini flights. Ed White was very well known for being the first American to perform a "spacewalk" on a Gemini mission.

Although public interest in the new Apollo program was not widespread at the outset, I was obsessed with all aspects of NASA's activities from 1957 onward. I really wanted to be an astronaut myself. So not surprisingly, I knew all about the January 27, 1967, ground test of the new Apollo space capsule coupled to the new Saturn rocket. It was not easy to get news about the test at 6:30 p.m. that night, when the fire began, but I do recall that I somehow learned about it very quickly. It took some time to learn the cause of the fire. A major problem was that the capsule's atmosphere was almost 100 percent oxygen. And for some reason, it was very difficult to open the hatch. It did not take long to learn about the horrific deaths of those three astronauts.

How NASA recovered from the Apollo 1 tragedy and still successfully landed astronauts on the moon and returned them home 30 months later is an amazing story. Regardless, as we approach NASA's Remembrance Day, I hope that many Americans will spend a little bit of time remembering the tragic deaths of these American heroes. 🌟



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SHARING HANDS

Chili Cookoff and Dessert Benefit Auction

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 homemade 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 in crockpots 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 by calling 541-466-3110. 🌟



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- Canned Corned Beef
- Canned Beef
- Complete Meals
- Canned Spaghetti
- Canned Ravioli
- Canned Soup
- Canned Corn
- Canned Fruit
- Pork and Beans
- Ketchup

Grains & Breads

- Bread
- Buns
- English Muffins
- Cereal
- Crackers
- Powdered Milk
- Spices

Please no expired items.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 184

The Best Movie Hitchcock Never Made

By An Ordinary Seaman

You know that feeling when you're leaning against a fence post, trying to look dignified while a younger neighbor explains how to fix a tractor you've owned since the Kennedy administration? That's exactly how Cary Grant felt in 1963.

At the Travis Moothart Post 184, we appreciate a man who knows his limits. When Grant signed on for "Charade," he was pushing 60, and Audrey Hepburn was 33. Grant was terrified of looking like a "dirty old man" — a concern some of us can relate to when we realize the local kids think 1994 was "the olden days."

To save his dignity, the writers flipped the script: they made Audrey the pursuer. It worked. "Charade" became a masterpiece of witty banter and Parisian mystery, often called "the best Hitchcock film Hitchcock never made."

There were some hiccups, of course. After the JFK tragedy, they had to dub over Audrey saying "assassinated" with "eliminated." And in the famous shower scene, Grant stayed fully clothed. He claimed it was for comedy, but let's be honest: at a certain age, we all prefer a layer of wool between us and the public eye.

The best part? Universal Pictures forgot to put a copyright notice on the film. Because of that little whoopsie, "Charade" fell straight into the public domain. It belongs to the people. It's the ultimate bargain — kind of like finding a mint-condition John Deere at an auction sale for seven hundred and fifty bucks.

Come see for yourself, Friday, January 30, 7 p.m., \$2, Post 184, Main St, Brownsville. It's got everything: suspense, style, and a reminder that even Cary Grant got a little nervous about his age. ☺



SEASONS EATINGS

Two Make-Ahead Recipes for a Healthy Start

By Lisa Keith, Columnist

Continuing with the healthy vibe for the new year, here are two of recipes that offer a couple of great ways to start your day. The first one is great for a group gathering or if you like to do the super-trending meal prep thing. The recipe was given to me by my Aunt Sally on a family trip back to California in 2002. It is my dad's favorite, and he would eat it every day if I made it often enough! The second one is a lovely accompaniment for any day. Both recipes can use milk alternative and/or egg substitute.

Fruity Baked Oatmeal

- 4 C old-fashioned raw oats
- 1 C brown sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 4 eggs (or substitute)
- 1 C milk (or alternative)
- ½ C butter (or alternative)
- 1 large apple, diced
- 1 C berries (fresh or frozen and any variety)
- 1 can peaches, cubed (liquid too)
- 1 banana, sliced
- Optional: add a can pumpkin, a can pineapple chunks, diced mango, a cup grated carrots, etc., It's really versatile, add what you like!



Mix all the dry ingredients in a large bowl. Mix all the wet ingredients in another bowl. Combine wet and dry. Pour into a greased 9-by-13 pan. Bake at 350°F for 35-45 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Freezes very well. We love this with all the fruit we can find! My Auntie likes to pour cream over it and add a dollop of butter before she serves.

Sunny Smoothie

- 2 carrots, peeled
- 3 oranges, peeled
- 1 C pineapple chunks + juice
- 1 C pumpkin puree
- 1 knob of fresh ginger, peeled
- 1 tsp ground turmeric
- 1 C plain Greek yogurt, milk, or OJ — to your taste and texture preference
- Optional: handful of spinach or kale (makes it an ugly color, but very healthy!)



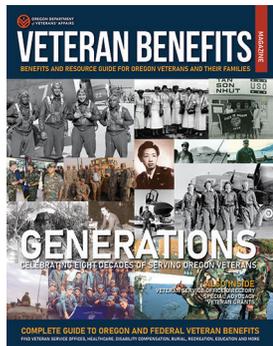
Throw everything into your blender and blend until you like. I like mine as smooth as possible, no chunks in my house. Hahaha

Note: Smoothies are a great way to get your extra veggies and fruit. You can throw just about anything in the blender to make a smoothie! Another yummy combo is banana, PB, cocoa powder, and milk... called a "Chunky Monkey!" LOL.

Thank you so much for your continued support. I love seeing you out there and hearing your encouraging words. Feel free to send me any questions or ideas for future contributions to iamcheflisa@gmail.com. ☺

2026 Veterans Benefit Magazine Available Online and in Print

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has released its 2026 Veterans Benefit Magazine, a free annual guide designed to help veterans, their families, and caregivers navigate state and federal benefits. The magazine is now available online and in print and is one of the most widely used benefit resources for Oregon veterans.



The 2026 edition includes updated contact information for all 36 county Veteran Service Offices and Tribal Veteran Service Offices, 2026 VA disability compensation rates, new veteran license plate options, behavioral health and suicide prevention resources, current ODVA Veteran Home Loan Program details, and locations for VA medical centers, clinics, and Vet Centers. The digital magazine can be viewed or downloaded at <https://www.oregon.gov/odva>, and free printed copies may be ordered at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VeteransBenefitMagazine>. ☺

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CRITTER CHRONICLES

The Bear Who Got the Last Laugh

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

We live a mile off Gap Road, tucked far enough into the hills that wildlife thinks nothing of dropping by unannounced. Birds and squirrels help themselves to the chicken feed, raccoons make a sport of harassing our dog, bobcats pass through now and then, and deer drink daintily from the backyard fountain as though it were theirs. We rarely see bears, though their scat shows up often enough to remind us they're around. At night, the bats come out, and every so often, someone spots a cougar slinking through the trees. We've even had the occasional skunk meander through the yard, and once spotted a porcupine near the driveway. For a while, a family of red foxes made a cozy den in the culvert beneath our driveway, as if they were long-term tenants.



Last year, the bear sign really started to pick up. More scat here, more tracks there. Our dog — who almost never barks — began sounding off at seemingly nothing. But we knew better. She smelled something we couldn't see.

Then came the night my husband accidentally left the shop door ajar.

The next morning, he walked in expecting to start his day's work... and instead, found a large, unmistakable pile of bear poop right in the middle of the floor. A calling card. A message. Perhaps even a bit of commentary about the state of his organization.

Needless to say, he never forgets to close the door now.

Apparently, the bear had the last laugh. ☺

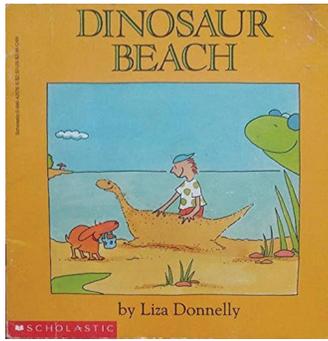
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Beach Days

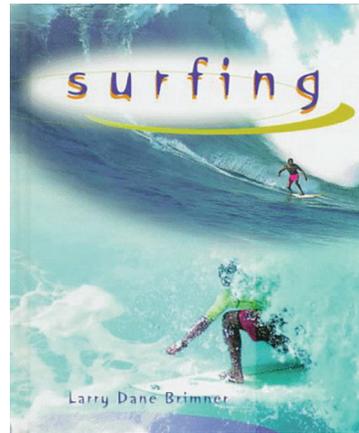
By Nancy Diltz, Columnist

It is nice to think about a warm sunny day on the beach when we are in the middle of winter. A good book can instantly transport you!



"Dinosaur Beach" by Liza Donnelly, published in 1989, is a fun story about "... frightened sunbathers on a crowded beach who flee when someone yells, 'Shark' But it's just a friendly Elasmosaurus who then takes our boy hero and his dog to Dinosaur Beach," according to the edition description from thriftbooks.com. Getepic.com describes Dinosaur Beach as an exotic reptilian resort where Archelon listen to Walkmans, Diplococci ride skateboards, and Mosasaurs float on rafts.

Sounds like fun in the sun!



