



# THE BROWNSVILLE TIMES

VOLUME 138, NO. 6

SERVING CENTRAL LINN COUNTY, OREGON SINCE 1889

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026

## Sharing Hands Chili Cookoff & Dessert Auction This Saturday



Chili contestants are asked to drop off their crock pots beginning at 4:30 p.m. ahead of the Sharing Hands Chili Cookoff and Dessert Auction this Saturday in Brownsville. The community fundraiser runs from 5 to 7 p.m. and supports Sharing Hands' local assistance programs.

BROWNSVILLE — A warm bowl of chili and a chance to support neighbors in need converge this Saturday, Feb. 7, when Sharing Hands, Inc. hosts its annual Chili Cookoff and Dessert Benefit Auction at Pioneer Christian Academy.

The community fundraiser runs from 5 to 7 p.m. and invites attendees to sample a variety of homemade chili recipes while supporting Sharing Hands' local assistance programs. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$6 for children ages 10 and under and includes chili tasting and a full bowl of chili with fixings.

Chili contestants may begin submitting entries in crock pots at 4:30 p.m., with awards presented for first through fourth place. The evening will also feature a dessert auction beginning at 6 p.m., with raffles throughout the event.

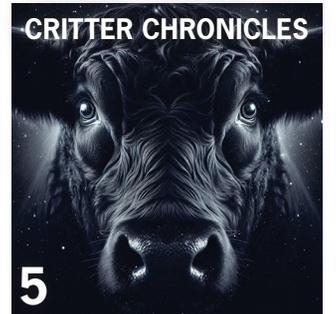
Organizers encourage families, friends, and neighbors to gather for a winter evening of good food and community support.

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

### INSIDE

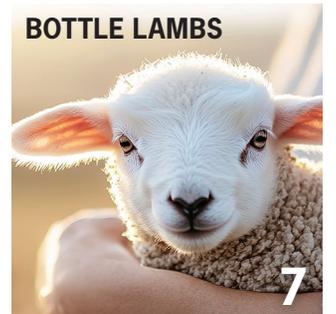


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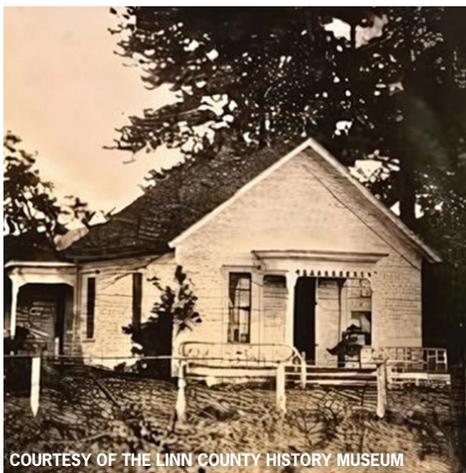


BOTTLE LAMBS

7

## Honoring the Past — The Meaning of Black History Month

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist



COURTESY OF THE LINN COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM  
The Cora Cox House on Lake Creek Drive near Brownsville was built in 1864 and owned by Cora Ann Cox, one of only four documented Black property owners in Oregon before 1865.

Each February, Americans observe Black History Month. It is a time to learn about and reflect on the history and contributions of Black Americans. The observance helps tell a fuller story of our country and honors people whose achievements were often overlooked in the past.

Black History Month began in 1926 as "Negro History Week," created by historian Carter G. Woodson. He believed schools and textbooks did not adequately teach the role Black Americans played in shaping the nation. He chose February because it includes the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, both important figures in the fight against slavery. Over the years, the observance grew, and in 1976 it officially became Black History Month.

The purpose of Black History Month is not only to remember famous leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. or Rosa Parks. It is also to recognize everyday people — workers, teachers, soldiers, church leaders, business owners, and families — who helped build their communities despite unfair laws and discrimination.

Black History Month also encourages learning about difficult parts of American history, including slavery, segregation,

HONORING continued on page 4

## Shake Down the Thunder Friday Night

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer

Go ahead and dig out those school colors, because whether your blue is Royal or Columbia, that Cobra pride looks exactly the same from the front row of the bleachers.

This Friday, Feb. 6, every one of you — from the inaugural class of 1959 to our newest grads — is invited to return to Central Linn. Varsity Cobras are taking on East Linn Christian at 6 p.m., and admission is free for all alumni and their families because you are the heart of this school.

Athletic Director Rodney Baney is working on something special: a new Hall of Fame to honor those who've done great things since graduation. We need your help to fill out nomination forms and show today's students what a Cobra education can lead to. We'll also be recognizing all former basketball players and cheerleaders at the halftime of both varsity games. It's the perfect excuse to swap old stories and see the familiar faces we've all missed.

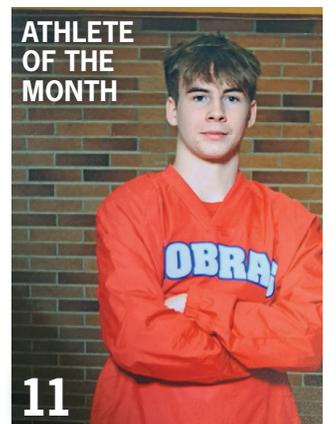
Make sure you come hungry, because Spanish Teacher Maria Guerrero and the ELL club are serving up an authentic taco dinner in the cafeteria starting at 5 p.m. For just \$8, you get a great meal that supports students' exploration into Latin cultures.

This isn't just about basketball; it's about a tradition that connects us all. Pull the truck around, bring the family, and let's remind everyone what it means to be a Cobra. I'll see you at the Dome. 🌟

See additional past yearbooks on page 11



PRESENTED BY THE ANNUAL STAFF OF CENTRAL LINN HIGH SCHOOL, HALSEY, OREGON  
The 1959 "Cobra" yearbook marks the inaugural graduating class of Central Linn High School.

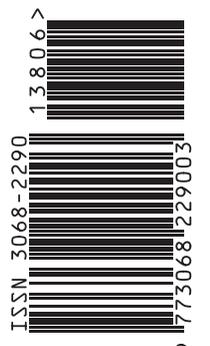


ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

11

MAILING LABEL BELOW

\$2.00



**ONGOING EVENTS**

**Not Your Grandma's Bingo**

Mondays, Now-Mar. 2, 2026 • 6:30-8 p.m.  
Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent  
Tangent Together hosts an adults-only bingo night featuring cheeky humor, cash prizes, and \$1 game cards. Ages 21+ only.

**Free Coffee, Donuts, & Fellowship**

Wednesdays • 9:30 a.m. • Central Valley Church, 657 American Dr., Halsey (not a church sponsored event).

**Not Rocket Science Trivia**

Thursdays • 6:30 p.m. (ongoing) • Free  
Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent  
Weekly pub trivia with bragging rights on the line. Bring a team and play every Thursday night.

**Friday Morning Veteran's Breakfast**

Fridays • 8-10 a.m. • Elmer's Restaurant  
2802 Santiam Hwy SE, Albany • 541-928-4227  
Join fellow veteran's over a cup of coffee and plate of good food as stories are shared, and memories and friendships created. All Veterans are welcome.

**Karaoke Saturdays at The Honey Hole**

Saturdays • 7 p.m. • The Honey Hole Bar & Grill  
10 W 1st St, Halsey  
Sing your heart out every Saturday night! Enjoy \$3 Coors draft specials and a \$15 club wrap with fries while you take the stage.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**

Now-Feb. 7, 2026 • 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.  
Albany Civic Theater • 111 W. First Ave., Albany  
A classic tale of duality and obsession based on the Robert Louis Stevenson novel. Tickets and performance schedule available online.  
<https://www.albanycivic.org>

**Alumni & Senior Night at the Cobra Dome**

Thursday, Feb. 6 • 6 p.m. • Free for Alumni  
The Cobra Dome, Central Linn High School  
Central Linn School District invites alumni and community members to Alumni & Senior Night as the Cobras take on East Linn Christian. The Class of 2026 will be honored, and basketball and cheer alumni will be recognized at halftime of both games. Admission is free for all alumni. Community members are encouraged to attend and cheer on the next generation of Cobras.

**First Taste Oregon**

February 6-7 • Friday 3-9 p.m.; Saturday noon-9 p.m.  
Linn County Expo Center  
3700 Knox Butte Rd E, Albany  
150 vendors featuring more than 300 Oregon wines and spirits for a two-day culinary showcase. The event includes chef and culinary demos, mocktails and mixology, tastings and samples, live music, and artisan goods. Organizers encourage attendees to make it an early Valentine's date or a night out with friends.  
<https://www.firsttasteoregon.com>

**Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour**

Friday-Saturday, February 6-7 • 7-10 p.m.  
Whiteside Theatre, 361 SW Madison Ave, Corvallis  
The internationally acclaimed Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour returns to Corvallis with two nights of world-class adventure and outdoor films. Each evening features a different program of short films highlighting climbing, skiing, biking, paddling, environmental themes, and personal journeys from around the globe. An intermission is included each night. Tickets are sold by program, with discounted pricing available for both nights. Advance purchase is recommended, as screenings often sell out.  
<https://www.livetoplay.com>

**Robert Potts, The Unseen Collection – Exhibit Opening**

Friday, February 6 • 5-7 p.m.  
Albany Regional Museum, 136 Lyon St. SW, Albany  
The Albany Regional Museum invites the community to a free opening reception for its newest exhibition, "Robert Potts, The Unseen Collection." The exhibit features rarely seen photographs from Robert Potts's extensive and remarkable photographic collection. Guests are welcome to explore the gallery, enjoy the opening reception, and learn more about this unique collection. Exhibition on view through May 30, 2026.  
<https://www.armuseum.com> • 541-967-7122

**Sharing Hands Chili Cookoff & Dessert Auction**

Saturday, Feb. 7 • entries at 4:30 p.m. event: 5-7 p.m.  
Pioneer Christian Academy • 331 E. Blakely Ave., Brownsville  
Sharing Hands, Inc. will host a community chili cookoff and dessert auction fundraiser. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$6 for children ages 10 and under and includes chili sampling plus a bowl of chili with fixings. Chili entries will be accepted beginning at 4:30 p.m. A dessert auction and raffles begin at 6 p.m. For more information, call 541-466-3110.

**Widows' Brigade Friends and Family Night**

Friday, Feb. 13 • 5-7 p.m.  
Central Valley Church, 657 American Dr. Halsey  
An evening of food, games, and fellowship hosted by Widows' Brigade. A spaghetti dinner will be served, with games and a possible do-it-yourself craft. Learn more about the group and its 2026 activities. Info: Mary, 541-401-4738.

