



STEPHEN A. BRENNER

McKenna Barnes, a Central Linn sixth grader, warms up with eighth grader Luci Cunningham at the Valley League Junior High District Wrestling Championships in Halsey.

Share the Love in Print This Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and The Brownsville Times invites readers to celebrate love, friendship, and community with a special Valentine's placement in our February 12 issue.

Modeled after our popular classified ads, Valentine placements offer a simple, affordable way to share a heartfelt message with someone special: a spouse, partner, parent, child, grandparent, friend, or even a beloved pet. Messages can be romantic, playful, nostalgic, or sweet, and they become part of a keepsake issue that readers often save long after the holiday has passed.

Valentine placements are perfect for:

- Saying "I love you" in a meaningful, lasting way
- Surprising someone with a public thank-you or tribute
- Sharing a memory, an inside joke, or a milestone
- Supporting local, independent journalism while spreading joy



All placements will appear in a dedicated Valentine section creating a page filled with love from across Central Linn County.

Space is limited, and placements are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Pricing and word limits follow our standard classified ad structure.

Submissions must be received by Jan. 30.

To reserve a Valentine placement or learn more, visit: <https://brownsvilletimes.org/classifieds>. Because sometimes the best Valentine isn't chocolate or flowers, it's being seen, remembered, and celebrated in print. 🌟

HALSEY — Central Linn School District hosted the Valley League Junior High District Wrestling Championships over the weekend, welcoming wrestlers from across the league for two days of intense competition, sportsmanship, and packed-gym excitement.

Athletes from 14 Valley League schools competed for district titles in their weight classes. Participating schools included Central Linn, Lowell, Triangle Lake, Harrisburg, Junction City, Thurston, Oakridge, Philomath, Pleasant Hill, Monroe, Fern Ridge, Lincoln, Creswell, and Crow.

The tournament featured tightly contested matches and enthusiastic crowd support throughout the weekend.

In the team standings, Harrisburg claimed first place in the girls division, while Thurston captured first place in the boys division. Central Linn finished fourth in the girls division.

Individually, Central Linn's Nevaeh Ramsey won the girls' district title in the 104-pound weight class. Philomath's Olivia Rodriguez captured first place in the boys' 104-pound division.

Central Linn wrestlers placing at districts included:

- Cassandra Call, 5th grade — fourth place
- McKenna Barnes, 6th grade — third place
- Levi Haskett, 7th grade — third place
- Kassidee Call, 6th grade — second place
- Kyrah Bagg, 8th grade — second place
- Luci Cunningham, 8th grade — second place
- Gabe Pitts, 7th grade — second place
- Nevaeh Ramsey, 7th grade — first place

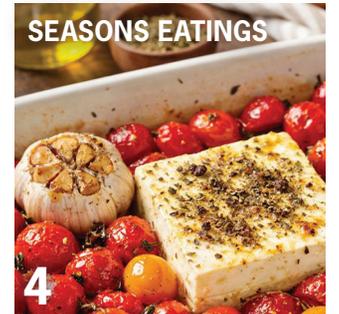
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GIRLS' BASKETBALL

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Functional Junk Art

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

After faithfully delivering water for 25 years, our old well decided to retire last summer. A new well was drilled about a quarter mile down the hill, and we struck good, sweet water at 12 gallons per minute — not exactly Niagara Falls, but plenty for everyday living.

The new wellhead and electrical box were left exposed, and building a second pump house didn't sound very appealing. So we chose a more imaginative solution: junk art.

Armed with an old fiberglass water tank, a leftover pipe coupling, bits of rubber hose, and a handful of old can lights, we created a cheerful Minion-like guardian. We hollowed out the bottom so he could slip neatly over the well head, then gave him well-worn shop gloves so he could wave at anyone passing by. A bright coat of paint and a few wire ties for hair brought his personality to life.

It wasn't long before we decided one Minion wasn't enough. Soon, he had a friend — made from another retired tank, rescued from Star Water in Lebanon, where a whole lineup of old tanks waits patiently for the landfill.

The result is a pair of practical protectors with plenty of character. The project was fun and functional, costing about \$15 — proof that a little imagination can turn junk into joy. 🌟



SHARON K. BANKS

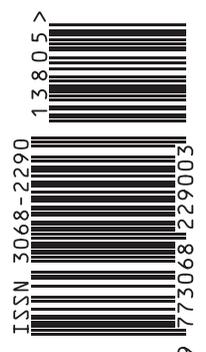


SCULPTURE RELOCATION

14

MAILING LABEL BELOW

\$2.00



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ONGOING EVENTS

Not Your Grandma's Bingo

Mondays, Now–Mar. 2, 2026 • 6:30–8 p.m.
Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent

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

Free Coffee, Donuts, & Fellowship

Wednesdays • 9:30 a.m. • Central Valley Church,
657 American Dr., Halsey (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. • The Honey Hole Bar & Grill
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

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.

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

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Now–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>

Little Women — Canceled or Postponed

Thursday–Saturday, Jan. 29–31

The Central Linn High School Drama Department has canceled "Little Women" due to unforeseen circumstances. Future performance dates are being considered, and updated information will be shared when available.

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. Concessions available.

To reserve a seat, text your name to 541-915-9322 and pay at the door.

Widows' Brigade Lunch

Friday, Jan. 31 • Noon

Kim's Kafé, 32050 Birdfoot Dr, Tangent

Widows' Brigade members and guests are invited to a casual lunch gathering for conversation and connection. Open to widows at any stage.

For more information, call Mary at 541-401-4738.

Robert Potts, The Unseen Collection – Exhibit Opening

Friday, February 6 • 5–7 p.m.

Albany Regional Museum, 136 Lyon St. SW, Albany

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. Exhibition on view through May 30, 2026.

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

First Taste Oregon

February 6–7 • Friday 3–9 p.m.; Saturday noon–9 p.m.

Linn County Expo Center • 3700 Knox Butte Rd E, Albany

150 vendors featuring more than 300 Oregon wines and spirits for a two-day culinary showcase. The event includes chef and culinary demos, mocktails and mixology, tastings and samples, live music, and artisan goods. Organizers encourage attendees to make it an early Valentine's date or a night out with friends.

<https://www.firsttasteoregon.com>

Alumni & Senior Night at the Cobra Dome

Thursday, Feb. 6 • 6 p.m. • Free for Alumni

The Cobra Dome, Central Linn High School

Central Linn School District invites alumni and community members to Alumni & Senior Night as the Cobras take on East Linn Christian. The Class of 2026 will be honored, and basketball and cheer alumni will be recognized at halftime of both games. Admission is free for all alumni. Community members are encouraged to attend and cheer on the next generation of Cobras.

Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour

Friday–Saturday, February 6–7 • 7–10 p.m.

Whiteside Theatre, 361 SW Madison Ave, Corvallis

The internationally acclaimed Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour returns to Corvallis with two nights of world-class adventure and outdoor films. Each evening features a different program of short films highlighting climbing, skiing, biking, paddling, environmental themes, and personal journeys from around the globe. An intermission is included each night. Tickets are sold by program, with discounted pricing available for both nights. Advance purchase is recommended, as screenings often sell out.

<https://www.livetoplay.com>.

Sharing Hands Chili Cookoff & Dessert Auction

Saturday, Feb. 7 • entries at 4:30 p.m. event: 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.

Widows' Brigade Friends and Family Night

Friday, Feb. 13 • 5–7 p.m.

Central Valley Church, 657 American Dr. Halsey

An evening of food, games, and fellowship hosted by Widows' Brigade. A spaghetti dinner will be served, with games and a possible do-it-yourself craft. Learn more about the group and its 2026 activities. Info: Mary, 541-401-4738.

Valentine's Day Dinner

Friday, February 14 • 6 p.m. • \$20 per person

American Legion Post 184, 339 N Main St., Brownsville

Dinner and bingo, with a possible movie to follow. A relaxed and affordable Valentine's night out. A fun evening and a great value for a romantic night out.

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.

<https://kirksferry1846.com> • (541) 466-5614.

Weston A. Price Foundation Linn Benton County Chapter Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 15 • 1 p.m. • Brownsville Community Room, upstairs at 255 N. Main St., Brownsville

The Linn Benton County Chapter of the Weston A. Price Foundation will meet to review 2025 activities and plan for 2026. With recent attendance declining, participants will reassess chapter goals and discuss ideas for future events. Tea and coffee will be provided. Copies of the Wise Traditions booklet will be available for purchase while supplies last. Parking is available behind City Hall. Enter through the back door to the Community Room. Open to the public. For more information, contact Rege Rippee at WAPFLinnBenton@gmail.com or 541-954-5047.

Modern Square Dance Lessons

Sundays, beginning Feb. 15 • 5:30–7:30 p.m.

The first class is free. \$6 per person or \$15 per family. Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St., Lebanon

Lebanon Square Circlers invite dancers of all experience levels to modern square dance lessons led by caller and instructor Shaun McKamey. No partner or prior experience required. Open to all ages, family-friendly, and drug-, alcohol-, and smoke-free.

<https://www.lebanonsquarecirclers.com>
541-401-9780

World Cultures & Travel: Turkish Treasure

Thursday, February 19 • 7 p.m.

Kirk Room, Brownsville Community Library

Join retired travel photographer Donald Lyon for an evening exploring the landscapes, culture and history of western Turkey through photography and storytelling. Lyon has made more than a dozen trips to Turkey, beginning in 1969 as a graduate student at the American University of Beirut, with his most recent visit in 2020. His presentation blends historical context with personal observations from decades of travel in one of the world's most welcoming and historically rich regions.

