



## One Step, One Breath: A Walk for Peace

By Lynlee Bischoff, Staff Writer and Columnist

On October 26, 2025, a group of 24 Buddhist monks, led by the Venerable Monk Bhikkhu Pannakara and his dog, Aloka, left their monastery in Fort Worth, Texas, bound for Washington, DC. No one lined the streets to witness their passing, but that would change. Their 2300-mile journey over 110 days was called A Walk for Peace. They passed through 10 states, walking in freezing temperatures and pouring rain. As word of this pilgrimage spread on social media, people began to gather to witness their passing. By the end of their journey, they would have nearly 3 million followers on Facebook and the attention of people around the world.

This was not about Buddhism or trying to convert people, but rather a walk to raise awareness of the simple fact that, with each breath and each step we take, we are given an opportunity to choose where we put our attention. It is not a new idea, but it is very timely.

Like so many, checking in on the Walk For Peace became my morning ritual. Seeing people of all ages, races,

*PEACE continued on page 7*



LYNLEE BISCHOFF

Supporters crowd the monastery entrance as the Walk for Peace concludes, welcoming the monks home after their 2,300-mile pilgrimage across 10 states.

### INSIDE



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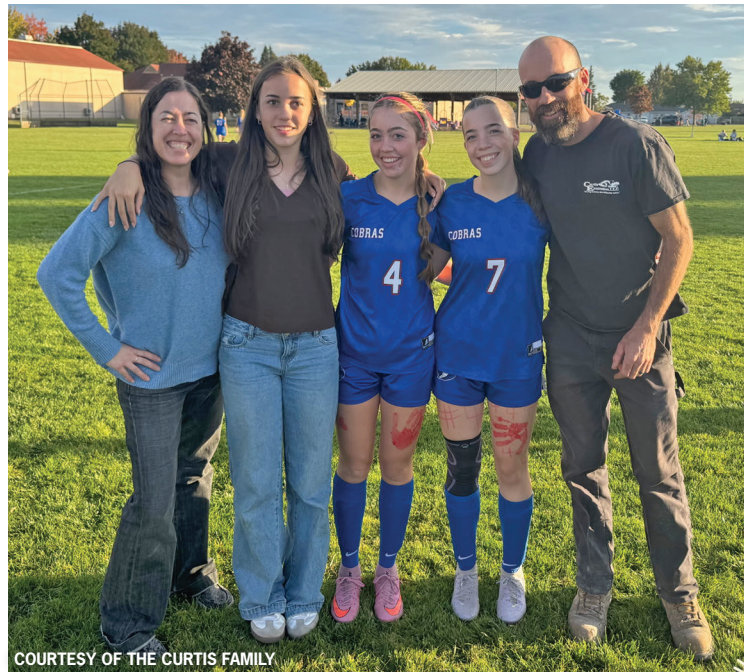


TABLE TALK

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## Rooted in Brownsville: The Curtis Family's Generational Story

By Olivia Howard, Staff Writer and Columnist



COURTESY OF THE CURTIS FAMILY

Sarah, Amelia, Isabelle, Eleanor, and Jason, Curtis

Brownsville has a long, winding history, and many residents can trace their lineage through generations. The Curtis family is one of the families in Brownsville that can trace its small-town roots through many generations. Joseph and Mary Curtis migrated to the Linn County area from rural Iowa in 1882 with their four sons, Palmer, Mark, William, and John. They purchased farmland in a small settlement named Oakville, just a few miles west of Shedd. With the help of their sons, Mary and Joseph cultivated a prune orchard, as well as fields of corn and wheat. The early Curtis pioneers even attended the first Brownsville Pioneer picnic, a several-day event that has taken place in the Brownsville park since 1887.

William Curtis (Mary and Joseph's third son) married

*CURTIS continued on page 4*

## The Shoppe of Shalom: A Store Like No Other Right Here in Halsey

By Sharon Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

HALSEY — The Shoppe of Shalom is a delightful old-fashioned general store offering a wide variety of goods for residents and visitors alike. Stepping inside feels like a return to a simpler time, when quality, craftsmanship, and community still matter.

The shelves are lined with fresh, natural bulk foods, some stored in glass jars, featuring plain, wholesome ingredients rather than processed products. Many items are sourced from local growers, reflecting the store's commitment to simplicity and sustainability. Along the back wall, shoppers will find a full selection of cooking utensils, perfect for anyone who still enjoys preparing meals from scratch.

One of the store's most popular offerings is its U-Bake pies, which let customers enjoy the taste and aroma of a truly home-baked dessert. The Shoppe also carries scented candles in mason jars, home décor, and locally inspired artwork. A beautiful collection of fabrics fills another corner of the



SHARON K. BANKS

Marla Kropf, co-owner of The Shoppe of Shalom in Halsey, stands with her daughter, Andrea Kropf, inside the family-run store that has been serving the community since 2007.

*SHALOM continued on page 5*

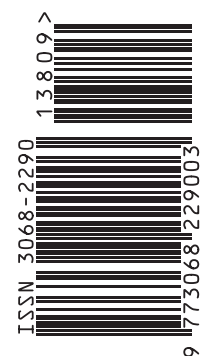


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CENTRAL LINN SPORTS

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9 773068 229003

## 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.

**Modern Square Dance Lessons**

Sundays • 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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Silver Screen Cinema: "One-Eyed Jacks"**

Friday, Feb. 27 • 7 p.m. • Admission is \$2.  
American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184  
339 N Main St, Brownsville

The American Legion Silver Screen Cinema will feature the 1961 Western "One-Eyed Jacks," directed by and starring Marlon Brando. The classic revenge drama follows a bank robber seeking justice after betrayal. Concessions available. Call or text Sharon to reserve a seat at 541-915-9322.

**Melody Jordan Live at Tallman Brewing**

Saturday, Feb. 28 • 5 - 7 p.m.  
Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon

Melody Jordan of Lebanon will perform an intimate acoustic set featuring original songs along with stripped-down favorites from Fleetwood Mac, Taylor Swift, Alanis Morissette, and Paramore. The all-ages show has no cover charge.

**Friends of the Lebanon Public Library Oregon Author Fair**

Saturday, Feb. 28 • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St., Lebanon

The 3rd Annual Oregon Author Fair will feature more than 40 Oregon authors, 12 featured speakers, author talks and workshops, a bake sale fundraiser, and a local food truck. Genres range from children's and YA to historical fiction, romance, mystery, sci-fi, fantasy, memoir, and more. Attendees can purchase books and meet authors throughout the day. The OHSET equestrian team will host a bake sale fundraiser, and the 3 Potato More food truck will be on-site. Some vendors may not accept cards, so bring cash.

<https://www.lebanonlibraryfriends.org/events>

**Woodland Information Night**

Wednesday, March 4 • 6 - 8 p.m.  
Peavy Forest Science Center, Starker Auditorium  
Room 117, 3100 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis

The Linn County Small Woodlands Association, in partnership with the Benton County chapter, will host its annual Woodland Information Night. Presentations include "Technology Innovations in Forestry" by Rachel Baschieri, OSU Extension

Technology in Natural Resources specialist; an overview of digital land-mapping tools by Lorelle Sherman, OSU Extension forester; and a presentation by AeroTract Commercial Drone Services on high-tech forestry tools and services. Parking is available in the campus lot south of Peavy and is free after 5 p.m. No RSVP required.

<https://linncountyswa.com/event/woodland-information-night-2026>

**Not Your Grandma's Bingo**

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

Season ender! Ages 21+ bingo night hosted by Tangent Together, featuring humor, cash prizes, and \$1 game cards. Channel your inner Mrs. Roper!

**Central Linn Elementary Lit Night**

Wednesday, March 5 • 5:30 p.m.  
Central Linn Elementary, 239 W 2nd St., Halsey

Hot dogs will be served from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m., followed by literacy activities from 6 to 7 p.m. Families can explore mystery, nonfiction, adventure, graphic novels, and historical fiction through hands-on stations. Parents are asked to supervise children throughout the evening.

541-762-6151

**Tangent Together St. Patrick's Day Online Auction Opens**

Friday, March 6 • Opens online

Tangent Together's Third Annual St. Patrick's Day Online Auction opens for bidding. Community members can create a profile and bid on donated items and experiences. Bidding continues through March 15, with the auction closing at 3 p.m.

<https://app.bidbeacon.com/#/auction/ZD4EWA/details>

**Greenbelt Land Trust 37th Annual Meeting**

Thursday, March 5 • 6 p.m.  
Dennis Community Hall  
First Presbyterian Church, 114 SW 8th St., Corvallis

All are welcome to Greenbelt's Annual Meeting celebrating conservation efforts and accomplishments in 2025. The evening will include food and drinks, presentations by staff and board members, and recognition of the Partner and Volunteer of the Year, as well as the Charles Ross Award for conservation leadership.

<https://greenbeltlandtrust.org/event/greenbelt-land-trust-37th-annual-meeting>

**Livestock Webinar: Finishing Livestock**

Thursday, March 5 • 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. • \$5 • Online

OSU Extension Service will host a practical webinar on preparing livestock for butchering, including feeding strategies, condition scoring, finishing timelines, and working with butchers.

<https://beav.es/5uN> • 541-237-6808.

**Johnathan Sterling Live**

Friday, March 6 • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon

Local favorite Johnathan Sterling will perform live. Community members are invited to enjoy an evening of live music in a relaxed setting.

**Pet Wellness Clinic**

Friday, March 6 • By appointment  
SafeHaven Humane Society  
32220 Old Highway 34, Tangent

SafeHaven offers low-cost wellness clinics for dogs and cats on the first Friday of each month. The clinics provide affordable preventative care to help keep pets healthy, especially for families facing financial challenges. Appointments are required.