**Carousel Valentine's Special**

Friday, 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**

Friday, February 14 • 6 p.m. • \$20 per person  
American Legion Post 184, 339 N Main St., Brownsville  
Dinner and bingo, with a possible movie to follow. A relaxed and affordable Valentine's night out. A fun evening and a great value for a romantic night out.

**Valentine's Day Dinner for Two**

Friday, Feb. 14 • Noon-9 p.m.  
Kirk's Ferry Inn, 217 W Bishop Way, Brownsville  
Celebrate Valentine's Day with a special Dinner for Two at Kirk's Ferry Inn. The evening features a four-course dinner designed for a romantic night out in one of Brownsville's most historic settings. Reservations are recommended.  
<https://kirksferry1846.com> • (541) 466-5614.

**Weston A. Price Foundation Linn Benton County Chapter Meeting**

Sunday, Feb. 15 • 1 p.m. • Brownsville Community Room, upstairs at 255 N. Main St., Brownsville  
The Linn Benton County Chapter of the Weston A. Price Foundation will meet to review 2025 activities and plan for 2026. With recent attendance declining, participants will reassess chapter goals and discuss ideas for future events. Tea and coffee will be provided. Copies of the Wise Traditions booklet will be available for purchase while supplies last. Parking is available behind City Hall. Enter through the back door to the Community Room. Open to the public. For more information, contact Rege Rippee at [WAPFLinnBenton@gmail.com](mailto:WAPFLinnBenton@gmail.com) or 541-954-5047.

**Modern Square Dance Lessons**

Sundays, beginning Feb. 15 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
The first class is free. \$6 per person or \$15 per family.  
Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St., Lebanon  
Lebanon Square Circlers invite dancers of all experience levels to modern square dance lessons led by caller and instructor Shaun McKamey. No partner or prior experience required. Open to all ages, family-friendly, and drug-, alcohol-, and smoke-free.  
<https://www.lebanonsquarecirclers.com>  
541-401-9780

**SafeHaven Furry Tales Story Time**

Monday, February 16 • 11:30 a.m.  
SafeHaven Humane Society  
32220 Old Highway 34, Tangent  
Held on the first and third Mondays of each month, Furry Tales is a gentle, animal-themed story time for children ages 6 and under, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Each session features a read-aloud story, a simple craft, and a chance to meet a friendly, adoptable animal. The program promotes early literacy and introduces children to animals in a calm, positive environment. Free to attend; no registration required. Space is limited; arrive early.  
<https://safehavenhumane.org>

**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 presentation by Linda Ziedrich on unusual vegetables, plus seed sharing and gardening advice. Bring seeds to share if you have them.  
<https://www.santiamfood.org>

See page 6 for Brownsville Library events



**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 & Dairy**

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

**Personal Care**

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

Please no expired items.



**GROCERY DEALS**

16oz. Marketside Soups \$1.75 ea. with Coupon

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Harrisburg, OR 97446  
(541) 995-5132  
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Closed Sunday

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No Limit, Expires 03/31/26



WORLD CULTURES AND TRAVEL

Turkish Treasure

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist

For more than a dozen years, the Brownsville Community Library has invited residents to join me on a flying-carpet ride to places far removed from our little town. These presentations are part arm-chair travel adventure and part exploration of cultures many of us may never experience firsthand.

On Thursday, Feb. 19, our destination is Turkey — an ancient crossroads where much of Western civilization took shape. In this presentation, I'll share images and stories from a land rich in history, architecture, and everyday life shaped by centuries of cultural exchange.



I grew up in Eugene, dreaming of seeing the world, and over the years, that dream carried me to more than 100 countries. After more than 40 years on the road as a photographic tour operator, I now feel a responsibility to share what I have seen and learned. I often return to a quote by Mark Twain, that wise world traveler, who said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness."

That idea took on deeper meaning for me after Sept. 11, 2001, when I created a program called "The Human Face of Islam," drawn from my travels through Islamic and formerly Islamic lands from Spain to Indonesia. In 2008, the program received the Photographic Society of America's International Understanding Through Photography Award.

Over the years, I've created more than 25 cultural presentations, each an opportunity to slow down, look closely, and better understand the people and places that make up our world. Following Turkish Treasure, I'll return to the library on March 19 to explore the wild places and creatures of Australia. I hope you'll join me at the Brownsville Community Library on Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. for Turkish Treasure in the Kirk Room. All programs are free. Everyone is welcome. ☺



CLES Spanish Program Hosts Taco Dinner Fundraiser

Central Linn Elementary's Spanish Program will host a Taco Dinner Fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 6, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Central Linn High School cafeteria.

Dinner options include \$8 plates featuring two authentic tacos or a quesadilla, each served with beans and rice. In addition, Spanish Program students will operate concessions from 4:30 to 9 p.m. that evening.

Funds raised will support the Spanish Program at Central Linn Elementary, including cooking activities, extracurricular opportunities, and educational field trips. Community members are invited to attend and support local students and language-learning programs.

The fundraiser is organized by Spanish teacher Maria Guerrero and Central Linn Spanish students. ☺

THEATER REVIEW

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde at Albany Civic Theatre

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist

Dr. Jekyll, the very model of a proper gentleman, has been experimenting with potions in his laboratory to prove his theory that in each of us there is both good and evil. But Jekyll, played by Jude Anderson, begins to lose control as his darker side in the form of Edward Hyde, played by Rus Roberts, begins to dominate and terrorize Victorian London with his depravities.

The acting by the cast of eleven is first-rate, especially Anderson's transformations as his personality changes in front of his friends and visitors.

The theatre was nearly full for Sunday's matinee on Jan. 25, but there will be additional performances on Feb. 5, 6, and 7. Reserve and select your seat online right away. My seatmates were all season ticket holders.

The play is remarkably faithful to Robert Louis Stevenson's 1886 Victorian Gothic horror tale. The Albany Civic Theatre, an all-volunteer effort, has been attractively remodeled inside with comfortable seats, though not a lot of legroom. Refreshments are available, and there is free parking just past the theatre on First Street.

Alice in Wonderland premieres March 6. Watch for additional live theatre coverage in upcoming issues of The Brownsville Times. ☺



Dr. Jekyll (Jude Anderson) confronts his darker alter ego, Edward Hyde (Rus Roberts), in Albany Civic Theatre's production of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," now playing with additional performances scheduled Feb. 5-7.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February 5, 2000, kicked off a life together built on patience, humor, and a whole lot of love! Happy 26th Anniversary to Paul and Marcy Hermens!

# 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.

SEASONS EATINGS

# Chili Night, Reinvented

By Lisa Keith, Columnist

I know you ALL have your own favorite chili recipe. I have several. I love to change things up a bit and have entered this version in the cookoff several times. The traditional pairing for Chili is cornbread, right?! This is another modified version that I first found in the 1980 cookbook "A Taste of Oregon" from the Junior League of Eugene. Please be encouraged and enter your own version in the upcoming Sharing Hands Chili Cookoff. The more the merrier! My darling husband has won second place twice, and we are always striving for that First-Place trophy, because, unlike today's sports, not everyone gets a trophy!

## White Bean Chicken Chili

- 2 cans of small cannellini beans
- 1 cooked chicken breast, diced
- 1 small can diced green chilies
- 1 green pepper, seeded and diced
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp red chili powder
- 1 tsp smoked Ancho chili powder
- 2 C chicken stock
- (shhhh "secret" ingredient: 1 jar of Trader Joe's Salsa Verde)



This can be simmered on the stove top or in the crock pot. Do not drain the beans. Mix all ingredients and simmer until the onion and pepper are soft. Our house likes things spicy, so we add red pepper flakes and at least twice as much chili powder. This is a quick version... You can roast your own chilies, roast your own chicken, soak your beans overnight, etc. To your own liking.

## Cheesy Cornbread (some people call it "Spoon bread")

- ½ C (1 cube) butter, no margarine, please
- ¾ C sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 jalapenos, seeded and minced
- 1 ½ C frozen corn
- 1 can of evaporated milk
- 1 C shredded cheddar
- 1 C flour
- 1 C cornmeal
- 4 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt



Preheat oven to 350° F. Cream the butter and sugar. Add eggs. Mix well. Add canned milk. Mix well. Add peppers, corn, and cheddar, mix well. Mix the dry ingredients in a separate bowl, then add to the wet mix until there are no pockets of dry flour. Pour into a greased and floured 9-by-13 pan. Place in the oven and immediately reduce the heat to 300° F. Bake for 1 hour, until golden. This is such a treat, not crumbly or dry.

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.

# SNAP Work Rules Still Apply in Linn County, Despite New Rural Exemptions

While Oregon is easing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements in parts of rural eastern Oregon beginning February 1, the change does not apply to Linn County — including rural communities in the Central Linn area.

In late January, the Oregon Department of Human Services announced that people receiving SNAP in seven rural counties — Crook, Gilliam, Jefferson, Lake, Morrow, Sherman and Wheeler — will be temporarily exempt from federal work rules through the end of 2026. The exemptions apply only in counties without local employment service centers, where long travel distances and limited internet access make it difficult to meet participation requirements.

Linn County is not included.

That distinction matters for residents like Bill, a local volunteer at Sharing Hands Food Bank and Thrift Store, who relies on SNAP benefits while navigating work-requirement rules that are still in effect here.

Under federal SNAP guidelines, Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents — people ages 18 to 64 without children under 14 at home — must work, volunteer, or participate in approved job training for at least 80 hours per month to continue receiving benefits beyond three months. Those rules were expanded statewide after federal changes in 2025.

Bill volunteers regularly at Sharing Hands to meet those requirements — not because the local work rules were lifted, but because they still apply.

"I'm doing the work," Bill said. "But it's not always easy to determine what counts, how to report it, or how long it will last."

ODHS officials note that because Linn County has access to a WorkSource employment center in Albany, it does not qualify for the discretionary exemptions granted elsewhere. SNAP recipients here must continue to meet participation requirements or qualify for individual exemptions, such as disability, caregiving responsibilities, or enrollment in school.

Advocates say Bill's situation highlights a broader reality: even in counties with employment centers, transportation barriers, health limitations, and rural isolation can make compliance difficult.

While the new exemptions aim to protect food access in Oregon's most remote areas, local residents relying on SNAP are encouraged to stay informed, document volunteer hours carefully, and seek assistance through ODHS or local service organizations.

## HONORING *continued from over*

and the long struggle for equal rights. Understanding these events helps explain how the country has changed over time and why some challenges persist today. Learning this history can foster understanding and respect among neighbors and across generations.

At the same time, the month celebrates strength, talent, and progress. Black Americans have made lasting contributions to music, sports, science, agriculture, medicine, and many other aspects of daily life. Much of American culture has been shaped by these contributions, even when credit was not always given.