See page 6 for Brownsville Library events

CENTRAL LINN BOOSTER CLUB

Cobra Booster Club Plans for Annual Auction

The Central Linn Cobra Booster Club is preparing for its annual dinner and auction, set for Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Central Linn High School. The event serves as the club's primary fundraiser, supporting Central Linn athletic programs and student clubs through equipment purchases, uniforms, and program funding.

The Booster Club will hold its next meeting on Monday, Feb. 16, at 6 p.m. in the Central Linn High School lobby. The meeting will focus on continued planning for the annual fundraiser and identifying volunteer opportunities to support student sports and club activities in the coming year. Community members interested in getting involved are encouraged to attend.

Central Linn High School is located at 32433 Highway 228 in Halsey.

For more information, find the Cobra Booster Club on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CobraBoosterClub> or email cobra boosterclub@hotmail.com.

STAY CONNECTED WITH CENTRAL LINN!

Discover upcoming events or add your own to our community calendar:

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

WRESTLING

continued from cover

Beyond individual titles, strong team performances underscored the depth of talent across the Valley League, as several schools placed multiple wrestlers on the podium and earned valuable points toward overall standings.

The tournament highlighted strong performances across the Valley League, with multiple schools earning podium finishes.



Kyrah Bagg, 8th grade, placed second.

Gabe Pitts, 7th grade, placed second.

Kassidee Call, 6th grade, placed second.

PHOTOS BY TYLER SIMMONS



Luci Cunningham, 8th grade, placed second.



Nevaeh Ramsey, seventh grade, won the girls' district title in the 104-pound weight class.

First Taste OREGON

A can't-miss culinary event

February 6-7, 2026

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

Linn County Expo Center

150 different vendors featuring over 300 Oregon Wines & Spirits

Experience 2 days of:

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

Make it an early Valentine's date or an adventure with friends!

Join us to Taste the Best of Oregon!

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

CALAPOOIA food alliance

Munch Night

Feb. 20, 6 p.m.

Home-cooked dinner, great company, and a thought-provoking talk

American Legion Hall • \$15 donation
 For more info call: 541-654-2052

Margot Schwartz will share highlights of the 2026 Tarweed classes, including an overview of her course on dairy goats and making fresh chèvre (goat cheese).

The Calapooia Food Alliance Board will provide a vegetarian meal of "You Stuff 'Em" baked potatoes and salad. Please bring your own place setting and non-alcoholic beverage.

TARWEED FOLK SCHOOL

TABLE TALK: DINING IN AROUND BROWNSVILLE

A Surprising Courthouse Cafe

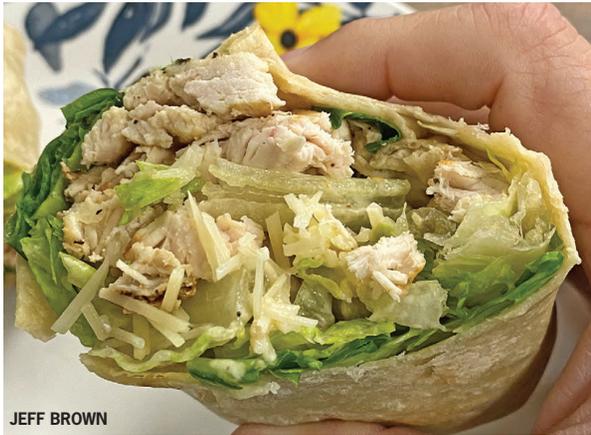
By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

ALBANY — A few days ago, I found myself downtown in Albany around lunchtime with no real plan. I was hungry and wanted something different, so I did a quick Google search for the best lunch spot in town. The top result surprised me. It pointed me to a place I had never heard of, The Mad Platter Cafe.

The Mad Platter is tucked away in the basement of the Linn County Circuit Court building. If you have never been inside that courthouse, it is a huge, multi-story building that can feel a little overwhelming. It took me a minute to wander the hallways and follow the signs to finally track the cafe down, but once I did, I was glad I stuck with it.

The cafe is owned by Nathaniel (Nate) Mattson, and he is the only person working there. Yes, all by himself! That fact alone made the place even more impressive. When I walked in, it was packed. Sheriff's deputies, lawyers, law clerks, and courthouse staff filled most of the space, along with me, the random lunch wanderer. Despite the crowd, Nate handled everything calmly and efficiently, taking orders, cooking, and serving without missing a beat.

I ordered the Chicken Caesar Salad wrap. It was exactly what I was hoping for. Crisp lettuce, tangy Caesar dressing, and warm, grilled, shredded chicken, all wrapped up nicely. Nothing too fancy, just solid and satisfying. It felt fresh and filling without being heavy, which is always a win for a workday lunch.



JEFF BROWN



JEFF BROWN

The Mad Platter Cafe is open Monday through Friday, typically from 8 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m. (that's what it says). One nice perk is that breakfast is served all day, along with a wide range of lunch options. The menu includes all the breakfast favorites, and for lunch, salads, sandwiches, melts, wraps, subs, burgers, baskets, and even chicken wings. There is plenty of variety without being overwhelming.

Overall, The Mad Platter Cafe was a good experience. It is not trying to be trendy or upscale, and that works in its favor. It is a hardworking lunch spot run by one guy who clearly knows what he is doing. If you are downtown and willing to do a little exploring, it is worth checking out. 🍷

SEASONS EATINGS

Easy Vegetarian Recipes with Big Flavor

By Lisa Keith, Columnist

More yummy, easy, vegetarian recipes for us all to be as healthy as we can be. The first is a modified version of a viral recipe my daughter and I found online a couple of years ago. It has been great with every modification and addition. The second is a simple salad we like to snack on year-round.

"Viral" Baked Feta & Tomatoes



- 1 10–12 oz cube of feta cheese
- 2 pints of cherry tomatoes
- 1 whole bulb of garlic
- 1 tsp oregano
- salt & pepper to taste
- 2 Tbsp olive oil

Place the whole cheese and tomatoes in a 9-by-13 baking dish. Keeping the garlic bulb whole, cut off just the top and place it in the dish. Generously sprinkle the oregano, salt, and pepper over the contents of the dish. Drizzle the olive oil over the contents of the dish. Bake at 350° F for 30–45 minutes, until the tomatoes blister and pop. Remove from the oven and use a fork or potato masher to gently press the tomatoes and break up the feta. Remove the garlic bulb and squeeze it into the mixture. (It will be soft and creamy, like squeezing toothpaste out of a tube!) Mix gently.

- 1 medium zucchini, sliced
- 1 pint of Crimini mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- A handful of clean baby spinach leaves
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning

Prepare the veggies and sauté in 2 tablespoons of olive oil until al dente while the feta and tomatoes bake. Add to the baked cheese and tomatoes and mix well but gently. At this point, the luscious mixture can be eaten alone, spread over crusty sourdough, or spooned over pasta or rice.

Tabouli



- 1 Cup uncooked bulgur wheat (variation: brown rice, quinoa, couscous, orzo)
- 1 Cucumber, seeded, quartered, and sliced
- 1 medium tomato, diced
- 1 bunch of parsley, washed and chopped
- 1 small onion, diced
- olive oil, to taste
- lemon juice, to taste
- salt & pepper to taste

Cook the bulgur according to the package directions while preparing the other ingredients. Mix all ingredients well and season to your liking. Depending on the humidity, you may need 2–5 tablespoons of oil and lemon juice. Note: The salad should be light and fluffy, not soggy or dripping with liquid.

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. 🍷

WHERE TO EAT

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

OVR Overton Valley Ranch
OVERTON VALLEY BEEF
 GRASS FED • GRASS FINISHED
 USDA Certified Angus Beef • 100% Natural
 No BS. Just quality beef: \$5.29/lb (includes slaughter, cut, & wrap) custom boxes available!
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 EST. 1860 OVERTONVALLEYRANCH.COM • BROWNSVILLE

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

Memas Country Kitchen
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 Brownsville
 Natoshya Moffitt
 541.405.2147
 memascountrykitchen@yahoo.com
 Facebook: Memas Country Kitchen
 Mon–Thur (open if lights on) • Fri–Sun 9–6

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

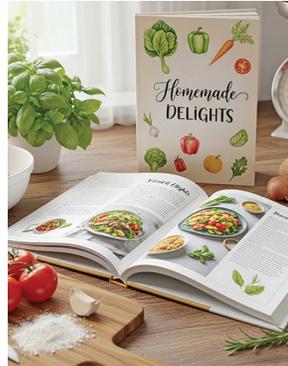
1847
 BAR & GRILL
 Buy an entree & receive 50% off an appetizer
 505 Mullins Drive, Lebanon • 541-451-1847
 Tuesday–Saturday, 4–9 p.m. • Happy Hour, 4–5 p.m.

CONNECT LINN COUNTY

Community Cookbook Project Seeks Local Recipes

CONNECT Linn County invites community members to help create a new community cookbook celebrating the flavors, traditions, and shared memories of Linn County. The cookbook will highlight the dishes people return to again and again — family classics, holiday favorites, and everyday meals that bring people together around the table.

Organizers welcome recipe submissions from community members 18 and older. Recipes may be old or new, simple or special, and may include family recipes as well as favorites from cookbooks or magazines that have been used for years.