Another book older readers might enjoy is "Surfing" by Larry Dane Brimner, published in 1998. The book "discusses the history, equipment, and basic techniques of surfing as well as safety issues and surfing etiquette." The author, who won the Robert F. Sibert Award in 2018 for the most distinguished informational book for children for his book "12 Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961," has also won several other children's book awards. Both "Dinosaur Beach" and "Surfing" are available at The Brownsville Library. ☺

WORD SEARCH

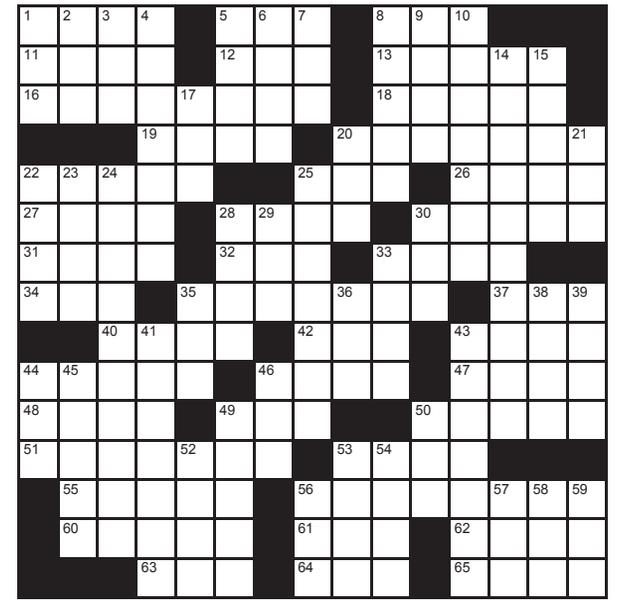
Fun at the Beach

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 SURF
 CRAB

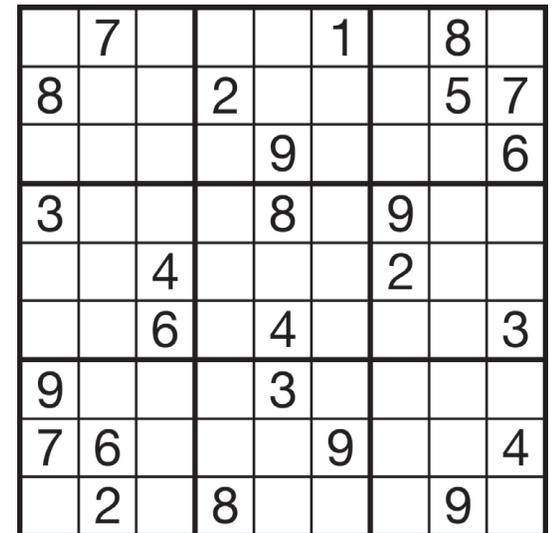
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Fr. summers
 - 5 Insect
 - 8 Fire residue
 - 11 Soybean paste
 - 12 Deer
 - 13 Board game
 - 16 Current
 - 18 Accomplish
 - 19 Alaska city
 - 20 Boudoir
 - 22 Ladies
 - 25 Sibling
 - 26 Gr. portico
 - 27 Wood stork
 - 28 Mackerel shark
 - 30 Lizard
 - 31 Animal skin
 - 32 NV city
 - 33 Sock
 - 34 Hurricane part
 - 35 Rebounds
 - 37 Scot. cap
 - 40 Aquatic bird
 - 42 Fruit drink
 - 43 Crown
 - 44 Anticipate
 - 46 Mild oath
 - 47 Aeneid
 - 48 Mantle
 - 49 Chinese kitchen item
 - 50 Swarms
 - 51 Passage
 - 53 Mix
 - 55 Aspiration
 - 56 Adolescent
 - 60 Comic
 - 61 Pallid
 - 62 Pierce
 - 63 Cunning
 - 64 Morsel
 - 65 Corn units
 - 23 Conform
 - 24 Denver and New York, for example
 - 25 Bird that sings at great heights
 - 28 Hateful
 - 29 Completely
 - 30 Fuel
 - 33 Root vegetable
 - 35 Rodent
 - 36 Crete mountain
 - 38 Molecule
 - 39 Kettle of fish
 - 41 Hotdogs
 - 43 Aristocracy
 - 44 Perform
 - 45 Hospital areas
 - 46 Morse code signal
 - 49 Weak and ineffectual
 - 50 Can
 - 52 Cruise
 - 53 Scorch
 - 54 Camping tool
 - 56 Deuce
 - 57 Gazelle
 - 58 Goof
 - 59 Thing, in law
- DOWN**
- 1 Flightless bird
 - 2 Peak
 - 3 Time zone
 - 4 Earliest
 - 5 Garden resident
 - 6 Write down
 - 7 Golf item
 - 8 Land units
 - 9 Outbuilding
 - 10 Last ride vehicles
 - 14 Package sealer
 - 15 Rocked
 - 17 Put on
 - 20 Life story, for short
 - 21 Fmr. Chinese leader
 - 22 Whisk off

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- HOUTIETW _____
- KATGNIS _____
- NMNSOWA _____
- PAAKR _____

PUZZLE Solutions on page 13

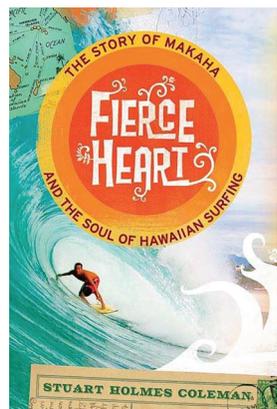
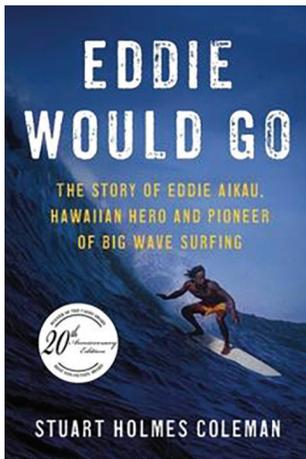
BOOK REVIEW

Winter Daydreams of Hawaii

By Nancy Diltz, Columnist

Ahhh, Hawaii. Wouldn't we love to be there now, soaking up the winter sun and the local beauty? On Oahu, you may enjoy watching the surfers on the big waves and hearing stories of surfing legend Eddie Aikau. Eddie is a hero, a legend, and an inspiration. Riding on a re-created, authentic replica canoe built by the Polynesian Voyaging Society of Honolulu, Oahu, in 1978, Eddie and 15 others capsized in rough seas in the dark of night. The 16 crew members were on their maiden journey from Hawaii to Tahiti. After surviving a night in the treacherous ocean, Eddie grabbed his surfboard from the overturned canoe and set out for Lanai, the nearest island. He bravely paddled, seeking help for the crew, all still stranded in shark-infested waters. Eddie knew what he had to do, and he did not hesitate. However, sadly, he never reached the shore, and he was never seen again.

To this day, he remains a cultural icon and hero in Hawaii. If you surfed Hawaii as my husband did, you knew about Eddie. The book, "Eddie Would Go" by Stuart Holmes Coleman, published in 2002, tells the story of Hawaiian culture, Eddie's native Hawaiian family, and his bravery as a lifeguard at Waimea Bay, one of the most dangerous beaches in the world. The book also chronicles a failed attempt to recreate the original canoe island transportation method, which resulted in Eddie giving his life to save others. "A great read for surfers and non-surfers alike, whether you have been to Hawaii or not, Eddie's story is amazing and compelling," says C. Diltz.



Another book by Stuart Holmes Coleman about the community and people of the small town of Makaha on Oahu is "Fierce Heart: The Story of Makaha and the Soul of Hawaiian Surfing," published in 2009. "Fierce Heart" ... combines stories of exciting big wave surfing competitions, dramatic water rescues, deep friendships, and touching family portraits with a look at the history and origins of one of the world's most thrilling extreme sports," according to the publisher's summary. "Fierce Heart" is available at The Brownsville Library. ☺

BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

Programs That Inform, Explore and Support

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

Advance Care Planning Program

Thursday, January 22, at 1 p.m., Chaplain Wes Sedlacek will present a program on making an Advance Directive. An Advance Directive is a set of instructions that outlines a person's health care wishes if they are ever hospitalized and unable to speak for themselves, including who can make decisions on their behalf and what medical care they do or do not want. While the process can feel overwhelming, this session is designed to make the information more approachable and easier to understand.

During the program, Sedlacek will provide guidance and give attendees the opportunity to complete their own Advance Directive. The discussion will also touch on related topics such as quality of life and the Portable Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form, which is commonly used to document wishes regarding CPR and other life-sustaining care. The program will be held in the Kirk Room at the Brownsville Community Library and is free and open to the public.

World Cultures & Travel Series

In addition to health-focused programming, the library continues its popular travel and culture series. "Turkish Treasure" invites attendees to explore ancient Anatolia and modern Turkey through stories and images shared by Donald Lyon, a retired photographic tour leader who has led more than a dozen trips to the region. The program will be held Thursday, February 19, at 7 p.m., with another World Cultures & Travel presentation, Australia's Wild Side, scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026.

Free Medication Disposal Program

Cleaning out prescription medications and unsure how to dispose of them? Stop by the Brownsville Library to pick up a free mail-back envelope. Unwanted medications can be sealed in the envelope and dropped at any post office for proper disposal. Sharps and inhaler containers are also available. This free, open-to-the-public program offers a convenient and safe disposal option.