<https://safehavenhumane.org>

**See what's happening in Central Linn and add your event:**

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

## TANGENT TOGETHER

**St. Patrick's Day Auction Returns with Community Spirit**

The luck of the Irish is set to shine on Tangent once again as Tangent Together prepares for its Third Annual St. Patrick's Day Online Auction. Organizers invite community members and local businesses to donate items and experiences to help make this year's fundraiser the most successful yet.

Donations may include gift baskets, gift certificates, handmade goods, services, event tickets, or other creative offerings. Each contribution helps channel community generosity into direct support for Tangent Together's local initiatives and events throughout the year. Send an email to [tangentvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:tangentvolunteer@gmail.com) for donating details.

Online bidding opens on March 6 and runs through March 15, closing at 3 p.m. Participants can create an online bidder profile at <https://app.bidbeacon.com/#/auction/ZD4EWA/details> and browse a wide variety of items — from local favorites to one-of-a-kind finds. Organizers encourage bidders to check back often, as friendly competition can heat up in the final hours.

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

Community members are encouraged to mark their calendars, donate if they can, and join the fun of supporting Tangent Together. 🍀



**BROWNSVILLE  
COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Would you like to have a garden but don't have enough space? Want to grow to donate to food banks in our area? Well, you're in luck! We have plots available for the 2026 season! For the low flat rate of \$70 for a 10x40 in ground plot and \$40 for one of our premium 8x4 raised beds. (March '26-Feb '27).

**SEND AN EMAIL TO THE GARDEN MANAGER  
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LINN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

# Gentlemen Did Not Wear Levis

By Mandy Cole, Staff Writer

In the Historic Menswear exhibit at the Brownsville Library, designed by the Linn County Historical Museum, there are no Levis in sight. Displaying historic clothing from the Museum's collection, visitors will discover that a gentleman in the late 1800s would have worn a black pin-striped suit with a white embroidered tie, a silk handkerchief tucked in the pocket, and tapped a wooden cane while walking down Main Street. Very fancy.

Visitors to the exhibit will also see that a prosperous local banker, possibly John Moyer of the Bank of Brownsville, would have worn a black frock coat with a white dress shirt (detachable collar), black leather shoes, a tall black beaver hat, and carried fine white leather gloves. Even in the early 1900s, what men wore defined them.



A tall black beaver hat, white leather gloves and polished black dress shoes reflect the formal attire of a prosperous late-1800s gentleman.



A young boy's navy wool sailor-style jacket with gold trim is displayed alongside an illustrated children's book, part of the Historic Menswear exhibit designed by the Linn County Historical Museum and now on view at the Brownsville Community Library.

Don't miss the amazing historic dark brown, hairy animal skin (is it bear-skin?) chaps worn by one of the Drinkard men years ago, which illustrate the protective gear needed by a Linn County stockman. In the cabinet next to the banker, rugged caulk boots worn by a local logger and essential logging tools, such as the peavey and broad axe, are on display.

If you are a railroad fan, look for the official trainman's uniform with two historic hats: one for the Conductor and one for the Brakeman. Historic clothing for young boys fills the small cabinet near the library reception desk. No boy today would be seen in the turquoise-blue velvet trousers.

Visit the Historic Menswear exhibit at the Brownsville Library, 146 Spaulding Ave., until the end of March. Library hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday, 1-7 p.m. Call the Library for more information at 541-466-454.

Linn County Historical Museum is located at 101 Park Ave., Brownsville. You can reach them by phone at 541-466-3390. ☎

CENTRAL LINN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# Building Community

Interview with Don Ware by Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer and Columnist

Murphy: What is the Central Linn Community Foundation, and what does it do?

Ware: We help build community in the Central Linn area by supporting local nonprofit organizations. Each year, we solicit contributions from the community and then make grants to local organizations.

Murphy: Don, can you give us a little history lesson on this foundation?

Ware: Yes, early efforts, dating back to the 1980s, involved a number of people, including Anne Stein and Mandy Cole. Anne and Mandy wanted to form a foundation for local support. In 2002, they called meetings of an ad hoc committee for this purpose.

In December 2005, the foundation formally incorporated. The corporation then received IRS recognition as a nonprofit organization in 2011.

The foundation's mission is to support and promote educational efforts that improve health, vitality, and charitable activities in the community. In 2010, the foundation awarded grants totaling \$1,000. Last year, the foundation awarded grants totaling \$10,000, and this year we are prepared to award a total of \$15,000 in grants.

In 2017, the name was changed to the Central Linn Community

Foundation to reflect our intent to support the entire central Linn County area, not just Brownsville. The original name was the Brownsville Community Foundation.

Murphy: How can people donate to the foundation?

Ware: Donations can be made by check to CLCF at PO Box 4, Brownsville, Oregon 97327, or by calling me at 541-657-8018. Donations can also be made by credit card on our website.

Murphy: How do organizations apply for grants?

Ware: Go to our website at <https://centlinncf.org> and download the application under the Grant Application menu. The application deadline is March 31, 2026. You can then email, mail, or hand it to us.

We will host a dessert in the Brownsville City Community Room on May 16, 2026, where grant awards will be announced and 2025 recipients will report on their activities.

We are also seeking new board members. The time commitment is minimal — we have only four or five meetings per year. Give Don a call if you are interested.

Murphy: Thank you, Mr. Ware. Don Ware is the president of the Central Linn Community Foundation. ☎



**CENTRAL LINN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Supporting Nonprofit Organizations & Community Projects In Central Linn County

## Now Accepting Grant Applications

If your organization is working to improve lives, solve problems, or create a stronger future, we encourage you to apply.

Learn more and apply by March 31:

Don Ware: 541-657-8018 | [www.centlinncf.org](http://www.centlinncf.org)

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DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

# Do You Have a Revolutionary Patriot in Your Family Tree?

Submitted by the Winema Chapter Regent, DAR

Consider the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a volunteer women's service organization that honors and preserves the legacy of our Patriot ancestors. DAR was founded in 1890 by four women.

Who is eligible for membership? Any woman over 18. DAR volunteers are willing to provide guidance and assistance with your first step in finding your Patriot.

How is "Patriot" defined? DAR recognizes Patriots not only as soldiers but also as anyone who contributed to the cause of America's freedom.

How many members does the National Society have? DAR has nearly 190,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including 14 foreign countries and one territory.

How can you find out more? Visit our website at <https://www.dar.org> or reach out to one of three local Chapters: Winema Chapter in Corvallis, Linn Chapter in Albany, and Santiam Chapter in Lebanon. ☼

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## Commissioners OK Health Department Agreements

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger, and Will Tucker approved several contracts for the Linn County Health Services Department at the board's February 17 meeting.

The agreements were brought before the commissioners by Health Services Administrator Todd Noble.

The agreements included:

- \$144,000 between Linn County and Family Tree Nursery. Family Tree Peer Recovery Mentors will provide mentoring and transitional integration services to corrections and Drug Court clients who have addiction issues. This is pass-through funding from the Criminal Justice Commission from the Treatment Court Grant Program.
- Up to \$245,000 per year from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030 with the Pelton Project. The funds will help provide services for persons affected by mental illness through Oregon's Home and Community Based Services 1915i program. The program helps people maintain their highest level of independence and least restrictive housing and independent community setting.
- \$98,110 in pass-through funding from the Criminal Justice Commission to ABC House. The funds will support Victim Support Services.
- \$98,110 in pass-through funding from the Criminal Justice Commission to the Center

Against Rape and Domestic Violence. The funds will support Victim Support Services. In other business, the commissioners:

- Were told there were 48 births — 31 girls and 17 boys — and 108 deaths in January. One death was of a person who was more than 100 years old. There were 42 reported animal bites, compared to a five-year average of 29.
- Were informed by Environmental Health Manager Shane Sanderson that his staff completed 79 food service facility inspections in January and 333 year-to-date.
- Approved the transfer of \$126,420 within the General Fund for payroll adjustments in the GIS, General Services, General Administration, non-departmental and Animal Control departments.
- Approved creation of a Chief Financial Officer position.
- Approved the purchase of liquid asphalt emulsion as needed from Western Emulsions Inc. for the Road Department's 2026 chip seal projects.
- Announced that the commissioners have been invited to tour the new District Attorney's Office on the first floor of the courthouse, from 12–1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19.
- Heard from Daniel Farrington of Sublimity, who is seeking the House District 17 seat in the Oregon Legislature. ☼



### 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

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

Please no expired items.



CURTIS *continued from cover*

Georgina Watson at age 24. They had a son, Ellsworth Curtis, in 1882. As an adult, Ellsworth Curtis lived in Prineville, Oregon, where he built many irrigation dams for agriculture. He also met his wife, Lily Wilson, there. Lily Wilson was born in Waukee, Iowa, in 1882. As an adult, she began her career as a schoolteacher in Crook County, Oregon, but soon found her true calling in photography. She left for Portland where she was professionally trained as a photographer. When she returned, she opened her own studio in Prineville. Ellsworth and Lily Wilson Curtis married on June 15, 1910. They raised five children, Lewis, Morris, and Bert (Pat), Charity, and Martha, on a homestead in Bear Creek, Jackson County. The family moved to Halsey in 1920.

Arlene and Burt (Pat) moved to Brownsville and built ABC Ranch and Crushing from the ground up. The business was sold to their son, Jay Curtis, who flipped it into Curtis Rock & Topsoil. Jay Curtis grew up in Brownsville and continues to work at Curtis Rock on Northern Drive to this day. Jay's son, Jason Curtis, grew up in Lebanon but spent most of his childhood in Brownsville, helping his dad at Curtis Rock. His familiarity with the rock business led him to continue on this path, and he founded Curtis Excavation, a family-centered operation with Jason and Sarah Curtis raising three daughters, Isabelle, Amelia,

and Eleanor.

