



## Sharing Hands 6th Annual Chili Cookoff Names Winners

BROWNSVILLE — The Sharing Hands 6th Annual Chili Cookoff was held Saturday, Feb. 7, drawing local cooks and supporters for an evening of friendly competition and fundraising.

Chili judging took place early in the evening, with winners announced as soon as ballots were tallied, partway through the dessert auction.

Ralph Morrow earned first place for the third consecutive year with his tri-tip chili, which featured the addition of corn this year. Lawrence Stutsman, husband of Jenna Stutsman of Jenna Stutsman Hybrid Real Estate, took second. Barbara Andersen, a volunteer copy editor for The Brownsville Times, placed third in her first time entering the contest. Lisa Keith, Seasons Eatings Columnist for The Brownsville Times and a longtime chili cookoff entrant, placed fourth — her first time placing in the competition.

More than 25 desserts were donated for the dessert auction, which followed the chili judging. Proceeds from the event will benefit Sharing Hands' local assistance programs. Total funds raised have not yet been tallied and are expected to be available next week. ☀

PHOTOS BY DONALD LYON



Jeff Boggs shows off his donated "Brownsville's Best Lemon Supreme Pie" which raised \$100.



Chili Cookoff winners, pictured from left to right: fourth-place finisher Lisa Keith, third-place winner Barbara Andersen, second-place winner Lawrence Stutsman, and first-place champion Ralph Morrow at the Sharing Hands Chili Cookoff on Feb. 7.



Super Bowl LX Seahawks vs. Patriots cake made by Brittany Hansen.



Flan topped chocolate cake garnished with strawberries and blackberries, donated by Sara Banuelos.

### INSIDE

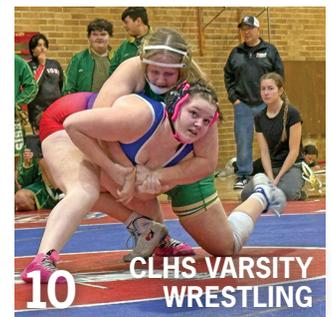


CENTRAL LINN ALUMNI

### SEASONS EATINGS



8



10 CLHS VARSITY WRESTLING



## New Coffee Shop Brings Comfort Food and Fresh Coffee to Downtown Halsey

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer and Columnist

HALSEY — Farmers Food Shack opened for the first time in downtown Halsey on Feb. 2, welcoming customers at 7 a.m. The new coffee shop is located off Highway 99E at the intersection of A Street, on the northwest corner of the block.

The opening marks the realization of a longtime dream for owner Becky Freitag. She and her family spent four years remodeling the building and preparing it for business. Many family members were on hand to help during the first morning of operations.

Freitag is a longtime Halsey resident who was homeschooled. Family support was evident throughout the opening, with Sam Hewitt, Freitag's mother, pitching in; Esther Freitag, her sister, working alongside her; Gary Dahlquist serving as the first dishwasher; and Linda Walker, Freitag's grandmother, also lending a hand. Becky's sister, Leah Moir handled public relations for the new business.

Moir said the business is positioned for success because of its reasonable prices, comfort food, real butter, homemade-from-scratch ingredients, and fresh coffee and espresso.

Farmer's Food Shack serves breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Breakfast offerings include biscuits and gravy and breakfast burritos. Chili will be the featured lunch dish.

FOOD continued on page 3

## Celebrating Cobra Country's Caring Circle

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer

What a night! The atmosphere at Central Linn High School this past Friday, February 6, was nothing short of electric. The packed bleachers served as a powerful physical reminder of what it means to show up for one another, turning a standard evening of basketball against East Linn into a landmark celebration of school pride and local connection.



Sharon K. Banks Wendy Slusser, Central Linn Class of 2000, and Brittney Reynolds, Class of 2001, pose together during alumni activities at Central Linn High School.

Support was visible on every chest. From vintage blue letterman jackets to "pink out" shirts honoring our seniors, and gray "Cobras Fight Cancer" fundraising tees for brain cancer awareness, the Cobra community was loud and proud. This "Senior Night" also welcomed back several legends, honoring the alumni whose achievements paved the way for today's athletes.

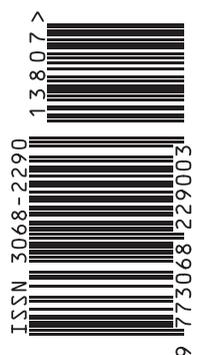
COBRAS continued on page 10



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**ONGOING EVENTS**

**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, memories made, 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**

**Widows' Brigade Friends & 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.

**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  
Chapter meeting to review 2025 activities and plan for 2026. Tea and coffee provided. Wise Traditions booklets available while supplies last. Parking behind City Hall; enter through the back door. Open to the public. Info: Rege Rippee, 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

Beginner-friendly modern square dance lessons led by caller Shaun McKamey. No partner or experience required. First class free; \$6 per person or \$15 per family. All ages welcome.

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

**SafeHaven Furry Tales Story Time**

Monday, February 16 • 11:30 a.m.  
SafeHaven Humane Society  
32220 Old Highway 34, Tangent

Animal-themed story time for children ages 6 and under, held the first and third Mondays of each month. Includes a story, simple craft, and visit with an adoptable animal. Free; no registration required. Space is limited.

<https://safehavenhumane.org>

**Not Your Grandma's Bingo**

Feb 16 and Mar. 2, 2026 • 6:30-8 p.m.  
Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent

Ages 21+ bingo night hosted by Tangent Together, featuring humor, cash prizes, and \$1 game cards.

**Seedy Tuesday**

Tuesday, Feb. 17 • 6 p.m.  
Lebanon Public Library, 55 Academy St, Lebanon

Free seed swap and gardeners' gathering hosted by the Santiam Food Alliance. Includes a talk by Linda Ziedrich on unusual vegetables. Bring seeds to share if you have them.

<https://www.santiamfood.org>

**World Cultures & Travel: Turkish Treasure**

Thursday, February 19 • 7 p.m.  
Kirk Room, Brownsville Community Library

Travel photographer Donald Lyon shares photography and stories from more than a dozen trips to western Turkey, blending history, culture, and personal experience.

**Linn County Kennel Club Show**

Friday-Sunday, Feb. 20-22 • 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Free admission; \$5 parking fee  
Linn County Expo, 3700 Knox Butte Rd E, Albany

Watch canine competitions including conformation and agility trials. Free admission; \$5 parking. Only entered dogs permitted on the grounds.

<https://www.linncountykennelclub.org>  
503-394-3693.

**Calapooia Food Alliance Munch Night**

Friday, Feb. 20 • 6 p.m. • \$15 donation  
American Legion Post 184, 339 N Main St., Brownsville

Enjoy a vegetarian meal of baked potatoes with all the fixings while Margot Schwartz highlights the 2026 Tarweed Folk School classes including her course on dairy goats and making fresh chèvre. Bring your own place setting and a non-alcoholic beverage.

541-654-2052

**Easy Art with Diane Piro - Portrait Doodling**

Saturday, Feb. 21 • 1-4 p.m.  
Brownsville Art Center, 255 N Main St., Brownsville  
Create a grid-based portrait enhanced with expressive doodle patterns in this relaxed, beginner-friendly class. Ages 12+. Limited to 10 students. \$45; all materials provided.

Register by 2/14 at <https://brownsvilleart.org>

See page 6 for Brownsville Library events

**VALENTINE'S DAY EVENTS**

**Carousel Valentine's Special**

Saturday, Feb. 14 • All day  
Historic Carousel & Museum  
503 W First Ave., Albany

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a sweet carousel special featuring one large popcorn, a double scoop of ice cream, and two carousel rides for \$8 when purchased in advance online or in person by Feb. 13. Day-of pricing is \$10. A free selfie station will be available for couples, friends, and families to capture the moment.

<https://albanycarousel.com>

**Valentine's Day Dinner & Bingo**

Saturday, Feb. 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.

**BINGO Night: Valentine's Day Edition**

Saturday, Feb. 14 • 6 p.m.  
Pioneer Villa Saloon, 33180 Hwy 228, Halsey

Take your date to The Villa Saloon for a fun-filled night of Bingo and a relaxed Valentine's celebration. 541-369-2801

**Valentine's Day Dinner for Two**

Saturday, Feb. 14 • 8:30 p.m. only  
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.

**OBITUARY**

**Carla Rae Claasen**

September 17, 1962-January 31, 2026

Carla Rae Claasen, 63, of Sweet Home, passed away Saturday, January 31, 2026. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. <https://www.sweethomefuneral.com>

**TANGENT TOGETHER**

**Not Your Grandma's Bingo Nears End of Winter Season**

Tangent Together's popular adults-only (ages 21 and older) bingo night is wrapping up its winter season, with two final chances to play on Mondays, Feb. 16, and March 2, 2026. Games run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent.



Marcy Hermens channels Mrs. Roper from the 1970s TV hit "Three's Company" during a recent Not Your Grandma's Bingo night — and plans to reprise the role for the March 2 finale.

Not Your Grandma's Bingo puts a cheeky, high-energy twist on the classic game, featuring cash prizes and a lively, welcoming atmosphere. Game cards are just \$1, making it an easy and affordable night out with friends or neighbors.



**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

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- Toothbrushes
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**FOOD** *continued from cover*

Cole Abbot of Halsey was the shop's first customer. He ordered a breakfast burrito and pronounced it "very good."

The building, constructed in 1940, has housed several businesses over the past 80-plus years, including multiple eateries. Inside, the space features antique woodwork and a cozy seating area. An outdoor seating area north of the building is planned for use next summer.



Esther Freitag preparing espresso during the opening; Becky Freitag is behind her.

This reporter ordered biscuits without gravy and a cup of coffee. The baking powder biscuits, made fresh on site, were flavorful, and the coffee was equally satisfying. Farmers Food Shack offers a welcoming stop for a quick breakfast or lunch in convenient downtown Halsey. For more information, call 541-369-2626. ☎



Sam Hewitt (left) and Leah Moir work in the kitchen on opening day at Farmers Food Shack.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL R. MURPHY

**JACKSON STREET YOUTH SERVICES**

**Albany Youth Center Opens to Support Youth in Crisis**

ALBANY — A new youth center operated by Jackson Street Youth Services has opened in Albany, expanding access to shelter and behavioral health services for young people experiencing homelessness and crisis. The Albany Youth Center, located at 1025 Pacific Blvd. SE, provides youth with basic needs such as showers, laundry facilities, and a kitchen, along with early-intervention, prevention, and crisis-stabilization services.