For small towns and large cities alike, Black History Month is a time to pause, learn, and reflect. It reminds us that American history encompasses many voices and experiences. By remembering the past and honoring those who helped shape it, communities can better understand one another and move forward together.

# WHERE TO EAT

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

**OVR** Overton Valley Ranch  
EST. 1860  
OVERTONVALLEYRANCH.COM • BROWNSVILLE

**OVERTON VALLEY BEEF**  
GRASS FED • GRASS FINISHED  
USDA Certified Angus Beef • 100% Natural  
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Family owned and operated  
Kyle Koontz • 541.990.3374

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

**THE HONEY HOLE**  
BAR & GRILL

**Memas Country Kitchen**  
HAND MADE WITH LOVE

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

**Armandos**  
Mexican Restaurant  
Phone Orders 541-466-3636

122 Spaulding  
11-9 • Sunday 12-8  
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BAR & GRILL  
LEBANON OREGON

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505 Mullins Drive, Lebanon • 541-451-1847  
Tuesday-Saturday, 4-9 p.m. • Happy Hour, 4-5 p.m.

**CRITTER CHRONICLES**

# The Cow that Scared the Bejeezers Out of Us

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

Back in the autumn of 2002, a horrific wind-storm tore through the mid-Willamette Valley. I remember Woody calling me at work, warning me to head home immediately. I picked up our 6-year-old from school, then met Woody at the gate at the bottom of our mile-long driveway.

The wind was howling like a freight train, and as we started up the hill, we were stopped by a huge oak tree that had fallen across the road. No problem, we thought! Woody had a cable in the back of his Ford F-250 and hooked it to the tree. One problem: the tree was so heavy that it pulled the truck's bumper right off.

We tried again to head home — only to find another tree down, once again blocking the road.

By then, the sky was pitch black, with no moon in sight. I was still in office attire — business suit and heels — because, of course, I was. The only option was to walk a mile uphill in the wind, now in complete darkness. (I have kept a flashlight in my car ever since.) The only light came from my son's Star Wars sneakers, which lit up with every step he took.

We walked and walked. I twisted my ankle a couple of times — heels on gravel are not exactly the recommended footwear for storm navigation. About halfway home, Woody suddenly said, "Stop." Then, "I smell an animal."

I reached out, and not six inches from my hand was a massive black Angus heifer.



AI GENERATED IMAGE

We nearly walked right into her!

She was just as startled as we were, but thankfully she lumbered off into the night, letting us continue our journey home.

When we finally arrived, the power was out — as expected — but we had propane for warm soup and a wood stove to gather around. The power stayed out for five days, and the weather was so bad that we couldn't clear the road for just as long.

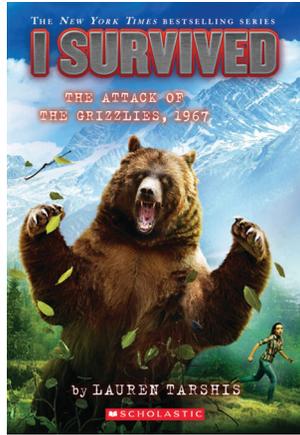
But we made it. And we'll never forget that night when we shared a moment of surprise and terror with a cow we couldn't see. ☼

**KIDS' KORNER**

# The 'I Survived' Adventure Series

By Nancy Diltz, Columnist

Have you ever wondered about people who have survived great tragedies? Shark attacks, fires, avalanches, and war are some of the topics covered in the "I Survived" book series for kids. This series is designed for 4th grade and above, and several of the books are available at the Brownsville Library, either in print or as audiobooks.



One of the stories, "I Survived the Attack of the Grizzlies in 1967" by Lauren Tarshis (2018), is an engaging account of the historic grizzly bear attacks in Glacier National Park, Montana. In this fictional account, based on real historical events, "Eleven-year-old Melody (Mel) Vega and her family come to

Glacier National Park every year, and it's always been a place where she can forget her troubles, but this year is different. With mom gone, every moment in the park is a heartbreaking reminder of the past. Then Mel comes face-to-face with a mighty grizzly. Now her only thought is one of survival.

Mel will soon be part of one of the most tragic seasons in the history of America's national parks — a summer of terror that will forever change ideas about how grizzlies and humans can exist together in the wild, according to the Publisher's Summary. The good news is that Mel and each of the kids in the "I Survived" series do survive to tell their story.

**Activity**

How many different types of bears can you list?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS: Black Bear, Brown Bear (Grizzly), Polar Bear, Andean Bear, Panda Bear, Sloth Bear, Sun Bear, Asiatic Black Bear.

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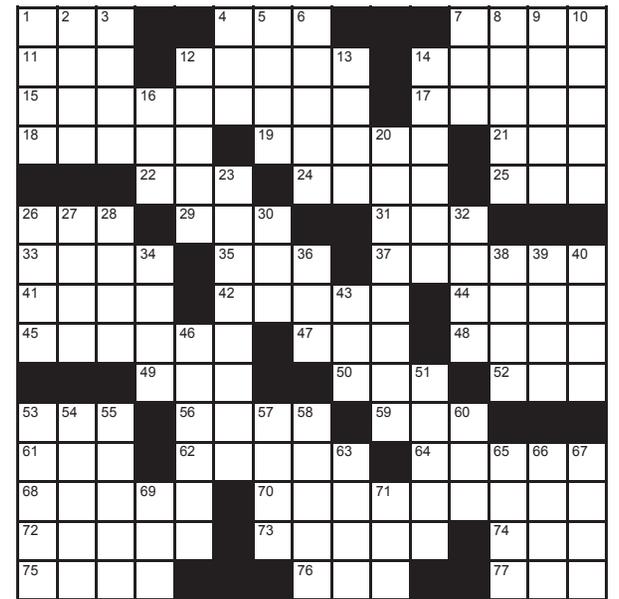
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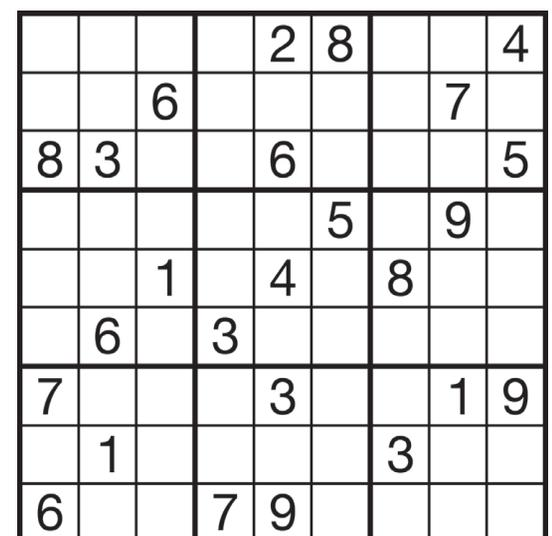
# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Chip additive
  - 4 So. state (Abbr.)
  - 7 Strike
  - 11 One (Sp.)
  - 12 Coral reef
  - 14 Brim over
  - 15 Free as a bird
  - 17 Prohibited
  - 18 Without restraint
  - 19 Bowler
  - 21 Football player
  - 22 Small rug
  - 24 Paper quantity
  - 25 \_\_\_ Miserables
  - 26 Implore
  - 29 Cut grass
  - 31 Cover
  - 33 Scarce
  - 35 Chitchat
  - 37 Guide
  - 41 Eager
  - 42 Enlighten
  - 44 Destiny
  - 45 Abhor
  - 47 Scrooge's cry
  - 48 Prong
  - 49 High degree
  - 50 Pet
  - 52 Doleful
  - 53 Cable channel (Abbr.)
  - 56 Ohio team
  - 59 Arena cheer
  - 61 Period of time
  - 62 Build
  - 64 Rot-resistant wood
  - 68 Scandinavian
  - 70 Biz colleagues
  - 72 Toe
  - 73 Oil source
  - 74 Month (Abbr.)
  - 75 Pigswill
  - 76 Genetic material
  - 77 Cooking measure (Abbr.)
  - 16 Belief
  - 20 Hype
  - 23 In concert
  - 26 Nail
  - 27 Roof overhang
  - 28 Gumption
  - 30 Tobacco measure
  - 32 Loopy
  - 34 Promised land
  - 36 Napkin, of sorts
  - 38 Pulpit
  - 39 Bunsen burner
  - 40 Swamp grass
  - 43 Rage
  - 46 Sidewalks divider
  - 51 Brightness
  - 53 Doubles over
  - 54 Grill
  - 55 Freight
  - 57 Art \_\_\_
  - 58 Chew out
  - 60 Deer relative
  - 63 Duplicate
  - 65 Fender mishap
  - 66 God of love
  - 67 Invitation inits.
  - 69 Small drink
  - 71 Eggs
- DOWN**
- 1 Twofold
  - 2 Division word
  - 3 Field game
  - 4 Consumed
  - 5 Duke
  - 6 Change
  - 7 Holiday resort
  - 8 Defamation
  - 9 Solitary
  - 10 Trudges along
  - 12 At right angles
  - 13 Harp
  - 14 Obstruct

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- EEOMRFD \_\_\_\_\_
- ITSRHOY \_\_\_\_\_
- TLAYIUEQ \_\_\_\_\_

**PUZZLE Solutions on page 13**

**BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

# Stitching, Stories, and Community

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

## Thread Wizards Stitchery Group

Each Wednesday, a few gals have been meeting to work on 'stitchery projects.' Keren Levin started this stitchery group more than 20 years ago. Over the years, we have met in the old Brownsville School, Brownsville Park, and the Brownsville Library. We currently meet in the History Room at the library. Projects include whatever we are working on, or none. This is a great time to meet your neighbors and make friends in the community. Join The Thread Wizards Stitchery Group on Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. for some chat. Maybe you will even get something accomplished on your project!

## Turkish Treasure February 19

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

## Avoid scams with Sam

Scammers are getting smarter, but so can you. Join us for a presentation on common scams, how to recognize red flags, and simple steps to protect yourself and your finances. Legal Assistant Sam Heathcote will present Avoid Scams with Sam on Thursday, March 26, at 3 p.m. The program will be held in the Kirk Room at the Brownsville Community Library. It is another fabulous, free program open to the public.

## Safe, free prescription drug disposal

Are you cleaning out prescription medications and unsure how or where to dispose of them? Drop by the Brownsville Library to pick up a FREE return envelope. Use this mail-back service to properly dispose of prescription medications at no cost. Place your unwanted prescription medications in the envelope, seal it, and drop it at any post office. This program works at your convenience! We also have sharps and inhaler containers. Save money and support your local library at the same time. This is another free, open-to-the-public program.