Isabelle Curtis, the oldest daughter, has lived in Brownsville for all eighteen of her years. She grew up alongside her sisters in the same house that holds a myriad of memories, most notably her parents' wedding in 2003. As she looks ahead to a future at Oregon State University, she reflects on her childhood in Brownsville, filled with countless activities and community events. Becoming a Pioneer Picnic Princess, one of the most desirable accomplishments for little girls in Linn County, was among Isabelle's favorite memories growing up. Along with the Pioneer Picnic festivities, her childhood summer days were filled with craft days at the library, reading under the library willow tree, and swimming in the river. Brownsville may be a small town, but this story shows that the richness of its memories is momentous. ☼

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**SHALOM** *continued from cover*

store, alongside men's traditional black suits featuring the classic collar worn by Mennonite men.

The Shoppe of Shalom was originally founded in 1992 by Marvin and Edith Ketchum in Harrisburg under the name Ketch's Variety. The business relocated to Halsey in November 1996. In 2007, the current owners, Paul and Marla Kropf, purchased the store and have continued its long-standing tradition of quality products and friendly service.

Located just north of the Halsey Post Office on Highway 99, the store sits quietly in an unassuming building set back from the busy roadway. Motorists rushing past may not realize what they are missing unless they slow down and stop for a moment. While the exterior appears plain and simple, the inside is a genuine treat.



Shelves at The Shoppe of Shalom are stocked with bulk grains, beans, baking ingredients, and dried goods, many sourced locally and packaged simply for home cooks who value wholesome, from-scratch ingredients.

The Shoppe of Shalom evokes memories of the old-fashioned markets that once anchored small towns — long before fast, convenient, and impersonal online shopping became the norm. Online shoppers scroll alone through endless options, guided by algorithms and reviews, often unaware of who made the product or where it came from. By contrast, The Shoppe of Shalom, a Mennonite-style market, is rooted in human connection and tradition. Shoppers are welcomed in person, often by those who baked, built, or sourced the items sold. There is conversation, eye contact, and trust. Prices are fair and straightforward,

**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.



Children's books from Kane Miller, EDC Publishing, and Usborne line a rotating display at The Shoppe of Shalom, offering interactive and educational titles for young readers.

free of flash sales or advertising gimmicks. The selection may be smaller, but it is thoughtful — handmade goods, seasonal foods, and recipes passed down through generations.

In a world increasingly driven by speed and convenience, The Shoppe of Shalom invites visitors to slow down, look around, and enjoy a shopping experience where community and care still come first. ☺



SHARON K. BANKS

**HALSEY CITY COUNCIL**

**Street Vacation Tabled Again, Emergency Plan Reviewed**

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

The Halsey City Council met at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 10, at City Hall, with Mayor Jerry Lachenbruch presiding. Councilor Karl Kropf was absent.

During delegations, Linn County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Steven Frambes reported that in January, deputies issued three traffic citations and nine warnings, with no arrests or traffic crashes in Halsey. Deputies investigated 38 complaints. A vehicle break-in on East First Street resulted in a stolen firearm. Sgt. Frambes reminded residents not to leave firearms in vehicles and to document serial numbers.

Deputy Jenna Sukle noted ongoing stop-sign violations at the four-way stop at Highway 99E and Highway 228. The city requested traffic data to evaluate concerns following the removal of the overhead signal. The mayor also shared positive feedback from parents regarding Deputy Sukle's presence in the school zone.

Business and Economic Development intern Elise McConnell provided an overview of projects completed during her internship, including reorganizing the city's business directory, improving website content, and launching "Halsey Highlights," a program that features local businesses in the city newsletter and on social media.

During citizen comments, Tony Isom raised concerns about the proposed vacation of West A and West B streets and how it may affect property access. Stephan Kemper expressed concerns about parking and visibility at West G Street and Highway 99E.

City Administrator Briana Parra reported that the city's inflow and infiltration repair project design is complete and will go out for bid later this month. The H Street paving project is also moving toward a March bid opening, with construction anticipated before fall 2026. She also reported active code enforcement cases involving junk and debris, with citations issued and court dates scheduled in some cases.

The council set April 25 for Spring Clean-Up Day and selected June 13 for the annual citywide garage sale.

Public Works reported two water leaks in January and ongoing maintenance at the wastewater lagoon during discharge season.

The library reported 74 items circulated in January and announced that registration is open for the May 9 Library 5K fundraiser. The library will have a table at Central Linn Elementary's Annual Lit Night.

Under old business, the council again discussed the proposed vacation of West A and West B streets. After discussion, the council unanimously voted to table the matter pending additional information.

In new business, the council reviewed a draft Emergency Response Plan outlining roles, communication procedures and response phases for major incidents. No formal action was taken.

The council also discussed plans for the city's 150th anniversary and potential additions to the annual community BBQ and movie night. Staff will research options and return with recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. ☺

**WHERE TO BUY & SELL**

*Eva Atchley*  
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## SEASONS EATINGS

# Copycat Classics from the Teachers' Lounge

By Lisa Keith, Columnist

This week, I'd like to share a couple of super-simple sauce and dressing recipes. Both are knock-offs of popular chain restaurant recipes. The first is "Pretend Olive Garden Salad Dressing." I know they have endless salad for a reason! The second is "Want to Be Yummm Sauce." Both came my way in 2010, when I was a substitute teacher at Harrisburg Elementary. The teachers' lounge at lunch is always a font of friendship and good recipe exchanges.

## Pretend Olive Garden Salad Dressing

- ½ C white vinegar
- ⅓ C oil
- ⅓ C water
- ¼ C sugar
- 2½ C grated Romano cheese (Parmesan also works)
- 1¼ tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp egg white
- 2 Tbsp dry pectin
- ½ tsp granulated garlic
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- ¼ tsp each parsley, oregano, and red pepper flakes

Blend 30 seconds. Chill.



## Want to be Yummm Sauce

- ¼ C tahini
- ¼ C almond butter (peanut butter works)
- ⅓ C brewer's yeast
- 1 can garbanzo beans (drain and reserve the agua fava)
- 2 cloves of garlic (peeled and smashed)
- ½ C water
- ½ C lemon juice (half can be lime, if you like)
- ½ C oil
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp red curry

Add the first 7 ingredients to the blender or food processor. Blend until smooth. Keep the blender running and pour the oil in a thin stream. Add the remaining ingredients and blend until the desired consistency is reached. You may need to add some agua fava.



I'm grateful for the kindness and support so many of you share when we cross paths around town. Your encouragement keeps this column going. If you have a favorite recipe, a cooking question, or an idea you'd like to see featured, I'd love to hear from you at iamcheflisa@gmail.com. ☺

## TABLE TALK: DINING IN AROUND BROWNSVILLE

# The Dizzy Hen, a Hearty Breakfast and Friendly Service

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

PHILOMATH — My wife and I were heading toward the coast recently to do a little beach-combing and decided to stop for breakfast along the way. Knowing we would be passing through Philomath, I did a quick search for the best places to eat there. One name kept coming up again and again. The Dizzy Hen, located at 1247 Main Street, clearly had a strong local following, so we decided to give it a try.

When we arrived, the place was packed, even on a Thursday morning. That is usually a good sign, and it proved true here. Walking in, I first noticed how clean and well-kept everything was. The dining area was neat, comfortably decorated, and welcoming. The windows were lined with origami pieces that added a bit of personality and charm without feeling cluttered.

I ordered "The Dizzy," their namesake breakfast. It came with two perfectly poached eggs, two large chunks of ham, and chard, all served on a homemade biscuit. The whole thing was topped with sausage gravy and came with a side of potatoes. Simply put, it was excellent. The biscuit alone was worth the stop, and the rest of the dish came together in a way that felt hearty without being overdone. A glass of orange juice rounded it out, and I was more than ready for a full day on the coast.

My wife chose the bacon, black kale, and cheddar omelette, served with potatoes. She was just as pleased with her meal and commented more than once on how fresh everything tasted.

The service deserves mention as well. The servers were friendly, professional, and genuinely pleasant, which made the busy atmosphere feel relaxed rather than rushed. The Dizzy Hen also has a full bar, including a dedicated bar area with stools in the back, which adds to its versatility beyond breakfast.

The Dizzy Hen is the kind of local spot that earns its reputation the hard way. This little gem in Philomath should not go unnoticed. ☺



JEFF BROWN



JEFF BROWN



JEFF BROWN

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**PEACE** *continued from cover*

LYNLEE BISCHOFF



Bhikkhu Pannakara and his famous dog, Aloka, pause on the monastery steps following the 110-day, 2,300-mile Walk for Peace.

and backgrounds line the streets, offering flowers, food, and kind words, was a balm for my spirit. I watched as people were brought to tears simply from seeing these messengers of hope and peace. But I believe it was something more than that. It was a deep yearning for a kinder, gentler world and the simple reminder that it is obtainable. As the days passed, my desire to be part of this historic event grew.

On February 14, I joined the monks for the final leg of their journey back to their monastery in Fort Worth, Texas. The events that followed

will stay with me for the rest of my life, but what stands out now is this: the emotional intensity of the monks' homecoming after a long and arduous journey, the friendly and respectful way the gathered crowd treated one another, the tears of joy streaming down my face and those of so many around me, and, most of all, the overwhelming sense of peace and hope that pervaded it all.

Being able to spend time with the monks in person was magical, especially the older monk who was always smiling, the gentle leader, and, of course, Aloka, the peace dog with a heart on his forehead. Standing in the pouring rain to listen to the Venerable Bhikkhu Pannakara speak became a shared experience when he stepped out from under the eaves to stand with us in the rain.