The facility received partial support from more than \$400,000 in state funding through the Oregon Health Authority. Community organizations from across Linn County have supported Jackson Street Youth Services over the years, including volunteers from the Brownsville Women's Study Club.

"The services they offer to kids from all of our communities are remarkable and so necessary," said Barbara Andersen, vice president of the Brownsville Women's Study Club. "This new center is a wonderful addition to their wide breadth of programs for struggling youth, including those from Brownsville, Halsey, and all across Linn County."

The center also serves as an outreach hub and operates a 24-hour hotline at 800-901-2904 for youth in need of support. ☎



COURTESY OF OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

**LINN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

**'Carriage Me Back' Takes a Break**

BROWNSVILLE — This year, the first weekend in May will not feature the clip-clop of Carriage Me Back's Belgian draft horses, nor will people from Brownsville's early history be strolling the streets or carrying on in the Moyer House. The Linn County Museum Friends has reluctantly canceled the 2026 event for logistical reasons, but plans are to return in 2027 with a reenactment of 1883.

For several decades, Joni Nelson was the driving force behind the historical/hysterical reenactments that enlivened Brownsville. With her passing last year, the decision has been made to reorganize and recruit new talent. The Museum Friends are seeking several key players — an overall Carriage Me Back Manager and a House Manager to coordinate skits in the Moyer House.

The Street Scenes will continue to be coordinated by Don Lyon, who has been the narrator on the carriage for as long as anyone can remember. A local historian is also sought. For more information about the volunteer positions mentioned above or to be added to the master list of actors and volunteers, please email Don Lyon at phototraveler02@gmail.com.

Lest budding thespians lose heart, this summer's Stand By Me Day in July is going to be a blowout event with thousands of visitors and untold opportunities to participate in 50s-themed events and impromptu skits. Stay tuned. ☎



Joni Nelson boards the carriage in 2018 as Wilma, Teddy, and Larry Chafin transport her back to 1888.

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**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

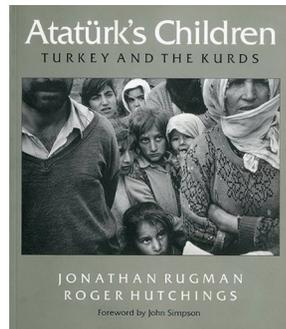
## BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

## World Cultures Series Explores Turkey and Beyond

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

On February 19 at 7 p.m., we will welcome Donald Lyon and his World Cultures & Travel Series as he presents Turkish Treasures. The glory of Greece and the grandeur of Rome frame a journey through both ancient Anatolia and modern Turkey. Don Lyon, a retired photographic tour leader with extensive experience in Turkey, will guide this virtual exploration. The final program of the season, Australia's Wild Side, is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 7 p.m. All programs are free and open to the public.

## Adult Non-Fiction about Turkey



"Atatürk's children: Turkey and the Kurds" by Jonathan Rugman and Roger Hutchings. Call #323.1 RUGM

"Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East" by Scott

Anderson. Call #940.4 ANDE

"The Road from Home: The Story of an Armenian Girl" by David Kherdian is a biography of the author's mother, focusing on her childhood in Turkey. Call #956.1 KHER

"The Burning Tigris: The Armenian

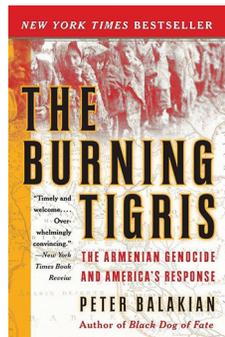
Genocide and America's Response" by Peter Balakian. Call #956.6 BALA

## Fiction about Turkey

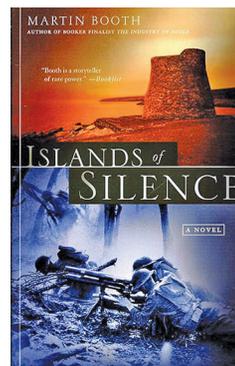
"Islands of Silence" by Martin Booth is about a young man with an archaeology degree who travels in Scotland during the summer of 1914. He comes upon The Island of Silence, then is shipped off to Gallipoli to fight in World War I.

"The Sheen on the Silk" by Anne Perry is set in thirteenth-century Constantinople, where physician Anna Zarides tries to determine why her twin brother was accused of murder.

"The Tournament" by Matthew Reilly is set in 1546. Suleiman the Magnificent, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, invites every king in Europe to send their finest player to compete in a chess tournament to determine the champion of the known world. A large-print book.



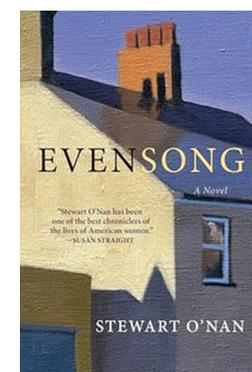
The Brownsville Community Library is located at 146 Spaulding Ave. and is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday from 1 to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 541-466-5454, visit online at <https://www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org>.



## BOOKS TO CONSIDER

## Stewart O'Nan, The Writer

By Nancy Diltz, Columnist



Ever since an introduction to Stewart O'Nan's writing in the 1990s, I have been a dedicated fan. It was a treat to enjoy his newest book, "Evensong," published in 2025, which was recently purchased by the Brownsville Library. In "Evensong," several characters from O'Nan's previous stories return in

their later, though vibrant, older years. The book can be enjoyed as a stand-alone; you may want to explore some earlier O'Nan stories — and there are many. "Wish You Were Here," "Emily Alone," and "Henry Himself" will introduce you to Emily, the key character in "Evensong," and her husband Henry. They are so well developed, you will feel as though you know them personally.

O'Nan also wrote some quirky and endearing novels, such as "Last Night at the Lobster" and "The Odds," neither of which includes Emily but instead contains a cast of characters so engaging you will not want these books to end.

According to Rust Belt Magazine, "Stewart O'Nan left a potentially lucrative career as a structural engineer for an aerospace agency to be a writer. He entered Cornell's M.F.A. program in fiction writing and has since become one of the Creative Writing Program's most commercially successful authors, with several best-selling fiction and non-fiction books. Engineering gave him an appreciation for precision and a stylistic approach to his craft..." Several Stewart O'Nan books are available at the Brownsville Library on the shelf, on Libby eBooks, and Libby Audiobooks. Give one a try. ☺

## BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY CALENDAR

## Parents &amp; Pals Story Time

Wednesdays • 10-10:15 a.m.

A short story time followed by free play together.

## Brownsville Stitchery Group

Wednesdays • 1-3 p.m. • History Room

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

## Songs, Rhymes &amp; More Story Time

Fridays • 11 a.m.

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

## Brownsville Book Club

Wednesday, Feb. 18 • 7 p.m. • Kirk Room

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

## World Cultures and Travel Series

Thursday, Feb. 19 • 7-8:30 p.m. • Kirk Room

Explore ancient Anatolia and modern Turkey through history, culture, and photography with seasoned travel guide.

## KIDS' KORNER

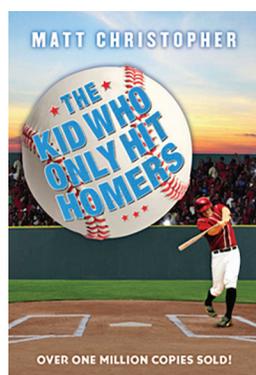
## The Kid Who Only Hit Homers

By Nancy Diltz, Columnist

March 25 is Opening Day for baseball, and some of us (me!) are counting down the days. Little League Spring baseball for kids will begin soon, too. There are many great books about baseball that can spark your interest in trying it and, if you already love it, inspire you to play your best.

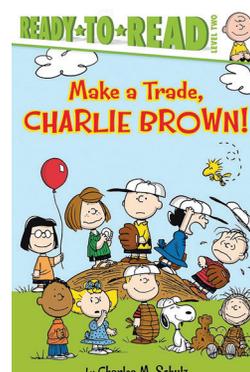
One book you may enjoy is "The Kid Who Only Hit Homers" by Matt Christopher, for 3rd-grade readers and up. In this story, "...a baseball fan learns the true meaning of success. This beloved classic will capture the imaginations of a new generation of young readers. Sylvester loves baseball, but he isn't exactly what you would call a good hitter. Even though he wants nothing more than to join his neighborhood team, The Hooper Redbirds, he's sure he will never do anything more than warm the bench... Suddenly, he goes from the worst player on the team to the kid who can only hit homers," according to the edition description at [thriftbooks.com](http://thriftbooks.com).

Another baseball book by Matt Christopher, "Too Hot to Handle," features another ballplayer,



David Kroft, who comes from a family of baseball superstars. David is, well, not so hot a player until he is tested under pressure when his brother is injured and out for the season. Will David be able to live up to the Kroft name? "The Kid Who Only Hit Homers" and "Too Hot to Handle" are both available through the Brownsville Library on Libby Audiobook.

Another baseball book, a favorite for younger readers in kindergarten through third grade, is "Make a Trade, Charlie Brown" by Charles M. Schulz, adapted by Tina Gallo (2015). The publisher describes the Level 2 Ready-to-Read title as a chance to "hit a home run with Charlie Brown, Lucy, and the rest of the Peanuts gang as they play baseball." "Make a Trade, Charlie Brown" is available at the Brownsville Library. ☺



## WHERE TO STAY

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HALSEY MAYOR'S CORNER

# February Reflections on Community, Kindness, and Care

By Jerry Lachenbruch, Halsey Mayor

Mayor's Corner Greetings! How is it February already? February, being in the heart of winter, reminds us of the importance of reflection, connection, and care for ourselves and for one another. This month offers many opportunities to celebrate.

February is Black History Month, a time to honor the achievements and lasting contributions of Black Americans throughout our nation's history. It is a time for learning, listening, and recognizing the individuals who helped shape our shared future. I encourage everyone to take a moment this month to reflect, read, and engage in conversations that promote understanding & respect.