The goal is to capture the heart of the community through the food it loves most. The cookbook's title will be chosen by the community, with title ideas shared and discussed on the CONNECT Linn County Facebook page.

Recipes may be submitted in several ways to make participation easy. Community members can use the online form, email or text their recipe, mail it in, or send a photo of a handwritten recipe card or notes. Volunteers are happy to type recipes when needed. All recipes will be proofread prior to printing. Trademarked brand names may be used in ingredients but not in recipe titles.

The deadline for submitting recipes is February 28, 2026. Questions or submissions may be directed to Karm at 541-451-0673, Leise at 541-729-3633, Missy at 541-497-4154, or Tika at 541-570-3199. Recipes and cookbook name ideas may also be submitted via the online form at <https://forms.gle/vPNIYRQckXnjyBbbA>.

CONNECT Linn County hopes the finished cookbook will be a lasting collection of memories, traditions, and good food — created by and for the community.



GROCERY LIST

Canned Goods

- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- 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

Snacks

- Fresh Fruit
- Fresh/Powdered Milk
- Cheese
- Spices



Please no expired items.

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Soap
- Laundry soap

KIDS' KORNER

Quilting for Kids

By Nancy Diltz, Columnist



There is a brand-new book at the Brownsville Library that might interest you. It is called "Easy Quilting For Kids: 35 Fun quilting, patchwork and appliqué projects for children 7 years and older," and it will guide you in making many fun fabric projects. Boys

and girls alike can enjoy the challenge and accomplishment of creating quilting projects. Have you ever seen a beautiful quilt made of fabric squares? Maybe you have one of your own that you use as a bedspread or couch cover.

Many fun projects can be made from fabric swatches. Fabric can come from old clothing, towels, or blankets, or be purchased at a fabric shop. Brownsville has its own quilting store, Yankee Dutch Quilting, on Spaulding Avenue, off Main Street. There, you can purchase sewing supplies, view quilt samples, and even watch people quilting!

"Quilting is a way of sewing layers of fabric together with padding in between," according to the publisher, CICO Kidz. This offers easy step-by-step instructions and tips for making things for yourself, things for your bedroom, and things to make and give. Some examples include a drawstring bag, a sleepover roll, or a Valentine's Day heart.

To create the quilted heart, trace a template from the book or from a picture of a heart. Cut out two rectangles slightly larger than your heart template, then cut two different pieces of fabric the size of your rectangle template. Pin the fabrics right sides together and stitch along one side with neat backstitches (directions for backstitching are in the book). With a few more clear directions, you will have a charming, quilted heart that would make a beautiful Valentine's Day gift or keepsake.

Activity:

Try a simple sewing stitch! You will need a sewing needle, thread, and a small scrap of fabric.

1. Thread the needle: fold the thread in half and tie a simple knot at the end.
2. Push the needle down through the fabric and a little way along. Then push it back up through the fabric.
3. Repeat to make a row of evenly sized stitches.

Congrats, you are sewing!

Crossword challenge:

Word list — Can you place all of them in the crossword grid? Fabric; Template; Stitch; Project; Seam; Quilting; Thread.

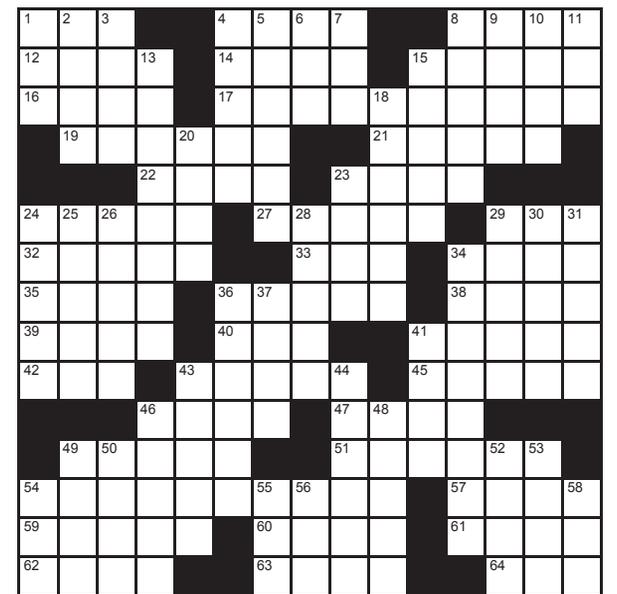
DOWN

1. attaching fabric with padding in between
2. pieces of material used to sew
4. a pattern

ACROSS

3. thin, fine material used to sew stitches
5. a crafting creation
6. thread attaching fabric
7. where two pieces of fabric meet

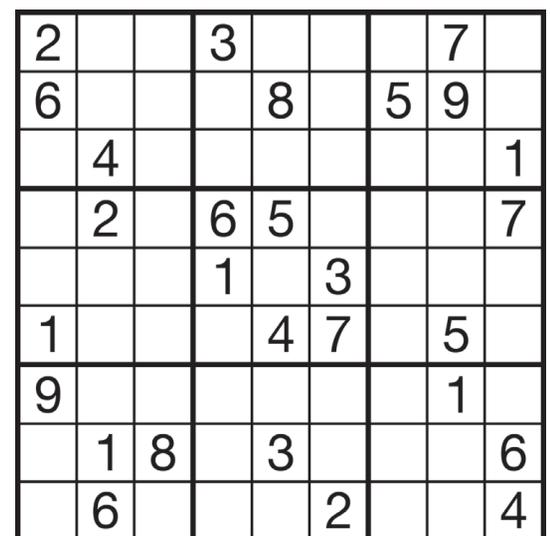
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Edge tool
 - 4 Mariner
 - 8 Jab
 - 12 Front of a ship
 - 14 Cookie
 - 15 Lukewarm
 - 16 Narrative
 - 17 Grow worse
 - 19 Comic book hero
 - 21 Banishment
 - 22 Actress Eichhorn
 - 23 Egg-shaped
 - 24 Jamborees
 - 27 Long stories
 - 29 Pat
 - 32 Broker
 - 33 Secondhand
 - 34 City in 15 Down
 - 35 Nail
 - 36 Bib. town near Jerusalem
 - 38 Wager
 - 39 A Truman
 - 40 Rodent
 - 41 Speak
 - 42 Still
 - 43 Gr. letters
 - 45 Flower starters
 - 46 Legumes
 - 47 Assert
 - 49 Very thin
 - 51 Booed
 - 54 Inspector Clouseau's attire
 - 57 Composer Jerome
 - 59 Soil
 - 60 Halo
 - 61 Pelvic girdle
 - 62 Andy's pal
 - 63 Watch face
 - 64 Infiltrator
 - 18 Silver State
 - 20 Haze
 - 23 Leer
 - 24 Loquacious
 - 25 Concur
 - 26 Slightest
 - 28 Main artery
 - 29 Divline Comedy poet
 - 30 Emoted
 - 31 South Africans
 - 34 Slalom, lakestyle
 - 36 Inhalation
 - 37 Breakfasts
 - 41 Applies
 - 43 Park seat
 - 44 Libyan Desert
 - 46 Football kicks
 - 48 Critical
 - 49 Metric weight unit
 - 50 Flight (Pref.)
 - 52 Congers
 - 53 Trickle
 - 54 Oolong
 - 55 Heel
 - 56 Fr. okay
 - 58 Nope
- DOWN**
- 1 Tending toward
 - 2 Dreary
 - 3 French novelist Emile _____
 - 4 Soft drinks
 - 5 Stadiums
 - 6 Limb
 - 7 Digit
 - 8 Hazard
 - 9 Translucent gem
 - 10 Swallow-tailed hawk
 - 11 Dutch city
 - 13 Marshes
 - 15 Lone-Star State

SUDOKU TRICKY



SUDOKU PUZZLE PROVIDED BY WWW.SUDOKUOFTHEDAY.COM VISIT THEM AND GET A NEW SUDOKU EVERY DAY.

WORD JUMBLE

- IULTQ _____
- HLIYLC _____
- OBTOS _____
- LHSSU _____
- OCCA _____
- CFSRA _____
- ALWOKNFES _____

PUZZLE Solutions on page 13

BOOK REVIEW

Off The Beaten Path

By Nancy Diltz, Columnist

Recently, I dove into some World History studies covering the 3rd and 4th centuries. Despite what I expected, the information was truly riveting, and I was surprised by how much I did not know about the early Roman and North African Empires.

A bit closer to home, I found some books offering an “off the beaten path” glimpse into early Oregon history. Two books, “Little Known Tales from Oregon History, Volumes I and II” by Geoff Hill (1993) and “Great Moments in Oregon History: A Collection of Articles from Oregon Magazine,” edited by Win McCormack and Dick Pintarich. Both are available at The Brownsville Library.

The book “Great Moments in Oregon History” compiles “significant events and stories from Oregon’s past, drawn from the pages of Oregon Magazine... from shanghaied sailors to greedy timber barons, from crazed cult leaders to courageous congressmen, a cast of legendary characters helped make Oregon what it is today,” according to the publisher’s summary. It covers a range of topics, from our state’s natural beauty to its unique cultural and political history. This historical overview of Oregon is presented through engaging magazine-style articles. The editor, Win McCormack, is a prominent Oregon publisher and editor who holds a BA from Harvard and an MFA in creative writing from the University of Oregon.

A third book, “Great & Minor Moments in Oregon History,” by Dick Pintarich, is described in an Amazon.com book summary as “filled with a fascinating array of facts, both expected and surprising... in-depth, thought-provoking and often humorous glimpses of personalities and peculiarities that inhabit Oregon’s past.” You can ask the librarian to purchase this book to add to their collection.