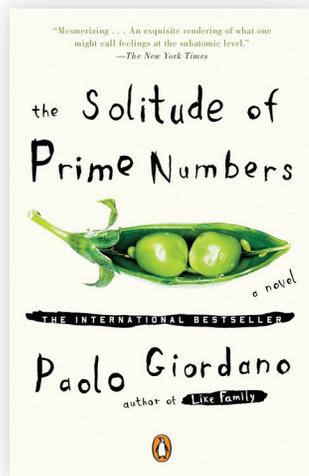
The library is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday from 1 to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The library is located at 146 Spaulding Ave, Brownsville. Call 541-466-5454 or visit <https://www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org> for more information. Follow on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BVORLibrary>.

**BROWNSVILLE BOOK CLUB**

# Can Two Prime Numbers Find a Way to Be Together?

By Barbara DeRobertis, Columnist



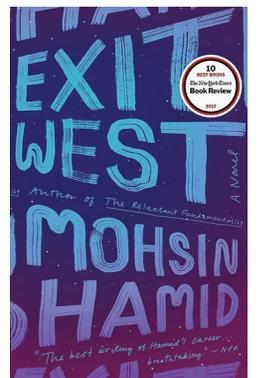
The back cover of this month's book club book, "The Solitude of Prime Numbers," by Paolo Giordano, affirms that "A prime number is a lonely thing. It can only be divided by itself or by one; it never truly fits with another." The title of this book fits the story remarkably well, as the two main characters, Alice and Mattia, fit the definition of twin primes. Like twin primes, they are close to each other but never touch. They are alone when they are together, and together, they are alone. This book is about profound loneliness and vulnerability. Both teens have difficulty connecting with others and are considered misfits. They are bullied and ostracized by their peers and are distant from their parents. Alice and Mattia discover one another in high school and form a friendship bound by what they have in common. They had both experienced traumas in adolescence that left them emotionally and physically scarred. Both deliberately inflict harm upon themselves. Alice suffers from an eating disorder, and Mattia cuts himself. This story takes place in Italy, spans twenty-five years, begins during their high school days in the early eighties, and follows them well into adulthood. They are by each other's sides during their high school years, but then go their separate ways as they set out to carve their own paths. Mattia takes the scholarly route, and Alice marries a man she doesn't love. Neither are happy nor fulfilled. The

reader has hope that the two will eventually come together in the end.

Book group members expressed sympathies for these individuals and acknowledged that pain oftentimes accompanies feelings of exclusion, most often lasting a lifetime. We discussed how common adolescent struggles are and recognized that obtaining a sense of belonging is a fundamental, lifelong human need. Many of us have witnessed or experienced the cruelty of others in our own childhoods. Have you ever felt like a fish out of water? Were you always the one picked last for a team? Were you teased a lot? These types of experiences can affect us for the rest of our lives and shape who we become.

This book is the author's debut novel. It is translated from Italian, has sold over a million copies, and won a prestigious award. Although beautifully written, most of us found the book disturbing and pessimistic. All of us were disappointed in its ending. These two characters never heal from their traumas, nor do they learn to trust others, even each other. Is it worth reading? I think so. Books do not have to be liked to be considered good. I, personally, will be carrying this story with me for a long while.

Next month, we will be discussing "Exit West" by Mohsin Hamid. Book Club meetings take place on the third Wednesday of every month, at 7 p.m. in the Kirk Room of the Brownsville Library. New members are always welcome. ☺



**BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY CALENDAR**

**Parents & Pals Story Time**

Wednesdays • 10-10:15 a.m.

A short story time followed by free play together.

**Brownsville Stitchery Group**

Wednesdays • 1-3 p.m. • History Room

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

**Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time**

Fridays • 11 a.m.

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

**Brownsville Book Club**

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

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# WHERE TO STAY

# RAIN Supports Rural Entrepreneurs Across Oregon

Within the Central Willamette Valley, the Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN) has become a key resource for rural entrepreneurs launching and growing small businesses.

To date, RAIN has supported more than 3,000 small business owners, resulting in the creation of over 900 jobs and generating more than \$38 million in business revenue throughout rural Oregon.



COURTESY OF RAIN

Entrepreneurs with Puffin Produce stand inside a modular hydroponic growing system used to produce fresh herbs and greens year-round. The rural business received technical assistance and business support through the Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN).

Founded in 2014, RAIN advances economic inclusion by supporting rural and underrepresented entrepreneurs who face geographic and systemic barriers to opportunity. The organization offers free technical assistance, resource navigation, and access to capital for business owners at every stage — from early-stage ideas to investment-ready growth.



COURTESY OF RAIN

RAIN serves more than 500 entrepreneurs each year through its community-based Entrepreneurship Navigators. These navigators offer one-on-one coaching, sector-specific education, and connections to local and statewide resources. Support is delivered through in-person community events, virtual programming, and individualized mentorship.

“Creating and growing a business in rural Oregon can be challenging, but successful entrepreneurs are the backbone of communities statewide,” said RAIN CEO Rachel Jagoda Brunette. “RAIN focuses on providing tailored support and access to resources that can be hard to find outside urban centers.”

One example is Puffin Produce, a rural business that offers modular hydroponic farming systems enabling food producers to grow fresh produce year-round. What began in a home garage grew into a large-scale pro-

duction facility serving customers statewide, supported by RAIN’s business guidance, professional connections, and scaling assistance. RAIN has also participated in local outreach, including community events such as the Tangent Harvest Festival, to connect residents with entrepreneurial resources.

RAIN’s programs include Rural Entrepreneurship Navigation, Spanish-language Navegador de Emprendimiento services, and regional innovation leadership via the Cascades West Innovation Hub. A new program, Rural CREATOR, launches February 12 to support creative entrepreneurs with training and peer mentorship. All services delivered by RAIN are accessible at no cost.

Through its integrated approach, RAIN continues to strengthen small businesses and build resilient rural economies across Oregon. 🌱

# Bottle Lamb Waitlist Opens at Weaver Meadow Farm

As lambing season begins, Weaver Meadow Farm has opened its annual bottle lamb waitlist for community members interested in raising young lambs this spring.

The family-run farm, located along Halsey-Sweet Home Highway east of Brownsville, expects lambing to begin next week. Bottle lambs offered through the waitlist are those rejected by their mothers or extra lambs from large litters. All lambs will have received at least one round of colostrum before placement.



COURTESY OF WEAVER MEADOW FARM

Pricing for the 2026

season is set at \$50 for ewe lambs and \$25 for ram lambs. Pickup is required within 24 hours of notification, with a preference for a 12-hour turnaround to ensure proper care and feeding schedules. The lambs are pure Katahdin, and some Dorper and Romanov crosses are available.

Those interested are asked to contact the farm directly with the number of lambs desired and any gender preference. The farm will work through the waitlist as lambs arrive.

Weaver Meadow Farm has seen rapid growth in recent years. After starting on a 12-acre property near Lebanon, the operation relocated to a 177-acre farm in Brownsville, allowing for expanded sheep and pig production. Since the move, the farm has added new hay, lambing, and farrowing barns, along with greenhouses and fencing to support future growth.

For more information about the bottle lamb waitlist, contact Weaver Meadow Farm at 541-905-5987, email [WeaverMFarm@gmail.com](mailto:WeaverMFarm@gmail.com), or visit <https://weavermfarm.com>. The farm is located at 38223 Highway 228, Brownsville. 🌱

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## LONG GRAY BRAID MUSINGS

# The Whistle Blower

By Annie Swensen, Columnist and Copy Editor

It started 10 years ago. I received a phone message from Lt. Brian Johnson at the Los Angeles Airport. He had a package for delivery to me and I needed to call Security at LAX. Though confused, I dialed the number. The recorded message affirmed this was the airport. I selected option 8 — the Security office. Lt. Johnson answered and transferred me to the “Investigations” unit.

I was curious and stayed on the line to hear Detective Davis explain I had won a prize of \$80,000 cash and a check for \$500,000.

“Didn’t you get a notice in the mail?” he inquired. “It’s the American Sweepstakes Company from Minnesota.”

I realized this had nothing to do with me. “No, and I don’t want it. Just write ‘return to sender on it.’” And I hung up on him.

This was the beginning of the multi-daily scam calls. Until then, my phone had only rung when it was a friend or family member, and it was always a joy to answer. Now, at least five times through the day, these calls were annoying me. The callers usually identified themselves as detectives responsible for getting me a large sum of money. With each ring, I less than kindly told them to remove me from their call list... I clearly wasn’t buying. My impatient insistence was greeted with vulgarity and threats of personal harm.

The Linn County Sheriff’s only suggestion was to change my phone number. How would I notify 40 years of contacts? And there was no guarantee the new number wouldn’t be found by these criminals. I took matters into my own hands.

At Walmart, I hit the sports department, found, and purchased a two-pack of referee whistles. The next morning, I heard the ring, hit answer, and blew an embarrassing mix of air and tweets into my phone. (I hadn’t blown a whistle for years.) I heard, “hello,” and quickly disconnected. I practiced... filling my lungs with air and placing my mouth firmly around the opening to get a forceful, shrill blast.

A few hours later, I blew as hard as I could at another caller. I heard a quick ‘clunk’, as though the scammer tore off a headset and threw it down, then the click of a hang up. I was ecstatic! For two days, I enjoyed the silence of my phone. On the third day, another call. I blew hard... a good whistle... until I ran out of breath. Then I heard the disconnect.

So, every morning I rise from my bed, pull the loop over my neck so the whistle hangs at my waist. I grab my cell phone, descend the stairs, let the dog out, and start my coffee. At the kitchen table, I sit, reading or writing, the phone beside me. It’s been a long while since I’ve heard the ring from a strange number... just maybe, I’m off the list. I am armed, just in case — oops, 9:47 a.m. — another call. It’s Okay... I’m a great whistle blower. ☺

## Oregon Begins Processing E-Filed Returns; First Refunds Expected Feb. 17

Oregon has begun processing electronically filed 2025 income tax returns, and the Oregon Department of Revenue says the first state refunds — including Oregon’s \$1.41 billion kicker — could arrive as soon as Feb. 17.

The update follows the department’s earlier guidance on the start of tax season, as outlined in The Brownsville Times’ Jan. 29 edition. State officials say the new information confirms that electronic filing remains the fastest way for taxpayers to receive their refunds this year.



Taxpayers who e-file and request direct deposit typically receive refunds within two weeks. Those who file paper returns can expect a significantly longer wait, with refunds not expected until early April. Processing of mailed returns has been delayed because federal tax forms from the IRS were received late in 2025.

The department urges taxpayers to file only once — either electronically or by paper — because submitting both can delay processing. Filers are also encouraged to gather all necessary tax documents, including W-2s and 1099s, before filing to avoid errors that could slow refunds.