This month brings Valentine's Day, a reminder that love comes in many forms — romantic, familial, and community-wide. Small acts of kindness, checking in on a neighbor, or simply offering a smile can make a meaningful difference. Halsey has always been a place where people look out for

one another, and that spirit is worth celebrating every day.

February is also American Heart Month, a timely reminder to take care of our health. Self-care is incredibly important. Heart health starts with simple steps: staying active, eating well, managing stress, and enjoying life. Perhaps a trip to the Oregon coast? February is peak whale watching season, with gray whales migrating along the shoreline — an incredible sight that never fails to inspire awe.

As we move through February, let us lead with compassion, celebrate our shared history, care for our hearts, and take time to appreciate the beauty around us. Thank you for being part of what makes Halsey such a special place to call home. As always, I remain your Mayor, and the Council and I work on your behalf. Have an amazing February! ☀️

CITY OF HALSEY

## Budget Committee Applications Due March 2

The City of Halsey is seeking residents to serve on its Budget Committee for the 2026-2027 budget cycle. Committee members review city finances and provide input on funding priorities and projects that shape the city's future.

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 will be 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, to be considered for the upcoming budget season.

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

HALSEY PARKS & LIBRARY

## Community Cookbook Project: Call for Recipes

The Halsey Parks & Library Committee is collecting recipes for a new Halsey Community Cookbook and invites residents to contribute. Family favorites, holiday dishes, and everyday recipes are welcome, especially those tied to a story or tradition.

Recipes may be submitted online, in person, or by email to [Library@halseyor.gov](mailto:Library@halseyor.gov). Online submissions are accepted via the Halsey Community Cookbook Recipe Submission Form at <https://www.halseyor.gov/CommunityCookbookRecipeSubmission.php>. Contributors may upload a handwritten recipe, submit a link, or enter a recipe directly.

In-person submissions are welcome at Halsey City Hall or at the Halsey Library. ☀️

TANGENT TOGETHER

## Annual Auction Seeks Community Donations

The luck of the Irish is returning to the community through Tangent Together's Third Annual St. Patrick's Day Online Auction, and organizers are asking for help to make this year's event a success. Tangent Together is currently accepting donations from individuals and local businesses, with all contributions helping turn community generosity into meaningful local impact. Those interested in donating are encouraged to contact [tangentvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:tangentvolunteer@gmail.com).

Bidding for the online auction opens March 6 and runs through March 15, closing at 3 p.m.

Participants can create a profile at <https://app.bidbeacon.com/#/auction/ZD4EWA/details> and bid on a wide variety of items, from local favorites to one-of-a-kind finds. Organizers encourage bidders to check in often and keep an eye on their favorite items as the auction progresses.

The event will conclude with an in-person "Wrap Party" on Sunday, March 15, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Dixie Creek Saloon. The auction "Wrap Party" offers a chance to gather with neighbors, celebrate a successful fundraiser, and pick up auction winnings. ☀️

CITY OF BROWNSVILLE

## City Seeking Resident for Budget Committee

The City of Brownsville is seeking one resident to fill an open position on its Budget Committee, an important advisory body that helps guide the city's financial planning for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Budget Committee is made up of the seven City Council members and seven citizen representatives. Members serve three-year terms and work collaboratively to review, discuss, and recommend the city's annual budget.

Budget deliberations for the 2026-27 fiscal year are scheduled to begin on April 30, 2026. Meetings are typically held on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. for up to three weeks. In recent years, the committee has often completed its work in a single evening.

Brownsville residents interested in serving may request an application by emailing [finance@ci.brownsville.or.us](mailto:finance@ci.brownsville.or.us) or by stopping by City Hall. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, 2026.

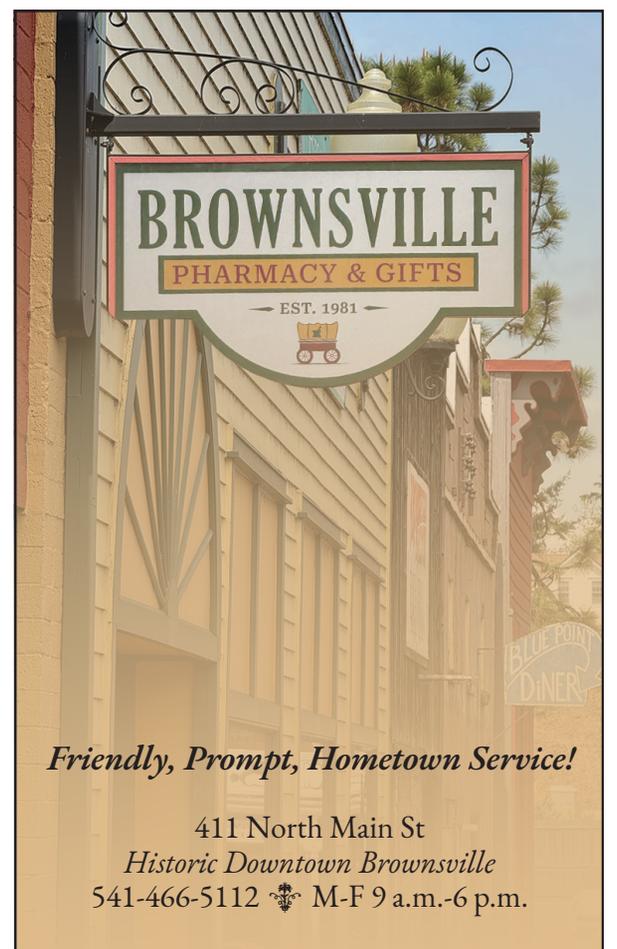
Questions about the position may be directed to Tammi Morrow at 541-466-5880. Completed applications may be submitted by email or delivered in person to City Hall. ☀️

TANGENT TOGETHER

## Help Plan the 2026 Tangent Harvest Festival

Planning is underway for the 2026 Tangent Harvest Festival, and community members are invited to participate in the process. The first planning committee meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. at Kim's Kafé in Tangent.

Anyone interested in helping shape next year's festival — from activities and entertainment to logistics and new ideas — is encouraged to attend. This is an early opportunity to get involved and help sustain one of Tangent's favorite traditions. ☀️



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# Together in Community

In honor of Valentine's Day, Brownsville Times writers, board members, and community members shared photos of themselves with their partners, from 61 years together to just one. This page offers a glimpse into the relationships that connect and strengthen our community.



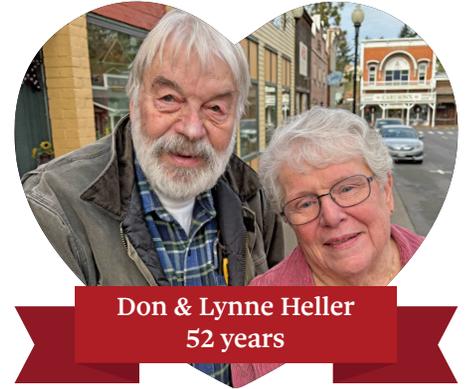
Linda & John Morrison  
61 years



Susan & Neal Karo  
60 years



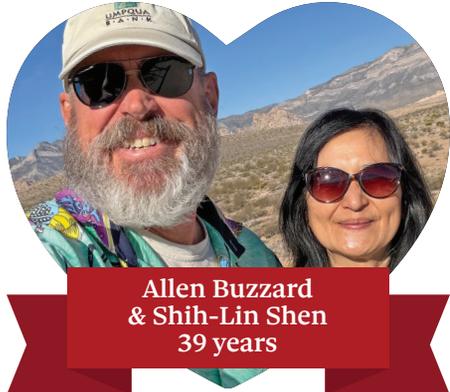
Jack & Sandy Sayer  
55 years



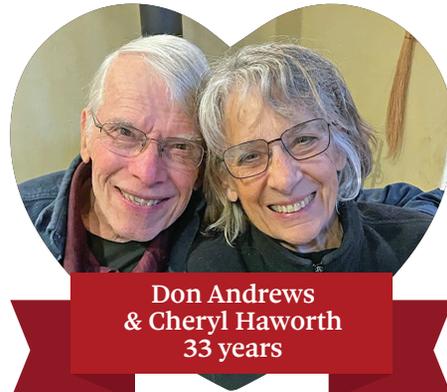
Don & Lynne Heller  
52 years



Kermit & Marlene Logan  
50 years



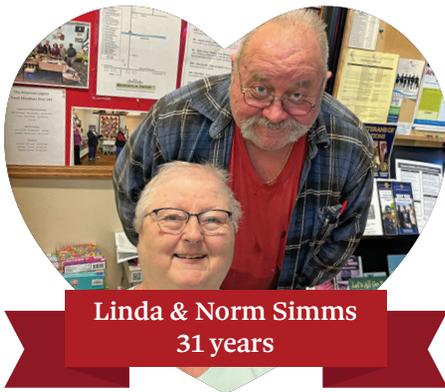
Allen Buzzard & Shih-Lin Shen  
39 years