Why read historical pieces? “Studying the diversity of human experience helps us appreciate cultures, ideas, and traditions that are not our own — and to recognize them as meaningful products of specific times and places. History helps us realize how different our lived experience is from that of our ancestors, yet how similar we are in our goals and values.” A quote from the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Department of History’s website at <https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/why-history>.



BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Crafts, Culture, and Community

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

Mrs. Thea came into the library 16 years ago and said, “I’d like to come make crafts with the children. I’ll bring my own supplies.” I thought for a moment and agreed! She has never looked back. Parents and staff are AMAZED at the crafts she makes up on the spot each week. That’s been more than 700 crafts! Mrs. Thea has had to take a couple of weeks off from Story Time. We miss her and are looking forward to having her back for craft time each Friday.

In the meantime, that crazy librarian, Sherri, has been the craft lady. As you can see by this photo, I totally love this part of my week! However, I use the internet to bring ideas to the table. There are times when I get the steps mixed up or out of order. Mrs. Thea is so good at teaching kids and parents to work together. At Story Time, we build Community one step at a time. Join us each Friday from 11 a.m. to noon for Songs, rhymes, and more!



SHERRI LEMHOUSE

Brownsville Librarian Sherri Lemhouse steps in as craft leader during Story Time, sharing a creative moment with a young participant. Weekly Story Time is held Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon at the Brownsville Community Library.

World Cultures & Travel Series

Turkish Treasure — The glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome are laid out, as if on a buffet table, for the inquisitive traveler. Join us as we explore both ancient Anatolia and modern Turkey. Friendly people and fascinating traditions abound. Your guide, Donald Lyon, is a retired photographic tour leader with a dozen trips to Turkey to draw on. Join him as he takes you on a tour of the area on February 19 at 7 p.m. Our following program is World Cultures & Travel: Australia’s Wild Side at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026.

Avoid Scams with Sam

Scammers are getting smarter, but so can you. Join us for a presentation on common scams, how

to recognize red flags, and simple steps to protect yourself and your finances. Legal Assistant Sam Heathcote will present Avoid Scams with Sam on Thursday, March 26, at 3 p.m. The program will be held in the Kirk Room at the Brownsville Community Library. It is another fabulous program, free and open to the public.

Free Medication Disposal Program

Are you cleaning out prescription medications and unsure how or where to dispose of them? Drop by the Brownsville Library and pick up a FREE return envelope. Use this mail-back service to properly dispose of prescription medications in the envelope, seal it, and drop it at any post office. This program works at your convenience! We also have sharps and inhaler containers. Save money and support your local library at the same time. This program is free and open to the public.

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.

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CITY OF HALSEY

Halsey City Staff Meet with State Team to Advance Key Community Projects

By Larissa Gangle, Staff Writer and Halsey Correspondent

Halsey City staff met with the State's Regional Solutions Team in December to discuss key projects that build on existing infrastructure and support future community growth.

The State Regional Solutions Team is a uniquely Oregon approach to community and economic development, bringing together public, private, and civic partners to advance projects, solve problems, and respond to local needs.

A top priority discussed was upgrading the city's water plant's control system. The current system is obsolete, and replacement parts are increasingly difficult to obtain. The project has an estimated funding gap of \$400,000 to 500,000. While Halsey is not eligible for USDA funding due to average household income limits, several alternative funding options were explored, including grants, loans, and Congressionally Directed Spending requests.

Additional projects discussed included wastewater infrastructure improvements, primarily lagoon dredging to meet current demands and support future growth; Main Street revitalization efforts such as murals and public art; and economic development initiatives aimed at supporting local businesses by sharing resources, particularly grant opportunities.

Overall, the meeting provided a valuable opportunity for City staff to share Halsey's needs with



Members of the state's Regional Solutions Team tour downtown Halsey during a December visit, stopping at the historic Halsey State Bank Building, 751 W. First St. The building is listed on the City of Halsey Register of Historic Properties and recognized by the State Historic Preservation Office for its historical significance.

representatives from multiple state agencies and to learn about resources and funding opportunities available to support the City's priorities. The City expressed appreciation for the collaboration and looks forward to continuing these important conversations as plans for Halsey's future move forward.

HALSEY PARKS & LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Community Cookbook Project: Call for Recipes

The Halsey Parks & Library Committee is collecting recipes for a new Halsey Community Cookbook, and community members are invited to contribute.

Do you have a favorite recipe you're willing to share? Family classics, holiday dishes, and everyday favorites are all welcome. Recipes with a special story or tradition are especially encouraged.

Recipes may be submitted online, in person at City Hall or the Library, or by email to Library@halseyor.gov.

Online submissions can be made using the Halsey Community Cookbook Recipe Submission Form at <https://www.halseyor.gov/CommunityCookbookRecipeSubmission.php>

Participants may submit a link to an online recipe, upload an image of a handwritten recipe card, or enter their recipe manually through the form.

Community members with questions or who prefer in-person submission are encouraged to stop by City Hall at 100 W Halsey St., Halsey, or the Halsey Library at 773 W 1st St.



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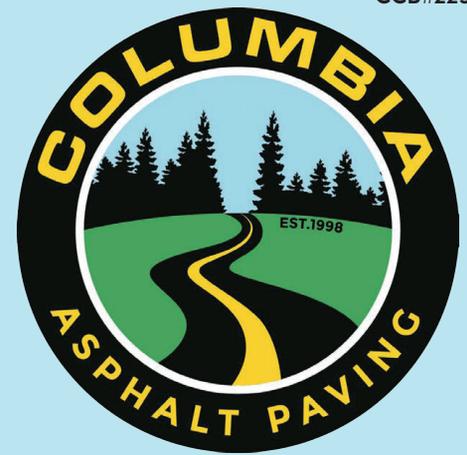
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AMERICAN LEGION POST 184

A Valentine for Lebanon's Veterans

By an ordinary seaman

I've reached an age where my farm chores take twice as long, and my memory operates like a 1994 dial-up modem. But even in my slightly dusty mental attic, I know one thing for certain: Valentine's Day isn't just for overpriced roses and panic-buying heart-shaped boxes of "chocolate" that taste like sweetened candle wax.

In the world of the American Legion, specifically here at Travis Moothart Post 184, February 14 has a much cooler vibe. Indeed, there are rumors of a blowout Valentine's party, but we will talk about that next week. This week, we are talking about the National Salute to Veteran Patients week.



COURTESY OF THE OREGON VETERANS HOME

Residents at the Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon take part in a virtual bowling game, one of many recreational activities that bring connection, competition and camaraderie to daily life at the home.

traded their combat boots for wheelchairs. Some are celebrating milestones with spouses who stood by them through deployments; others are just waiting for the mail call.

If you want to do something more meaningful than arguing about the size of Greenland's land mass, grab a pen. We're talking about "Valentines for Veterans." It's simple, it's homey, and it reminds these folks they haven't been snubbed by the committee of public memory. Just send a note of gratitude to the residents. The staff will see that they are aware of your love and kindness. Send mail to Oregon Veterans Home, 600 N 5th St., Lebanon, OR 97355. Also, you can visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/lebanonveteranshome>.

Now, I spent many years in the high-octane world of international computers, and I've seen some improbable things. But one improbable thing I've not seen since the fifth grade is a Valentine's Day card from a secret admirer. In fact, it is much more probable that I would go down to the barn and find the sheep singing opera. I must admit, the finding of such a card in my mailbox has me walking up the driveway with a stupid grin on my face.

We have neighbors over at the Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon who've

Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Sets Annual Meeting, Seeks Community Support

The Thompson's Mills Preservation Society (TMPS) will hold its annual meeting on Friday, Feb. 21, at 1 p.m. in the Kirk Room at the Brownsville Community Library, located at Spaulding and Averill streets. The meeting is open to the public, though voting privileges and eligibility to hold office are limited to dues-paying members. Annual membership dues are \$20 and may be paid at the meeting.

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to TMPS Secretary Donald Lyon at phototraveler02@gmail.com. Agendas will be emailed in advance. Topics expected for discussion include participation in community events such as Brownsville's Pioneer Picnic and Brooks Steam-Up, as well as decisions on dates and the number of cider-pressing events held at Thompson's Mills.

The organization is also exploring additional partnerships with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Members interested in school visits, mill tours, or similar outreach activities may be required to complete the state's volunteer certification process.

TMPS is partnering with OSU Extension Master Gardeners to help maintain the mill's cider orchard, planted more than a decade ago. A long-discussed "pioneer garden" adjacent to the orchard is also being revisited as a potential future project.

Volunteers and board members needed

TMPS leaders say the organization often needs additional help during public events, particularly cider-pressing days at the mill. Community members interested in volunteering on an occasional basis are encouraged to contact Lyon by email.

Those seeking a deeper level of involvement are also invited to consider serving on the TMPS Board of Directors. The board meets every other month in Shedd, near the mill, and focuses on programs that promote appreciation and revitalization of Thompson's Mills as a historical and cultural centerpiece of the Willamette Valley.

Memberships, donations, and contact information

Supporters can help preserve Thompson's Mills by becoming paid members of the Preservation Society or by donating. TMPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and memberships and contributions are tax-deductible. Correspondence and donations may be mailed to Thompson's Mills Preservation Society, PO Box 1, Shedd, OR 97377-0001. For more information, contact Secretary Donald Lyon at phototraveler02@gmail.com. Community members can also follow and join the organization's private Facebook group, Thompson's Mills Preservation Society, for updates and event information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1199143194326777>.