Weekly Programs and Hours

Weekly programs include Parents & Pals Story Time on Wednesdays from 10 to 10:15 a.m., featuring a short story and free play; the Brownsville Stitchery Group on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m., where participants bring their own projects; and Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time on Fridays at 11 a.m., with stories, songs, rhymes and a craft.

The library is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday from 1 to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more info visit the library's website at <https://www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org>. ☺

SHERRING BOOKS

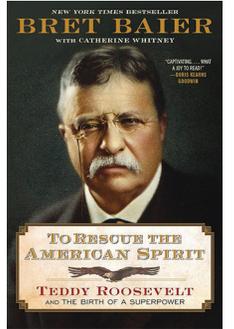
December Order Now on Shelves

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

Below is the final book order placed on December 9, 2025. It arrived on January 13. Watch the full video on YouTube Brownsville Library: @brownsvillelibrary9641. See you at the front desk!

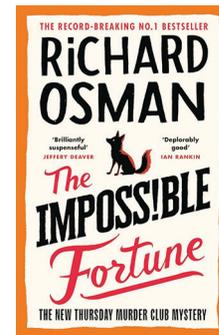
Nonfiction

"To Rescue the American Spirit" by Bret Baier. Teddy Roosevelt and the Birth of a Superpower. Mr. Baier is one of America's finest historians.



Fiction

"Her First Mistake" by Kendra Elliot is book one of the Noelle Marshall series. A very personal cold case is reopened, and a detective's secrets come to light.



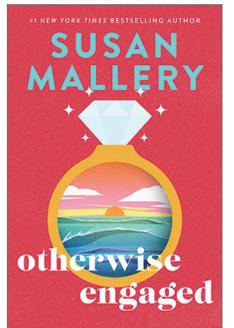
"The Impossible Fortune" by Richard Osman was a patron request and the fifth book in the Thursday Murder Club. What are they up to this time?

"The Killing Stones" by Ann Cleeves is the first in the Detective Jimmy Perez mystery series, by the author of the books about Detective Inspector Vera Stanhope.

Inspector Vera Stanhope.

"The King's Ransom" by Janet Evanovich is the second in The Recovery Agent (Gabriela Rose) series. Ms. Evanovich takes you on a global hunt to track down masterpieces. Always a fun read.

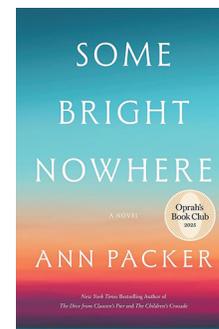
"Otherwise Engaged" by Susan Mallery is a twisty, tender, and wise look at how secrets can transform bonds between mothers and daughters.



"The Portrait" by Danielle Steel is another romantic mystery by the romantic suspense queen.

"Return of the Spider" by James Patterson is the next installment of the very popular Alex Cross series.

"A Sea Glass Christmas" by Davis Bunn is the second book in the Outer Banks series of three. An ultimate Christmas comfort read for fans of Nicholas Sparks and Karen Kingsbury. Regular and Large Print



"Some Bright Nowhere" by Ann Packer is a novel about a long-term marriage and their friendship through her cancer diagnosis.

"Wreck" by Catherine Newman is a funny getaway from life. Enjoy. ☺

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HALSEY PARKS & LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Committee Advances Fundraising Plans, Sets Dates for 2026 Events

The Parks & Library Committee met in December and again on Jan. 15 at the Halsey Public Library to continue discussions on fundraising, event planning, and upcoming library and park initiatives.

During the December meeting, committee members focused on fundraising strategies, weighing the option of two larger fundraisers each year against hosting several smaller events. With the annual 5K traditionally held in May, members suggested adding a second major fundraiser in early fall rather than close to the holidays. A bake sale was proposed as a smaller fundraiser that could align with the community cookbook project currently in development.

Early planning for the 2026 5K also began in December, including discussion of a possible park grand reopening following the race. Members discussed developing a new screen-print-friendly logo and ordering additional T-shirts after selling out last year, with a recommendation to plan for 40-45 shirts. While a route change was considered, the committee agreed to keep the existing

course for safety reasons. Food options such as a coffee cart or food truck were also discussed.

At the January meeting, the committee approved the December meeting minutes and continued planning for the 2026 5K, proposing May 9 as the race date due to other local events. Members also discussed combining Arbor Day with a pollinator garden planting day near the library, scheduled for April 25. Ideas included using seeds, plant starts, or both, sourcing lumber for raised beds, and identifying funding for the project.

Additional discussion included creating a yearlong event calendar to be posted on the city website, with the goal of planning events three to six months in advance. Key dates identified include Arbor Day and the pollinator garden planting on April 25, the Book It 5K on May 9, and the Summer Reading Program running from July 11 through Aug. 8. The committee also noted that the library's first volunteer since the position was filled is starting this month, prompting conversation about ways to recruit additional volunteers. No new park updates were reported. ☀

CITY OF HALSEY

Budget Committee Openings

The City of Halsey is seeking residents to serve on its Budget Committee for the 2026-2027 budget cycle. Committee members help review city finances and advise on funding priorities and projects.

The Budget Committee typically meets one to three evenings between March and May. Applicants must be registered voters, have lived within Halsey city limits for at least one year, and be willing to serve a three-year term.

Applications will be reviewed and appointments made by the City Council at its March

meeting. Applications are available at City Hall or online at <https://www.halseyor.gov> and must be received by Monday, March 2.

For more information about the budget process, contact City Hall at 101 Halsey St., 541-369-2522. ☀



HOME SALES REPORT

December 2025 Property & Home Sales in Central Linn County

In December 2025, the Central Linn County area saw a variety of home sales across Halsey, Harrisburg, and Brownsville, with sale prices ranging from \$200,000 to \$500,000. Homes sold include a mix of older and newer construction, single-family residences with 2-4 bedrooms, 1-2 full bathrooms, and varying lot sizes.

| Sale Date | Street Address | City | Sale Price | Sq Ft | Year Built | Beds | Baths | Acres |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------|------------|------|-------|-------|
| Dec. 1 | 470 Cormorant Ave | Halsey | \$364,100 | 1,200 | 2006 | 3 | 2 | 0.22 |
| Dec. 2 | 1385 5th St | Halsey | \$395,000 | 1,821 | 2005 | 2 | 2.5 | 0.18 |
| Dec. 3 | 915 Heather Turn | Harrisburg | \$395,000 | 1,152 | 1970 | 3 | 1 | 0.19 |
| Dec. 4 | 33366 Priceboro Dr | Harrisburg | \$200,000 | 2,780 | 1968 | 4 | 1 | 1.76 |
| Dec. 6 | 35423 Oak View Dr | Brownsville | \$480,000 | 1,852 | 1969 | 4 | 2.5 | 2.42 |
| Dec. 9 | 29212 Lone Pine Rd | Brownsville | \$500,000 | 1,560 | 1974 | 2 | 1 | 6.24 |
| Dec. 10 | 208 Kisling Ave | Brownsville | \$384,700 | 1,301 | 1972 | 3 | 2 | 0.23 |
| Dec. 11 | 619 Oak St | Brownsville | \$390,000 | 1,360 | 1909 | 3 | 2 | 0.17 |
| Dec. 17 | 117 Worley Ave | Brownsville | \$428,500 | 1,348 | 1973 | 3 | 2 | 0.27 |

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FOR SALE

Halsey Mini Storage will be holding an online auction on **Jan. 28**. The location of the units is 1140 Crowell Ln., Halsey, OR 97438. The auction will begin at 9 a.m. **online only** at <https://www.storagetreasures.com>. The following units will be sold at public auction: #355 John Gregory and #116 Tim McBride.



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TAKING ROOT

Getting Ready to Plant Your Vegetable Garden

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer & Columnist

The first seed catalog arrived a few days ago, a harbinger of spring as sure as the first robin. We are lucky here in the Willamette Valley to have at least two excellent seed companies. Both Adaptive Seed and Territorial Seed Company produce seeds that are adapted to our valley. Both offer informative newsletters, too, so visit their sites and sign up online for inspiration and information. Perhaps you are a seed saver, having harvested seeds from your favorite plants last fall, or perhaps you have seeds left over from last spring's planting.



DONALD LYON

Now is the time to check their viability. With medium- to large-seeded plants like tomatoes and squash, fold 10 seeds into a paper towel, wet it, squeeze out excess moisture, and put them into a clear plastic bag. Mark the date on the bag and place it in a warm spot. Check in a week and count the number of seeds that have sprouted. If eight have little "tails" emerging, then you have an 80 percent germination rate, which is average for even fresh seeds. If only two show signs of sprouting, discard your remaining stock of those seeds and purchase fresh seeds.

Tomatoes and their relatives, being of sub-tropical origin, take a long time to mature in Oregon, so I start them in mid-February. It is still cold in the greenhouse, but I have heating coils buried in beds of sand that heat the seed trays to about 70 degrees. Heat mats are easier to use and practical if you don't have a permanent greenhouse space. Give the young plants plenty of light so that they don't grow too leggy. I plant at least four varieties of tomatoes — cherry tomatoes, because they ripen first (60 days). Romas, because they are best for sauce, and then a medium-sized, early-ripening, locally adapted, disease-resistant slicer such as Siletz (75 days). Varieties with local names like Siletz or Willamette are usually good choices in this category. Then comes my favorite, Brandywine (85 days). These big beefsteak-type tomatoes make a meal, sliced thin with a sprinkle of kosher salt and a drizzle of olive oil — OMG!