Don Andrews & Cheryl Haworth  
33 years



Jad & Sherri Lemhouse  
32 years



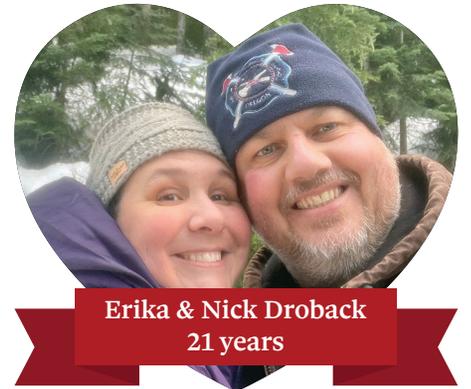
Linda & Norm Simms  
31 years



Sharon & Woody Banks  
27 years



Marcy & Paul Hermens  
25 years



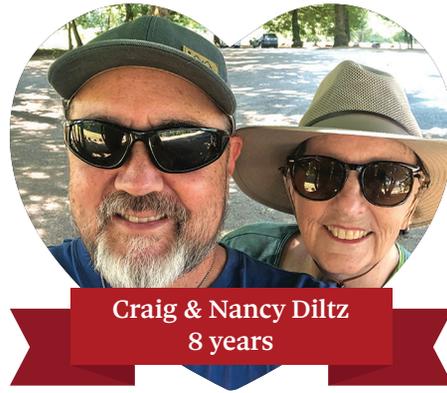
Erika & Nick Droback  
21 years



Lisa & Sean Keith  
17 years



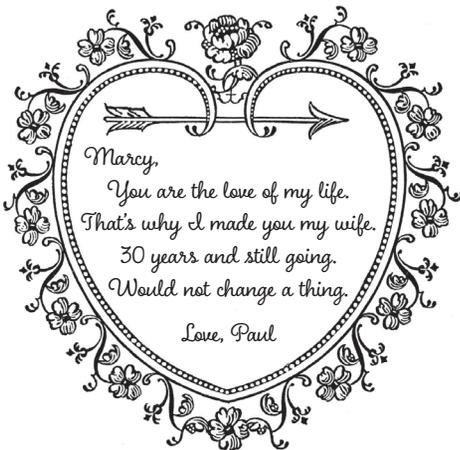
Mary & Jeff Brown  
16 years



Craig & Nancy Diltz  
8 years



Mikayle Stole & Steven Haney  
4 years



Natoshya Moffitt & James Hadd  
1 year together

Whether built over decades or just beginning, these partnerships reflect the shared care, commitment, and sense of belonging that tie neighbors together and make our community home. 🌟

## WHERE TO GET FINANCIAL HELP



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CLHS ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Tony and Barbara Koontz, Class of 1972

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer and Columnist

In June 1972, Tony Koontz and Barbara Whisenhunt received their high school diplomas from Central Linn High School. Where are they now?

Tony was born and raised in Brownsville. He is descended from the Overtons, who settled there in 1860 after less-than-great luck in the California gold fields. After graduating from high school, Tony attended Oregon State University and earned a Master of Science in Education. At OSU, he played football and lettered, though injuries shortened his playing time.

While at OSU, Tony played under the tutelage of Dee Andros, the famous Great Pumpkin. He says Andros was a very personable guy and an incredible motivator.

In 1976, he married his wife of 50 years, Barbara Whisenhunt-Koontz. His first job was at Central Linn, where he taught history in the Junior High and coached football.

In 1977, he moved to Philomath High School, where he taught history, served as head baseball coach, and worked as an assistant in football and basketball. At the time, he and Barb attended Central Valley Church in Halsey and they served as volunteer Youth Pastors.

In 1980, Tony left teaching to become the full-time youth pastor at Central Valley Church. He also served as the head girls' basketball coach at CL for one year. After a year in Southern California as a teacher and football coach, they chose to return to Oregon to raise their 6-month-old son, Kyle.

Tony worked briefly at a plywood mill. In 1984, he was hired by Scio High School to teach history and serve as head football coach. He then taught and coached at Corvallis High School for 9 years. After a short break, he taught and coached at Santiam Christian Jr./Sr High, where he served as head foot-



DANIEL R. MURPHY

ball coach and assistant baseball coach.

He then moved on to his final educational stop at Harrisburg HS, where he taught, served as head football and baseball coach, and served as the school's Athletic Director for 15 years.

In 2019, he retired from teaching and now spends much of his time managing the family's timberland and raising cattle on their ranch.

Barbara Whisenhunt moved to Brownsville in 6th grade. She met Tony in the same 6th-grade class. She graduated from Central Linn in 1972. She then attended Oregon College of Education (OCE, now Western Oregon University), graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Bachelor of Science in Corrections. She later earned her master's in education. She taught at Corvallis High School, coached cross country, and led the cheerleading program to a state championship. She entered a Ph.D. program at Rosemead Graduate School of Psychology but later decided to forgo it in favor of being a stay-at-home mom. She felt she needed to make a choice for the benefit of her son and so stayed home.

She went on to secure the necessary licenses to become a financial advisor. She worked at US Bank for six years; at Oregon State University Credit Union for ten years. Four years ago, she formed her own company, Koontz, Elker, and Associates, where she continues to work.

Both Tony and Barbara agreed that their focus has been on their faith, their marriage, and their children. Their son, Kyle, lives in Brownsville in the old house where Tony grew up. Their daughter, Kalyssa (Carroll), lives in Redmond. They have six grandchildren and enjoy attending all their activities. ☼

Volunteers needed

We are seeking volunteers with skills in editing, spreadsheets, InDesign, invoicing, and advertising sales. Contact Sharon Banks at 458-266-0511 or thebrownsvilletimes@gmail.com. ☼



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SEASONS EATINGS

# Cooking Up a Little Valentine's Day Love

By Lisa Keith, Columnist

Hello Lovers! I know we all have mixed emotions about the celebration of Valentine's Day. I like to do a little something for my "Boyfriend/Romeo/Husband" of 20 years. Usually, a small handmade card and a homemade baked treat are how I like to say "I love you!"

Some foods that are associated with romance, passion, fertility, and releasing endorphins are

- Oysters: high zinc content, which is crucial for libido
- Dark Chocolate: contains compounds that trigger pleasure-inducing endorphins
- Figs: A symbol of fertility and passion for thousands of years
- Strawberries and cherries: represent sweetness and luxury
- Caviar: represents decadence
- Honey: symbolizes sweetness and is linked with the term "honeymoon."



Tapas are a lovely way to have small bites. Just about anything shareable and small that you can feed to each other...

No matter what you do or how you show your affection for your partner, just make sure they know you love them!

Make a batch of chocolate-dipped fruit. Wash and dry your fruit. Use a double boiler or microwave to melt chocolate chunks. Dip your various fruits in the melted chocolate and set them on wax/parchment paper. Let chill in fridge. You need to make these the day before or the day you present the gift. They don't last long. Enjoy!

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 iamchefflisa@gmail.com. ☺

TABLE TALK: DINING IN AROUND BROWNSVILLE

# The Barn at Hickory Station Offers Something for Everyone

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

ALBANY — I recently stopped by The Barn at Hickory Station, located at 630 NW Hickory St. in Albany, to see what all the buzz was about. Now in its seventh year, this family-owned spot has become a popular gathering place, and after visiting, it is easy to see why.



The Barn is not a traditional sit-down restaurant. Instead, it features 14 different food carts set up around a large outdoor seating area, along with a main indoor space that includes a full bar. There is plenty of outdoor seating, making it a good choice for groups or families who want a relaxed place to eat and spend time. The atmosphere is casual and welcoming, with people coming and going between carts, drinks in hand, and plenty of conversation.

For my meal, I ordered the Orange Chicken with rice and steamed broccoli from Big Sister's Thai Kitchen. The chicken was quite good, with a mild, tangy flavor that stood out and kept me coming back for more. The rice was nothing special, but the chicken carried the dish well enough that it did not detract too much from the overall experience.



My wife ordered from The Chicken Shack, choosing the three-piece chicken fingers with garlic fries. She really enjoyed her meal, especially the flavor of the chicken and the well-seasoned garlic fries, which were a nice complement.

What stands out most about The Barn at Hickory Station is the vari-



ety. With so many food carts to choose from, there is something for just about any craving, which aligns with their philosophy that life is too short for mediocre food. Whether you are looking for a quick bite or a place to sit and visit for a while, The Barn offers a solid, laid-back dining option in Albany. ☺

PHOTOS BY JEFF BROWN

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# Love Is the Secret Ingredient

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer and Tangent Correspondent



My grandma, Mary Cannell, was an amazing woman — and an even more amazing cook. She was my favorite person in the world, and time spent at her house always felt special.

I happily dusted her shelves of knick-knacks, asking for the story behind each one, and studied every decorative plate on her kitchen walls (she was an avid collector). Her kitchen was the true heart of her home. That's where love lived, where stories were told, and where the best food you've ever tasted came from.

There were two dishes she made that were my dad's absolute favorites — and by default, they became mine too.

Her berry cobbler made your mouth celebrate summer. Every year, when she baked the first cobbler of the season, she called my dad the moment it came out of the oven. Instantly, he turned



MARCY HERMENS

back into an excited little boy, shouting for us to load up the car or miss out because Grandma had cobbler waiting. To this day, I regret that I never asked her for that recipe.

The other favorite was Grandma Mary's chowder.

This was a magical base recipe she could turn into anything. Her favorite version was bacon, ham, corn, and potato chowder. This is not a modern "good-for-you" soup. This is butter, heavy cream, and comfort all rolled into one pot of deliciousness.

It's also an all-day commitment — at least for a non-cook like me. I don't enjoy cooking and never really have. But once a year, I make my grandma's chowder anyway and let the smell take me back

to her kitchen, her laugh, and the way she made everyone feel at home.

Treasures are meant to be shared, and in honor of National Homemade Soup Day on February 4, I'm sharing my Grandma Mary's chowder recipe with you. Of course, the real secret ingredient was love — so don't forget to add that before serving.

## Grandma Mary's Chowder Recipe

- Base Ingredients:
- 2½ lbs potatoes, bite-sized
- 1 pkg bacon, diced
- 1 medium onion, diced
- ¼ bunch celery, diced
- 8 C milk
- 4 C water (use potato water when possible)
- 4 chicken bouillon cubes (dissolved in 1 cup potato water)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- ¾ C salted butter
- ¾ C flour
- 1 C heavy whipping cream

Cook's Choice Add-Ins (optional): Chicken, ham, mushrooms, corn, clams — the sky is the limit.