BROWNSVILLE ART ASSOCIATION

Members Review Strong Year, Plan for 2026

Members of the Brownsville Art Association gathered recently for their Annual Membership Meeting, reflecting on a successful 2025 and outlining priorities for the year ahead, including improved organization, shared leadership, and deeper community engagement.

The meeting included a review of the past year's shows and events, including the annual 8x8 show, the Joni Nelson Memorial show, the Junque Art show, and the Holiday Art Market, which coincides with the Brownsville Women's Study Club's Festival of Trees and the Brownsville Chamber's Home for the Holidays events. Members agreed to discontinue the seasonal theme wall due to the time required to maintain it and the opportunity to include additional artists. A discussion followed on the need for new coordinators to help guide future exhibitions.

Looking ahead to 2026, members emphasized collaboration and volunteer support as key to sustaining and growing the Art Center's programs. Assistance is needed with class coordination, including tracking registrations, cancellations, and instructor information, and with ensuring a smooth experience for both artists and students.

Marketing and outreach will remain a focus through the monthly e-newsletter, social media, and promotion of classes and events. Artists were encouraged to share content and use the Art Center's website — including free artist pages with photos and bios — as a key promotional tool.

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the many volunteers and organizers who contribute time and energy to the Art Center. Members emphasized the importance of continued collaboration and invited artists interested in getting involved — whether through shows, classes, or leadership roles — to help shape the Art Center's future.

Artists interested in joining can learn more at <https://brownsvilleart.org>.



Lori Garcy, left, and Chris Seale address members during the Brownsville Art Association's annual membership meeting.

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FRAUD FIGHTERS: PROTECTING OUR SENIORS
Don't Be Fooled — Senior Scam Watch

By Danielle Myers, Esq., Columnist

Dear Reader, I do hope this note finds you well and that your teapot is warm and your porch is peaceful. But alas, while our little towns offers plenty of small comforts, there is a growing nuisance that shows no intention of minding its manners.

Lately, our law office has received numerous questions from residents who are distressed by strange phone calls and confusing demands. A gentleman, polite enough on the surface, asks you to “verify” your bank account. A young voice trembles over the line, claiming to be your grandchild in trouble. An email warns that you must act quickly to avoid a fine. Some even demand payment in things no proper bank would ever request, like online gift cards or something called Bitcoin.



These tricks are not only upsetting but also often sound convincing. With new tools like artificial intelligence (AI), scammers can now fake phone numbers and even mimic a loved one's voice. Imagine answering the phone and hearing what sounds like your grandson's voice — same tone, same laugh — only to find out later that it was a computer-generated imitation designed to steal from you.

Now, I do not say this to alarm you, but to prepare you. These are not misunderstandings. These are deliberate deceptions. They are aimed quite precisely at older members of our community, people who have built lives on honesty and trust, and who assume

others still play by the same rules.

It is for that reason that we are beginning a new six-part series here in the Brownsville Times, called Fraud Fighters: Protecting Our Seniors. Each column will highlight a common scam making its way through our community, from Medicare impostors to fake prize calls, charity scams, and even fraudulent investment offers. We will break each one down in plain English — how it works, what signs to watch for, and how to respond safely.

Alongside practical advice, we will also feature short notes from readers who wish to share their own close calls. Your stories will help others recognize when something doesn't feel right. No names will ever be printed — letters will be signed simply “Reader” — because the goal is not embarrassment, but empowerment.

This column is meant to inform, to encourage, and perhaps even to entertain you a little. It is not legal advice, of course, and if you believe you have been targeted or harmed, I urge you to speak directly with a licensed attorney or report the incident to your local law enforcement.

Our Central Linn communities may be small, but our sense of community is mighty. When we look out for one another, the scammers lose their power. So, until next time, keep your phone close, your wits sharper still, and remember not every voice that sounds familiar is one that can be trusted.

Take heart, dear Reader, and let us fight fraud together — one story, one warning, and one wiser conversation at a time. 🌟

Danielle became an attorney to fulfill a lifelong calling shaped by perseverance, personal hardship, and a belief in equal access to justice. As a single parent who once could not afford legal representation, she understands how inaccessible the legal system can be for everyday people. That experience, along with her work in a pro bono legal clinic during law school, shaped her commitment to compassionate, high-caliber advocacy. Danielle believes excellent legal representation should never be reserved for the wealthy and that clients should always be valued as people first. For her, the work has always been about service — not the paycheck.

Oregon Tax Season Underway; Filers Urged to E-File for Faster Refunds and Kicker

Oregon's 2026 tax season is underway, and the Oregon Department of Revenue is urging Central Linn County residents to file electronically to receive state tax refunds — and Oregon's historic kicker — as quickly as possible.

The state began processing 2025 income tax returns on Jan. 26, the same day the IRS began accepting federal returns. This year's Oregon kicker totals \$1.41 billion statewide.

To receive the kicker, taxpayers must file a 2025 Oregon income tax return. The kicker is a refundable credit that either increases a taxpayer's refund or reduces the amount owed. It is not issued as a separate check. Only taxpayers who filed a 2024 Oregon return and file again for 2025 are eligible.

For residents who rely on mailed returns, electronic filing will be especially important this year. Taxpayers who e-file and choose direct deposit typically receive refunds within two weeks, with the first refunds expected to be issued starting Feb. 17. Paper-filed returns will not begin processing until late March, and refunds from mailed returns are not expected until early April.

Paper return processing delays are due to the late receipt of federal tax forms from the IRS in late 2025. As a result, taxpayers who mail their returns will not be able to track refunds using the “Where's My Refund?” tool found at <https://www.oregon.gov/dor> until paper processing begins.

Free electronic filing options are now available. Residents who typically mail paper returns are encouraged to consider Direct File Oregon through Revenue Online or other approved tax software. Free guided filing is available to qualifying taxpayers, with links on the department's website that allow both federal and state returns to be filed at no cost.

Free and low-cost tax preparation assistance is also available through AARP Tax-Aide, VITA, CASH Oregon, and United Way's MyFreeTaxes program.

Taxpayers who still plan to file a paper return are urged to mail it early. Due to U.S. Postal Service changes, returns mailed after April 9 may not receive a timely postmark. To meet the April 15 filing deadline, filers should request a postmark in person at a USPS office.

Paper returns may also be dropped off at secure drop boxes at Department of Revenue offices: <https://www.oregon.gov/dor/Pages/map.aspx>. 🌟

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TANGENT CITY COUNCIL

Council Addresses Dog Attacks, Council Rules, City Hall Schedule

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer

The Tangent City Council held a work session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026. Present were Mayor Loel Trulove, Jr.; Code Compliance Officer Jerry Jackson; and councilors Trina Henderson, Mathew Swenson, and Rändi Letson.

The council removed a street-lighting goal from the council's goals, in part because the county is assuming responsibility for it. A motion was made and carried.

City administrator Joe Samaniego asked each council member to come up with one new goal.

City staff has one goal for a biennial retreat for council members starting in December 2026. The city administrator reminded the council that the city charter requires it to meet monthly. The retreat would be a good time and place to set goals.

Roll Call done.

Vacancy on the council for position #1

Gary Pollen introduced himself. Motion and second to appoint Gary Pollen to the council. Vote: approved unanimously. Gary was sworn in.

Citizen comments

Citizen comments were then offered. One citizen read a report about dogs attacking other dogs. Recovery of the dog is ongoing. Costs exceed \$5000. Concerns were expressed about a safety issue in that the dogs live near the school. There is a plan to pass an ordinance addressing this problem.

Another citizen reported an attack from the same dogs in July. She and her dog were injured. She expressed a need for a leash law.

Consent Calendar

Motion was made to approve the Consent Calendar for November 2025. It passed unanimously.

Council attendance policy

Current policy fails to define an "unexcused" absence. Excuses were discussed. The city council ruled on absences. Effective February 1, 2026, the rule will be that after missing two meetings, council members can be removed on a third absence.

Nutria trapping

A report was received about multiple nutria along a trail. The city contacted the state to find out the cost for eradication. There were no signs of nutria nesting on the city side, but some signs on the private property side. The subject was tabled without a motion.

Streetlights on Hwy 99

Pacific Power will allow lighting on existing poles. They need a couple of years to plan for this. The council adopted findings of fact and is having staff pursue it between now and 2028.

Dogs: Leash law

Staff reports that a puppy mill is operating. Staff will develop dog leash ordinances, which could take effect in April 2026. The staff will investigate compliance with county dog licensing requirements.

City open four days per week

There was a discussion of a four-day workweek to keep city hall open. The council decided that the city hall will be closed on Fridays beginning July 1, 2026.

Budget committee terms

The state Ethics Commission requires that the budget committee have annual training sessions. This could be avoided by extending the terms on the budget committee to three years. The council extended the terms of the budget committee to three years.

The council went into executive session. No decisions were made during the session. 🌀

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CENTRAL LINN GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Cobras Earn League Win Over Waldport

Central Linn's varsity and junior varsity girls' basketball teams were in action Friday, Jan. 23, with the varsity hosting Waldport and the junior varsity squads facing Molalla.