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

Calapooia Food Alliance Seeks Community Input on Thursday Market

The Calapooia Food Alliance invites community members to help shape the future of its Thursday Market by taking a short online survey.



MIKAYLE STOLE

After a challenging season last year, Alliance leaders are assessing how the market can better serve both shoppers and vendors. Attendance at the Thursday Market was lower than hoped, due in part to summer heat,

location challenges, and increased competition from the Lebanon farmers market, which now operates on the same day and time.

To ensure the market remains viable, organizers are exploring changes — including a different day of the week — and are seeking feedback directly from the community. Increasing customer turnout is a key goal because higher attendance supports vendor participation and long-term sustainability.

Community members are encouraged to take a few minutes to complete the survey and share it with others who may be interested in local food, farmers' markets, and in supporting regional producers.

The survey is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5BGDCD8>.

Input from the survey will help guide decisions about the upcoming market season and determine whether changes are needed to better meet community needs.

For more information about the Calapooia Food Alliance and its work supporting local food systems, residents are encouraged to follow future updates and announcements at <https://gocfa.org>.



MIKAYLE STOLE

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE

Master Woodland Manager Training Scheduled for Spring 2026

Forestland owners in Linn, Benton, and Polk counties will have an opportunity this spring to take part in the Master Woodland Manager (MWM) training, an intensive forest management course offered by the Oregon State University Extension Service Forestry and Natural Resources Extension.

The MWM program is designed for private landowners who want a deeper understanding of forest stewardship and the opportunity to share that knowledge with their communities. Linn County alone is nearly 70 percent forested, and small woodland owners play a critical role in maintaining healthy, resilient, and productive forests while navigating challenges such as wildfire risk, forest health issues, and complex regulations.

The 2026 training will run from March 5 through May 21, meeting every other Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sessions will be held outdoors at various woodland locations across Benton, Linn, and Polk counties, with one online tax webinar scheduled in early May. Instruction will be provided by OSU faculty, forestry service agencies, local professionals, and partner organizations.

Participants will complete 60 hours of advanced training covering topics such as forest ecology, management planning, silviculture, watershed processes, wildlife, fire on the landscape, reforestation, harvesting, and marketing. In return, graduates commit to 40 hours of volunteer service over three years, assisting other landowners, supporting forestry events, and representing OSU Extension in their communities.

The cost is \$150 for individuals or \$250 for couples or partners. Those needing accommodations related to a disability should contact Crystal Kelso by Feb. 27, 2026. Scholarship assistance may be available for those for whom cost is a barrier.

Registration is available at <https://beav.es/x2K>. More information about the program can be found at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mwm>. Questions may be directed to crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu or 541-730-3539.

For the Love of Farming Podcasts

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer & Columnist

Linn County is farming country, but many of us know little about farm life — its pleasures and travails. For several years, the OSU Extension Small Farms team has been interviewing farmers around the state. You can listen in by doing a Google search "For the Love of Farming OSU Extension." You'll find 25 podcasts, mostly an hour long, that introduce you to the farmers, crops, soils, dreams, and the reality of farming in Oregon.

As a cider drinker, this writer naturally gravitated toward "Pleasant Valley Cider Apples with Ashley Lindsay." She and her husband, Brian, started

planting 40 acres in the Willamette Valley with cider-variety apples and pears in 2015. Tune in to learn how they're doing ten years later.

Other interviews feature an organic vegetable farm in Camas Swale. Goodfoot Farm near Hoskins features fruit, vegetables, and livestock.

Our own Adaptive Seeds, with Sarah Kleeger and Andrew Still, were interviewed in August 2022, and PK Pastures near Sweet Home fills you in on pig, chicken, and sheep farming. The interviews are conducted by Teagan Moran, a small farms specialist at OSU Extension.

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Living Next to the Land: Living in Rural Linn County

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer and Tangent Correspondent

Linn County's rural areas are changing. New families are moving onto acreage once dedicated solely to crops or livestock, drawn by open space, views, and a quieter pace of life. Farmers welcome neighbors who want to be part of a rural community — but they ask you to understand one essential truth: this is not just where farming happens. These are farm communities.

Farming comes first — by design

Agriculture is not incidental in Linn County; it is foundational. Oregon's land-use laws exist specifically to protect farmland so a wide variety of crops can continue to be produced here. Fields are not empty spaces waiting for development, and barns are not decorative backdrops. They are workplaces, often operated by families who have farmed the same land for generations.

That means farming happens early in the morning, late at night, and on weekends and holidays. It means dust during harvest, fertilizer applications at specific times, livestock noises, and equipment moving when weather and crops demand it — not when it's convenient.

These realities are not nuisances; they are the cost of producing crops and caring for the land.

Roads are working infrastructure

One of the biggest adjustments for new rural residents is understanding that country roads are also farm roads. Tractors, combines, sprayers, and trucks move slowly and are often wider than a single lane. During planting and harvest, farm equipment may be on the road for extended periods.

Farmers ask for patience — slowing down, waiting for safe places to pass, and remembering that these machines are doing necessary work and are driven by your neighbors. A few extra minutes can



MIKAYLE STOLE

Late-spring blooms fill a working field in rural Linn County in late April, a reminder that agriculture here operates within both seasonal and regulatory boundaries.

prevent accidents, injuries, or costly damage. For farmers, these roads are part of the job.

Understanding tensions without losing perspective

Farmers recognize that concerns raised by some residents — odors, noise, traffic, and environmental impacts — are real. At the same time, they emphasize that every farm is different in scale and practice.

Many small and family-owned farms share concerns about large industrial-style operations that can strain water systems, affect air quality, and erode public trust, while making it harder for smaller farms to survive. Likewise, farm stands and seasonal agritourism can be critical income sources, but poorly planned or overly commercialized events can overwhelm rural roads and infrastructure.

What frustrates many farmers is being painted with a broad brush — when all farming is blamed for issues caused by a small number of operations, or when complaints arise after non-farm development pushes into agricultural zones.

Land, water, and coexistence

Housing development on farmland can drive up property values and taxes, making it harder for young farmers to buy land. At the same time, some residents expect farming practices to change once homes arrive — an expectation that conflicts with Oregon's right-to-farm protections.

Farmers take stewardship seriously. Their livelihoods depend on healthy soil and clean water, and they operate under extensive regulations governing runoff, manure management, and chemical use. Farmers believe solutions should be based on science, accountability, and scale — not fear of farming itself.

The bottom line

Living in rural Linn County means living alongside agriculture — not in spite of it. Farming brings smells, sounds, traffic, and seasonal disruption, but it also brings food, jobs, open land, and a deep sense of place.

Farmers aren't asking newcomers to love every aspect of farming. They're asking for patience, respect, and an understanding that agriculture isn't a trend here — it's the reason these communities exist.

Slow down on the roads. Give equipment space. Learn the rhythms of the land. And remember: being part of a farm community means sharing both its challenges and its purpose. 🌻

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE

Rural Living Day Returns March 7

Oregon State University Extension Service will once again host Rural Living Day, a one-day educational event designed for rural landowners and land stewards, on Saturday, March 7, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Junction City High School, 1135 W 6th Ave.

Presented by the Extension Small Farms Program, Rural Living Day offers practical, hands-on learning opportunities covering a wide range of topics relevant to rural property management. Sessions will include composting, weed management, soils, tree identification, septic systems, chainsaw safety, food preservation, and more.

The event is intended for anyone living on or caring for rural property who wants to build skills, increase self-sufficiency, and better steward their land. Registration is \$20, with scholarships available. Morning refreshments will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lunch or plan accordingly.

Advance registration is required because capacity is limited. Additional details and registration information are available online at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/southern-willamette-valley/events/rural-living-day-2026>.

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials and provides accommodations upon request. For questions or accommodation requests, contact Crystal Kelso with OSU Extension Service Benton and Linn counties at crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu or 541-730-3539. 🌻

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BROWNSVILLE SENIOR CENTER

2026 Arrived, and We Are Ready!

By Cindy Stucky, Brownsville Senior Center Treasurer

The Brownsville Senior Center has begun the new year, and we are looking forward to serving all our seniors and the community. Seniors are defined as 50-plus. We provide a place to socialize, obtain the information needed about senior services, and offer medical equipment for loan. We try to be available for community activities that support our mission. This Senior Center has no government tax base and relies on donations and dues to continue our work.

We appreciate the City of Brownsville for its yearly contribution to assist us, providing funds for phone and internet service.

We also want to acknowledge the American Legion Post 184 for sharing the building and creating a place where all of us feel welcome. Having a home on Main Street makes it easy for people to stop by to chat or have a hot beverage. One of the things that we feel is important to all seniors is companionship. Knowing that a couple of times a month we can get together to share a meal and spend time catching up with neighbors and friends helps us feel included in the community.

We would love to see some of the new people in town become members and help us continue our work. Everyone is invited to join us or send us contact information, and we will send you an activity schedule.

All our activities are open to everyone in the community; you do not need to be a paid member to participate. We have two monthly activities: the Second Wednesday is a Potluck at noon, and the Third Thursday is a Game Night with finger food at 6 p.m. We also have a BBQ in August.