### Directions:

1. Boil the potatoes for 10 minutes (not fully cooked). Drain the potatoes, but save the potato water. Set the potatoes aside.
2. Take the potato water you have set aside and measure it. You need 4 cups of water — add tap water if needed. Then, separate one cup of the water and add the bouillon cubes to dissolve. Set both the potato water and the bouillon water aside to add later.
3. In a sauté pan, cook the bacon, then drain the grease. Add the onion and celery and cook until tender. Set aside.
4. In a large pot, combine the milk, 3 cups of potato water, 1 cup of bouillon water, salt, and pepper. Heat until very hot, but do not boil. Reduce to low heat.
5. In another pan, melt the butter and slowly stir in the flour to make a roux. Cook until bubbling. Add the roux to the large pot and stir constantly for about four minutes.
6. Add the bacon mixture, whipping cream, potatoes, and any Cook's Choice ingredients. Stir well.
7. Simmer on low heat for the day (or medium for faster cooking). For the best flavor, slow simmering is recommended. The soup may also be transferred to a crock pot to simmer all day. ☺

# Fresh Floors, Familiar Feel at Pioneer Villa

HALSEY — Recent updates at the Pioneer Villa Restaurant and Saloon are giving longtime customers a fresh reason to stop in. New flooring has been installed throughout the restaurant and saloon, brightening the space while keeping the welcoming, no-nonsense atmosphere locals know well.



MIKAYLE STOLE

"We're really happy with how it turned out — the new flooring was long overdue, and it makes the whole place feel warmer and more inviting," said Brian Maxwell, head cook. "With updates to the restaurant, banquet room, and bar, it finally feels like the space matches the experience we want people to have when they walk through the door."

The restaurant and saloon are now fully open during regular hours, serving scratch-made meals, classic comfort food, and drinks in the old-time saloon setting. The remodeled spaces are part of ongoing improvements at the family-owned truck plaza, which has served travelers and the local community since 1985.



MIKAYLE STOLE

The Pioneer Villa Restaurant is located

at 33180 Highway 228 in Halsey. The restaurant is open daily from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., with the Pioneer Villa Saloon open from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Both spaces are now fully open and welcoming guests to enjoy the refreshed interiors. ☺

# Kirk's Ferry Expands Days and Hours

BROWNSVILLE — Kirk's Ferry has expanded its schedule, giving locals more opportunities to stop in for food, drinks, and time with friends.

The popular gathering spot is now open Wednesday through Sunday, with new weekly food features such as Wing Wednesday and Thick Taco Thursday.

Updated hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 4 to 9 p.m., and Friday through Sunday from noon to 9 p.m.

Kirk's Ferry is at 217 W Bishop Way, Brownsville. For more information, call 541-466-5614 or view the menu at <https://kirksferry1846.com/eat>.

The expanded schedule reflects growing community support and Kirk's Ferry's continued role as a welcoming gathering place in downtown Brownsville. ☺

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CL VARSITY WRESTLING

Senior Night Highlights Strong Showing at Cobra Dome

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

Central Linn's varsity wrestling team celebrated Senior Night on Tuesday, Feb. 3, with a strong performance during a Special District 1 League meet at the Cobra Dome.

The evening honored four seniors — Lily Diaz, Nikki Billington, Hannah Travis, and team statistician Terri Williamson — all of whom have played key roles in the program.

The meet featured six district schools competing in small round-robin brackets, with wrestlers facing each opponent in their respective weight classes. No overall team score was kept.

Central Linn athletes delivered several standout performances throughout the night.

In the girls competition, Lucy Kennedy and Hannah Travis each earned first-place finishes. Lily Diaz and Nikki Billington placed second, while Josie Steele took third.

On the boys side, first-place finishes were claimed by Kurry Travis, Jacob Helms and Gradi Spencer. Colton Hein placed second, Tanner Moore finished third, and Jeremiah Donahue earned fourth.

Coach Mike Day praised the team's effort and energy on a night that combined competition with recognition.



RACHAEL TRAVIS

Hannah Travis of Central Linn controls her opponent on the mat en route to a pin.

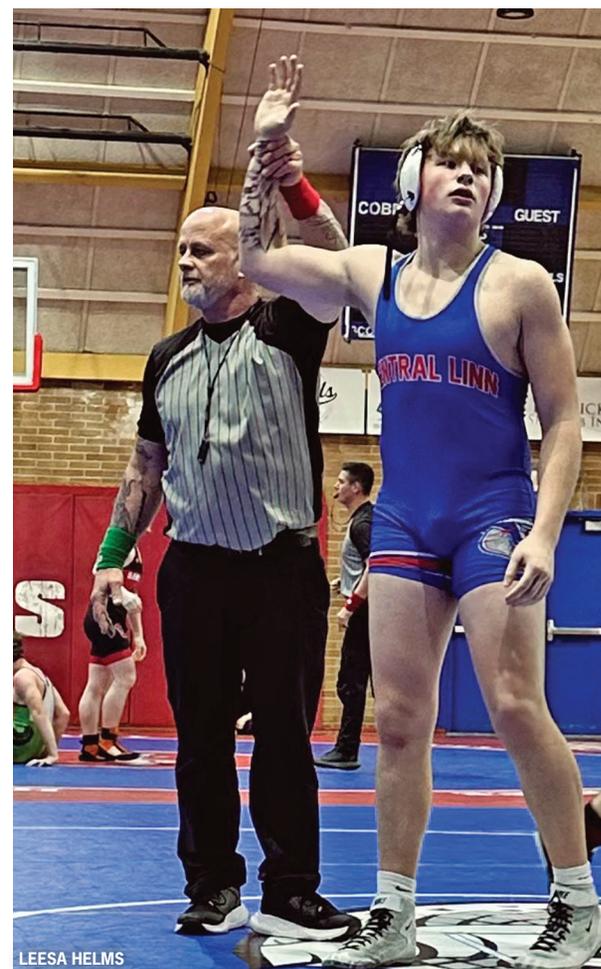
"It was a good night of wrestling," Day said. "Our athletes competed hard, and it was special to honor our seniors in front of our home crowd."

The Cobras continue league action as they prepare for postseason competition later this month.



RACHAEL TRAVIS

Central Linn's Hannah Travis is declared the winner following her match during Senior Night competition.



LEESA HELMS

Central Linn's Jacob Helms has his hand raised after earning a first-place finish.

COBRAS continued from cover

The games showcased true grit: the Central Linn girls' varsity team earned a home win over East Linn Christian to improve to 11-10 on the season, while the boys' varsity squad fell to East Linn Christian, 46-71, earlier in the campaign. It was a poignant final home performance for the seniors, who played surrounded by thunderous hometown support. This success was made possible by the Booster Club and the student volunteers who spent February 1 — Cobra Pride Day — prepping the gym until it was pristine.

Community impact took center stage off the court as well. Grace Mast helped sell out the initial



SHARON K. BANKS

From left, Rocky Dallum, Andy Morris, Todd Bosner, and Chairman Miller — all Central Linn Class of 1997 — reconnect during the event.

stock of cancer treatment fundraising shirts, but it is not too late to help; "Cobras Fight Cancer" shirts are available for \$30 through CLHS Athletic Director Rodney Baney. Nearby, Cobra gear nearly cleared the shelves at 75 percent off, while volunteers collected Alumni Hall of Fame nominations



SHARON K. BANKS

Peyton Gaskey (No. 2) protects the ball while working inside against East Linn Christian defenders during Central Linn's home game on Feb 6.

to ensure our history continues to cultivate Cobra excellence in future generations. Submissions remain open until May 1. Inductees will be selected by a committee and honored in the fall.

The Latin Culture & Spanish Club ensured no one went hungry, serving authentic

tacos, rice, and beans through their highly successful student-led fundraiser. Seeing the stands overflowing with neighbors and families was a beautiful testament to the Cobra spirit — a night where memories were made that will undoubtedly outlast the season.

COBRAS photos continued on page 11



"Cobras Fight Cancer" T-shirts, sold during the event helped raise funds and awareness for brain cancer research. A special thank-you goes to Patrick Hunter of Ace High Graphics for providing a quick turnaround on high-quality prints in support of Cobra Country.

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SHARON K. BANKS

Central Linn varsity girls gather at halftime. From left: Carmen Martinez-Ware, Georgia Wahl (No. 20), Ashley Greeno (No. 1), Aaliyah Hite (No. 3), Peyton Gaskey (No. 2), Addie Wolff (No. 4), Maddie Durringer (No. 14), Bailey Lester (No. 15), Isabelle Curtis (No. 0), Jayne Neal (No. 11), and Ruby Nielsen (No. 10).



Aren Schneider (No. 0) releases a shot for Central Linn during the Cobras' home game against East Linn Christian.

### CENTRAL LINN SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Local Leaders Gather to Strengthen Education-to-Workforce Pathways

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

On February 2, 2026, community leaders, employers, educators, and workforce partners gathered at the Central Linn High School Library to explore stronger alignment among education, local industry, and community needs.

The discussion focused on shifting workforce demands, student preparedness, and both gaps and successes in the local talent pipeline. Participants shared perspectives on regional strengths and challenges and identified opportunities for improved collaboration.

Key themes included career awareness, work-based learning, a relevant curriculum, credentialing pathways, and support for student and adult workforce transitions. Attendees emphasized the need for improved coordination and communication across existing efforts.

The group expressed interest in continuing the conversation through future meetings, focused working groups, and collaborative planning. Next steps include sharing a summary of the discussion and inviting additional partners to join.

### CENTRAL LINN RECREATION ASSOCIATION

## Join the Action: Coaches Needed for Central Linn Spring Sports!

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer

The Central Linn Recreation Association (CLRA) is thrilled to announce a phenomenal community response for the upcoming season. With JBO Baseball rosters packed and tryouts approaching later this month, Pioneer Park and Central Linn School District fields are set to be vibrant hubs of activity this spring.

To sustain this momentum, we need your leadership. If you find genuine joy in the game and want to inspire the next generation, consider signing up as a coach, assistant, or team helper. A small weekly time commitment translates into a massive impact for our youth. We are especially looking for charismatic, caring individuals to Coach 3/4 JBO Baseball and Girls Softball.

Don't sit on the sidelines! Find joy and purpose by coaching in your community this spring. Email Ashley at [president@clrasports.org](mailto:president@clrasports.org) to volunteer today.



The Central Linn boys' basketball team is pictured during Friday night's home game.

Senior, Jackson Durringer, thanks his mom for support after Senior Letters.