The kicker is a refundable credit that increases a taxpayer’s refund or reduces the amount owed. It is not issued as a separate check. Only taxpayers who filed a 2024 Oregon return and file for 2025 are eligible. The kicker amount is based on a percentage of a taxpayer’s 2024 Oregon income tax liability.

The department also reminds taxpayers that Form 1099-G is no longer mailed. Taxpayers who need the form — generally those who itemized deductions on their 2024 federal return — can download it via Revenue Online.

Brownsville residents who prefer to file by paper can find Oregon tax forms and instruction booklets now available at the Brownsville Community Library. Federal tax forms have been ordered and are expected to arrive soon. The Oregon Department of Revenue continues to encourage taxpayers to use its online filing portal whenever possible. More information is available at <https://www.oregon.gov/dor>.

Free electronic filing and tax preparation assistance are still available through state-approved software and community programs. More information is available at [www.oregon.gov/dor](http://www.oregon.gov/dor). ☺

## Tax Season Scams: What to Watch For

As federal and state tax season gets underway, officials are warning taxpayers to stay alert for scams that target filers. Fraudsters often pose as Internal Revenue Service representatives, claiming that victims are owed a refund or owe back taxes, to steal personal and financial information.

One common scam directs recipients to a website that appears to be an official IRS page. These fake sites may include realistic forms or interactive pages but are designed to collect sensitive data such as Social Security numbers, banking information, or passwords. Other scams may pressure victims into paying supposed tax debts using unusual methods, including cryptocurrency, gift cards, third-party payment platforms, or unsecured links.

The IRS does not send unsolicited emails or texts requesting personal information, nor does it ask for PINs, passwords, or payment via nontraditional methods. The agency typically contacts taxpayers by mail and does not make late-night phone calls demanding immediate action. ☺

### More information and reporting resources:

- IRS tax scams and phishing: <https://www.irs.gov>
- Identity theft help, Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.consumer.gov/idtheft>
- Online safety guidance: <https://www.onguardonline.gov>
- Report fraud to the FTC: <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov>
- Report scams to the Oregon Department of Justice: <https://www.doj.state.or.us/consumer-protection/sales-scams-fraud/report-scams-fraud/>
- FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center: <https://www.ic3.gov>



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BROWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

# Council Reviews Infrastructure Needs, Community Updates

By Sravya Tadepalli, Staff Writer

The January Brownsville City Council meeting started on a humorous note as City Manager Scott McDowell called roll, and Councilor Felipe Eversull did not immediately respond to his name.

“That was like being in school,” McDowell joked.

The meeting continued with a State of the City Address from Mayor Adam Craven. Mayor Craven discussed several ongoing efforts to improve the city, including replacing broken playground equipment in Pioneer Park and expanding the South Wastewater Treatment Plant. He also thanked community partners for their work in making Brownsville a fun and welcoming place to live.

“We continue to protect what makes Brownsville special, our natural beauty and our sense of community,” said Craven. “The city continues many exciting partnerships that bring added value to living in Brownsville, and we are fortunate to have such vibrant nonprofit groups who work tirelessly to promote their mission and enhance opportunities for our citizens.”

Mayor Craven also discussed major expenditures the Council is continuing to mull over, including repairs to Kirk Avenue, stabilization of the Calapooia Riverbank, and sidewalk improvements. The Council is hesitant about these expenditures because they would result in increased costs for residents, he said.

Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink expressed frustration with posts made on Facebook about potholes in the Pioneer Park parking lot, saying that the posts misled the community about the city’s response. The parking lot has now been graded, and Frink said that arrangements had been made to fix the potholes before residents posted about the issue on Facebook.

“We really just encourage folks to just call us,” said McDowell, referring to times when residents have concerns about issues in the city. “A lot of people are in my phone; it’s on my desk.”

Sergeant Frambes said Brownsville saw only a handful of traffic stops and arrests in December. “The month of December is usually hundreds of calls, so that’s nice to see,” said Frambes.

City Manager McDowell said the city is preparing to launch the new website. Staff recently installed security cameras at the Rec Center and Library, and are planning to install carbon monoxide monitors in City Hall.

The planning report noted that the city issued six permits in January 2026, including one construction permit for a storage shed for a private residence on Blakely Avenue.

The librarian’s report celebrated the success of December’s annual book sale, with donated books helping the Friends of the Brownsville Community Library raise over \$1,800 for library programming. The library also served as the hub for the Festival of Trees, and the Brownsville Women’s Study Club gave \$1,330 to the library to support its eBook service.

The Council approved a contribution of \$2,500 to support the fireworks celebration for the 250th Independence Day celebration this year. The Council also approved a letter to be sent to the River’s Edge Homeowners’ Association and residents of the River’s Edge Subdivision detailing the respective responsibilities of the Homeowners’ Association and the City of Brownsville.

McDowell announced that Don Andrews has stepped down from the Brownsville Budget Committee, creating an opening for a new member. Mayor Craven thanked Andrews for his service, saying he had been a great mentor to him when he joined the fire department as a young man. ☺

# State Seeks Public Comment on Medicaid Waiver Updates

The Oregon Department of Human Services’ Office of Developmental Disabilities Services requests public comment on proposed updates to six Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services waivers that support children and adults with developmental disabilities and complex medical needs.

The proposed changes include expanded eligibility criteria to make it easier for low-income children to access services, along with reduced paperwork by eliminating signature requirements on certain forms. According to the state, these changes are intended to improve access while maintaining existing services. Additional revisions are technical and do not affect benefits.

Full waiver applications and explanatory materials are available online and in print through local developmental disability programs. Public comments must be received by Feb. 27, 2026.

Comments may be submitted by email to [odds.waivers@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:odds.waivers@odhsoha.oregon.gov) or by mail to the ODDS Medicaid Waiver Analyst, 500 Summer St. NE E-09, Salem, OR 97301. ☺

# The Brownsville Times Seeks New Board Members

The Brownsville Times is seeking new board members to help guide the future of the nonprofit community newspaper serving Central Linn County.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the paper relies on engaged board leadership to support governance, fundraising, strategic planning, and community connection. Individuals with experience in nonprofit service, finance, fundraising, communications, or civic engagement are especially encouraged to apply, though a belief in the value of local journalism is essential.

Board service offers a meaningful way to contribute skills and perspective while helping preserve independent, small-town news for future generations.

Those interested in learning more are encouraged to reach out directly to the board Chair, Sharon Banks, at [thebrownsvilletimes@gmail.com](mailto:thebrownsvilletimes@gmail.com). Or call her at 458-266-0511. ☺



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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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**Health Care Scholarships Available Through Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital**

Several health care-related scholarships are now available through the Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation and the Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital Auxiliary, with eligibility varying by award. Some scholarships are open to Central Linn residents, while others are limited to applicants from the Lebanon or Sweet Home areas.

The Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital Auxiliary is accepting applications for its annual \$1,000 scholarships for students majoring in medical or health-related fields. These awards are for students already enrolled in college. Five scholarships will be awarded, and applications are due by Thursday, Feb. 19.

Additional scholarships are offered by the Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation to students pursuing medical, nursing, and nursing education programs, as well as those enrolled in health career pathways at Linn-Benton Community College. Deadlines and eligibility requirements vary by scholarship: some awards are limited to East Linn County or specific communities, while others are open more broadly.

Among the opportunities are scholarships for medical students, entry-level health care students, and caregivers or certified nursing assistants pursuing further education in nursing. Some scholarships include preference criteria based on location, school attended, or field of study.

Because each scholarship has its own geographic and program-specific requirements, students are encouraged to review the eligibility criteria carefully before applying.

Applications, deadlines, and detailed scholarship descriptions are available online at <https://samhealth.org/Scholarships>. Scholarship recipients will be announced in late spring and early summer, depending on the award.

Students and families interested in health care careers are encouraged to explore these opportunities and confirm their eligibility based on their specific circumstances.

**CENTRAL LINN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Notice of Supplemental Budget**

The Central Linn School Board will review a proposed supplemental budget for the Central Linn School District during a public meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on February 9, 2026, at Central Linn School District offices.

The purpose of the supplemental budget is to recognize and appropriate additional grant revenue received after adoption of the 2025-26 budget.

A copy of the supplemental budget document may be inspected by interested persons on the Central Linn School District website at [www.central-linn.k12.or.us](http://www.central-linn.k12.or.us).

**SUMMARY OF SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**

Fund: 411 CLES Seismic Rehabilitation

**Resources**

State Restricted Grants-in-Aid: \$2,000,000  
Revised Total Resources: \$2,000,000

**Requirements**

Building Construction and Improvement: \$2,000,000  
Revised Total Requirements: \$2,000,000

**Comment**

The Central Linn School District was not notified of the Business Oregon grant award until after the 2025-26 budget was approved. This supplemental budget recognizes the grant revenue and appropriates funds for seismic rehabilitation at Central Linn Elementary School.



**Fall Enrollment for Full-Time K-12 Online Learning**

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CENTRAL LINN HIGH SCHOOL FEBRUARY STUDENT ATHLETE

## Colton Hein Combines Skill, Leadership in Standout Month

Central Linn Junior Colton Hein has been named Student Athlete of the Month for his outstanding performance and leadership in athletics. Colton recently went a perfect 6-0 at the Oregon Wrestling Classic, helping lead his team to a second-place finish in the 1A/2A Classic Cup division. His strong showing contributed to an impressive overall season record of 20-5.

Colton's success is driven by an exceptional work ethic and unwavering dedication. As a multi-sport athlete, he consistently brings heart, determination, and a competitive spirit to every sport he participates in. He is

known for consistently giving his best effort and for setting a positive example for his teammates.

In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Colton is respected for his character. He is hard-working, humble, and supportive of others — a wonderful human being who represents Central Linn with pride both on and off the field. 🌟



COURTESY OF THE CENTRAL LINN HS WRESTLING TEAM

CENTRAL LINN GIRLS' BASKETBALL

## Girls Varsity Score Win over Monroe

By Sharon Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

Central Linn's girls' basketball team earned a 50-33 victory over Monroe on Jan. 29 at Monroe High School, using strong defense and rebounding to control the game from start to finish.

The Cobras set the tone early and never relinquished the lead, limiting Monroe's scoring opportunities and converting defensive stops into transition points.

Addie Wolff led Central Linn with 16 points and 19 rebounds, dominating the paint on both ends

of the floor. Aaliyah Hite contributed seven points and nine rebounds, providing steady inside support, while Peyton Gaskey anchored the defense with six steals and added five assists to keep the offense flowing.