The Officers and Board feel like we have done a better job, becoming a more visible part of the community and being open a lot more this past year. We have people stopping by to ask questions for or about our Seniors. Board Meetings are the First Monday of the month at 3 p.m. at the Senior Center and are open to anyone.

We have begun collecting dues for 2026. The annual dues are \$25 per member. Please feel free to drop your dues by the Senior Center/American Legion or put them in the mail. If you or someone you know is unable to pay dues but wants to be a member, they can stop by and leave their contact information or call us. All requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If you have any questions, you can leave a message on the phone at the Senior Center, 541-466-5395, and we will call you back when one of us gets into the office. Stop by and visit at 339 Main Street, Brownsville.

We thank you for your support!! From the Officers and Board of the Brownsville Senior Center. ☺

Central Linn Student Body Report

Presented January 12 by Grant Wahl, Student Representative

Grant Wahl, a sophomore at Central Linn High School, presented the Student Body Report to the School Board. Grant resides in Tangent and transferred into the Central Linn School District to participate in the district's agriculture programs.

The Junior/Senior High School held a successful Student Wellness and Resource Day prior to winter break. Representatives from six community agencies, along with three school staff members, provided students with resources and information focused on overall well-being. Presentations included topics such as preparing easy, affordable meals using Dollar Store ingredients, accessing mental health resources, and assessing emergency situations.

In addition to the informational sessions, Leadership students organized festive activities, including gingerbread house decorating, a hot cocoa bar, and ornament-making.

Student feedback regarding the morning portion of Wellness Day was very positive. However, feedback indicated that the afternoon activities, which included study hall and winter-themed movies, were not sufficiently engaging. This area has been identified for improvement in future planning.

Leadership students are also creating individualized, positive note cards for every student, to be distributed during the last week of the semester as encouragement heading into the final academic push.

Class councils are currently working on fundraisers, and junior class officers have begun planning for prom, with additional information to be shared at a later date. Student sections at basketball games have been crowded and spirited, contributing to a positive school atmosphere.

Leadership thanked Grant Wahl for presenting the Student Body Report to the Board. ☺



SHARON K BANKS
Grant Wahl, a sophomore at Central Linn High School and student representative, presents the Student Body Report to the Central Linn School Board on Jan. 12, highlighting recent wellness initiatives, leadership activities, and student feedback.

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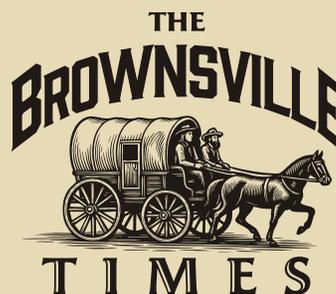
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CENTRAL LINN SCHOOL BOARD

Transportation, Online Learning Updates Presented to Board

The Central Linn School District Board of Directors met Monday, Jan. 12, to receive administrative updates on transportation, online learning, facilities, technology, and district operations. All board members were present, including Chair Jason Curtis, Stacey Winter, Garrett Leabo, Mandy Brady, Steve Irwin, Donald Fleckenstein, and student representative Grant Wahl.

Dena Crowell presented handmade appreciation cards from Lily Moffitt's first-grade class and personalized coffee mugs thanking board members for their service. Wahl followed with a report on high school student activities.

Brian Schulberg, Mid-Columbia's transportation administrator, delivered the district's annual transportation report. Mid-Columbia manages and dispatches drivers under a hybrid contract. Schulberg reported one minor fender-bender between two buses in the bus yard, with no students involved. He also reviewed ongoing driver training and advised that six buses older than 2007 will need to be surplus due to emissions standards; the Board approved the surplus of the buses. New bus prices have risen significantly since 2007, and electric buses are not being considered at this time.



Representatives from Greenways Academy provided an update on Central Linn Online School. Administrator Rob Hess said enrollment has declined as statewide online options expand, with about 9 percent of district students leaving for online high schools. Greenways currently enrolls 35 full-time and nine part-time students, offering 279 courses. About 80 percent of students are passing their classes.

The board acknowledged the resignation of varsity cross-country coach Johnna Neal and the upcoming retirement of longtime bus driver Kim Nelson.

Elementary Principal Joel Sauter reported slight attendance improvements and strong community turnout for winter concerts. High school Principal Dean Rech also reported improving attendance and noted two first-time cell phone violations.

Technology Director Ross Purdy said new IP phones were installed over winter break, and grant-funded security upgrades at the elementary school were completed.

Under old business, the board approved policies related to a drug-free workplace, breastfeeding accommodations, and electronic communication systems, while tabling an artificial intelligence use policy. In new business, the board approved a local service plan resolution, a surplus vehicle list, a seismic rehabilitation engineer contract, and several policy updates.

Business Manager Celeste Van Cleave reported the district will not require a federal audit this year but will next year due to increased grant-funded expenditures. Superintendent Dr. Hess reiterated district goals focused on attendance, academic achievement, and student support. 🌀

CENTRAL LINN HIGH SCHOOL

CTE Building Nearing Completion

Final construction of the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) building at Central Linn High School is progressing steadily, bringing the district closer to opening a modern facility dedicated to hands-on learning and career readiness.

The CTE building, which broke ground early last year, was designed to meet growing demand for technical and career-focused instruction. Once complete, the facility will provide dedicated space for programs that prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce and for continued education and training after graduation. Planned instructional areas include updated classrooms, specialized labs, and flexible workspaces supporting construction trades, welding, manufacturing, agricultural sciences, and other career pathways offered by Central Linn School District.

Construction crews are focused on the project's final phases, including interior finishes, installation of specialized equipment, and system testing. Major structural work is complete, and the building is now enclosed, enabling work to proceed on electrical, plumbing, heating, and ventilation systems. As these components are finalized, instructors will begin preparing the space for instructional use.

District officials emphasized that the building was thoughtfully designed to support teaching and learning. Large, open workspaces will enable students to collaborate on projects and gain hands-on experience in environments that mirror real-world job sites. Modern safety features and upgraded utilities will accommodate industry-standard tools and equipment, ensuring students are trained using current practices and technologies. Energy-efficient materials and systems were also incorporated into the design.

"The goal of this project is to give our students real-world skills in a real-world environment," said



COURTESY OF CENTRAL LINN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Former Central Linn School Board Chair, David Karo, and Sweet Home Elks Lodge District Hoop Shoot Chairman Mr. Claasen visit the nearly completed CTE building.

Dr. Rob Hess, Central Linn School District Administrator. "This facility will allow us to expand our CTE offerings and better meet the needs of students who are interested in technical careers, trades, and applied sciences. It's an investment not only in our students, but in the future workforce of our community."

Community support has played an important role in bringing the project to this stage. Funding for the CTE building was secured through a combination of grants and district resources, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening career education locally. School leaders noted that strong CTE programs benefit students by providing clear career pathways and help local employers by developing a skilled, job-ready workforce.

Construction is just finishing up. The district anticipates offering welding and small-engine repair classes starting as early as February 2 of this year.

Once completed, the facility will stand as a visible symbol of Central Linn School District's commitment to preparing students for a wide range of post-graduation opportunities, including skilled trades, apprenticeships, higher education, and direct entry into the workforce. Community members will be invited to tour the new building upon completion, offering a firsthand look at how the project will enhance educational opportunities for local students. For more information about this project, contact Tim Walter at 541-729-6738. 🌀

OPINION

Why Reviving Venezuela's Oil Industry Won't Be Easy

By Stephen A. Brenner, Columnist

After announcing the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, President Donald Trump justified the dramatic intervention by promising to revive Venezuela's collapsing oil industry. Venezuela holds the world's largest claimed crude oil reserves — nearly one-fifth of known global reserves — yet production has plummeted over the past decade because of mismanagement, sanctions, and infrastructure decay. Trump argued that U.S. oil companies could quickly repair the damage, invest billions, and restore Venezuela as a major producer.

Yet experts say the reality is far more complicated, especially given the timing. The global oil industry is approaching a historic inflection point as renewable energy expands and oil demand edges toward its eventual peak. While the precise timing of peak demand is debated, analysts broadly agree it will occur within the next 1 to 2 decades. That raises questions about whether massive, long-term investments in Venezuela's oil sector would pay off before demand declines.

Venezuela's crude is also unusually heavy and viscous, making extraction more expensive and carbon-intensive. However, this same quality gives it value: heavy crude is well suited to producing diesel, jet fuel, and asphalt — products used in sectors that are harder to decarbonize. Electric vehicles are rapidly displacing gasoline-powered cars, but airplanes, ships, and heavy-duty trucks still depend on fuels derived from heavy oil. As a result, analysts expect diesel demand to decline more slowly than gasoline demand, with significant declines not expected until after 2035.

In the short term, demand for Venezuelan oil is strong. Refineries along the U.S. Gulf Coast were built to process heavy crude and are currently underutilized. China, Venezuela's largest current buyer, would likely absorb additional supply as well. Analysts believe modest production increases could be achieved quickly by repairing existing wells and infrastructure rather than undertaking massive new construction.

Still, a full-scale revival would be both costly and slow. Restoring production to early-2000s levels of more than 3 million barrels per day could require over \$100 billion in investment and take decades. Even smaller expansions would cost billions. At the same time, global oil markets are already oversupplied, and a surge in Venezuelan production could drive prices down, making investments less attractive. As a member of OPEC, Venezuela would also face pressure to limit output to avoid flooding the market.