The varsity Cobras picked up a league victory over Waldport, winning 66-23, following an earlier league road win against East Linn Christian on Jan. 20. The team is led by head coach Wendi Farris, with assistant coaches Kevin Brown and Rodney Baney, and continues league play through mid-February, including upcoming games against Toledo, Monroe, and Crosshill Christian. Senior Recognition Night is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 6, when Central Linn hosts East Linn Christian.

Central Linn's junior varsity and JV2 teams also saw action on Jan. 23 in nonleague matchups against Molalla, gaining valuable game experience as the program continues to build depth across grade levels.

The program also includes 3rd- and 4th-grade teams coached by Jake Gaskey and Jesse Geyer.



Central Linn Senior Jayne Neal (#11) goes up for a shot as Waldport defenders close in during league play Friday at Central Linn High School.



Central Linn varsity girls basketball players huddle during a timeout, with head coach Wendi Farris and assistant coaches Kevin Brown and Rodney Baney conferring during Friday's home game.



Georgia Wahl (#20) releases a perimeter shot as teammates and Waldport defenders position for the rebound during league play Friday at Central Linn High School.



Central Linn varsity and junior varsity players pose with younger elementary girls from the program following Friday's home game, highlighting the school's growing girls' basketball program.

CENTRAL LINN ELEMENTARY GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Cobra Girls Do It Again

The Central Linn Cobras third- and fourth-grade girls' basketball team improved to 3-0 on the season with a decisive 41-11 win over the Junction City Tigers at home on Saturday, Jan. 24.

The Cobras showcased strong offensive play throughout the game, highlighted by sharp shooting and consistent scoring. Their teamwork and energy on the court helped them pull away early and maintain control through the final buzzer.

With the victory, Central Linn continues to have an undefeated start to the season. Way to go, Cobras.



Maya goes up for a shot for Central Linn during the Cobras' win over Junction City.

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“Trashy Tattoo” Flash Event Brings Ink and Energy to Spaulding

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist

BROWNSVILLE — Janky Bird Tattoos, Cigars, and Tobacco on Spaulding hosted a flash mob tattoo event on Sunday, January 18. Described as “deliberately low-brow but high quality,” the event drew a steady crowd.

By 11 a.m., proprietor Jeff Smith was already completing the 38th tattoo of the day — a rose on Airell’s leg. Other notable designs included a goose with a dagger for Thomas, who was receiving his first tattoo, and a raccoon with a Molotov cocktail for Murphy, inked by artist Caitlin. Murphy noted that her chosen design reflected her reaction to the current state of the world.



Jeff Smith adds a rose to Airell’s calf.

With three artists working simultaneously, guests could choose from approximately 30 designs priced at \$40 each. Owner Tara Smith noted that this was the second event of its kind and encouraged interested participants to follow @jankybirdtattoo for updates on future “Trashy Tattoo” events.

Tara and Jeff, both Brownsville residents, remain committed to hosting unique events in town. Their shop also serves as the meeting place for the Benevolent Order of Antelopes. ☼

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LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Receive Measles Update

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — There have been no new cases of measles reported in Linn County since two cases were confirmed by the Oregon Health Authority and Linn County Public Health on January 10, Linn County Health Officer Dr. Adam Brady told the Board of Commissioners at their January 20 meeting.

The two cases were not travel related.

Dr. Brady said that health authorities tracing potential contacts, found that 18 people had a high risk of exposure. One person received medication.

The last known case of measles in Linn County was in 1993, based on available records.

Dr. Brady said that some 93 percent of kindergarten students in the county have been immunized, but it takes a rate of about 95 percent immunizations to develop what is called “herd immunity” a level of immunization that decreases the potential for a widespread outbreak of a disease.

There was only one confirmed case of measles in the entire state of Oregon last year. One case of measles has also been confirmed in Clackamas County.

Dr. Brady said that while most people get over a case of measles, the current death rate is one to two per 1,000 cases, which he said is high.

Educational materials have been distributed throughout local school systems.

Measles will last 7 to 14 days. Symptoms include: coughing, loss of appetite, sensitivity to light, sleepiness, pink eye, runny nose, spots inside the mouth, and fever.

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

Measles can be dangerous, especially among infants and children younger than age five, adults older than 20, pregnant people and people with weakened immune systems.

Two doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine is 97 percent effective at preventing measles.

Dr. Brady also said that in December, there were 50 births — 27 females and 23 males — and 103 deaths. There was one reported suicide, a 36-year-old male.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with Linn-Benton Community College. LBCC will provide emotional intelligence training for Linn County’s Developmental Disabilities staff for \$3,000.
- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Health Authority to provide financing for community mental health programs including substance treatment, recovery and prevention, from January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.
- Accepted the use of eight Triband handheld radios for the Linn County Sheriff’s Office from the Oregon Department of Emergency Management’s SPIRE (State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment) grant program.
- Were told that 36 land use permits were issued by the Planning & Building Department in December compared to 24 in December 2024. There were 265 total building permits issued, including one for a single-family dwelling, one for a manufactured dwelling, 11 for alterations or additions and one for an accessory building. There were 283 permits issued in December 2024. Thirteen code enforcement cases were closed and six opened in December 2025. ☼

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International Holocaust Remembrance Day Observed Worldwide

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

Earlier this week, International Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed worldwide on January 27. The date marks the 1945 liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet forces, which revealed the scale of Nazi Germany's system of concentration and extermination camps during World War II. By the time Soviet troops arrived, many prisoners had already been forced on death marches, yet January 27 remains the recognized date of liberation.

The Holocaust resulted in the systematic murder of six million Jewish people. In addition, millions of others were persecuted and killed, including Roma, people with disabilities, political opponents, Polish civilians, Soviet prisoners of war, and other groups targeted by the Nazi regime. Auschwitz-Birkenau, located in occupied Poland, became the most well-known symbol of the Holocaust, where more than one million people were murdered.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005. The observance honors the victims of the Holocaust, preserves the memory of those who suffered and died, and promotes accurate historical education about the Holocaust. Many countries, schools, museums, and civic organizations mark the day with ceremonies, educational programs, and moments of remembrance.

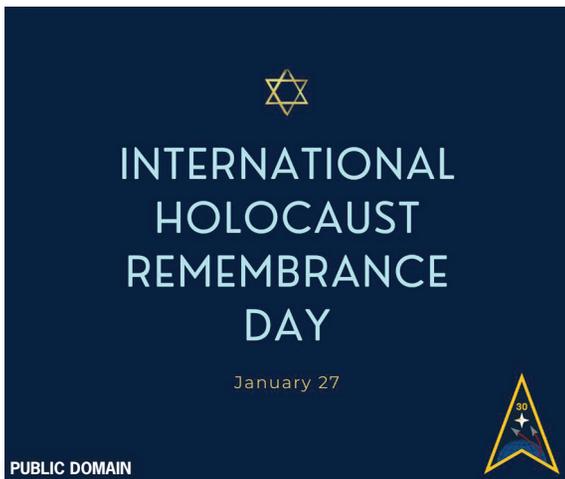
The Holocaust occurred between 1933 and 1945, following Adolf Hitler's rise to power in Germany. Anti-Jewish laws, government-sponsored propaganda, and the erosion of basic civil rights laid the groundwork for widespread persecution. During World War II, these policies escalated into mass deportations, forced labor, and industrialized murder in camps across occupied Europe.

As part of this week's observances, attention was also given to the importance of historical records and survivor testimony. Personal accounts, documents, and physical sites such as Auschwitz play a critical role in helping historians and educators convey what occurred. With fewer survivors alive each year, preserving these records has become an increasingly urgent priority for institutions around the world.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day also provides an opportunity to confront Holocaust denial and distortion. The United Nations and many educational organizations emphasize the importance of teaching verified historical facts to ensure that future generations accurately understand the events of the Holocaust.

For communities everywhere, the annual remembrance underscores the value of learning from world history. By remembering the Holocaust and acknowledging its victims, societies reaffirm the importance of historical awareness and the responsibility to preserve the truth of past events so they are neither forgotten nor repeated.

Writer's note: On two separate occasions years ago, I visited and toured the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site near Munich, Germany. Walking through the grounds, barracks, and memorials was a serious and unsettling experience. Dachau is a quiet place, but its history is hard to ignore. Seeing where so many people suffered and died makes the reality of the Holocaust tangible. It is not something easily forgotten. Visiting the camp firsthand reinforced the importance of remembering what happened and of understanding this part of history. Places like Dachau remind us why these events must never be ignored or forgotten.



International Holocaust Remembrance Day graphic created by the U.S. Space Force to mark Jan. 27, honoring the victims of the Holocaust and promoting remembrance and education. (U.S. Space Force graphic by Senior Airman Tiarra Sibley).

THE BROWNSVILLE TIMES

Community Feedback Survey Shows Strong Support and Invites More Voices

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

The Brownsville Times has received strong early feedback from readers through its ongoing anonymous community survey, offering valuable insight into how local journalism is being used — and how it can continue to grow.

So far, more than 30 readers have participated, and the results indicate a highly engaged audience. More than nine in 10 respondents say they read the paper every week or most weeks, and most report reading most of each issue. Print remains the primary way readers engage with the paper, underscoring the importance of a reliable, locally focused newspaper delivered to mailboxes across Central Linn County.

Readers also expressed high satisfaction with the content. Nearly nine out of 10 respondents said they are satisfied or very satisfied with the paper's coverage, and almost all said the stories are relevant to their lives. Writing clarity and layout also received strong marks, with the vast majority describing the paper as clear and easy to read.