With the win, Central Linn improved to 12-5 on the season, continuing its strong play and demonstrating balance, intensity, and teamwork as league play progresses. 🌟

CENTRAL LINN BOYS' BASKETBALL

## Monroe Boys Varsity Edge out Central Linn

By Sharon Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

Monroe edged Central Linn 45-43 in a tightly contested boys basketball match up Thursday night, Jan. 29, at Monroe High School.

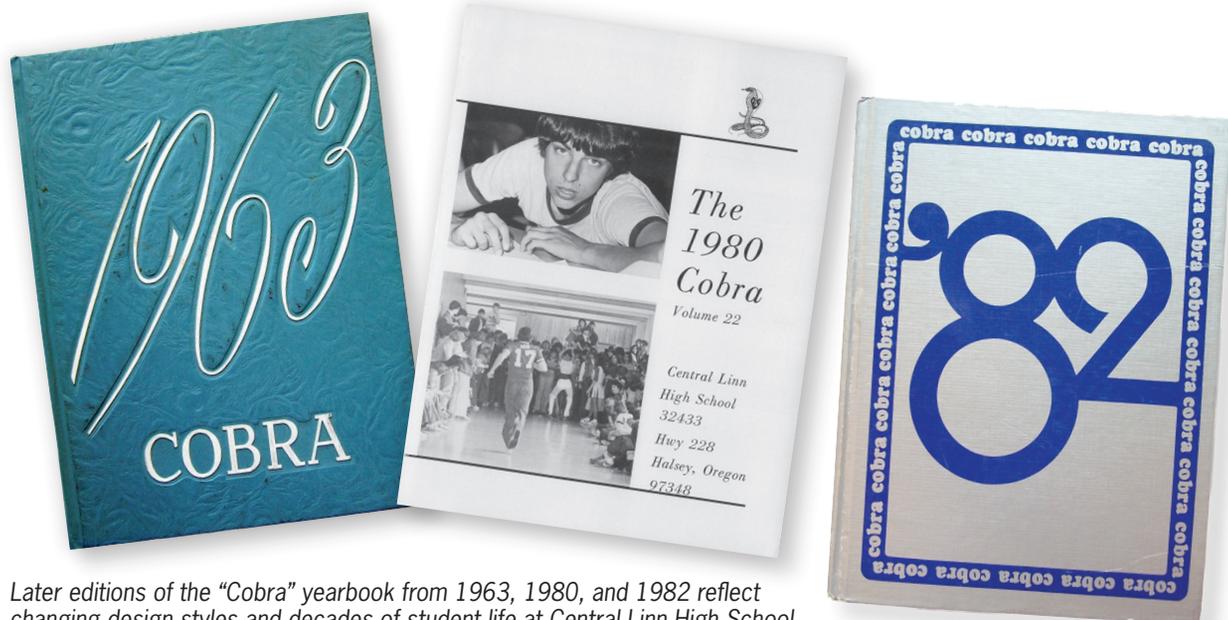
The Dragons defended their home court in a game that came down to the final possessions, holding off a late Central Linn rally to secure the two-point victory.

For Central Linn, Jackson Durringer led the offense, averaging 10.0 points, 6.0 rebounds, and 4.0 assists per game this season, while Aren Schneider continued to be a defensive force, entering the contest with an average of 3.0 steals per game.

Monroe was paced by strong interior play from Wyatt Wellette, who averages 5.0 rebounds per contest, and steady perimeter defense from Eli Dilworth, averaging 3.0 steals per game.

Both teams traded leads throughout the night, with neither side able to build a comfortable advantage. Central Linn had an opportunity in the closing seconds, but Monroe's defense held firm to seal the win.

The loss drops Central Linn after a hard-fought road battle, while Monroe continues to build momentum heading into the latter part of the season. 🌟



Later editions of the "Cobra" yearbook from 1963, 1980, and 1982 reflect changing design styles and decades of student life at Central Linn High School.

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CENTRAL LINN BOOSTER CLUB

## Annual Auction Set for March 14

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

Doors open at 5 p.m., and the silent auction runs from 5 to 6:20 p.m. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m., followed by the live auction at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person, and tables for 10 are \$300.

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

Central Linn High School is located at 32433 Hwy 228 in Halsey. For reservations or additional information, contact the Central Linn Cobra Booster Club at 541-740-9028, send an email to [cobraboosterclub@hotmail.com](mailto:cobraboosterclub@hotmail.com), or visit <https://www.facebook.com/CobraBoosterClub>. 🌟

SCHOOLS SPORTS CALENDAR

**Thursday, February 5**

High School Wrestling  
Dual Teams @ Toledo • 10 a.m. (Clatskanie, Colton, Gervais, Lowell, Nestucca, Regis, Siletz Valley, St. Paul, Toledo, Vernonia, Waldport)

**Friday, Feb. 6**

High School Basketball vs. East Linn Christian — Alumni & Senior Recognition Night  
3 p.m. JV Girls • 4:30 p.m. JV Boys • 6 p.m. Varsity Girls • 7:30 p.m. Varsity Boys

**Tuesday, Feb. 10**

High School Basketball @ Waldport  
3 p.m. JV Girls • 4:30 p.m. JV Boys • 6 p.m. Varsity Girls • 7:30 p.m. Varsity Boys

Junior High Basketball — League games scheduled (times vary)

# County Reopens Record in Coffin Butte Landfill Expansion Case

CORVALLIS — The Benton County Board of Commissioners has reopened the public record in a controversial land-use case involving the proposed expansion of the Coffin Butte Landfill, allowing new evidence and testimony to be considered before a final decision is reached.

The unanimous decision follows a public hearing on January 20, during which commissioners reconsidered their earlier approval of the landfill expansion. Central to the decision was a letter issued November 6 by the Oregon DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality), which was received after the Board voted in November 2025. Planning staff recommended reopening the record to formally evaluate the DEQ letter under applicable Benton County land use criteria.

The reopened record process allows the Board to review new information related specifically to the DEQ's findings, followed by a final argument from the applicant. County staff may issue a supplemental report based on the new evidence.

The Board is scheduled to resume deliberations on Tuesday, March 3, at 11 a.m. in Corvallis, with adoption of findings and transmittal of a final decision tentatively set for March 17. Any changes to that schedule will be announced at the March 3 meeting.

The Coffin Butte Landfill serves a broad region of the mid-Willamette Valley, and decisions about its expansion have implications for long-term waste management, environmental oversight, and regional land-use planning.

More information about the case and related documents is available on the Benton County website at <https://www.bentoncountyor.gov/coffin-butte-landfill>.

## LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### Linn County Maintains Conservative Spending

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — Halfway through the 2025-2026 fiscal year, Linn County's department heads and elected officials are holding a tight rein on spending Accounting Officer Bill Palmer told Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger, and Will Tucker at their January 27 meeting.

Palmer said that as of December 31, most departments have expended less than 50 percent of their budgets.

Spending for the General Fund is at 45.60 percent compared to 41.8 percent at the same time in 2024.

The Road Fund has expended 24.7 percent compared to 27.1 percent; the Law Enforcement Levy is at 34.9 percent compared to 36.7 percent and the Health Fund is at 24.6 percent compared to 25.1 percent.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Received the annual audit report from Aldrich CPAs + Advisors. CPA Jessica Luther-Haynes said the county received a "clean opinion" which is the "best you can get." In a written report to the commissioners, the audit firm noted, "We received the full cooperation of management and staff throughout the audit and we were kept informed as to developments and plans affecting our audit scope." A copy of the audit report can be viewed at <https://www.linncountyor.gov/media/54126>.
- Were told by Juvenile Department Director Torri Lynn that 29 young people from Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties were held in December. There were 20 youth held from Linn County for 193 total days of care; seven youth from Benton County for 73 days and two youth from Lincoln County for 40 days of care. There were no young people from Clackamas or Marion counties held in December. The Juvenile Department received 33 referrals in December and there were 182 young people in the Probation Unit, 31 of which were considered high-risk. The Victim Advocate made 102 contacts.
- Amended three Health Specialist 1, 2, and 3 pay scale classifications upwards based on a salary analysis, within the Environmental Health Department.
- Approved refunds of \$6,759.53 and \$65,846.89 to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. These were unexpended funds from a \$1.52 million grant provided by the commission.
- Approved a \$39,814.60 refund to National Carbon Technology, due to a month's lease overpayment at the Millersburg industrial property.
- Approved a conditional use permit application on remand from LUBA (Land Use Board of Appeals). The application was remanded for the commissioners to review additional evidence in the record.

# Pacific Power Offers Winter Heating Tips as Cold Weather Continues

As cold temperatures persist across the region, Pacific Power is reminding customers that small changes at home can help reduce energy use and manage winter heating costs.

The utility says electricity use typically rises during colder months because households rely more on heating systems. Adjusting daily habits and maintaining equipment can help customers stay comfortable while keeping monthly bills in check.

Among the recommendations, Pacific Power advises setting thermostats to about 68 degrees when people are home and awake and lowering the temperature when away or asleep. Closing window coverings at night can help reduce drafts, while sealing gaps around doors and windows with weatherstripping or caulking helps retain warm air indoors.

Routine maintenance is also emphasized. Customers are encouraged to clean or replace furnace filters monthly during the heating season to improve airflow and reduce strain on heating systems.

The company cautions against overusing portable space heaters, which consume significant electricity. Running a typical 1,500-watt heater for eight hours a day for a month can add roughly \$30 to a winter electric bill. When used, heaters should be operated sparingly and safely.

Pacific Power also encourages customers to use appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines, and ovens during off-peak hours when possible, helping reduce demand on the power grid during high-use periods.

For customers facing high energy bills, Pacific Power offers income-qualified discounts, weatherization assistance, and other support programs. For more information, visit <https://www.pacificpower.net/assistance> or call 888-221-7070.

Additional energy-saving tips can be found at <https://www.pacificpower.net/wintertips>.

## PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 5

DIP	ALA	SLAP	19	7	5	2	8	6	3	4		
UNO	ATOLL	SPIILL	5	2	6	4	1	3	9	7	8	
ATLIBERTY	TABOO		8	3	4	9	6	7	1	2	5	
LOOSE	DERBY	END	3	4	8	1	7	5	2	9	6	
	MAT	REAM	LES	9	7	1	2	4	6	8	5	3
BEG	MOW	LID	2	6	5	3	8	9	7	4	1	
RARE	GAB	LEADER	7	8	2	6	3	4	5	1	9	
AVID	EDIFY	FATE	4	1	9	8	5	2	3	6	7	
DETEST	BAH	TINE	6	5	3	7	9	1	4	8	2	
	NTH	DOG	SAD									
BBC	REDS	OLE										
ERA	ERECT	ALDER										
NORSE	COWORKERS											
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NEW ENERGY

# Are Solar Roofs Worth the Cost?

By Stephen Brenner, Staff Writer

Solar roof tiles and shingles use the same core technology as traditional solar panels, but instead of sitting on top of a roof, they are integrated directly into the roofing material and designed to look like conventional shingles. When Tesla introduced its solar roof nearly a decade ago, Elon Musk promised a product that would be cheaper than a normal roof, longer-lasting, and capable of eliminating electricity bills. While that vision hasn't fully materialized, the market is slowly moving in that direction.