### CLSD CALENDAR

#### Thursday, February 12

High School Basketball vs. Crosshill  
Central Linn High School  
6 p.m. — Varsity Girls, 7:30 p.m. — Varsity Boys

#### Friday, February 13

High School Basketball @ Toledo  
Toledo High School  
6 p.m. — Varsity Girls, 7:30 p.m. — Varsity Boys

#### Friday-Saturday, February 13-14

High School Wrestling — Boys District Championships  
• Colton High School

**Friday:** Weigh-ins 10 a.m.  
Wrestling noon p.m./2 p.m.

**Saturday:** Weigh-ins 7 a.m. • Wrestling 9 a.m./11 a.m.

#### Monday, February 16 — No School

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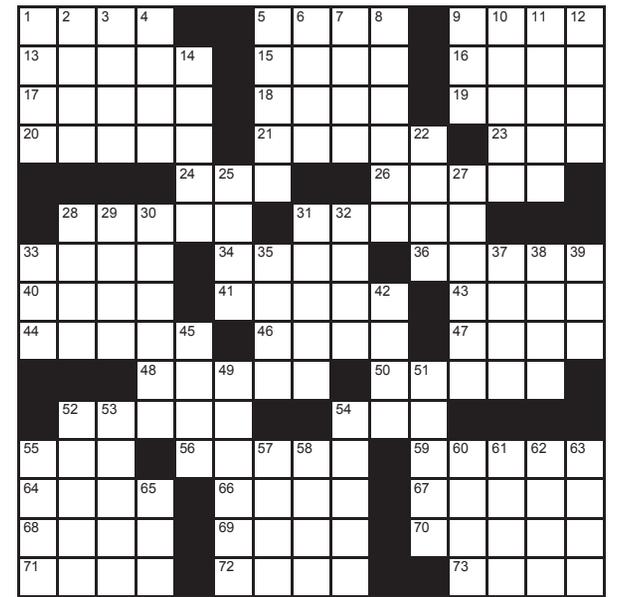
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### ACROSS

- 1 Winter toy
- 5 Lion's share
- 9 Grow dim
- 13 Mystiques
- 15 Curved molding
- 16 Biblical shepherd
- 17 Lady's garment
- 18 Ore carrier
- 19 Computer info
- 20 Reddish brown
- 21 Assists
- 23 Ring count
- 24 "\_\_\_ De-Lovely"
- 26 Avid
- 28 Happening
- 31 Winter wear
- 33 Family group
- 34 Malicious look
- 36 Fire remnant
- 40 Final notice
- 41 Bridge material
- 43 Torso
- 44 Wish granter
- 46 Additionally
- 47 Balcony section
- 48 Salad green
- 50 Cubic meter
- 52 Military action

### DOWN

- 1 Window part
- 2 Gospel writer
- 3 Hibernia
- 4 Mend
- 5 Nocturnal insects
- 6 Beast
- 7 Ocean goer
- 8 Irritability
- 9 Craze
- 10 Decrease
- 11 Block
- 12 Flamboyance
- 14 Wood covering
- 22 Benefit

- 25 Sums (Abbr.)
- 27 Risk
- 28 Hamburg's river
- 29 Conceited
- 30 Attract
- 31 Rinds
- 32 Mars, to the Greeks
- 33 Sprocket
- 35 Gr. letters
- 37 Rude person
- 38 Advantage
- 39 Deli bread
- 42 Missing
- 45 Hence
- 49 Spookily
- 51 Aquarium fish
- 52 Expensive fur
- 53 Desk file
- 54 Twisty turns
- 55 Carob, e.g.
- 57 Solo
- 58 Hobble
- 60 Bluster
- 61 Division word
- 62 Long, long time
- 63 Minus
- 65 Gel

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- LAOECCHOT      \_\_\_\_\_
- PIUCD      \_\_\_\_\_
- EOVL      \_\_\_\_\_
- DRNENI      \_\_\_\_\_

**PUZZLE Solutions on page 15**

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Brownsville Assembly of God

313 Washburn St · 541-466-5030

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Services 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Classes Wednesday 7 p.m. all ages

### Brownsville Christian Church

117 N Main St · 541-466-3273  
<https://brownvillechristianchurch.com>

Sunday Service and Children's Church 11 a.m.  
Adult classes 10 a.m.

### Brownsville Community Church

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

### Brownsville Mennonite Church

34795 OR-228 · 541-466-5622

### Central Valley Church

657 American Dr · Halsey · 503-602-6796  
<https://www.cvchalsey.com>

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

### Crawfordsville Calvary Chapel

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

Sunday Service 10 a.m.

### First Baptist Church of Brownsville

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# Small-Town Sweethearts with Big Community Hearts

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer and Tangent Correspondent

Some people leave their hometowns to find their future. Others build their future right where their roots were planted. For Heather Curtis and Jason Mier, staying close to home in Linn County was a choice shaped by family history, shared dreams, and a deep love for the community that raised them.

Heather grew up on land her family has farmed since 1892. Today, she and Jason live on the original Curtis property, now honored as a Century Farm — a daily reminder of generations who came before them. She attended Shedd Elementary, Central Linn Middle, and Central Linn High, graduating in 1997.

Jason's story is just as local. His family settled in Brownsville in the 1940s, and he was born and raised there. He attended Brownsville Elementary, Central Linn Middle, and Central Linn High, graduating in 1996.

Their paths crossed in high school, and in 1995, they began dating. Jason proposed to Heather on the day she graduated, turning a milestone moment into the beginning of their forever. They married in August 1999 after attending Linn-Benton Community College, where Jason studied automotive technology and Heather focused on animal science and agricultural business management.

Life quickly filled with hard work and family. Jason worked at G&J Tire in Corvallis while Heather balanced farm life and a job at Chintimini Forest Products. Their three sons — Conner, Keegan, and Cooper — soon followed, filling their home with busy schedules and proud parent moments.

In 2005, Heather noticed the historic Tangent Garage building sitting empty along Highway 99E. With just \$150 in savings and a lot of faith, they took a leap and opened J&H Auto. Jason ran the shop alone while Heather kept the books from home and raised their boys.

Their commitment to quality work and customer service helped J&H Auto grow into a respected part of the Tangent community. Over the years, they have hired employees, purchased the property, and renovated the building. This past July, the shop celebrated its 20th anniversary and now supports five employees — seven counting Heather and Jason — while remaining proudly family-owned.

Their sons grew up swimming, playing water polo, and participating in the ARPC Youth Shooting Program. Today, Conner works beside



KRISTI CRAWFORD

Jason and Heather Mier with their three sons, Conner (left), Keegan, and Cooper, whose lives have been shaped by family, hard work, and strong ties to Linn County

his parents after completing LBCC's automotive program. Keegan serves in the U.S. Air Force, and Cooper is preparing for graduation and nursing school at LBCC.

Through Keegan's service, Heather found another way to give back, becoming a national training coordinator for AF Wingmoms, supporting military families across the country.

As their boys step into adulthood, Heather and Jason have turned even more toward their community. They support Tangent Together events such as Trunk-or-Treats, spring auctions, and the Harvest Festival. One favorite memory came in 2025 when they entered their combine, "Side Chick," in Tangent's first Combine Demolition Derby — and proudly brought home the championship belt.

Looking ahead, Heather and Jason remain rooted here, their life defined by love, service, and small-town pride. Their story began as a high school romance and has grown into a legacy of family, faith, and community — proof that sometimes the best place to grow is exactly where you started. 🌻



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OSU EXTENSION SERVICES

February and March Workshops for Gardeners and Rural Landowners

Free Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic • Feb. 25

Home orchardists are invited to attend a free drop-in Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic on Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Lupe's Community Garden, 360 S. 9th St. in Philomath.

Hosted by the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program, the clinic will cover proper pruning techniques and include hands-on instruction. Participants are encouraged to bring their own pruners, though tools will also be available on site.

The clinic is open to the public and designed for gardeners looking to build confidence and skills in maintaining healthy, productive fruit trees.

Livestock Finishing Webinar • March 5

Local livestock owners are invited to join an upcoming online workshop focused on one of the most important — and often most uncertain — stages of raising animals for meat: finishing.

OSU Extension Service will host "Livestock Webinar: Finishing Livestock" on Thursday, March 5, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The practical, down-to-earth session is designed to help producers confidently prepare animals for butchering.

Participants will learn what to feed livestock during the final weeks before slaughter, how to condition-score animals to determine true readiness, and what proper "finish" looks like across species. Presenters will also discuss common pitfalls, realistic timelines, and tips for communicating effectively with butchers to ensure desired cuts and meat quality.

The session is suitable for both those new to raising their own meat and experienced producers seeking a refresher. The cost to attend is \$5, with scholarships available.

The webinar will be led by Matt Kennedy and Kylie Burriss, livestock specialists with Oregon State University Extension.

Registration is available at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/events/livestock-webinar-finishing-livestock>. For assistance signing up, contact [lane.extension@oregonstate.edu](mailto:lane.extension@oregonstate.edu) or 541-237-6808.

Rural Living Day Returns • March 7

Oregon State University Extension Service will once again host Rural Living Day on Saturday, March 7, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Junction City High School, 1135 W. Sixth Ave.

Presented by the OSU Extension Small Farms Program, Rural Living Day is a one-day educational event for rural landowners and land stewards. Sessions will focus on practical skills for managing rural property, with topics including composting, weed management, soils, tree identification, septic systems, chainsaw safety, food preservation, and more.

The event is designed for anyone who lives on or manages rural land and wants to build skills, increase self-sufficiency, and become a better steward of their property — whether they are new to rural living or expanding their knowledge.

Registration is \$20, with scholarships available. Morning refreshments will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lunch. Advance registration is required, as space is limited.

Details and registration is online at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/southern-willamette-valley/events/rural-living-day-2026>.

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TAKING ROOT

Elevating the Lowly Onion

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer & Columnist

I'm not much of a cook, but I know how to get culinary compliments from my partner, Connie. I just sauté a few onions and let that sweet aroma waft through the house. It works every time. Onions are the backbone of so many delicious wintertime comfort dishes. Why not plan to plant a variety of onions this spring and learn to appreciate their differences?