When asked which types of stories matter most, respondents consistently highlighted community events, nonprofit news, local government coverage, history and heritage features, school news, public notices, and the Sheriff's Report. Many readers also suggested future coverage, including more youth achievements, earlier notice of upcoming events, profiles of residents and new businesses, and deeper dives into local history.

The survey also provided constructive feedback. A small number of respondents encouraged broader representation of community members and clearer town-specific organization — feedback the paper welcomes as part of its ongoing commitment to serving the entire community fairly and thoughtfully.

Importantly, readers overwhelmingly said their subscription offers good value, and most indicated they are very likely to renew and would recommend The Brownsville Times to friends or neighbors.

The survey is anonymous and plays a critical role in helping the paper apply for journalism and community-service grants, plan future coverage, and better reflect the needs of Central Linn County.

Community members are encouraged to take a few minutes to share their feedback online at: <https://brownsvilletimes.org/survey>.

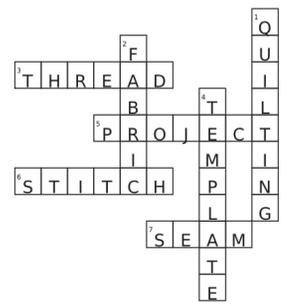
Every response helps strengthen local journalism and ensures the paper continues serving our communities with accuracy and accountability.

PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 5

A	D	Z	S	A	L	T	P	O	K	E			
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Brownsville Community Church

198 Washburn St · 541-936-9131
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34795 OR-228 · 541-466-5622

Central Valley Church

657 American Dr · Halsey · 503-602-6796
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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

38353 Glass St · 541-730-4519
<https://www.crawfordsvillecc.org>

Sunday Service 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Brownsville

27910 7 Mile Ln · 541-642-3000
<https://www.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.

Harvest Reformed Baptist Church

411 W 2nd St · Halsey · 541-220-1902
<https://harvesttrbc.org>

Sunday School 9 a.m.
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Fellowship Meal Noon

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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

Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Riverside Christian Fellowship

29360 Abraham Dr · Shedd (Peoria) · 360-880-4734

Sunday Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service 10 a.m.
Sunday School 11 a.m.

Spirit of the Valley

United Methodist Church
611 W 3rd St · Halsey · 541-654-8144
spiritofthevalleyumc@gmail.com

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

1111 North Main St · 541-570-2903

Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Valley Christian Fellowship

690 W 2nd St · Halsey · 732-434-3592
<https://vcfhalsey.com>

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

'The Promised Land': A Pioneer Sculpture Finds a New Home

By Amy Herd,
Staff Writer

As a pioneer town, Brownsville residents may be interested in the story of a historic sculpture once displayed in downtown Portland.

"The Promised Land," crafted by David Manuel, portrays a 19th-century family heading west in search of a better life.

Larry DeCew, a Peer Leader with the Grant County Change Alliance from John Day, spoke to me about the work of art and its new resting place.

DeCew said the nine-foot bronze depicts a mid-19th-century pioneer family migrating west. He noted that the boy's Bible symbolizes the faith that sustained pioneers traveling the Oregon Trail.

The statue was on prominent display in Portland's Chapman Square for some 27 years, until 2020's violent summer swept through the nation and the Pacific Northwest.

During the unrest, vandals defaced the sculpture, prompting the city to remove it along with other damaged monuments. It remained in storage for nearly five years.

It was during one of the weekly meetings of the Grant County

Change Alliance that one member broached the idea of bringing the statue to John Day.

Alliance members agreed the sculpture aligned with John Day's frontier heritage and could become a lasting source of civic pride.

Thus, the year-and-a-half-long journey to acquire "The Promised Land" for John Day began.

The Alliance sought and received letters of support from Congressman Cliff Bentz, State Representative Mark Owens, and Grant County leaders in government, business, and the arts.

And the Alliance was able to secure support for the relocation from the sculptor himself, David Manuel, and his family.

Finally, after winding its way through Portland's approval process, their efforts paid off, and the statue was trucked to a bronze foundry in Northeast Oregon for renovation and repair

COURTESY OF LARRY DECEW



Larry DeCew stands beside "The Promised Land," the nine-foot bronze pioneer sculpture by David Manuel, which is being restored ahead of its planned installation in downtown John Day in spring 2026.

before its installation in downtown John Day in spring 2026.

Preparations are underway for the installation, including site work, a public unveiling, and related events. For those who would like to help with those expenses, donations are tax-deductible.

Donations can be mailed to the Juniper Arts Council, Grant County Change Alliance, PO Box 101, John Day, OR 97845.

"We're proud to have played a part in rallying John Day to offer itself as the new home for 'The Promised Land,' a world-class work of art," DeCew added. "For generations to come, it will stand in our beloved city as a monumental testament to faith, hope, and, of course, that pioneer spirit."

For more information on the restoration of "The Promised Land" sculpture, call: 503-931-5343, or email: promisedland1016@yahoo.com.



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SHERIFF'S REPORT

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

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

The following is a list of abbreviations that may appear in our log reports: LCSO (Linn County Sheriff's Office); OSP (Oregon State Police); APS (Adult Protective Services); DHS (Department of Human Services); LCCC (Linn County Circuit Court); LCJC (Linn County Justice Court); 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).

Sunday, January 18

11:04 a.m. — Jackl Guthrie Martin, 21, of Portland, was issued a citation for speeding 51 in a 35-mph zone at E Bishop Way/Hume St., Brownsville.

2:04 p.m. — Rory Trask Shaw, 45, of Eugene, was issued a citation for speeding 44 in a 25-mph zone at Walnut Ave./N Main St., Brownsville.

2:11 p.m. — Nolan Companion, 34, of Brownsville, was issued a traffic citation for driving while suspended in the 400 block of Kay Ave., Brownsville.

3:23 p.m. — Tommy G. Wilmoth, 43, of Albany, was issued a citation for speeding 50 in a 35-mph zone in the 200 block of E Bishop Way, Brownsville.

3:35 p.m. — Deputies responded to a two-vehicle, non-injury motor vehicle crash in the 32100 block of Linn West Dr., Shedd. Report taken.

9:22 p.m. — Ramiro

Mancillas Chabarin, 28, of Junction City, was issued a traffic citation for failure to obey a traffic control device in the 600 block of Territorial St., Harrisburg.

Monday, January 19

7:33 a.m. — Carolina Gomez, 30 of Florida, was issued a citation for speeding in the 25400 block of Hwy 99E, Halsey

12:19 p.m. — Wyatt Witzig, 23, of Harrisburg, was cited for failure to provide proof of insurance at S 6th St./LaSalle St., Harrisburg.

1:15 p.m. — Deputy patrolled Eagle Park in Harrisburg and discovered a campsite.

6:07 p.m. — Deputies responded to a subject experiencing a mental health crisis in the 25800 block of Gap Rd., near Ranch Dr., Brownsville. Report taken.

Tuesday, January 20

11:44 a.m. — David Tottleben, 61, of Harrisburg, was cited for failure to carry proof of insurance in the 300 block of N 3rd St., Harrisburg.

1:44 p.m. — Caller reported found property in the 100 block of Smith St., Harrisburg. Deputy conducted a brief investigation.

3:49 p.m. — Deputy responded to a report of a domestic disturbance and was advised it was a verbal altercation in the 400 block of W D St., Halsey.

4:31 p.m. — Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of N 2nd St., Harrisburg. The parties involved separated for the night.

7:55 p.m. — Caller reported a burglary in the 30900 block of American Dr., Halsey. Deputies responded. Report taken. Investigation is ongoing.

8:37 p.m. — Caller reported a verbal domestic disturbance between two young adults in the 100 block of N 2nd St., Harrisburg. The male banged on a locked door after being locked out, then left the area.

9:26 p.m. — Malachi Nickelson, 31, of Harrisburg, was arrested on an outstanding warrant for possession of methamphetamine paraphernalia near Monroe St/N 2nd St., Harrisburg. Malachi was lodged in the Linn County Jail. Report taken.

10:11 p.m. — Two juveniles were contacted and arrested for minor in possession of alcohol and criminal trespass II in the 900 block of Sommerville Loop, Harrisburg. One juvenile required medical transport to the hospital due to severe intoxication. Information was forwarded to the LCJD. Report taken

Wednesday, Jan.21

6:42 a.m. — Deputies assisted Oregon State Police in the 31200 block of Hwy 34, Tangent.

1:10 p.m. — An illegal garbage dump was discovered on public land in the 23000 block of Brush Creek Rd., Sweet Home. The deputy found large amounts of garbage, building materials, and old tires. No suspects at this time. Report taken

8:47 p.m. — Deputies responded to a report that family members were posting hurtful content about one another on Facebook in the 32100 block of Old Hwy 34, Tangent.

Thursday, January 22

7:53 a.m. — Deputy responded to an intentional overdose in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg. Deputies transported the person to a local hospital via medics, and the deputy placed a peace officer hold on the person. Report taken.

9:09 a.m. — Deputies responded to a civil matter involving property transferred to a specific family member after probate in the 600 block of Territorial St., Harrisburg.

11:43 a.m. — Caller reported off-roading at Eagle Park, Harrisburg. Deputy contacted and warned a male near the gate.

12:31 p.m. — Deputy attempted to assist with a trailer stuck on the roadway in the 27400 block of Powerline Rd./American Dr., Halsey. The operator did not need law enforcement assistance to remove the trailer.

1:18 p.m. — Deputy assisted DHS in a child abuse investigation in the 500 block of Loucks Way, Brownsville. Report taken.