Designed with energy independence in mind, the Brownsville home at 805 Calapooia Ave. uses an integrated solar tile roof to generate electricity without visible panels.

Right now, most homeowners who want solar still opt for standard panels. Solar roofs remain a small niche because they generally cost more, produce less electricity per square foot, and have fewer qualified installers. Traditional panels benefit from massive economies of scale and can generate roughly 25 percent more power per square foot than solar shingles. Cost is another major barrier: a typical solar panel system averages around \$30,000, while solar roofs often cost two to four times that amount.

The appeal of solar roofs is largely aesthetic. Products such as Tesla's glass tiles, CertainTeed's slate-style shingles, Luma Solar's metal-roof-compatible system, and Jackery's terra-cotta-look tiles let homeowners generate power without visible panels. However, these high-end looks come with high-end prices. In one Florida example, a Tesla solar roof was quoted at \$205,000, compared with about \$95,000 for a traditional tile roof with solar panels.

The market is shifting as large roofing manufacturers, such as GAF and CertainTeed, enter the space, offering solar shingles that resemble standard asphalt roofs. These products are significantly cheaper than Tesla's, priced at roughly \$12-\$25 per square foot. Their involvement is important because large companies can standardize production and reduce costs, potentially turning solar shingles from boutique products

into common building materials.

Experts believe solar roofs make the most sense when installed during new construction or full roof replacements. Labor is the largest cost in photovoltaic installations, so combining roof replacement with solar installation can reduce overall expenses. For homeowners already considering expensive roofing materials like slate or tile, solar roofs can be financially competitive with the cost of a premium roof plus traditional panels.

In regions with high electricity prices, long-term economics are improving. In Massachusetts, some installers estimate that Tesla solar roofs can pay for themselves in about 20 years, with newer, cheaper products potentially achieving 12-year payback periods. Durability is another selling point, with glass solar tiles offering strong fire and wind resistance and lifespans that may exceed 50 years.

For now, solar roofs remain a luxury option, but falling solar cell costs and improved manufacturing suggest they may follow the same path as electric vehicles and heat pumps, moving from expensive early-adopter technology to mainstream, affordable solutions.

This article draws on reporting from a column by Michael J. Coren published in The Washington Post on Dec. 9, 2025.

## A Solar Roof Close to Home

Locally, in 2022, Sharon Banks and her husband, Woody, designed a new home from the ground up with energy independence in mind. Its roof is made entirely of Tesla solar tiles — an option that is most cost-effective for new builds or full roof replacements. This home was the first Tesla roof installed in Linn County. You can view the home at 805 Calapooia Ave., Brownsville.

During its first year, the home met 100 percent of its electricity needs as short-term rental and even generated 5 megawatt-hours of surplus power, which was returned to the grid via the Energy Trust of Oregon. If the home relied entirely on traditional electricity, its estimated monthly energy cost would be \$375.

Based on current electricity rates, the estimated payback period is 10.28 years. With rates likely to rise due to demand from new data centers, that payback could come sooner.

### System Cost & Financial Breakdown

Item	Cost
Total Solar Tile System	\$101,780
Federal Tax Credit (30%)	-\$30,534
Savings from not purchasing a traditional roof	-\$25,000
<b>Net System Cost</b>	<b>\$46,246</b>

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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://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.

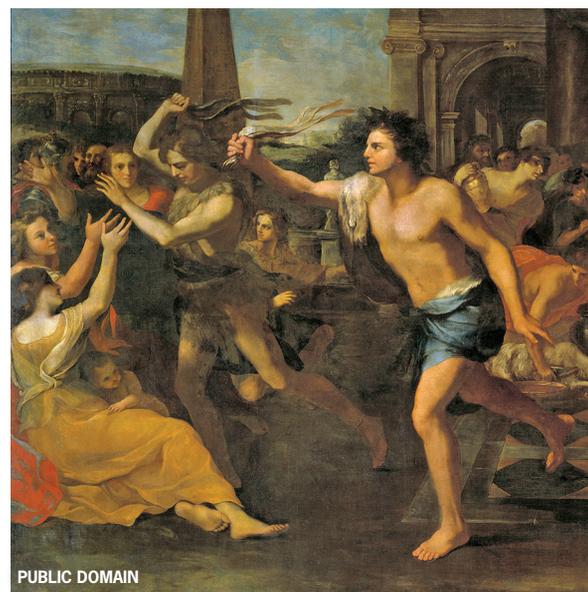
## AMERICAN LEGION POST 184

# A Gentleman's Guide to Valentine's Day

By an ordinary seaman

Valentine's Day has always been a high-wire act of expectations. We've come to accept it as a 24-hour marathon of velvet boxes and long-stemmed roses, but if you peek behind the curtain of history, the origins are a bit more... robust.

Long before the first box of chocolates was ever tempered, the Romans celebrated Lupercalia. It involved priests, goat hides, and a brand of matchmaking that would make a modern city-dweller bolt for the exits. Then came the Saint Valentines, three of them, actually, including one brave soul who performed secret marriages against the emperor's wishes. He eventually signed a farewell note, "From Your Valentine," forever setting the standard for romantic gestures.



A classical painting depicting Lupercalia, an ancient Roman festival involving fertility rites, goat hides, and a form of matchmaking that makes modern Valentine's Day look mercifully low-pressure.

By the time Geoffrey Chaucer and Shakespeare began weaving their verses, the day had transformed into a poetic quest for "mates." Fast forward to 2026, and the quest has become significantly more complicated. These days, couples are ditching traditional dinners for "experiential" dates, like those trendy pottery classes you see advertised. It sounds dashing in theory, but in practice, it usually ends with a messy, lopsided clay blob that looks less like art and more like a structural failure. Between that and the "at-home candlelit dinner" — a noble endeavor that typically results in a smoky kitchen and a frantic search for the corkscrew — modern romance can be exhausting.

True elegance lies in simplicity and knowing when to call for reinforcements. That is where Travis Moothart Post 184 comes in; consider us your romantic safety net. We are hosting a Valentine's Bingo Dinner Party on Saturday, February 14, at 6 p.m. For \$20, you're treated to a fine meal (turkey) and the effortless charm of a communal game. No lopsided clay bowls, no goat hides, and absolutely no stressful cooking panics. Just a room full of good friends and the rhythmic call of the numbers.

Unless you've tucked a pair of diamond earrings behind the tractor seat, you likely need a plan. Here it is: She can wear that stunning dress from her niece's wedding a year or so ago; you can comb your hair and shave. Tickets are available at the Post or from any Post Officer. Join us for what sounds like a wonderful evening. There's really no beating the combination of a sharp outfit, a good meal, and a high-stakes game of Bingo to keep the peace on Valentine's Day. 🌟

## WIDOWS' BRIGADE

# Finding Friendship, Support, and Joy After Loss

By Mary Canaday, Widows' Brigade

Widows' Brigade is a growing group of women from Linn, Lane, and Benton counties who gather twice a month for fellowship, encouragement, and fun. The group comprises about 20 widows, ranging from newly bereaved to those widowed for more than a decade, and welcomes women at every stage of the journey.

The mission of Widows' Brigade is simple: connection, friendship, and support. Although the group is not a grief-counseling program, members support one another through widowhood and help connect women with professional grief resources as needed. For many, the group fills a gap left by loss — offering companionship, shared experiences, and a reminder that no one must walk this season alone.

Meetings and activities are designed to be flexible and inclusive. Some widows cannot attend daytime meetings because of work or other commitments, so participants are encouraged to join whenever they can, whether for a meeting, a meal, or a special outing. Social events include lunches, dinners, plays, and seasonal gatherings that emphasize laughter and togetherness as much as conversation.

Widows' Brigade also hosts occasional community events, including a Friends and Family Night on Feb. 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Central Valley Church. The evening will feature a spaghetti dinner, games, and a possible do-it-yourself craft, offering loved ones a chance to learn more about the group and its planned 2026 activities.

When activities occur outside Brownsville, Halsey, or Shedd, members carpool and arrive at Central Valley Church 15 to 30 minutes early to allow for travel time.

For more information about Widows' Brigade, upcoming events, or participation, see our calendar on page 2 or contact Mary at 541-401-4738. 🌟



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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 24**

2:18 p.m. — Caller reported a hit-and-run involving NW Natural Gas property in the 900 block of Washburn St., Brownsville. Damage is currently estimated at \$2,000. No suspect information. Report taken.

2:25 p.m. — Caller reported an altercation between a juvenile and their parents in the 1000 block of S 6th St., Harrisburg. Report taken.

9:49 p.m. — Deputy removed a dead raccoon from the roadway in the 31900 block of North Lake Creek Dr., Tangent.

10:08 p.m. — Deputies responded to a juvenile who was found to have marijuana in the 700 block of Crimson Way, Harrisburg. Deputy seized the marijuana.

10:50 p.m. — Deputy responded to a barking dog in the 800 block of Calapooia Ave., Brownsville. The owner was contacted and agreed to be mindful of the neighbors.

11:23 p.m. — Deputy contacted three juveniles in a

suspicious vehicle in the 35500 block of Oakview Dr., Brownsville.

**Sunday, January 25**

10:35 a.m. — Deputy responded to a domestic disturbance in the 34100 block of Powell Hills Loop, Shedd. Report taken.

4:58 p.m. — Deputy investigated a reported litter violation in Eagle Park, Harrisburg. Report taken.

12:24 p.m. — Caller reported a dead owl in the roadway at Powerline Rd./Bowers Dr., Harrisburg. The deputy moved it off the roadway.

**Monday, January 26**

3:59 a.m. — Deputy conducted a stationary radar operation on S 3rd St. between Smith St. and Monroe St., Harrisburg, from 4-4:30 a.m. A total of 53 vehicles passed through, with a top speed of 35 mph. The average speed was 30.2 mph.

7:52 a.m. — Caller wanted to report an ex-business partner who opened a phone account in the business's name in the 900 block of S 9th St., Harrisburg. The business hasn't been operational since 2023. Civil issue.

10:18 a.m. — Caller reported that wires were cut to a Consumer Power junction box in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg. No suspects have been identified in the last two weeks. The value of the damage is not known. Report taken.