As with each of the nightly talks he gave along their journey, the message was simple: To truly love our families, friends, and all beings, we must begin with ourselves. When we practice mindfulness, living with full presence and awareness, peace takes root in our hearts. From that peaceful ground, loving-kindness and compassion grow effortlessly, naturally blessing everyone we encounter. This peace we cultivate within is the most precious gift we can offer the world. It begins with one step, one breath. ☸



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CENTRAL LINN BOYS' WRESTLING

# Three Cobras Qualify for State at Special District Tournament

The Central Linn varsity boys wrestling team competed Feb. 13-14 at the OSAA Special District 1 2A/1A Tournament at Colton High School, finishing eighth among 18 teams and qualifying three wrestlers for the state championships.

Juniors Colton Hein, Jacob Helms, and Gradi Spencer each earned third-place finishes in their weight classes, securing their first trips to the OSAA Wrestling State Championships.

Hein placed third at 157 pounds. Helms placed third at 190 pounds. Spencer placed third in the heavyweight division.

All three wrestlers advanced through the bracket to earn podium finishes and qualify for state. According to the meet results, freshman, Kurry Travis narrowly missed qualifying, finishing 2-2 in the tournament and falling one match short in the blood round.

The Cobras' eighth-place finish came in a competitive 18-team field at the Special District 1 tournament.

Central Linn's three state qualifiers will compete at the OSAA Wrestling State Championships Feb. 26-28. 🌟



Top: Jacob Helms (190 pounds) is declared the winner during the OSAA Special District 1 2A/1A Tournament. Left: Colton Hein (157 pounds) controls his opponent on the mat during district competition, where he earned a third-place finish to qualify for state. Bottom: Kurry Travis battles through a match at the district tournament. Travis went 2-2 and fell one win short of qualifying in the blood round.

PHOTOS: BULEZA SPORTS MEDIA



CENTRAL LINN GIRLS' WRESTLING

# Hannah Travis Qualifies for State as Cobra Girls Compete at Districts

The Central Linn girls' wrestling team competed Feb. 20-21 at the OSAA Girls 4A/3A/2A/1A Special District 2 Tournament at Cottage Grove High School, finishing 12th out of 44 teams in a competitive field.

Six Cobras represented Central Linn at districts, with three advancing into the second day of competition.

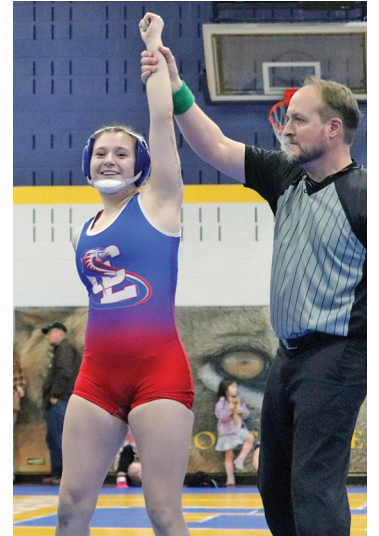
Senior Hannah Travis led the way at 190 pounds, advancing to the finals and earning a second-place finish to qualify for the OSAA State Championships. The state berth marks her fourth career trip to state.

Senior Lily Diaz placed fifth in her weight class, finishing her high school career with a win in her final match.

Freshman Josie Steele advanced to the semifinals but was injured and unable to continue. Steele received sixth place overall.

Additional contributors included senior Nikki Billington and junior Luci Kennedy, who each went 2-2 at the tournament, and freshman Autumn Spellman, who finished 1-2.

The OSAA State Wrestling Championships are scheduled for Feb. 26-27. 🌟



Nikki Billington celebrates a victory in her final district appearance.



Hannah Travis competes in the 190-pound finals at districts.

PHOTOS: RACHAEL TRAVIS



Luci Kennedy after a win at districts. She finished 2-2.



Lily Diaz celebrates a win in her final high school match. She finished fifth at districts.

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## CENTRAL LINN ELEMENTARY GIRLS' BASKETBALL

## CLRA 3rd/4th Grade Girls Close Season with Two Wins Over Harrisburg

The Central Linn 3rd- and 4th-grade girls basketball team wrapped up its season in strong fashion, winning its final two games against the Harrisburg Eagles — one at home and the other on the road.

On Feb. 14, the Cobras hosted the Eagles at the Brownsville Rec Center, securing a 24–16 victory before a supportive hometown crowd. The teams met again in Harrisburg for the season finale, where Central Linn battled to a 23–19 win.

Both matchups were closely contested, with strong effort and improving skills on display from both squads. The Cobras' determination and teamwork made the difference down the stretch, and the girls capped their season with a 6–2 overall record.

Saturday marked the end of the season for most of the Rec Center's 3rd/4th- and 5th/6th-grade

teams, except for a few rescheduled games set for next weekend. The program continues to thrive thanks to the strong connection among the high school teams, coaches, and younger players.

High school coaches and athletes regularly mentor youth teams, helping build skills and confidence while creating excitement around the sport. Last week, a special moment came when members of the high school girls' team attended a practice to scrimmage the 3rd- and 4th-grade squad — and brought donuts as a surprise.

The treat carried extra meaning. The high school team has a tradition: if they hold an opponent scoreless for an entire quarter, they earn donuts. After the younger Cobras shut out Harrisburg for most of the game, the high school players celebrated by recognizing the girls with the sweet reward.

Moments like that highlight what makes the Central Linn youth basketball program special. Behind the scenes, many high school coaches — along with countless volunteers — dedicate time and energy to ensure the program continues to grow.

More than just wins and losses, the season showcased teamwork, mentorship, and a community rallying around its young athletes. 🌀



SHARON BANKS

Central Linn's Maya Geider (#32) goes up for a shot as teammates Jewel Heading (#10), Avery Vasquez (#12), Harper Massey (#11) and Lily Bearson (#27) crash the lane during action against Harrisburg.

## Wendi Farris, a Legacy in Coaching Our Girls

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

For 25 years, Wendi Farris has poured her heart into teaching, mentoring, and building championship-caliber programs — and she has now reached a remarkable milestone: more than 300 career coaching wins.



SHARON BANKS

Since third grade, Wendi has known she wanted to become a coach. Inspired by her high school coach, she worked tirelessly to study, play, and learn the game at every opportunity. She competed for Santiam Christian School — once a rival of Central Linn High School — and never imagined she would one day build winning programs across the region.

Wendi's coaching journey began as a graduate assistant at Northwest College (now Northwest University) while she was completing her student teaching. After graduating, she worked in the Snoqualmie School District as a long-term substitute before being hired at Western Christian School. From 2003 to 2012, she taught Biology and Anatomy and coached girls' varsity soccer and basketball.

In 2012, she returned to her alma mater, Santiam Christian School, where she taught Health, Junior High P.E., and Marine Biology, and coached soccer and baseball until 2019. That year, she joined Central Linn High School, where she now teaches Health, P.E., Culinary Arts, and Junior High Exploration (Art) and coaches girls' varsity basketball, soccer, and softball, depending on the year.

Wendi has built a reputation for rebuilding programs and transforming team culture. She remarked, "Rebuilding teams can be tricky. You have to change the culture. You must get the parents onboard, and you must get your players to believe in themselves."

Her impact extends far beyond wins and losses. Wendi describes herself as "a coach for players," driven by a deep passion for helping young women build confidence and a positive self-image. "Various coaches in my life have impacted me. I'm just trying to pay it forward." Since joining Central Linn, she has been named Coach of the Year five times and has received numerous other honors throughout her career.

Over the years, Wendi has also collected plenty of lighthearted memories:

- One player once asked if being a point guard meant she would score all the points.
- During a timeout near the end of a tied game, after Wendi diagrammed a play and asked if there were any questions, a player asked, "Can the team go to Dairy Queen after the game?"
- At the start of one season, Wendi handed out jerseys and asked the girls to text her their numbers — only to receive a stream of phone numbers instead of jersey numbers.

Today, Wendi says she truly enjoys working alongside fellow coaches Kevin Brown, Rodney Baney, and Rachel Nielson. As of now, the Central Linn girls' varsity is ranked 8th in the state and is awaiting the state brackets, which will be released on February 28. With more than 300 wins and countless lives impacted along the way, one thing is certain: Wendi Farris has built a legacy that extends far beyond the scoreboard.

All that's left to say is — Go Cobras! 🌀

## CENTRAL LINN SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Facilities Committee Advances CTE Projects, Plans Ribbon-Cutting

By Jason Curtis, Staff Writer

The Central Linn School District Facilities Committee met on February 7 at 6 p.m. in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Building for a working session focused on both planning and hands-on preparation.

Committee members worked through the agenda while assembling welding tables, carts, and booths and completing the West Wing clean-up in preparation for upcoming welding and small-engine classes.

Key agenda items included approving the electrical contract to connect both the high school and CTE buildings to new transformers scheduled for installation in summer 2026. The committee also discussed next steps for the interior space design and bathroom facilities in the CTE building.

Additional discussion centered on whether to paint the interior beams of the Cobra Dome. The group agreed to prioritize major projects currently underway while continuing to enhance school facilities as funding allows.

The Facilities Committee's efforts continue to deliver significant value to the district through creative planning, cost savings, and steady progress toward completing essential capital improvement projects.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for March 9 at 5 p.m. in the high school CTE building. Refreshments and tours will follow for those interested in attending. 🌀

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## BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

## Oregon Battle of the Books Comes to Brownsville

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

It is my pleasure to announce that the Brownsville Community Library will host the Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) this year! Thanks to a generous donation from the Running Family, our library will host a set of these books. OBOB began in 2006 and encourages children to read a variety of genres throughout the school year. A typical battle is a tournament in which student teams earn points by answering questions about the books on the book list. There are three divisions: Grades 3–5, 6–8, and 9–12. Any school (public or private, as recognized by the Oregon Department of Education) may participate. Below is the initial list released by the OBOB committee. Additional books are being voted on by teachers, students, and librarians. The full list will be released by March. I have listed the books currently available at the Brownsville Community Library in bold.