3:36 p.m. — Caller reported a civil dispute concerning tenant rights in the 600 block of Territorial St., Harrisburg.

4:13 p.m. — Victor David Mendez, 20, of Salem, was issued a citation for speeding at 57 in a 35-mph zone, operating a vehicle without a driver's license, and failing to carry proof of registration and proof of insurance in the 100 block of W Bishop Way, Brownsville.

7:30 p.m. — Deputy assisted Lane County Sheriff's with an injury-related motor vehicle crash in the 23300 block of Brush Creek Rd., Sweet Home. Report taken.

9:45 p.m. — Caller reported a suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of Depot Ave., near Linn Way, Brownsville. Deputy contacted the driver and Julia Bockes, 41, of Lions, who was cited in lieu of custody on a warrant. No other criminal activity. Report taken.

Friday, January 23

1:03 a.m. — Deputy conducted an extra patrol at Eagle Park in Harrisburg and observed signs of trespassers driving pickups around the gate and barriers.

7:58 a.m. — Deputy assisted a BLM LE Ranger (who is also an LCSO Special Deputy) at Timber Rd./Courtney Creek Dr., Brownsville, in locating a female who needed to be re-cited for a minor in possession party that the Deputy investigated on Dec. 20, 2025. Deputy located Kameron Rice, 18, of Lebanon, and issued her a citation for minor in possession of alcohol.

8:46 a.m. — Deputies con-

ducted a death investigation of an elderly female in the 29700 block of Nicewood Dr., Halsey. The death was not suspicious and appeared natural.

1:02 p.m. — Deputy found a trailer on Guistina Resources' private property in the 24800 block of West Brush Creek Rd., Sweet Home. Deputy warned the female occupant of trespassing and told her he would return the next day to confirm she had vacated the location.

1:24 p.m. — Deputy mediated a dog park dispute at Eagle Park, Harrisburg.

2:09 p.m. - Caller had questions about possible identity theft in the 800 block of River Ave., Brownsville.

2:39 p.m. — Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg. The parties were separated.

3:07 p.m. — Caller had questions about civil matters in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg.

5:12 p.m. — Concerns about a child and their household were documented in the 500 block of Loucks Way, Brownsville. Part of the issue is non-criminal; the criminal aspect has already been addressed.

6:48 p.m. — Caller reported a male pulled on the front door and then took off running in the 300 block of Walnut Ave., Brownsville. Deputies located four juvenile males in the area who admitted they were dingo ditching. Deputies spoke with parents, and the juveniles were warned.

8:51 p.m. — Deputies responded to a death investigation in the 100 block of Hauseman Ave., Brownsville. Report taken.

Saturday, January 24

8:49 a.m. — Deputy spoke with individuals in a civil matter in the 600 block of Territorial St., Harrisburg. Deputy learned the courts would now be involved. ☼

Saturday's log will continue in next week's paper.

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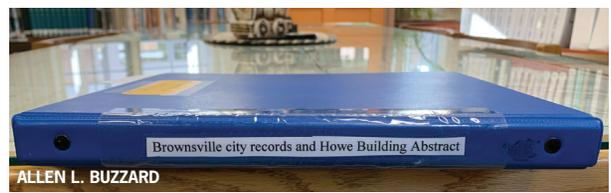
PAST TIMES

Brownsville's Chinese Laundry, Part 3 of 5

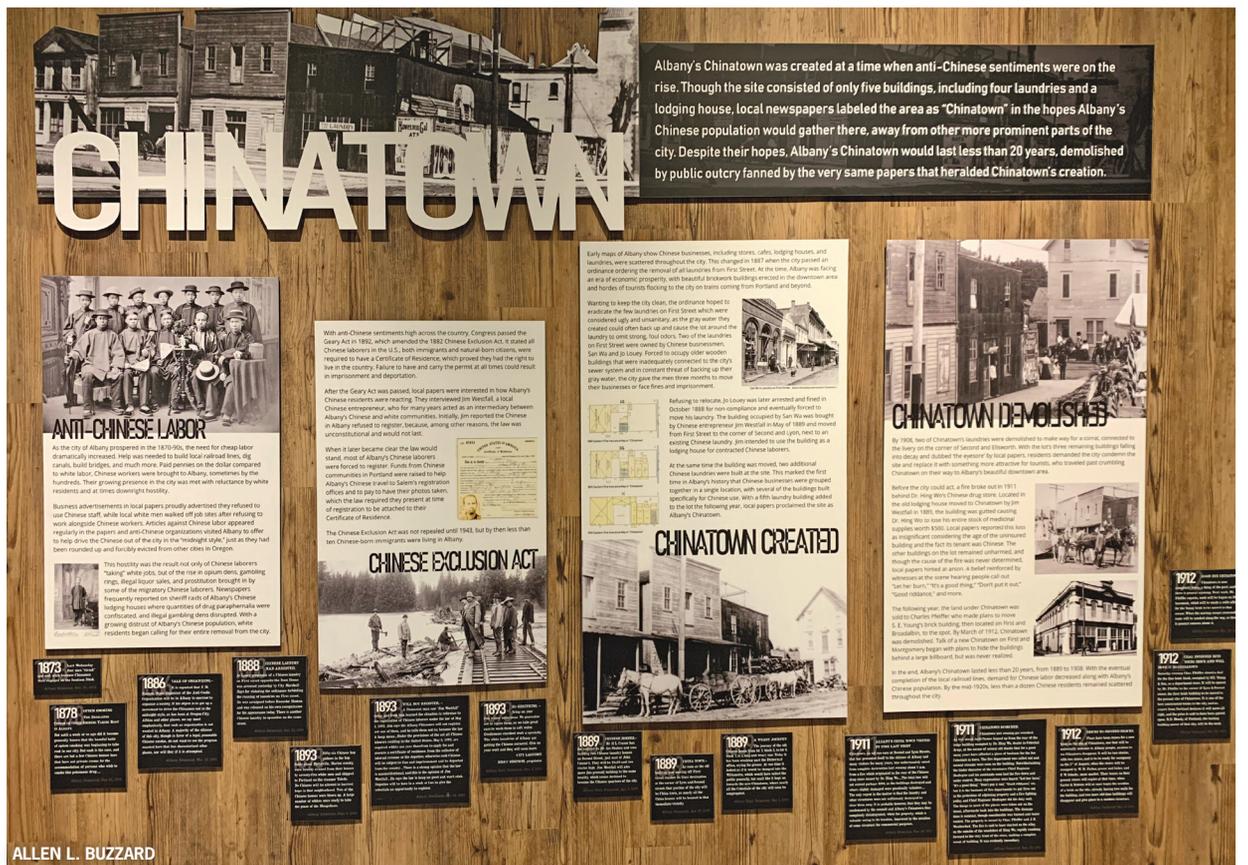
By Allen L. Buzzard, Columnist

In Linn County, Oregon, such anti-Chinese disdain was starkly evident in Albany, as told and illustrated by wall-sized static interpretive exhibits on permanent display at the Albany Regional Museum. Albany's city councilors passed clever ordinances that effectively forced Chinese residents throughout the city to congregate, live, and work within one block at the corner of Second and Lyon in downtown Albany (Albany Regional Museum today). Thus, Albany's "Chinatown" was created in 1887, but by 1908 it would be utterly destroyed.

Declaring Chinese laundries and appurtenances a "public nuisance" was a common tactic city councils used to pressure local Chinese residents to withdraw and move away. For example, at a March 6, 1884, council meeting in North Brownsville, city councilors appointed S.P. Barger, J.M. Howe, and Thomas Kay to attend to "the matter of draining the property of F.F. Croft at the China Wash House." At their next council meeting on April 3, 1884, "the Marshal's bill for fixing the Drain at the China Wash House [was] presented, read, and ordered paid. Order issued \$2.50." These facts were compiled by Works Progress Administration (WPA) researcher Leslie L. Haskins in "Brownsville City Records and Howe Building Abstract", March 10, 1936, page 10, items m and n, available in the Brownsville



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A research binder housed at the Brownsville Community Library containing transcriptions of 19th- and early 20th-century city records compiled by WPA researcher Leslie L. Haskins in 1936. The binder documents municipal actions, ordinances, licenses, and council decisions, including references to the Chinese Wash House.



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A wall-mounted timeline exhibit at the Albany Regional Museum traces the creation, confinement, and eventual eradication of Albany's Chinatown, established in 1887 through city ordinances that forced Chinese residents into a single downtown block. The exhibit documents escalating anti-Chinese sentiment, discriminatory laws, and demolitions that dismantled the neighborhood, with impacts on Albany's Chinese community extending through 1912.

Community Library.

Ironically, gray water draining from Brownsville's Chinese Wash House was deemed a "public nuisance," while wastewater from Brownsville Woolen Mills' tanning vats was not. Thomas Kay — a white man of Scottish descent — was both a powerful voice in North Brownsville and the Superintendent of the Brownsville Woolen Mills. The pressure campaign intensified when the North Brownsville City Council

issued a series of extortive business licenses to: "Chinaman Loo Sing Laundry," one on April 1, 1886, for \$6.25; another for a dollar to peddle for a day in October 1886; and yet again to "China Wash House... \$6.25" in March 1888, per City Recorder H.J.C. Averill (*ibid., p. 27). In 1888, \$6.25 equated to about \$215 in 2026 dollars.

To be continued in the next issue. 🌀

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

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