10:21 a.m. — James Thompson, 54, of Brownsville, was cited for driving with a suspended driver's license, driving uninsured, and failing to register his vehicle at Washburn St./W Washington Ave., Brownsville.

11:12 a.m. — Jason Daniel Huss, 27, of Brownsville, was cited for driving without insurance and failing to register a motor vehicle at N Main St./Kirk Ave., Brownsville.

12:13 p.m. — Eric Wilkinson, 45, of Tangent, was cited for driving with a suspended driver's license,

driving uninsured, and failing to renew vehicle registration in the 300 block of W 2nd St., Halsey.

1:53 p.m. — Brooklyn Anderson, 18, of Eugene, was cited for speeding 60 in a 45-mph zone at Bishop Way/Pearl St., Brownsville.

2:12 p.m. — Deputies responded to a domestic violence call in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg. There was probable cause to arrest the male for assault; he fled prior to LCSO's arrival.

4:08 p.m. — Benjamin Karl Bunton, 55, of Puyallup, WA, was cited for speeding 40 in a 25-mph zone and driving without insurance at N Main St./Locust Ave., Brownsville.

5:10 p.m. — Barrett Michael Holly, 19, of Eugene, was cited for speeding, 62 in a 45-mph zone at Bishop Way/Pearl St., Brownsville.

**Tuesday, January 27**

3:18 a.m. — Deputies responded to a report of a traffic hazard at Hwy 228/Fisher Rd, Halsey.

12:23 p.m. — Deputies assisted with an Oregon DHS 307 referral in the 300 block of Spaulding Ave., Brownsville.

2:53 p.m. — Deputies located damage to Kirk Park located at Kirk Ave./N Main St., Brownsville. Report taken.

4:30 p.m. — Caller had questions about a neighbor filming the caller's kids while they rode their electric bikes on the street and sidewalks in the 800 block of Siuslaw Pl, Harrisburg. There was nothing criminal in the caller's report about the neighbor's behavior, and the caller was also advised on the legalities of riding such bikes on public streets and sidewalks.

4:57 p.m. — Deputies performed a warrant service in the 28200 block of Seven Mile Ln., Brownsville. Deputies were advised by a citizen of the whereabouts of a person with a warrant.

5:52 p.m. — Robert Fister,

34, of Albany, was cited for driving uninsured and failing to register the vehicle in his name after a year of ownership in the 34000 block of McFarland Rd., Tangent.

10:24 p.m. — Caller reported a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of S 6th St., Harrisburg. No injuries were reported, and the caller did not wish to pursue charges.

**Wednesday, Jan. 28**

7:10 a.m. — Deputy performed a welfare check in the 500 block of S 6th St., Harrisburg.

9:34 a.m. — Deputies responded to a single-vehicle injury crash that occurred on Plainview Dr. near Parker Rd., Shedd. Report taken.

2:44 p.m. — Caller reported a male rolling on the ground in the 400 block of N Main St., Brownsville. The deputy was unable to locate the male.

4:36 p.m. — Deputy provided a courtesy ride to a citizen in the 29900 block of Fayetteville Dr., Shedd.

11:34 p.m. — Deputy documented information about a child in the 32000 block of Birdfood Dr., Tangent. This information will be best handled by DHS at this time.

**Thursday, January 29**

5:45 a.m. — Matthew Pilling, 27, of Harrisburg, was cited for speeding. 45 in a 25-mph zone in the 700 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg

1:05 p.m. — Deputy spoke with an individual regarding custodial interference laws in the 39200 block of Crawfordville Dr., Sweet Home. Information was documented.

7:17 p.m. — An adult male ate marijuana edibles and had a bad experience requiring a voluntary mental health transport to the hospital in the 35600 block of Cochran Creek Dr., Brownsville. Non-criminal.

8:35 p.m. — Deputy observed a suspicious vehicle in Eagle Park, Harrisburg. Two juveniles were educated about park hours.

**Friday, January 30**

8:39 a.m. — Deputy received information about concerns for a child in the 1000 block of S 3rd St., Harrisburg. The concerns are already being investigated.

9:30 a.m. — Information was received about a child with an injury in the 1000 block of S 6th St., Harrisburg. The injury is already being investigated.

3:26 p.m. — Caller reported a rope hanging from an upper support of the bridge on N Main St., Brownsville. Deputy moved the rope out of the way as much as possible, but it will need to be removed by Brownsville Public Works or the fire department.

7:21 a.m. — Caller reported a missing person in the 27300 block of Fisher Rd., Brownsville. Report taken.

9:38 a.m. — Deputies were assisted by Brownsville Fire Dept. to remove a hazard from the bridge on N Main St., Brownsville.

10:47 a.m. — Deputies took a report of criminal mischief at Pioneer Park, Brownsville.

12:40 p.m. — Caller reported an unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle in the 400 block of E 1st St., Halsey. The vehicle was left unlocked, and a firearm valued at \$300 and a pair of sunglasses valued at \$200 were stolen.

2:31 p.m. — A citizen approached a deputy to report a suspicious person in the 900 block of E 1st St., Halsey. The deputy identified the person as a local juvenile and returned him to a residence where an adult is present.

7:31 p.m. — Jared Rediger, 45, of Harrisburg, was cited for failing to obey a traffic control device at Diamond Hill/Crimson Way, Harrisburg.

11:21 p.m. — Deputy responded to a non-criminal civil dispute of a juvenile attempting to run away and his parents preventing it in the 800 block of Arrow Leaf Pl., Harrisburg. ☀

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PAST TIMES

# Brownsville's Chinese Laundry, Part 4 of 5

By Allen L. Buzzard, Columnist

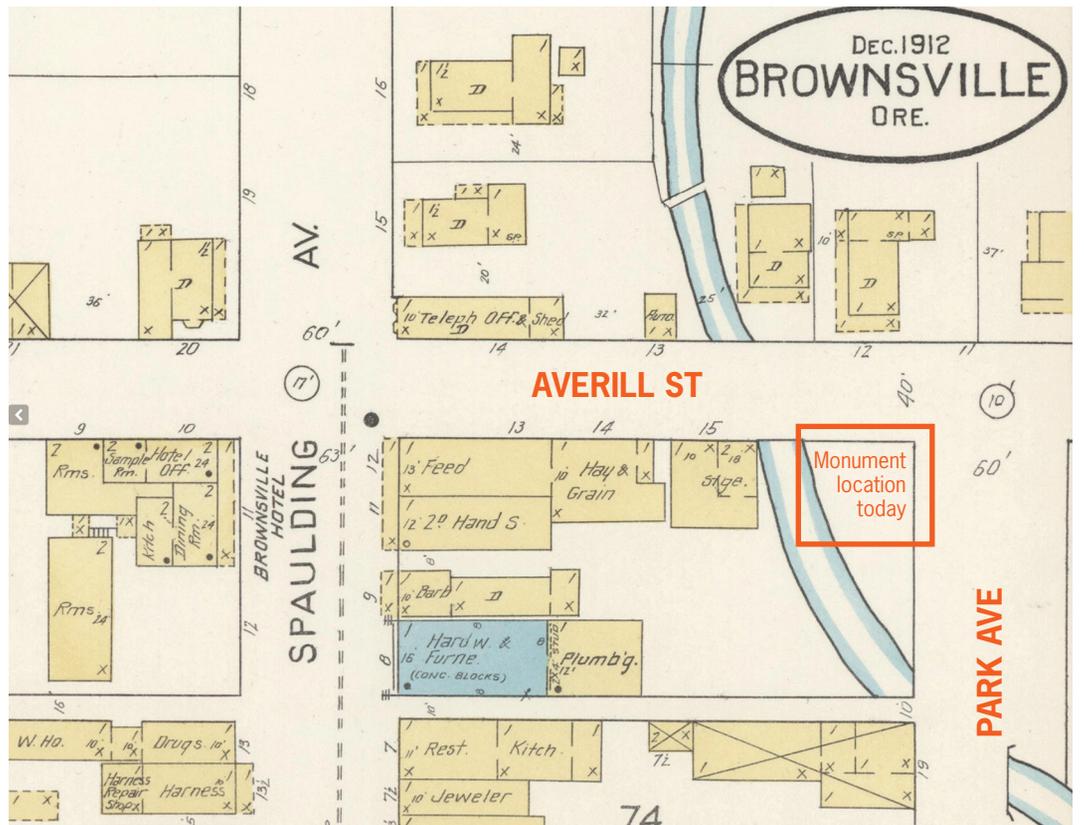
Sometime after 1892, Brownsville's Chinese Laundry ceased to exist. An 1898 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Brownsville, Oregon, shows the one-and-a-half-story dwelling with an attached lean-to shed on the same triangular plot (Lot 4, Block 9, Plat of North Brownsville, A.D. 1866), but it offers no clue as to who, if anyone, might have been living there. The absence of the Chinese Wash House — extant on the 1884, 1888, and 1892 Sanborn maps — raises more questions.

Was Mr. Loo Sing — proprietor of North Brownsville's Chinese Wash House — able to obtain a 'Certificate of Residence,' a burdensome requirement under the 1892 Geary Act? Was he shunned or boycotted by some Brownsville residents? Were the city's laundry license fees too onerous? Was Mr. Loo Sing persuaded to leave by the city marshal, or driven out of North Brownsville's core commercial district by Barger, Howe, and Kay? Did he move to Albany, Oregon's "Chinatown," Salem, or Portland? Did Mr. Loo Sing fall ill or repatriate to China? Answers are as elusive as any artifacts or remnants from North Brownsville's Chinese Laundry that may still lie beneath the U.S. Civil War Memorial erected in its place eleven years later.

On a 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the small triangular spot bounded by Cross (Averill St), College Av (Park Ave), and the mill race flume was now devoid of any improvements, posing fire hazards that would have been noted for insur-



U.S. Civil War Veterans Memorial erected in 1903 by the Woman's Relief Corps in Brownsville, honoring Union veterans and reflecting the organization's early civic and commemorative role in the community.



Enlarged view from Sheet 3 of the December 1912 Sanborn map, highlighting Brownsville's downtown blocks, including commercial buildings, hotels, stables, and industrial sites along Main Street and Spaulding Avenue.

ance underwriting purposes. One is inclined to ask, "Was the prior dwelling — used as a Chinese Wash House — allowed to fall into disrepair?" "Was it condemned and demolished?" "Was it a victim of arson?"

What is known, however, is that on May 30, 1903, an obelisk dedicated "IN MEMORY OF THE SOLDIER BOYS WHO FELL IN BATTLE FROM 1861 TO '65" was erected by the John F. Miller Woman's Relief Corps No. 15 (the Lebanon, Oregon chapter) at the former site of Brownsville's Chinese Laundry.

To be continued in the next issue.

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



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