## Let the games begin!

## 3rd-5th Grade Division

- **“Esperanza Rising”** by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- **“Frindle”** by Andrew Clements
- **“The Guardian Test”** by Christina Soontornvat
- **“A Kind of Spark”** by Elle McNicoll
- **“Snow and Rose”** by Emily Winfield Martin
- **“The Witch Boy”** by Lee Knox Ostertag

## 6th-8th Grade Division

- **“Anne of Green Gables”** by L.M. Montgomery
- **“The Bletchley Riddle”** by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin
- **“A First Time for Everything”** by Dan Santat
- **“A Game of Fox and Squirrels”** by Jenn Reese
- **“Impossible Creatures”** by Katherine Rundell
- **“It’s All or Nothing, Vale”** by Andrea Beatriz Arango
- **“The Mona Lisa Vanishes”** by Nicholas Day
- **“The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise”** by Dan Gemeinhart

## 9-12th Grade Division

- **“The Honeys”** by Ryan La Sala
- **“Looking for Smoke”** by K.A. Cobell
- **“Scythe”** by Neal Shusterman
- **“Unraveller”** by Frances Hardinge
- **“While You Were Dreaming”** by Alisha Rai

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 or visit <https://www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org>.

## SHERRING BOOKS

## From Swedish Wisdom to Spy Thrillers: New Books on the Shelf

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

## Adult Non-Fiction

“Family of Spies: A World War II Story of Nazi Espionage, Betrayal, and the Secret History Behind Pearl Harbor” by Christine Kuehn is a biography/autobiography based on the author’s family history.

“The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning: How to Free Yourself and Your Family from a Lifetime of Clutter (The Swedish Art of Living & Dying)” by Margareta Magnusson is a patron request. It sounds interesting!

“The Swedish Art of Aging Exuberantly: Life Wisdom from Someone Who Will (Probably) Die Before You” by Margareta Magnusson is also a patron request, and it also sounds interesting!

## Adult Fiction

“Dear Debbie” by Freida McFadden is a psychological suspense novel.

“The Unselected Journals of Emma M Lion” by Beth Brower. Volumes 1–4. A single lady in the 1800s loses both parents and then moves into her parents’ London home. A delightful story about her life and new friends.

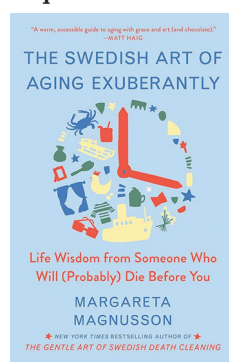
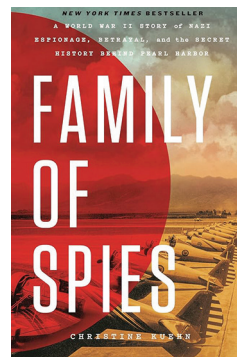
“Slow Horses” by Mick Herron. Have you heard of Slough House? This is book 1 of the British action-and-adventure spy fiction.

## Junior Books

“Adventures of TinTin” by Hergé, Volumes 3–8 are replacements for the well-loved graphic novels.

Several titles from the popular Dragon Masters series by Tracey West are now available for young readers. This action-adventure chapter book series, geared toward third graders, follows young Dragon Masters and their dragons on magical quests filled with danger, teamwork and discovery. Newly available titles include

“Song of the Poison Dragon” (Book 5), “Search for the Lightning Dragon” (Book 7), “Roar of the Thunder Dragon” (Book 8), “Chill of the Ice Dragon” (Book 9) and “Waking the Rainbow Dragon” (Book 10), giving readers even more dragon-powered adventures to enjoy.



## BOOKS TO CONSIDER

## A Surprise of a Story

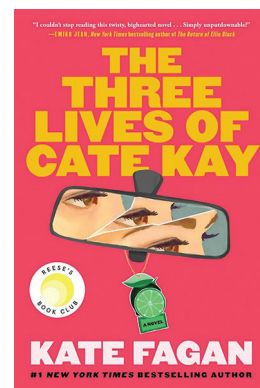
By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer and Columnist

“The Three Lives of Cate Kay” by Emmy-winning journalist Kate Fagan (2025) is proving to be quite a surprise! This debut novel from an ESPN journalist who has three previous nonfiction best-sellers is a terrific read. It is surprising that such a complex and fun-to-read novel should follow the author’s prior, quite serious works. Complete with a twisting plot, a gay female protagonist, and a whole lot to say about becoming famous, this one had me hooked immediately.

It is a page-turner about a scrappy young woman who never gives up on her dreams of a future in Hollywood. The main character, Cate, is a writer. From her first formal college class to sitting in on a writing workshop in New York, to her eventual revered fame as a Hollywood screenwriter, you will ride along with her on her journey, rooting for her all the way. Named a Best Book of 2025 by Time, NPR, Goodreads, and others, the novel was also chosen as a Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick. Witherspoon said, “This story swept me away with its big dreams, love, and unexpected twists.”

“In this electric, voice-driven debut novel, an elusive bestselling author finally confesses her true identity after years of hiding her past. The main character, Cate Kay, knows how to craft a story. As the creator of a bestselling book trilogy that became a box office hit as a film series, she’s one of the most successful authors of her generation. The thing is, Cate Kay doesn’t really exist. She’s never attended author events or granted any interviews. Her real identity has been a closely guarded secret until now. As a young adult, she and her best friend Amanda fantasized about escaping their difficult homes and moving to California to become movie stars. But the day before their grand adventure, a tragedy shattered their dreams, and Cate has been on the run ever since, taking on different names and charting a new future,” according to [thriftbooks.com](https://www.thriftbooks.com).

The author, Kate Fagan, is an accomplished journalist, basketball player, columnist, novelist, and commentator, previously employed by ESPN. She left her position there to care for her father, who had ALS. Her memoir of her relationship with her father, fostered by their shared love of basketball, is explored in her book, “All the Colors Came Out”. Another Kate Fagan book, “What Made Maddy Run,” is the heartbreaking true story of college athlete Madison Holleran and the struggles of young people like Madison with mental illness. “The Three Lives of Cate Kay” can be found on Libby eBooks and Libby Audiobooks through the Brownsville Library.



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KIDS' KORNER

# Dragons, Adventure, and Friendship Await Young Readers

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer and Columnist

If you enjoy a book series with characters you come to know and love, you will not want to miss Tracy West's The Dragon Masters series. With more than 30 books, each featuring an exciting dragon adventure that sparks the imagination, the series is a must-read.

The series begins with Book 1, where readers meet eight-year-old Drake, who "...doesn't like digging onions, but he's resigned to that future. Everything changes when one of the King's men scoops him up and whisks him away to the castle to become a Dragon Master," according to J.B. Petty in Booklist.

According to tracywest.com, "Dragon Masters is a fantasy series that takes place in a world where dragons are real. If you are eight years old, you can be chosen by the Dragon Stone to be paired with a dragon. Each dragon's special powers are then discovered. The Dragon Masters all team up to solve problems, save their land from villains, and go on adventures."

You do not need to read the books in order, since each story stands on its own. However, the first book, "Rise of the Earth Dragon," is a great place to start and to learn the background of the characters and their world.

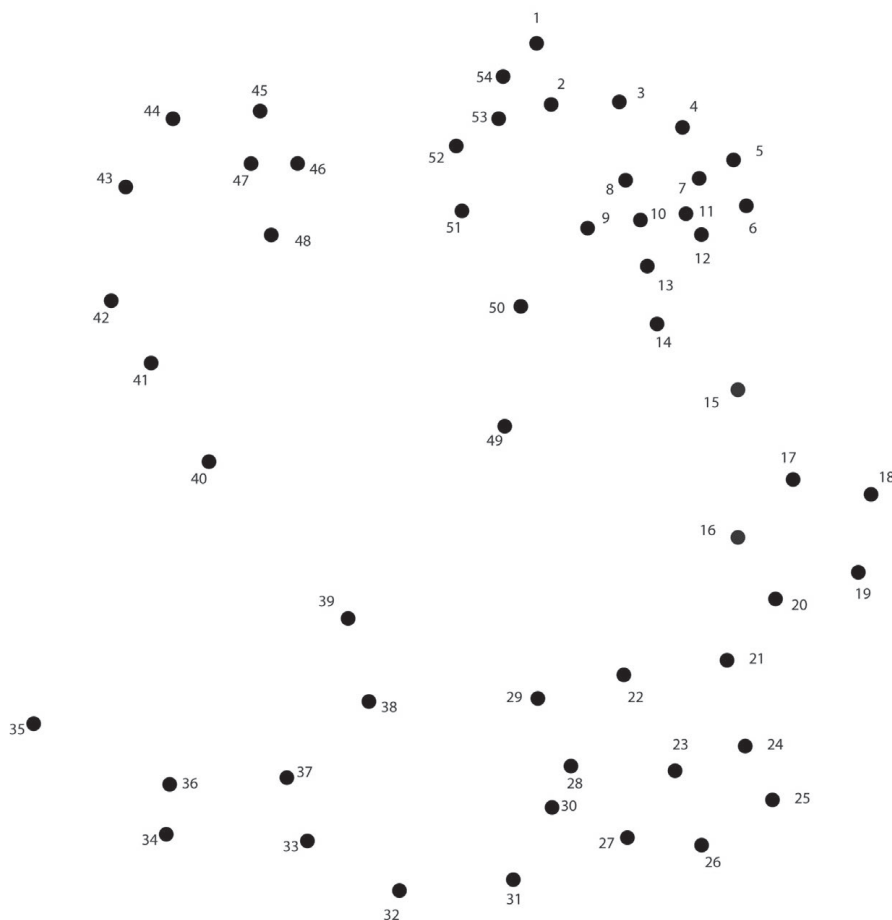
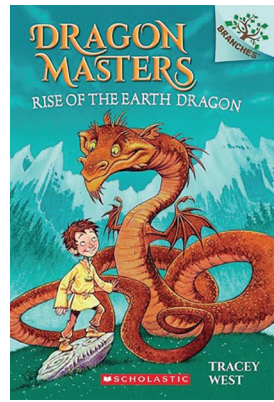
Another highlight of the series is the artwork. Illustrator Graham Howells and others have created

vibrant dragon illustrations for each book. Some dragons are cute and funny, while others are fire-breathing and wild. Each one just needs the right eight-year-old to tame and befriend it.