Climate concerns further complicate matters. Oil from Venezuela's Orinoco Belt is among the most carbon-intensive globally, in part because of widespread methane flaring.

Political risk looms large as well. U.S. oil companies remain wary after billions in losses from Venezuela's earlier nationalizations under Hugo Chávez. Ongoing instability following Maduro's removal could deter long-term investment, mirroring outcomes in Libya and Iraq, where oil production struggled to recover after U.S.-backed interventions.

In short, while Venezuela's oil reserves remain valuable and some short-term gains are possible, analysts agree that Trump's vision of a rapid, sweeping revival faces major economic, environmental, and political obstacles — and may arrive just as the world begins moving beyond oil.

This digest was generated from a Jan. 05, 2026, article in Grist by Jake Bittle.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Self Care

By Lynlee Bischoff, Staff Writer and Columnist

Candle gazing. We've all done it. But did you know it actually has a name? The word Trataka is Sanskrit for "to look" or "to gaze". It is an ancient meditation technique rooted in Ayurvedic medicine and Hatha Yoga and is our Self-care tool topic for today.



For something so simple, Trataka has an impressive list of benefits, including, but not limited to, reduced anxiety, improved eyesight, and better sleep. Scientific studies have shown that Trataka can also positively affect cognitive functions, especially in elderly individuals.

Practicing Trataka is easy and requires very little to get started. First and foremost, you will need a quiet, dark place and a comfortable chair or floor cushion. For the candle, you want non-toxic (soy or beeswax) and preferably unscented. If a scented product, select a calming fragrance like lavender, chamomile, or vanilla.

Once comfortably seated, place the candle at arm's length with the wick at eye level. This placement is important for maintaining proper posture and avoiding eyestrain. Focus first on your posture. If seated in a chair, your feet should be flat on the floor. Regardless of where you are seated, your spine is straight, and your body is relaxed. Now, with your eyes still closed focus on your breathing. Your in and out breaths should be through your nose only, and of equal duration.

Open your eyes and light the candle. Your gaze on the flame should be soft and unblinking. Your eyes may start to water after a few minutes. This is normal. You can blink a few times or briefly close your eyes and turn your gaze inward to the center of your eyebrows, keeping the image of the flame in your awareness as long as possible. Start with 5-minute sessions and increase the duration as you become more comfortable with the practice.

Ready to give it a try? Self-care is so important, and there are a million different tools available for us to utilize. Let's make 2026 all about better health, less stress, and more peace. Until next time, be well.

Cold Weather Raises Risk of Home Heating Fires

With below-freezing overnight temperatures across Oregon, the Oregon State Fire Marshal is reminding residents to take precautions with home heating equipment. Since Jan. 1, investigators have responded to 10 home fires statewide linked to causes including unsafe use of space heaters.

Home heating equipment remains the second-leading cause of residential fires in Oregon during the winter months. Fire officials urge residents to keep combustible materials at least three feet from heating sources, plug space heaters directly into wall outlets, turn heaters off before sleeping or leaving a room, and test smoke alarms monthly. According to the National Fire Protection Association, nearly half of heating-related fires occur between December and February.

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POWERING LINN

The Prospect of Solar

By Kayl Enders, Columnist

Lately, it's hard to drive around our historic towns without noticing all the new solar projects. They're big, bold — and for some, not so beautiful.

Given the mixed messaging at town halls and on yard signs, you might even be asking yourself, "Is solar a good thing?"

Objectively, it's very difficult to argue that a solar panel, by itself, is a bad thing. A solar panel is literally a glass rectangle with wiring that generates free electricity via the photoelectric effect. Before we talk about whether it's good or bad, we have to answer some of the questions being raised.

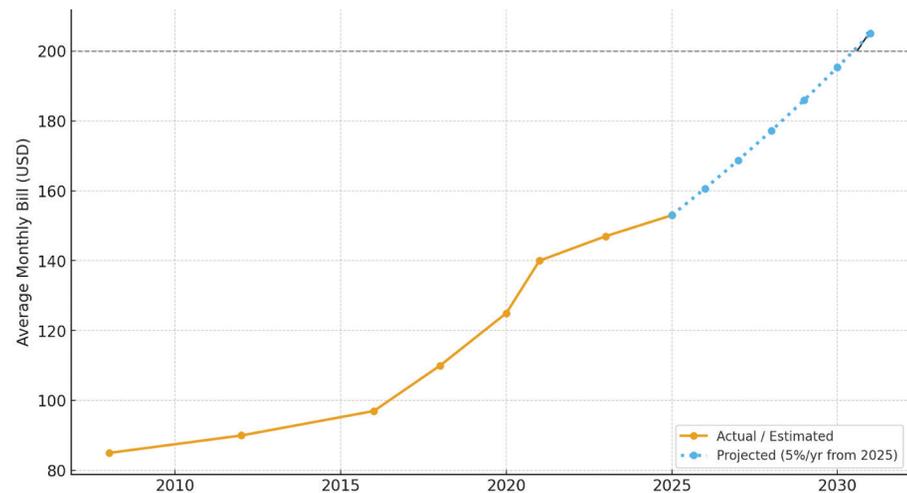
Does solar compete for the space needed for agriculture? (It does not have to). Does it disrupt migrating herds, swarms, flocks, gaggles, or convocations? (Rarely.) Does it leach chemicals into the ground? (Rarely)

Most of these questions about space, wildlife, or supposed "toxic panels" distract from the real issue. They conflate side effects with the central argument: who owns the system, and who gains from it.

In reality, the issues should boil down to three basic questions. 1. How much will the system cost? 2. Where is the system located? 3. Who profits?

Let's face it: if a solar + battery system cost nothing, took no space, and made everyone richer, there'd be zero complaints.

Average residential electric bill in Brownsville (Pacific Power customers)



Sources (brief):
EIA - Electric Power Monthly, Table 5A (state avg bills/rates, 2012-2024)
Oregon PUC - Pacific Power 2025 residential rate order (+~9.8%)
Projection - assumes +5%/yr bill growth from 2025

According to most moderate projections, the average home bill in Brownsville may double over the next few years.

Economic realism, moral ownership

The upfront costs of solar are significant, and site choices can be questionable — especially when so much unused roof space could host panels without cluttering our natural landscapes. We should focus on rooftop systems before ground mount systems.

As solar spreads across Oregon, though, the more important question we have to remind ourselves of is: Who profits? If the answer is "NOT Central Linn County," then we should reject those proposals. Many large-scale projects involve 40-year land leases with foreign-owned developers. They may sound stable, but they come at a steep price. A single megawatt of solar can generate roughly \$8-12 million in lifetime electricity savings and credits — a value that flows to the developer rather than staying local.

And because it's a lease, not ownership, farmers can't easily adapt, expand, or reconfigure the site for future uses; they're locked out of the very asset on their own property.

Our ownership keeps that discretion and that wealth. We want Central Linn County to remain what it's always been — ours. We want clean water, open fields, and families who can afford to stay. But keeping that future intact requires more than pride; it requires ownership. We already fight to own our homes and our businesses. What's missing now is the third leg of that stool — owning our power.

For generations, we've purchased electricity from Pacific Power. That worked when prices were low. But that's changing fast.

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LINN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Hear Veterans Services Report

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — Linn County Veterans Services helped local veterans and their families obtain about \$414,661 in government benefits from October through December 2025, Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker learned at their January 13 board meeting.

Veterans Services Manager Dee Baley-Hyder said that from January through December 2025, tax-free benefits recovered totaled about \$2,480,553.

Baley-Hyder said the department's medical transportation program has been active, aided by a \$24,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation that was aimed at assisting veterans who live in rural Linn County. The grant period was from October through December 2025.

The department also received a \$35,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs. The funds will provide medical transportation from January 2026 through June 2027.

Baley-Hyder said her department applied for a Veterans Medical Transportation Grant from ODOT, but the status of that application hasn't been announced.

Baley-Hyder said she attended a meeting of the Santiam Service Integration group in Gates.

"It was a great way to share with everyone what our office does and how we help Linn County veterans," she noted in her written report. "It was also great to share about the medical transportation that is used by our veterans."

Veterans Service Officer Rob McKibben was a guest speaker at the Lebanon Senior Center Veterans Recognition Day. He talked about services provided by the department and highlighted the medical transportation services.

"We were also in the Veterans Day parade and it is always nice to see all the veterans we have served in our community," Baley-Hyder said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Announced that they will send a letter of support — with conditions — to the Oregon Health Authority and Samaritan Health Services concerning the proposed affiliation between Samaritan Health Services and MultiCare Health System.
- Approved the purchase of oil rock for the 2026 chip seal program from Knife River Corporation. One purchase is for \$155,800, to be delivered to the county's Lebanon maintenance yard and another purchase is for \$121,450 to be delivered to the Brock Quarry near Scio.
- Appointed Danielle Myers to Position 4 on the Law Library Committee. The position was formerly held by Judge Jessica Meyer.

PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 5

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<https://brownvillechristianchurch.com>

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<https://hislifeinbrownsville.com>

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Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Monday Prayer 7-8 p.m.

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

Crawfordsville Calvary Chapel

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<https://www.crawfordsvillecc.org>

Sunday Service 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Brownsville

27910 7 Mile Ln · 541-642-3000

<https://www.fbcbrownvilleoregon.org>

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

Halsey Mennonite Church

910 E 1st St · 712-432-8773

<https://www.halseymennonite.org>

Sunday Service 10 a.m.