You'll want to get an early start to grow large bulbs. March and April are prime, according to an OSU Extension article, Plant Onions Early for Bigger Summer Bulbs. I learned that most onions don't really begin to form bulbs until daylight reaches about 14 hours. This OSU article deals mainly with growing from "sets," small immature onions that can be planted in the spring as soon as the soil dries out a bit. Hint: mound up the soil to keep your little onions from getting waterlogged. You can also start onion seeds in a warm sunny window ledge or heated greenhouse. What kind of onions to plant? Yellow onions, such as Vidalia, Bermuda, and Walla Walla, are the most versatile, but for eating raw, sliced thinly on a hamburger, red onions taste best. White onions are sweet and mildly flavored.

Our local Adaptive Seed Company provides regular inspiration through its free online newsletter. This month's subject describes some onion varieties that are tickling my taste buds. We love green onions for salads, and Lilia looks like a winner. They will also produce large bulbs if given the space to grow. Golden Princess is an early-maturing globe onion, and Zebrune Shallot-Onion has the characteristic torpedo shape and mild flavor you want when the recipe calls for shallots rather than regular onions. Be sure to visit the Adaptive Seeds website and ask to be added to the newsletter list. Those onion seeds, and many others, can be purchased online or at First Alternative Co-Op in Corvallis and Down to Earth in Eugene. Worth seeking out. Adaptive's seeds are open-pollinated, which means the saved seed will produce true to the previous generation. Pet owners, please note that onions are toxic to cats and dogs.



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OPINION

# Oregon Struggles to Land Federal Counter-terrorism Money

By Stephen A. Brenner, Columnist

During President Donald Trump's second term, the administration attempted to tie federal homeland security grants to state cooperation with its immigration enforcement. In early 2025, states were told they would lose their counter-terrorism and emergency-preparedness funding unless they agreed to assist with federal crackdowns. Oregon challenged the policy in court and prevailed, protecting nearly \$18 million in funding used for emergency planning and security analysis.

Despite the ruling, states were unable to access the funds after the federal grant website's acceptance button was disabled. Homeland Security officials indicated they planned to appeal and required states to pre-agree to immigration cooperation if the administration eventually won. States sued again and prevailed.

In October, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) formally removed the unlawful immigration language but introduced new grant criteria that again made the grants difficult to obtain. States were required to certify population figures adjusted for deportations — information only DHS could provide — and the spending window was shortened from three years to just 10 months, a timeline emergency managers said was unworkable.

These changes coincided with heightened federal scrutiny of Portland, where Trump accused the city of harboring violent extremist activity. City officials dispute the claims and are challenging federal actions in court. FBI reports and state audits indicate Oregon's most persistent extremist threats have come from right-wing or mixed-ideology actors, including attacks on infrastructure and ballot drop boxes.

Local emergency officials say homeland security grants are essential to counter these risks. In Portland funds have supported bomb squad equipment, emergency training, threat assessment, and fire-suppression systems installed in ballot drop boxes that prevented the loss of votes. State officials estimate that without the grants, roughly two-thirds of Oregon's counties would lack basic emergency management capacity.

Emergency-management professionals say the revised grant rules have created instability and confusion, with little explanation for the shifting grant requirements. A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) spokesperson defended the changes as necessary to prevent fraud and align spending with administration priorities, denying any connection to immigration enforcement disputes.

Critics argue the administration's approach weakens counter terrorism efforts by limiting resources used to address domestic extremist violence. White House statements, however, assert that cities like Portland have failed to maintain order and suggest federal funding should be withdrawn from states deemed non compliant with federal priorities.

This article is based on reporting by Propublica and Oregon Public Broadcasting in an article by Tony Schick published December 2, 2025. ☼

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LINN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

# Commissioners Deal with Variety of Agenda Items

ALBANY — Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker addressed the following agenda items at their February 3 meeting:

- Adopted the 2026 Transportation Title VI (Civil Rights) program in both English and Spanish, with updated information. A review and update of the program is required every three years. Linn County's document was already reviewed by the Oregon Department of Transportation's Civil Rights Department and found to meet compliance standards.
- Approved a change order of \$1,721.01 between Linn County and Cascade Civil Corp for the Cox Creek: Goldfish Farm Road bridge replacement project. The change order is for connecting pipe to existing storm structures.
- Approved a plan of action to address procedural items found in the recent audit.
- Approved a conditional use permit requested by Lauren Martinez to establish a farm relative dwelling. The Planning Commission approved the permit in December.
- Reappointed Kerry Johnson and Ed Perlenfein to three-year terms on the Fair Board.
- Appointed Anna Alex to the Noxious Weed Control Advisory Committee.
- Reappointed Mitzi Naucler to the Community Services Consortium's Community Action Advisory Council.
- Appointed Courtney Leland to Position 3 of the Linn County Planning Commission.
- Approved refunding \$13,816.23 from Linn County Mental Health to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.
- Announced that an Elected Officials meeting will be held at noon on Wednesday, Feb. 4, in conference room 4 at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center. ☼

CORRECTION

An article in the January 29 edition incorrectly listed the date of the Thompson's Mills Preservation Society annual meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, at 1 p.m. in the Kirk Room at the Brownsville Community Library, not Friday, February 21 as previously reported. ☼

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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).

**Saturday, January 31**

11:13 a.m. — Deputies responded to a disturbance and arrested Anna House, 41, of Brownsville, who had an outstanding warrant in the 1000 block of Pine St., Brownsville. Report Taken.

1:09 p.m. — Caller reported a missing person in the 600 block of E 1st St, Halsey. Report taken.

2:26 p.m. — Deputy documented a caller's statements about suspicious items viewed on their Temu account in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg.

4:02 p.m. — Deputies investigated household items that were left in the city right of way in the 500 block of Hausman Ave., Brownsville.

**Sunday, February 1**

9:10 a.m. — Railroad reported a possible trespass at Oak Plain Dr/Hwy 99E, Halsey. Deputies searched the open cargo container with a drone, but no one was located inside.

10:06 p.m. — Brandi Elliott, 52, of Albany, was cited for speeding 72 in a 55-mph zone and driving uninsured at Plainview Dr./Manning Rd., Shedd.

10:10 a.m. — Robert Scott McVay Jr., 34, of Lebanon, was cited for speeding 61 in a 45-mph zone at Bishop Way/Pearl St., Brownsville.

10:31 a.m. — Deputies assisted OSP with a single-vehicle crash involving prop-

erty damage in the 35600 block of Courtney Creek Dr./Hwy 228, Brownsville.

11:26 a.m. — Deputies assisted OSP on a traffic stop at Hwy 228/Fisher Rd., Halsey.

1:52 p.m. — Deputy responded to a runaway in the 800 block of Arrow Leaf Pl., Harrisburg. Prior to arriving on the scene, the parents located the juvenile at a friend's residence. Report taken.

5:27 p.m. — Caller reported finding a dog in the 200 block of W 1st St., Halsey. The deputy located a microchip and returned the lost dog to their owner.

**Monday, February 2**

3:23 p.m. — Alexis Deleon, 27, and Christopher Deleon, 24, both of Brownsville, and Eric Nunez, 27, of Portland, were cited for failing to obey a traffic control device and for failing to carry proof of registration and insurance on Plainview Dr. near Sand Ridge Rd., Brownsville.

3:58 p.m. — Deputies assisted DHS with an assessment in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg. Report taken.

5:27 p.m. — Deputy responded to an ongoing civil dispute between a landlord and their tenant in the 600 block of Territorial St., Harrisburg.

7:11 p.m. — Deputy located a suspicious vehicle near Hwy 99E on Powerline Rd, Harrisburg. The deputy learned the occupant was getting peace and quiet away from home.

**Tuesday, February 3**

5:09 a.m. — Caller reported a possibly suicidal loved one at Seven Mile Ln., Morgan Dr., Shedd. The deputy located the person, who stated they were fine and just wanted some space. They were informed of available resources.

5:34 a.m. — Caller reported a prowler on their property in the 33900 block of Powell Hills Loop, Shedd. Deputies checked the property and the surrounding area but were unable to locate any prowlers.

7:13 a.m. — Caller requested a welfare check in the 32900 Block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg. Deputies responded to a disturbance between a husband and his wife. The wife left the travel trailer and went to Salem. No injuries were reported.

8:13 a.m. — Deputies responded to a motor vehicle crash in the 20700 block of

N Coburg Rd., Harrisburg. The driver was transported to the hospital with a broken collarbone. Report taken.

12:21 p.m. — Deputy responded to a report of identity theft in the 25700 block of Powerline Rd., Halsey. Report taken, investigation ongoing.

12:48 p.m. — Caller reported a suspicious vehicle at Tangent Dr./McLagan Rd., Tangent. Deputy told the female to move.

1:44 p.m. — Citizen reported that someone left a rude note for the wrong person on her gate in the 34800 block of Henshaw Dr., Brownsville. Information was documented.

3:13 p.m. — Caller reported a suspicious person in the 31700 block of Sport Horse Way, Tangent. Deputy gave female a courtesy ride.

4:07 p.m. — Caller reported an ongoing dispute between two males regarding speeding occurring in the 1000 block of S 6th St., Harrisburg. Deputy spoke with both parties.

4:58 p.m. — Deputies responded to a possible DUI involving a person observed with an open container of alcohol in a vehicle in the 26400 block of Kirk Rd, Halsey. The vehicle was last seen heading northbound on Hwy 99, and information was forwarded to OSP.

**Wednesday, Feb. 4**

9:13 a.m. — Delivery driver reported a verbally aggressive resident during delivery in the 25100 block of Little Valley Ln., Brownsville. The deputy learned it was non-criminal.

12:39 p.m. — Renee Phillips, 29, of Lebanon, was cited for failing to register a vehicle in the 25600 block of Hwy 99E, Halsey.

3:57 p.m. — Family reported a recently deceased male in the 27100 block of Scott Mountain Rd., Sweet Home. Deputies investigated and found no sign of suspicious activity. Investigation is ongoing through the medical examiner's office.

4:08 p.m. — Deputy spoke with a concerned citizen about a rude person threatening to sue them at Clay St., Main St., Shedd. Non-criminal.

4:40 p.m. — Deputies responded to a traffic hazard complaint and found that a tractor-trailer was partially stuck in a ditch when attempting to enter the roadway at Linn West Dr./Seven

Mile Ln., Shedd. The tow truck arrived and moved the truck without further issues.