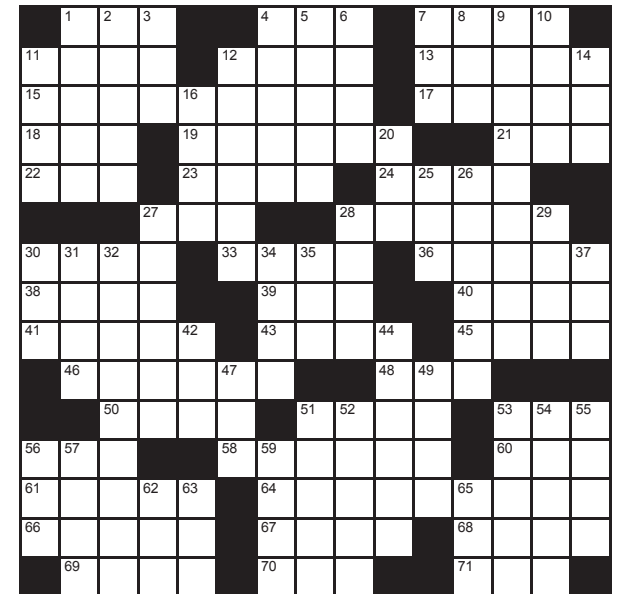
Most of the series is available at the Brownsville Library.

### Activity

Follow the dots to create your own dragon. 🐉



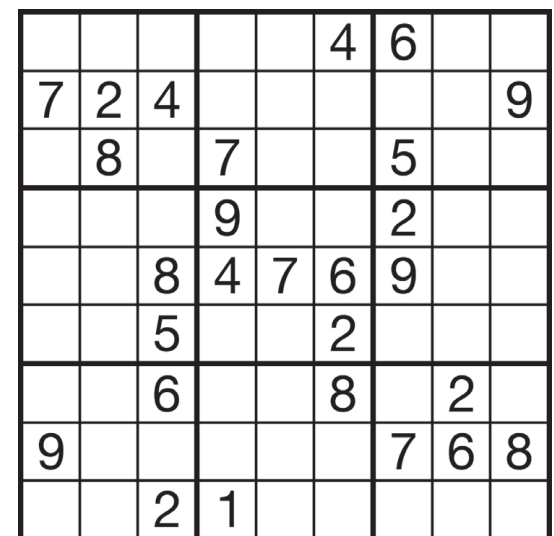
# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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- |                               |                                |   |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                 | Marie Saint                    | 25 Boxer's punch                                |
| 1 Do yard work                | 56 Cigar residue               | 26 "I'll be home ____"                          |
| 4 Sombrero, e.g.              | 58 Stomach supplier            | 27 Aplenty                                      |
| 7 Source                      | 60 Animal house                | 28 Brain wave                                   |
| 11 Comic Carvey               | 61 Prepared                    | 29 Tilt   |
| 12 100 centavos               | 64 Respite                     | 30 ____ Alamos, N.M.                            |
| 13 Receded                    | 66 Madame Tussaud              | 31 Circle parts                                 |
| 15 "Get to your feet, kiddo!" | 67 Engine parts                | 32 Alice's "Adventures in Wonderland" character |
| 17 Biblical mount             | 68 Andy's radio partner        | 34 Family group                                 |
| 18 Bar order                  | 69 Landlord's due              | 35 Slippery one                                 |
| 19 Exit                       | 70 Before Doubtfire or Miniver | 37 Darjeeling or oolong                         |
| 21 Mine find                  | 71 Starchy tuber               | <b>DOWN</b>                                     |
| 22 Allow                      |                                | 1 Syrup flavor                                  |
| 23 Not quite all              |                                | 2 Assault                                       |
| 24 Trojan War hero            |                                | 3 Path  |
| 27 Pantheon member            |                                | 4 Inheritors                                    |
| 28 Typeface                   |                                | 5 Black ink item                                |
| 30 Dalai ____                 |                                | 6 1992 Robin Williams movie                     |
| 33 Breezed through            |                                | 7 Legal thing                                   |
| 36 Swell                      |                                | 8 ____-Wan Kenobi                               |
| 38 Spoken                     |                                | 9 Offensively crude                             |
| 39 Author Harper              |                                | 10 Eye drop                                     |
| 40 Buggy terrain              |                                | 11 Twofold                                      |
| 41 Young haddock              |                                | 12 Chinese temple                               |
| 43 Woeful word                |                                | 14 Expire                                       |
| 45 Nick and Nora's dog        |                                | 16 Floor model                                  |
| 46 Bug deflector              |                                | 20 Convened                                     |
| 48 Humorous                   |                                |   |
| 50 Grasped                    |                                |   |
| 51 District                   |                                |   |
| 53 Actress ____               |                                |   |

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- ELYTIAUQ \_\_\_\_\_
- CTURLEU \_\_\_\_\_
- ITISVDYRE \_\_\_\_\_

PUZZLE Solutions on page 13

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## 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://harvestrbc.org>

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

### Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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

## MOUNTAINTOP REFLECTIONS

# Righteousness in a Box?

By *Jacquie Hoekstra, Columnist*

“God created man in his own image . . . male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:27 KJV). The Creation account is found in the first three chapters of Genesis. Adam and Eve were naked, completely vulnerable before God and each other. God appeared to them and spent time with them in the Garden of Eden. They experienced perfect intimacy with God in a face-to-face. When sin entered, their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked. Shame arrived, and they hid from God. He graciously covered them in animal skins (the first blood sacrifice to cover sin) before expelling them from the Garden. Why graciously? To keep them from the Tree of Life, which would condemn them to eternal separation.

The fourth chapter records the downward spiral of humankind away from God and ends with this statement: “then began men to call upon the name of the LORD” (Genesis 4:26b KJV). Hadn't humanity always been connected to God? If Adam and Eve knew God, even though separated, wouldn't they have taught their children to call on His name? In context, it reads as a move away from intimacy toward worship at a distance. Could “men calling on the name of the LORD” mean they began to worship Him in name only? Was it the first time humanity put God in a box covered in rules without relationship?

We soon read, “Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time. Noah walked with God” (Genesis 6:9b WEB). Was his faith like Abraham's, which God “credited to him for righteousness” (Romans 4:22 WEB)? Like Adam and Eve, Noah walked with God in intimate fellowship. Was Noah's faith and intimate fellowship with God the reason he was called righteous and blameless?

The correlation between Adam and Eve's experience with God and Noah's is face-to-face, intimate fellowship. Both are recorded as being perfect, one before sin entered the world and one after. This begs the question, and I submit the result, that righteousness is not about rules but about relationship. All those who worshipped God in name only died in the flood. The one who walked with him was called righteous and blameless, and he and his family were saved through the flood.

God's exile of humanity from the Garden was not punishment, but hope. “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death” (Romans 8:1-2). Intimate fellowship with God and righteousness through faith go hand in hand. Our relationship with God is restored from rules and distance to intimacy and presence in Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Colossians 1:20) “Those who seek me diligently will find me” (Proverbs 8:17b WEB). His desire is for us to let Him out of the box and invites us seek His face in faith. ☼



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## OBITUARIES

### Raynard Edward McCormick Jr.

October 25, 1939 – February 10, 2026



Raynard “Ray” or “Butch” Edward McCormick Jr., age 86, of Brownsville, passed away peacefully on February 10, 2026. He was born in Iola, Kansas, to Cecille (Farrell) and Raynard Edward McCormick Sr.

Ray grew up in Mexico, Missouri, until his high

school years, when the family moved to South San Francisco. He attended Santa Clara University and earned a graduate degree at Oregon State University (Go Beavers!) as an electrical engineer.

He worked at Lockheed Martin and Sylvania in the San Francisco Bay Area before moving to Southern California to work for McDonnell Douglas in Huntington Beach. At McDonnell Douglas, he worked on a solar program in the Mojave Desert. Some of the software he created for the solar project is still used in the industry today. He met his wife, Linda, while playing volleyball at the apartment complex they both lived in. They moved to the Portland, Oregon, area in 1981. He worked for Electro Scientific Industries (ESI) and later at Tektronix, where he worked on color printers. Just before his retirement, Xerox bought the company, and he worked for them long enough to earn his pension. By that time, the couple had bought a home in Brownsville, where they lived until his death.

Ray loved the outdoors and watching sports, and he was an avid stock market watcher. He was very supportive of his wife's civic activities, even though he kept asking when she was going to retire!

Ray is survived by his wife, Linda (Lewis) McCormick; cousins; many friends; and former co-workers. His sister, Sharon K. McCormick, preceded him in death in 2022.