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

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

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<https://harvestrbc.org>

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Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Fellowship Meal Noon

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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

holytrinitybrownvilleor@gmail.com

Weekday Mass Wednesday Noon

Sunday Service 11:30 a.m.

Oakville Presbyterian Church

29970 Church Dr · Shedd · 541-758-0647

<https://oakvillechurch.org>

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Riverside Christian Fellowship

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Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Sunday School 11 a.m.

Spirit of the Valley

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Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

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

MOUNTAINTOP REFLECTIONS

Dreams, Desolation, and Destiny

By Jacquie Hoekstra, Columnist

The Book of Genesis contains the account of Joseph's life. He was Jacob's eleventh son and the firstborn of Rachel, the favored son of his father's favored wife (Genesis 30:22-24). Jacob gave him a coat of many colors, a sign of distinction. Giving the eleventh-born son this garment sent a message to the ten older sons. He would inherit the benefits of the firstborn. This particular story is a study in dysfunctional family dynamics and the faithfulness of God. (Genesis 37:1-4)

Joseph soon shared two dreams he had with his family. The interpretation of the first dream suggested his brothers would one day bow down to him. The second dream included his parents also bowing down. Certainly, his reporting these dreams to his family only fueled his brothers' envy. (Genesis 37:5-11)

Sometime later, Jacob sent Joseph to find his brothers, who were grazing their father's flock in another area. This provided the brothers with an opportunity to scheme against him. They planned to kill him, and one said, "We will see what will become of his dreams" (Genesis 37:20c WEB). Yet two brothers intervened, intending to save his life, and they, instead, sold him as a slave to a passing band of merchants. Those merchants sold him in Egypt. (Genesis 37:12-28)

Joseph's life went from dream to desolation when he found himself enslaved in a foreign land. He did not let his new circumstances change him, and he was soon promoted to head servant. That is, until another schemed against him and he found himself in jail. He probably thought slavery was as low as he could go until this point. (Genesis 39:1-23)

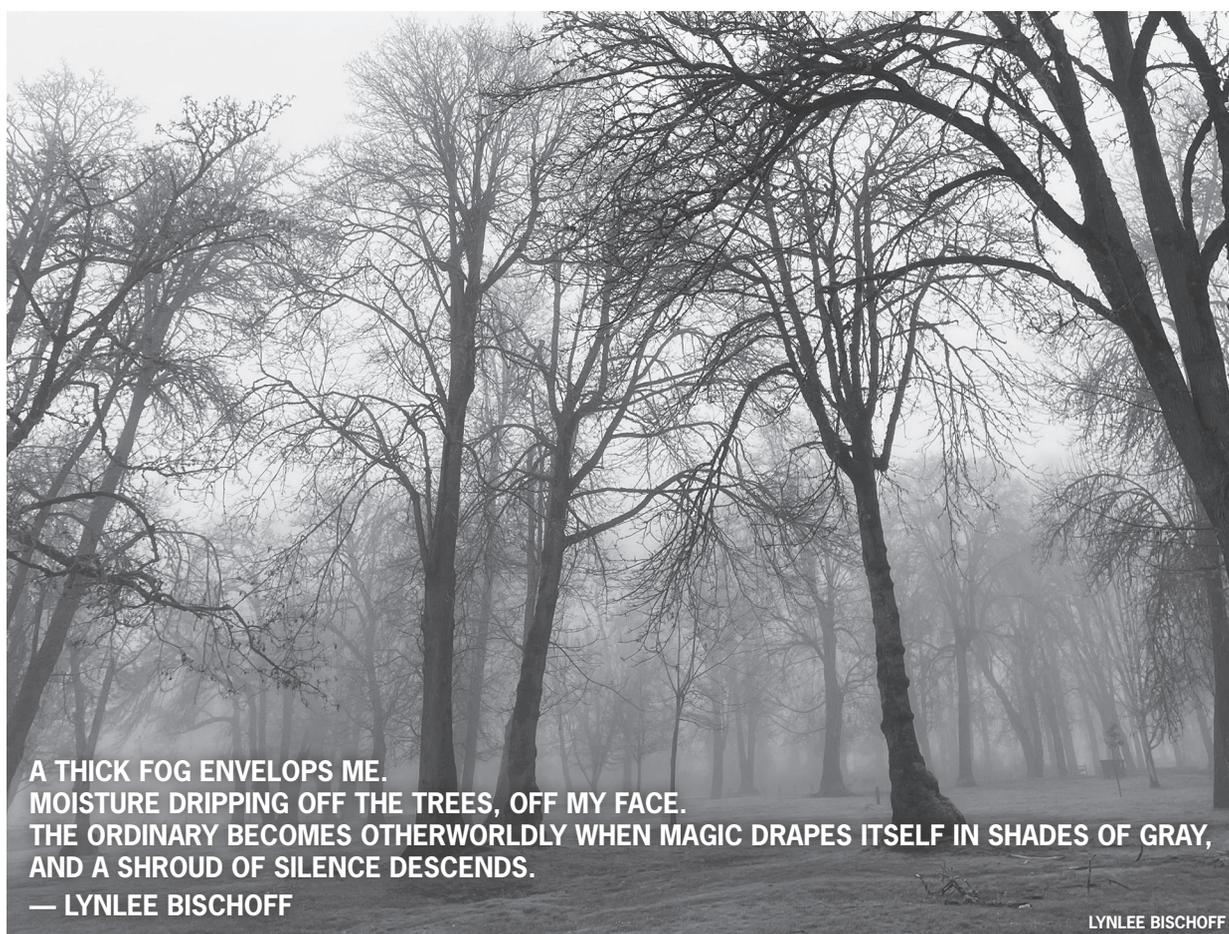


Joseph meets Pharaoh's butler and the baker in jail. Both men shared a dream with Joseph, which he interpreted. One man would be restored to his post, and the other would lose his life. Joseph asked the one who would be restored to help him be released from jail, but the man forgot him. (Genesis 40:1-23)

Joseph remained in jail for two more years until Pharaoh had two disturbing dreams. When his regular crew could not interpret the dreams, the butler remembered Joseph. He was retrieved from jail and interpreted the dreams. Then Pharaoh made him the second ruler in Egypt and made all "bow the knee" in Joseph's presence (Genesis 41:43). This is when his brothers return to his story. (Genesis 40:1-43)

During a famine, Joseph's brothers were forced to come to him, bow down, and plead with him for the right to purchase grain from him. They did not recognize him until their second visit to buy grain — then they saw what became of his dreams. (Genesis 42-43)

Joseph's brothers intended to kill him. Instead, they set in motion the avenue of their own deliverance and the fulfillment of God's promise to Joseph. Circumstances are not evidence of failed promises. They might be the path the true and faithful God uses to strengthen, establish, and position you in your kingdom purpose destiny (1 Peter 5:10). ☼



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THE ORDINARY BECOMES OTHERWORLDLY WHEN MAGIC DRAPES ITSELF IN SHADES OF GRAY,
AND A SHROUD OF SILENCE DESCENDS.
— LYNLEE BISCHOFF

LYNLEE BISCHOFF



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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); LCJD (Linn County Juvenile Department) 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 12

9:31 a.m. — Deputy responded to a burglary in the block 30700 Substation Dr., Harrisburg. During the investigation, it was determined that the matter was civil in nature due to the parties involved.

11:09 a.m. — LCSO received information about a possible suicidal subject in the 39100 block of Hwy 228, Sweet Home. After making calls and reaching out to family, it was determined that he was not in immediate danger and that no further search was warranted.

12:10 p.m. — Caller reported that a female took an overdose of medication at 32900 Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg. Deputies contacted the female, who reported she did not take the overdose and declined medics.

1:12 p.m. — Deputy documented an ongoing city ordinance violation in the 300 block of W J St., Halsey.

2:55 p.m. — Caller re-

ported a suicide attempt by firearm in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg. Deputies responded, and the caller recanted their statement, stating the person never touched a firearm.

3:40 p.m. — Deputies investigated a suspicious situation between an ex-boyfriend and girlfriend at Smith St./S 2nd St., Harrisburg. Report taken.

4:40 p.m. — Report of child abuse or neglect from DHS in the 800 block of Spurlock St., Harrisburg.

5:42 p.m. — Child abuse or neglect reported in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg.

6:17 p.m. — Citizen requested a welfare check on a pregnant female seated in a car in the 200 block of South Main St., Brownsville. Deputy contacted her and offered her water, but she said she did not need any further assistance.

Tuesday, January 13

9:59 a.m. — Caller reported four flat tires caused by nails on the bridge in the 800 block of S 3rd St., Harrisburg. The deputy walked the bridge and did not find any nails, screws, or hazards.

12:56 p.m. — Ramon Ceballos Gonzales, 50, of Harrisburg, was cited for careless driving and operating without a driver's license in the 30700 block of Substation Dr., Harrisburg.

1:49 p.m. — Deputy took a report of a possible hit-and-run that occurred one month ago in the 34000 block of Harrison Rd., Brownsville. Report Taken.

3:24 p.m. — Deputy provided the caller with the incident number for a non-reportable, non-injury motor vehicle accident on private property in the 30700 block of Substation Dr., Harrisburg.