8:02 p.m. — Jonathan Schwartz, 56, of Tigard, was cited for operating a motor vehicle while using a mobile electronic device on Interstate 5, Shedd.

9:08 a.m. — Caller reported that a missing person had been located in the 27300 block of Fisher Rd., Brownsville.

9:30 p.m. — A juvenile resident of Brownsville was cited for failing to obey a traffic control device at Washburn St./W Washington Ave., Brownsville.

9:42 p.m. — Joshua David Robertson, 34, of Sweet Home, was cited for driving while suspended and for failing to use an ignition interlock device at E Bishop Way/Hume St., Brownsville.

**Thursday, February 5**

7:14 a.m. — Daniel Koala, 31, of Albany, was cited for speeding 75 in a 55-mph zone in the 24200 block of Hwy 99E, Harrisburg.

7:28 a.m. — Mary Osborne, 39, of Harrisburg, was cited for speeding 69 in a 55-mph zone in the 30700 block of Peoria Rd., Shedd.

7:32 a.m. — Brandon Like, 29, of Shedd, was stopped for failing to use lights in foggy conditions at Hwy 99E/Carney Dr., Harrisburg. He was found to have a warrant from the Albany Municipal Court. He was cited and released on the warrant and warned for the lighting violation.

7:46 a.m. — Denahli Depoesienkiewicz, 21, of Noti, was cited for speeding at 72 in a 55-mph zone and failing to renew vehicle registration in the 30200 block of Peoria Rd., Shedd.

8:00 a.m. — Ryder Mialkovsky, 20, of Eugene, was cited for driving with a suspended driver's license and driving uninsured in the 24400 block of Hwy 99E, Harrisburg. His vehicle was towed as a nuisance.

11:51 a.m. — Jorge Vega Mendoza, 51, of Junction City, was cited for driving

while suspended, driving uninsured, and failing to register his vehicle in the 1000 block of W 2nd St, Halsey.

12:13 p.m. — Danny Young, 62, of Brownsville, was cited for failing to renew vehicle registration (2011) at W 2nd St./W O St., Halsey.

2:27 p.m. — Dylan England, 26, of Eugene, was cited for driving with a suspended driver's license at Hwy 99E/Seefeld Dr., Halsey.

3:24 p.m. — Deputy patrolled the Halsey Elementary School during release to watch for traffic violations.

9:03 p.m. — Leo Reece King, 18, of Brownsville, was arrested for two counts of Assault IV-Domestic. In the 300 block of Spaulding Ave., Brownsville. Leo was lodged in the Linn County Jail.

10:33 p.m. — Caller requested a welfare check because a person had not returned home from work in the 900 block of Washburn St., Brownsville. The deputy contacted the caller, and the person arrived home.

**Friday, February 6**

3:23 a.m. — Michael Wells, 42, of Albany, was cited on a Lebanon Municipal court warrant for theft in the 33600 block of Hwy 99E, Tangent. Report taken.

4:52 p.m. — Caller reported an incident between his dog and another person's dogs in the 28900 block of Cartney Park Dr., Harrisburg.

8:11 p.m. — Ethan Pimm, 21, of Shedd, was cited for speeding at W 2nd St./W I St., Halsey.

9:06 p.m. — an overdose ingestion was reported in the 26800 block of Gap Rd., Brownsville. No public narrative.

9:13 p.m. — Robert Copeland, 55, of Harrisburg, was cited for driving uninsured at LaSalle St./Eagles Way, Harrisburg.

9:18 p.m. — Caller reported an assault in the 33100 block of Hwy 228, Halsey. The deputy began an assault investigation. Report taken. ☼

**PUZZLE KEY**

Puzzles on page 11

S	L	E	D	M	O	S	T	F	A	D	E	8	6	4	9	7	2	1	3	5	
A	U	R	A	S	O	G	E	E	A	B	E	L	1	7	2	5	4	3	6	9	8
S	K	I	R	T	T	R	A	M	D	A	T	A	3	5	9	1	6	8	2	4	7
H	E	N	N	A	H	E	L	P	S	T	E	N	6	3	1	8	5	4	7	2	9
I	T	S	E	A	G	E	R					2	9	7	6	3	1	5	8	4	
E	V	E	N	T	P	A	R	K	A			5	4	8	7	2	9	3	6	1	
C	L	A	N	L	E	E	R	E	M	B	E	R	4	1	6	2	8	7	9	5	3
O	B	I	T	S	T	E	E	L	B	O	D	Y	9	2	3	4	1	5	8	7	6
G	E	N	T	E	A	L	S	O	L	O	G	E	7	8	5	3	9	6	4	1	2
C	R	E	S	S	S	T	E	R	E												
S	I	E	G	E	E	T	E														
B	A	N	O	R	A	L	S	T	R	I	A	L									
E	B	B	I	R	I	S	R	A	N	G	E										
A	L	O	E	L	I	M	E	A	N	T	E	S									
N	E	X	T	Y	A	P	S	T	O	S	S										

ARROW  
CANDY  
CHOCOLATE  
CUPID  
LOVE  
DINNER

PAST TIMES

# Brownsville's Chinese Laundry

## Part 5 of 5

By Allen L. Buzzard, Columnist

The tiny triangular plot of dirt, with a willow tree, U.S. Civil War Veterans Memorial, flagpole, and concrete benches beside the mill race at the corner of Averill Street and Park Avenue was once the site of Mr. Loo Sing's Chinese Wash House (ca. 1884-1892), a thriving business in North Brownsville, Oregon.



November 16, 1907), and 78 natives of 10 foreign countries, including one Alaskan deemed a foreigner. Among the foreign-born, six were natives of China. Could they have been related to the former proprietor of North Brownsville's Chinese Wash House — Mr. Loo Sing?

Notwithstanding the fate of Mr. Loo Sing's Chinese Laundry, a 1905 mid-decennial special census conducted by A.M. Templeton showed that Brownsville (Note: The original Brownsville south of the Calapooia River, North Brownsville north of the Calapooia, and the adjacent town of Amelia east of the Brownsville Woolen Mills were united and incorporated into the present City of Brownsville in 1895.) had "a good gain over the census of five years ago," according to the June 30, 1905 edition of The Brownsville Times. Not only was greater Brownsville deemed one of the fastest-growing districts in the State of Oregon in 1905, but it also teemed with different ethnicities, races, and backgrounds.

Nevertheless, as Chinese New Year (aka Lunar New Year) celebrations begin Tuesday, February 17, 2026, it's worth reminiscing about the six Chinese residents who called Brownsville home in 1905, especially former North Brownsville businessman Mr. Loo Sing. Brownsville's Asian-American demographic might still be small today, but Brownsvillians could see colorful red banners with gold Chinese lettering adorning a few neighbors' front doors, hear firecrackers (lit to bring good omens), or see children gleefully clutching red envelopes stuffed with new cash. In larger communities, such as Corvallis, Eugene, or Salem, one might even enjoy a traditional Chinese New Year Lion Dance. 🐉

Templeton reported 741 native-born Oregonians, 646 emigrants from 35 of the 45 states (Oklahoma wasn't admitted until

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

POPULATION INCREASING.

Late Census Shows a Good Gain Since Last Enumeration.

The census enumeration of this city having just been completed by A. M. Templeton, shows a good gain over the census of five years ago. Within the corporate limits of the city the enumerator has found 898 people. In 1900 the census gave 676.

The enumeration of the census comprising all of township 13-2 west, 14-3 west, all north of the Calapooia river in township 13-3 west, and about a fifth of township 14-3 west, gives a total population of 1,423.

Few towns in this part of the state show a greater gain in population than Brownsville, and many of them considerable less increase. Brownsville has enjoyed a steady and substantial growth. Not only is the population increasing, but the city has increased in appearance and wealth wonderfully during the past five years.

An interesting fact in connection with the census just enumerated shows that in the district enumerated there are 741 native born Oregonians. The nativity of those from other states follows: Ohio 41, Iowa 92, Indiana, 36, California 18, Virginia 26, Missouri 69, Illinois 80, Kansas 25, North Dakota 4, South Dakota 6, Nebraska 36, Michigan 16, New York 24, Pennsylvania 30, Tennessee 40, Nevada 2, West Virginia 1, Washington 33, Vermont 3, North Carolina 1, Wisconsin 10, Utah 2, Oklahoma, 2, Maryland 1, Minnesota 15, Georgia 2, New Jersey 1, Massachusetts 4, Colorado 7, Connecticut 1, Arkansas 1, Texas 6, Kentucky 7, Maine 2, New Hampshire 2.

In the same territory the enumerator found 3 natives of Sweden, 6 natives of China, 17 natives of Germany, 25 natives of England, 2 natives of Norway, 15 natives of Canada, 5 natives of Ireland, 1 native of Scotland, 1 native of Alaska, and 3 natives of Denmark.

CREDITS: "Brownsville's Chinese Laundry" story wouldn't have been possible without the generous assistance of: Thomas Casey, Linn County Surveyor; Sean Wilson, Linn County Clerk's Supervisor of Records; Matt Pitcher, Linn County Assessor; Michelle Duncan, Linn County Sheriff's Office (LCSO); Steve Barrett, Linn County Geographic Information Systems (G.I.S.) Director; National Archives & Records Administration (NARA); "PAST TIMES" editor and retired circuit court judge Dan Murphy; Linn County Historical Museum (LCHM); Smithsonian Institution; Brownsville Librarian Sherri Lemhouse; Oregon State University Special Collections & Archives Research Center (OSU SCARC); reference desk personnel at the Albany, Oregon Public Library (APL); volunteer Michael Ransom at the Linn Genealogical Society (LinnGenSoc); University of Oregon Special Collections & University Archives (UO SCUA); docent William "Bill" Maddy at the Albany Regional Museum (ARM); and LinnGenSoc President David Devin.

At left is a clipping from the Brownsville Times, Friday, June 30, 1905, reporting results of a special mid-decennial census conducted by A.M. Templeton. The article notes Brownsville's rapid growth since 1900 and documents residents' places of origin, including six natives of China (highlighted in yellow) — a reminder of the diverse community that existed alongside businesses such as Mr. Loo Sing's Chinese Wash House in North Brownsville.

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