A celebration of life will be planned. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. <https://www.sweethomefuneral.com>. ☼

### Brian Michael Rogers

February 28, 1962 - February 15, 2026

Brian Michael Rogers, of Brownsville, passed away Sunday, February 15, 2026. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. <https://www.sweethomefuneral.com>. ☼

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AMERICAN LEGION POST 184

Being the Friend of Your Youth

By an ordinary seaman

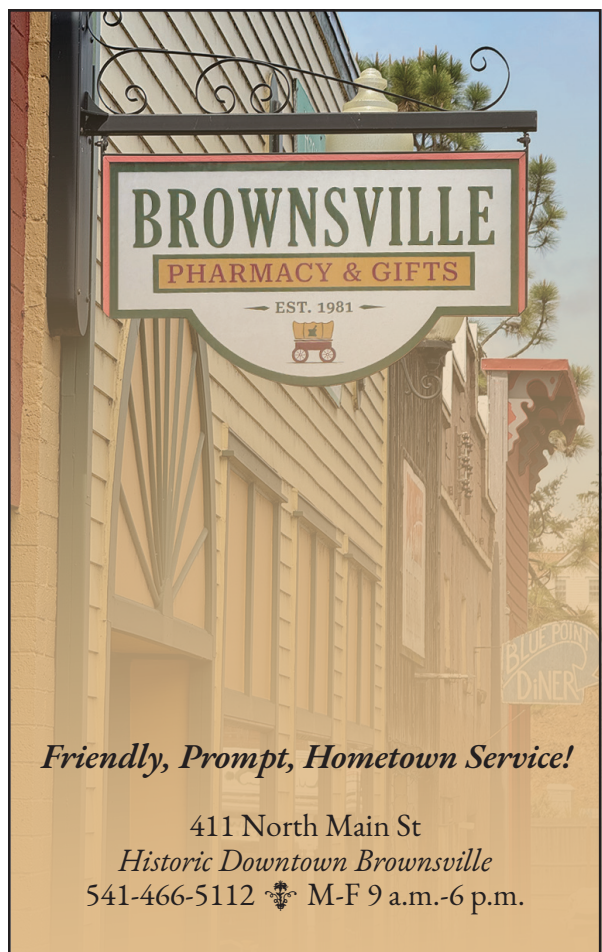
It is a staggering thing to hold in your mind: 6,398 veterans lost to suicide in a single year. That is nearly eighteen souls every single day. Every day, every day. While we are out checking the fences or heading into town, eighteen chairs at eighteen kitchen tables go empty. It is a rhythm of loss as steady and relentless as the winter rain on a tin roof.

Down at Travis Moothart Post 184, we know that when a young person leaves Brownsville for the service, they are made all over again. The person who leaves for training isn't the person who comes back. You go off as one version of yourself and return as someone else. Older, wiser, sometimes carrying a weight that doesn't show on a physical exam.

Perhaps the most surprising bit of knowledge is the toll on our sisters-in-arms. Female veterans are dying by suicide at a rate 92 percent higher than their civilian counterparts. We often think of the soldier as a man, but the burden of service doesn't care about gender. The struggle here in rural Oregon isn't always about people sleeping on a sidewalk; it's a quieter, more isolated kind of struggle. It's the veteran sitting alone in a car in the rain, suspended between one point on the map and another, caught in a stillness where the world's grinding gears finally mesh too hard, threatening to turn a momentary pause into a permanent departure.

The latest VA data tells us that 61 percent of those we lost last year weren't even under VA care. They were just our neighbors. The American Legion's "Be The One" campaign isn't about being a clinical expert. It's about being the "friend of your youth," the one who doesn't see you as you are now but rather as you used to be. The one who just says, "Well, Jack, damned glad you came home, come on in."

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention. It's available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Dial 988, then Press 1, chat online at <https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat>, or text 838255.



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LINN COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAM

Five Ways to Support Someone in Substance Use Recovery

ALBANY — About 12 percent of U.S. adults report having had a problem with alcohol or other drugs. Of those, nearly 74 percent — about 23.5 million people — say they are in recovery, according to the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

That means many of us likely know someone on a recovery journey. While the desire to help is common, it can be unclear how to offer meaningful support.

"Supporting a loved one in recovery doesn't mean having all the right answers," said Darrell Johnson, adult treatment supervisor with the Linn County Alcohol and Drug Program. "Sometimes it just helps to know a few thoughtful ways to be there."

Here are five ways to support someone in substance use recovery:

1. Let them know how you can help

Be specific. Instead of saying, "Let me know if you need anything," offer something concrete, such as rides to appointments or help with childcare.

Clients of the Linn County Alcohol and Drug Program say practical support can make a difference, including:

- Rides to treatment groups or meetings
- Sharing information about community resources
- Occasional childcare
- Help with clothing or groceries

For someone in early recovery, providing items or services is generally more helpful than giving cash.

2. Stay in contact

Consistent communication can be reassuring. Talk together about what feels supportive — how often to check in and whether they prefer calls, texts or in-person visits. Reliable connection provides encouragement without feeling intrusive.

3. Learn about recovery

Educating yourself can build understanding and empathy. Reliable resources include the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at [samhsa.gov](http://samhsa.gov) and peer-support groups such as Al-Anon and CoDA.

Many treatment programs, including Linn County Alcohol and Drug, offer family sessions with counselors. As one client shared, "For the person in recovery, a family session with a counselor provides the confidence to talk about what support they need."

4. Create a supportive environment

Reducing exposure to substances can remove barriers. This may mean keeping substances out of shared spaces and avoiding use around the person. As one client put it, "Be respectful. Don't do it around the person. Don't have it around the person."

5. Be patient and open to change

Recovery often involves major life changes. Supporting someone may mean embracing a new direction. "In order to have a successful recovery, they may need to move or find new, healthier friend groups," one client noted.

Recovery is rarely a straight line. "People may have periods of time where they struggle," another client shared, "but that doesn't mean recovery isn't working."

The Linn County Alcohol and Drug Program offers free, confidential screenings at 541-967-3819.

Call 911 for medical emergencies, including overdose concerns, or 988 for mental health and crisis support.

For more information contact: Ian Howarth, program manager, Linn County Health Services Alcohol and Drug Program, at 541-967-3819 or by email at [ianhowarth@linncountyhealth.org](mailto:ianhowarth@linncountyhealth.org).

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PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 11

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TAKING ROOT

# Soil Temperature Key to Germination and Growth

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist

Spring is coming. I can feel it warming my bones — not fast enough, though. I'm hungry for fresh snow peas, but on Saturday the soil temperature in my garden was below 40 degrees, the minimum for pea germination. At 41 degrees, it takes 36 days for peas to germinate and emerge from the soil. At 50 degrees, it takes 13 days for those same peas to emerge. Lesson learned — don't jump the gun and plant too early. While some of those peas may germinate, many will rot in the ground. I'll wait and plant my snow peas when the soil warms to 50 degrees. Onions and lettuce are two other crops that can be planted early. The seeds will germinate at a soil temperature of 35 degrees, but it takes 135 days for onion seedlings to emerge and 49 for lettuce. Wait until the soil is at least 41 degrees, when the days until emergence drop to 31 and 15, respectively. At 50 degrees, the days drop to 13 and seven.



Tomatoes thrive at 75 degrees.

Tomatoes and other members of the Nightshade family, such as peppers and aubergines (eggplant), originated in Central America. Staying true to their tropical origins, they prefer warm soil. Looking at my chart, I see that these three prefer soil temperatures in the 65–80-degree range for optimum germination. The soil in the garden won't reach 60 degrees until April or May. All three crops take a long time to mature, so if I'm going to have tomatoes for our Fourth of July hamburgers, I'll have to pull a fast one on Mother Nature.

Taking Root is featured every two weeks. Tune in then to find out how to get a jump on Spring and put one over on Mother Nature.

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

# A Year in the Valley's Grass Seed Fields

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer and Tangent Correspondent

The Willamette Valley is one of the world's leading producers of cool-season grass seed — the kind used for lawns, parks, sports fields, pastures, and hay fields worldwide. While grass seed fields may look quiet at times, farming is a year-round process. This is a general guide to our farmers' local cycle.

## Fall (Sept.–Oct.): Planting

Fall rains create ideal conditions for planting. Seed is drilled into the soil and germinates quickly in the mild temperatures. In established fields, plants focus on root development rather than top growth. Strong roots laid down in the fall are critical for winter survival and next year's seed production.

## Late Fall (Oct.–Nov.): Dormant but Not Idle

Grass fields appear dormant, but plants remain alive, storing energy below the soil surface. Once rains begin, farmers are in the fields spraying herbicides for weed control. This is also the time when farmers apply fall fertilizer to perennial crops (like tall fescue).

## Winter (Dec.–Feb.): Maintenance and Meetings

Winter is a planning season, a time when equipment is repaired and decisions are made that shape the coming year. While you may see farmers in the fields continuing weed control, this is the time for the administrative side of farm operations. Farmers are busy with meetings, continuing education, renewing certifications, and staying informed about changing laws and regulations.

## Early Spring (Feb.–March): Growth Resumes

As daylight hours lengthen and soil temperatures rise, grass plants resume active growth. Farmers apply fertilizer to support tillering,

in which plants produce multiple stems that will form seed heads. Ongoing weed control is important during this period to protect yield and seed quality. Spring planting also begins for crops such as orchard grass, tall fescue, and radish.

## Mid to Late Spring (April–early June): Rapid Growth & Pollination

Fields grow quickly and turn deep green. Farmers are paying careful attention to plant nutrition and health to support strong seed development. Weather conditions are now critical, as pollination directly affects how much seed develops. Flowering crops have beehive boxes placed in the field to support pollination.

## Early Summer (June–early July): Harvest Prep

As seed matures, fields gradually dry down and turn golden again. Day and night, you will see windrowers out in the fields cutting the crop into swaths, hoping to reduce seed loss from shatter (the natural loss when ripe seeds drop).

## Summer (July–Aug.): Harvest

When the seed rows dry down, it's time to harvest. Combines pick up the swaths in the field and separate the seed from chaff and straw. Long hours, dust, noise, and increased equipment traffic are normal during this time. After a field is harvested, balers and tractors are in the fields, picking up the straw and tilling the soil, all part of farmers' cleaning and preparing fields for the next season.