5:11 p.m. — Deputies took a report from a significant other seeking a female who was seeking help from CARDVA in the 32900

block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg.

6:21 p.m. — Caller reported a traffic complaint at Averill St./Kirk Ave., Brownsville. The deputy contacted the suspected driver at their residence and submitted a request for the driver to retest through the DMV. Non-criminal.

6:56 p.m. — Caller requested a welfare check on a neighbor in the 800 block of Sommerville Loop, Harrisburg. The neighbor had been found deceased two days earlier. The caller was notified of the death.

10:44 p.m. — Iain Scott, 41, of Millersburg, was arrested for unlawful use of a weapon and menacing in the 32200 block of Tangent Loop, Tangent. Report taken

Wednesday, Jan. 14

5:07 a.m. — Citizen reported a car and a ditch at Seven Mile Ln./Boston Mill Dr., Shedd. When the deputy arrived, the driver had already been pulled out by a friend. No injuries or damage to the vehicle.

10:11 p.m. — Caller reported a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Kay Ave., Brownsville. A mother and son were involved in a verbal dispute. Non-criminal.

Thursday, January 15

9:37 a.m. — Deputies responded to a report of domestic abuse in the 200 block of N 7th St., Harrisburg. Report taken.

11:46 a.m. — Caller reported a dog complaint in the 500 block of W 4th St., Halsey. Deputy issued a citation to the dog owner, Emily Musgrove, of Halsey, for a dog at large and issued a warning for failure to license her dog.

7:48 p.m. — Caller reported a non-injury motor vehicle accident at Linn West Dr./Ogle Rd., Shedd. A 79-year-old male crashed into the ditch but was uninjured. Report taken.

9:56 p.m. — Jennifer Posey, 54, of Shedd, was issued a citation for speeding

69 in a 55-mph zone in the 31400 block of Seven Mile Ln., Tangent.

10:29 p.m. — Deputy observed a suspicious vehicle at Eagle Park in the 300 block of Sommerville Ave., Harrisburg, after hours. Five juveniles were referred to the LCJD for trespass II and curfew violations. Report taken.

Friday, January 16

5:46 a.m. — Deputies responded to a single-vehicle crash with minor injuries, where speed and icy conditions were primary factors, at Fayetteville Dr., Peoria Rd., Shedd. Report taken.

7:57 a.m. — Caller reported sheep outside the fence in the 33000 block of Seven Mile Ln, Tangent. Deputy discovers the sheep is a pet and is not outside the fence line.

4:47 p.m. — Caller reported juveniles riding dirt bikes on school property at Smith St./S 6th St., Harrisburg. Deputies responded and observed that the dirt bikes were low-power e-bikes, with no property damage.

7:56 p.m. — Caller reported a suspicious vehicle at a residence in the 36400 block of Hwy 228 in Brownsville. Deputy learned that an Amazon delivery truck had broken down and had to be towed from a residential driveway.

7:57 p.m. — Daughter of the property owner in the 300 block of Faust St., Brownsville, reported that the garage had been forced open, but nothing was stolen. Report taken.

8:46 p.m. — Deputy responded to a suspicious situation involving juveniles at Dari Market in the 200 block of S Main St., Brownsville. After the investigation, it was determined that no crimes were committed; only a verbal argument occurred.

10:39 p.m. — Deputies responded to a report of a minor-in-possession party at Courtney Creek Dr./Timber Rd., Brownsville. The deputy was unable to

locate the reported party but found attendees and spoke with them.

Saturday, January 17

7:27 a.m. — Deputies located a person walking on the roadway in the 23800 block of Powerline Rd., Harrisburg. Deputies provided the person with a ride to Junction City at the person's request.

8:34 a.m. — Ana Maurine Lara, 50, of Marcola, was issued a citation for speeding 48 in a 35-mph zone at Washburn St./W Bishop Way, Brownsville.

9:04 a.m. — Deputies responded to a broken window at a store in the 100 block of W Bishop Way, Brownsville. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

9:51 a.m. — Brianna Janell Waldecker, 38, of Eugene, was issued a citation for speeding 41 in a 25-mph zone at N Main St./Park Ave., Brownsville.

2:50 p.m. — Caller reported an ongoing parking complaint involving attendees at a local event center who are blocking a private driveway in the 200 block of Washburn St., Brownsville.

3:45 p.m. — Caller requested that a person be trespassed from their property in the 21500 block of N Coburg Rd., Harrisburg. The deputy issued a verbal trespass warning to the trespasser.

4:22 p.m. — Deputy provided traffic control for a stranded motorist in the 33300 block of Hwy 99E, Tangent, until a tow arrived.

6:54 p.m. — Deputies responded to a requested welfare check for dogs in the 31900 block of N Lake Creek Dr., Tangent. Deputies found the dogs were okay and healthy.

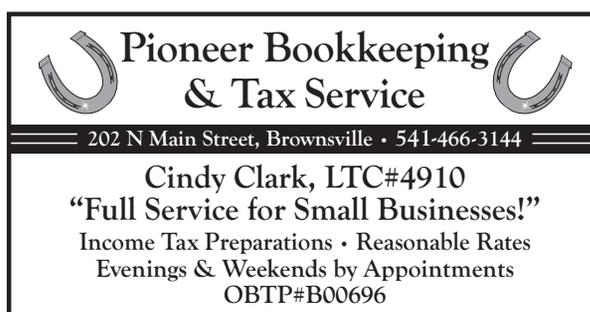
7:51 p.m. — Citizen reported a threatening call to their granddaughter in the 26700 block of Gap Rd., Brownsville. After investigating, the deputy learned it was a prank call from another juvenile. Deputy notified the prankster's mother. Non-criminal. ☺

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OREGON SECRETARY OF STATE

Oregon to Resume Cleanup of Inactive Voter Records

SALEM — The Oregon Secretary of State will resume routine cleanup of outdated, inactive voter registration records under new directives issued by Secretary of State Tobias Read.

The action follows requirements under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and Oregon law and will not affect Oregon's more than 3 million active voters. Officials say the effort is intended to strengthen voter roll accuracy and maintain public confidence in elections.

Inactive voter records are created when a registration is believed to be outdated — such as when election mail is returned as undeliverable. Inactive voters do not receive ballots and must update their information to regain active status.

Under the first directive, county elections officials will cancel approximately 160,000 inactive voter registrations that already met federal and state standards for removal prior to July 20, 2017. These records were previously unable to be canceled due to changes in voter notification language, but have not been associated with any voting activity since that time.

A second directive updates voter confirmation cards to clearly notify voters that their registrations may be canceled if no action is taken before two federal general elections. This change restores Oregon's ability to regularly remove qualifying inactive records moving forward.

After the initial cleanup, about 640,000 inactive records will remain on file. These records do not currently meet legal requirements for removal and do not impact elections.

Oregonians are encouraged to check their voter registration status at <https://www.oregonvotes.gov/myvote>.

Record Year Prompts New Utility Locate Rule in Oregon

Oregon recorded a historic number of underground utility locate requests in 2025, with more than 382,000 requests statewide, according to Oregon 811. Officials say the milestone reflects increased awareness among contractors and homeowners of the importance of calling before digging.

Starting this month, the allowable life of an excavation ticket has been reduced from 45 days to 30 days. The change is intended to keep utility markings accurate, particularly during Oregon's wet winter and spring months, when paint can fade or wash away. The update aligns Oregon with national best practices and reduces the risk of utility strikes.



Colored paint and flags mark the approximate location of underground utilities before digging. Red indicates electric power lines; orange marks communications such as phone, cable, or fiber; blue identifies potable water; green shows sewer and drain lines; yellow marks gas, oil, or steam; and purple is used for reclaimed water. White markings outline the proposed excavation area. Always respect these markings and call 811 before digging.

Anyone planning to dig is required to request a locate at least two business days in advance by calling 811, visiting Oregon811.com, or using the free mobile app. The service is free and funded by participating utilities, not tax dollars.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

E-Filing Speeds Up Oregon Tax Refunds and Kicker Payments

Oregonians hoping to receive their state tax refund and kicker as quickly as possible are encouraged to file electronically this year, according to the Oregon Department of Revenue.

Taxpayers who e-file and choose direct deposit typically receive refunds within two weeks. Paper returns will face significant delays in 2026, with refunds not expected until early April.

Oregon will begin processing electronically filed returns on Jan. 26, the same day the Internal Revenue Service does. Refunds for e-filed returns are scheduled to start Feb. 15. Paper returns cannot be processed until late March due to delayed federal forms, pushing refund issuance weeks later.

To receive Oregon's kicker — a refundable tax credit that can increase a refund or reduce taxes owed — taxpayers must file a return. State officials warn that paper filing will result in longer waits.

Nearly 95 percent of Oregon taxpayers now file electronically. Free e-filing options, including Direct File Oregon and approved commercial software, are available on the Department of Revenue website.

Taxpayers who still plan to file on paper are urged to mail returns early or obtain a USPS postmark by April 15, 2026.

Taxpayers can estimate their individual kicker amount before filing by using the Oregon Department of Revenue's online calculator. The tool allows users to enter basic information to see how much of the kicker they may be eligible to receive. The calculator is available at https://revenueonline.dor.oregon.gov/tap/_/.

For more information on free filing options, visit the Oregon Department of Revenue website at <https://www.oregon.gov/dor>.

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