## A Continuous Cycle

What may look like quiet farmland is actually part of a carefully managed annual cycle — one that supports the local economy, working landscapes, and the global seed supply. 🌱

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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, February 14**

1:10 p.m. — Citizen reported a suspicious person at Pioneer Park, Brownsville, who looked like he was doing drugs. Deputy investigated and learned the person was making arrowheads. Non-Criminal.

9:20 p.m. — Deputy assisted medics with a medical incident at a business located in the 33100 block of Hwy 228, Halsey.

10:38 p.m. — Adrian Anthony Kast, 21, of Sweet Home, was cited for speeding 70 in a 45-mph zone at W Bishop Way/Pearl St., Brownsville.

**Sunday, February 15**

4:31 p.m. — Deputy responded to a medical-related event at a residence in the 36100 block of Courtney Creek Dr., Brownsville, which resulted in a death investigation. No suspicious activity reported. Investigation ongoing, report taken.

5:56 p.m. — Deputy spoke to a caller regarding juveniles riding ride-on lawn mowers on the roadway in the 100 block of W Halsey St., Halsey. Information logged.

**Monday, February 16**

9:00 a.m. — Deputy spoke with citizens regarding dogs at Pioneer Park, Brownsville.

11:22 a.m. — Deputy cited an illegally parked vehicle in the 500 block of LaSalle St., Harrisburg.

5:36 p.m. — Deputy re-

sponded to a traffic hazard at E 1st St/D St., Halsey and found the situation had been resolved.

8:01 p.m. — Caller reported suspicious activity with their vehicle in the 700 block of Puffin St., Halsey.

9:09 p.m. — Caller reported a person screaming at Loucks Way/W Bishop Way, Brownsville. Deputy was unable to locate the person.

10:00 p.m. — Deputies responded to a non-criminal domestic disturbance in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg.

**Tuesday, February 17**

12:04 a.m. — Caller reported noisy people and dogs in the 33100 block of McFarland Rd., Tangent. Deputies were unable to locate the source of the noise upon arrival.

8:28 a.m. — Deputy assisted a person at Eagle Park, Harrisburg.

8:50 a.m. — Deputy responded to a runaway juvenile in the 36100 block of Northern Dr., Brownsville. The juvenile was located and returned home. Report taken.

9:30 a.m. — Deputy took a report for a lost wallet consisting of sensitive personal information in the 800 block of Centennial Ct., Halsey.

12:31 p.m. — Caller reported theft from their vehicle in the 33000 block of Hwy 99E, Tangent. A multi-tool valued at \$70 and the vehicle's registration and insurance card were stolen. Report taken.

2:14 p.m. — Deputy responded to a report of criminal mischief at Ash St./Wilson Ave., Brownsville. Investigation ongoing, report taken.

2:47 p.m. — Deputies performed a welfare check on the 28400 block of Valley View Rd., Shedd.

3:35 p.m. — Deputy observed high school students in the 100 block of S 9th St., Harrisburg, to ensure appropriate driving was being obeyed.

3:53 p.m. — Deputy spoke to a teen driver about his driving after a complaint was made outside of school hours in the 700 block of N 7th St, Harrisburg.

4:03 p.m. — Deputy gathered information regarding a three-wheeler being ridden on Guistina Resources property in the 25000 block of Brush Creek Rd., Sweet Home.

4:30 p.m. — Deputy contacted juveniles who were

trespassing on city property in the 100 block of Holloway Heights, Brownsville.

4:31 p.m. — Jennifer Penland, 40, of Junction City, was stopped and cited for driving with a suspended driver's license and driving without insurance. Her vehicle was nuisance towed from the scene at Fountain St./S 4th St., Harrisburg.

**Wednesday, Feb. 18**

12:44 a.m. — Mathew Matheny, 37, of Lebanon, was cited for speeding at Hwy 99E/Powerline Rd., Harrisburg.

6:26 a.m. — Troy Duncan, 57, of Monroe, was cited for speeding on Hwy 99E/Davidson Dr., Shedd.

7:28 a.m. — Kathrine Walker, 25, of Albany, was cited for expired registration at the Hwy 34 on-ramp in Tangent

1:43 p.m. — Caller observed a vehicle parked near her property in the 34300 block of Tangent Dr., Tangent, with the driver using binoculars to look toward her property. Deputy contacted the driver and learned he was birdwatching.

2:04 p.m. — Deputy spoke with an individual regarding their ongoing civil matter in the 500 block of W 4th St, Halsey. Non-Criminal.

2:43 p.m. — Deputies performed a fraud investigation in the 32200 block of Old Hwy 34, Tangent. Investigation ongoing, report taken.

7:40 p.m. — Latricia Lea Barnes, 64, of Sweet Home, was cited for speeding 75 in a 55-mph zone at Hwy 228/Enos Dr., Halsey.

8:20 p.m. — Anna House, 41, of Brownsville, was arrested for Criminal Trespass I in the 400 block of N Main St, Brownsville, and transported to the Linn County Jail.

10:39 p.m. — Deputies responded to a call about kids walking in the neighborhood in the 38300 block of Glass St., Crawfordsville. They searched the area but did not locate the kids. No further action.

**Thursday, February 19**

2:11 a.m. — LCSO received a DHS cross-report of an anonymous reporter with concerns regarding a possible probation violation and concerns for a child in the 37500 block of Mountain Home Dr., Brownsville. The probation violation, if true, would have occurred in Springfield. Nothing else

criminal was reported.

8:34 a.m. — Caller reported found property in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg. Property was secured for safekeeping. Report taken.

8:58 a.m. — Caller reported theft of a vehicle in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg. Investigation ongoing, report taken.

3:53 p.m. — Deputy investigated a sex crime involving juveniles sharing explicit material via cell phones in the 1100 block of S 11th St, Harrisburg. Investigation ongoing, report taken.

11:00 p.m. — Kharev Reeves, 30, of Brownsville, was reported missing from his residence in the 1100 block of Oak Street, Brownsville, by his father, with whom Kharev resides. Kharev has been documented as missing. Report taken.

11:13 p.m. — Nhon Nguyen, 55, of Eugene, was cited for speeding 75 in a 55-mph zone in the 27800 block of Hwy 99E, Halsey.

**Friday, February 20**

12:20 a.m. — Deputies responded to a reported disturbance in the 600 block of LaSalle St., Harrisburg, that ended up being a verbal argument between a husband and his two wives. No crimes were reported.

1:30 a.m. — Deputy heard a camera alarm at a business activate in the 000 block of American Dr. Halsey. The deputy checked the property and found no suspicious activity.

4:20 a.m. — Keith Earl Smallwood, 55, of Lebanon, was cited for speeding 65 in a 45-mph zone at W Bishop Way, Pearl St., Brownsville.

4:38 a.m. — Justin Robert Herry, 29, of Lebanon, was cited for speeding 66 in a 45-mph zone and expired vehicle registration at W Bishop Way, Pearl St., Brownsville.

7:58 a.m. — Kenneth Hafner, 56, of McKenzie Bridge, was arrested for reckless driving and recklessly endangering another person at Coburg Rd./Wyatt Dr., Harrisburg. Report taken.

10:22 a.m. — Deputy was given a debit card that was found by a citizen and turned into staff at Brownsville City Hall. The deputy returned the card to its owner.

12:12 p.m. — Caller reported a juvenile complaint at N 4th St./Smith St., Harrisburg. Deputy spoke with a juvenile with a mini motorcycle.

2:33 p.m. — Deputy received information about a vehicle potentially dumping trash in the area of Timber Rd./Courtney Creek Dr., Brownsville. Deputy located the vehicle and stopped it for a traffic violation. All trash was still with the vehicle.

2:44 p.m. — Deputy contacted a pedestrian he believed might be a missing person at Kirk Ave./N Main St., Brownsville. The deputy confirmed it was not the missing person.

3:04 p.m. — Deputy responded to a civil dispute between a landlord and a tenant in the 28500 block of Ogle Rd., Shedd.

3:24 p.m. — Caller reported a driving complaint at Seven Mile Ln./Forry Dr., Brownsville. The car later crashed. Deputies responded and investigated. ☀

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CENTRAL LINN FFA

# Students Earn State Degrees, Post Strong District Results

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

Three Central Linn FFA members have earned the Oregon FFA State Degree, one of the state's highest honors.

Jayne Neal, Greyson Tenbusch, and Brooklyn Wunningham will receive their degrees at the Deschutes Fair & Expo Center during the 3rd General Session of the 98th Oregon FFA State Convention on March 20, 2026.

The State Degree recognizes members who have demonstrated leadership, completed significant supervised agricultural experience projects, and shown a strong commitment to their chapter and to agricultural education.

Central Linn FFA students have also been busy competing at the district level.

Mia Fiorito earned first place in district sophomore public speaking and will advance to sectionals. Josie Steele placed first in district beginning public speaking and will also advance to sectionals. Jeremiah Donahue placed third in district creed speaking.

Additional students participating in recent competitions included job-interview contestants Brooklyn Wunningham, Wade Smith, and Bailey Lester. The Central Linn rituals team included Georgia Wahl, Mia Fiorito, Alyse Glenn, Elle Glaser, Brooklyn Wunningham, and Grant Wahl.

FFA is a national youth organization focused on agricultural education, leadership development, and career preparation. Through classroom instruction, hands-on projects, and community involvement, FFA helps students develop skills in agriculture, business, and public service.

Congratulations to all Central Linn FFA members on their recent accomplishments. 🌟



ALLISON WILLIAMS

From left, Josie Steele, Jeremiah Donahue, and Mia Fiorito display their district FFA speaking banners. Steele and Fiorito earned first-place finishes and advanced to sectionals, while Donahue placed third in creed speaking.

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