



THE BROWNSVILLE TIMES

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SERVING CENTRAL LINN COUNTY, OREGON SINCE 1889

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

LBCC's New Agricultural Center Takes Root

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer and Tangent Correspondent

TANGENT — Something exciting is happening on Looney Lane, just a half mile from Linn-Benton Community College's main campus. Shovels are in the ground, and a long-held dream for expanding agricultural education in the mid-Willamette Valley is becoming a reality.

LBCC currently offers six programs across its Animal Science and Agricultural Science tracks — remarkable, given that until now those programs have been anchored by a barn built in the 1970s that was never designed for education, supplemented by a modular classroom. Students have routinely traveled off campus to complete hands-on work, relying on the generosity of local farms and community partners.

As Kristina Holton, Dean of Science, Engineering,

CENTER continued on page 4



MARCY HERMENS



Drone view above shows early construction underway at Linn-Benton Community College's new Agricultural Center on Looney Lane, where Phase 1 — including a multispecies classroom/arena and supporting facilities — is expected to be completed in late 2026.

Community Celebrates the Life and Legacy of Ron Heagy Jr., 1962-2026

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

Ron Heagy Jr., an inspirational speaker and artist who became known for sharing a message of resilience following a life-altering injury, passed away.

Heagy lived in Brownsville for many years, where he remained active in the community while continuing his work as a speaker and advocate.

A standout athlete at Central Linn High School, Heagy received a full-ride

scholarship to Oregon State University to play football. Just before his 18th birthday, during a spring break trip to Hawaii, he was injured while surfing, breaking his neck. Paralyzed and unable to move, he was swept out to sea before being rescued by his brother.

He awoke the next day — his 18th birthday — in the hospital on life support and was told he would never walk again and would live as a quadriplegic.

Heagy later said he struggled to find a reason to continue and at one point considered ending his life.

A turning point came, he said, from a young hospital roommate who had been in a coma following a car accident. One day, the boy spoke.

"He said my name and told me, 'I love you. Don't give up,'" Heagy recalled.

Heagy later described that moment as a turning point. Drawing on his faith, he began rebuilding his life and finding purpose despite his physical limitations.

He learned to write with a pen held in his



COURTESY OF THE HEAGY FAMILY

Ron Heagy Jr. (center) is pictured with his daughters, Roni and Gracie, who were a central part of his life and legacy.

mouth and later developed his painting skills using the same technique. He also earned a master's degree, typing with a stick held between his teeth.

Heagy spoke to more than 2 million high school students nationwide. He often emphasized that life is shaped by attitude, a theme that appeared throughout his presentations.

"Every day you choose," he often said. "Will you be bitter or better?"

Heagy founded Camp Attitude, east

HEAGY continued on page 4



COURTESY OF THE HEAGY FAMILY

Ron Heagy Jr. paints a vibrant parrot using a brush held in his mouth — a skill he mastered after his injury, turning determination into art.

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MAILING LABEL BELOW

\$2.00



ISSN 3068-2290 13814> 9 773068 229003

ONGOING EVENTS

Free Coffee, Donuts, & Fellowship

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

Not Rocket Science Trivia

Thursdays • 6 p.m. (ongoing) • Free
Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 OR-99E, Tangent

Weekly pub trivia with bragging rights on the line.
Bring a team and play every Thursday night.

Friday Morning Veteran's Breakfast

Fridays • 8-10 a.m. • Elmer's Restaurant
2802 Santiam Hwy SE, Albany • 541-928-4227

Join fellow veteran's over a cup of coffee and plate
of good food as stories are shared, memories made,
and friendships created. All Veterans are welcome.

Al-anon Weekly Meeting

Fridays • 7 p.m. • Halsey City Hall. 100 W Halsey St.

American Legion Bingo Night

Saturdays in April (4, 11, 18, 25) • 6 p.m.
American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184, 132 N.
Main St., Brownsville

Bingo is a popular community gathering and fund-
raiser supporting programs such as Quilts of Valor
and local senior activities. Community members are
invited to come play and support the Post.

Modern Square Dance Lessons

Sundays • 5:30-7:30 p.m. • 541-401-9780
The first class is free. \$6 per person or \$15 per family.
Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St., Lebanon

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

<https://www.lebanonsquarecirclers.com>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**The Food Garden 2026 — Grow
Successfully Free Lecture Series**

Saturdays, through May 2 • 10 a.m.– noon

Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St., Lebanon

Free gardening lecture series with Master Gardeners.
Hands-on planting included. New this year: doors
open at 9:30 a.m. Free Seed Wagon, garden maga-
zines, and info tables.

- April 4 — How to Grow, Harvest & Cook Herbs
- April 11 — How to Grow Gourmet Mushrooms
- April 18 — Easy Plant Propagation Methods
- April 25 — Confessions of a Serial "It'll Fit" Gardener
- May 2 — Pests & Predators in Your Garden

Register: casteen@aol.com (include name and
phone). Free tomato plants and growing tips offered
May 16 at 10 a.m.

Saturday Swim Lessons

Saturday, April 4 • 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Lebanon Community Pool, 1800 S. 5th St., Lebanon

Saturday swim lessons run April 4 through May 23.
Open to the public. Sign up now!

<https://www.lebanonpool.org> • 541-451-8551
lebanon.aquatic@gmail.com

Brownsville Clean Up Day

Saturday, April 11 • 7:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Rec Center parking lot, behind City Hall
255 N. Main St., Brownsville

Free disposal event for residents (Sweet Home
Sanitation bill required). Participants must unload
and sort items. Curbside pickup available for seniors
and those with disabilities with 48-hour notice, call
541-367-2535.

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

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

EASTER EVENTS

HALSEY

**Central Valley Church
Community Egg Hunt**

Friday, April 3 • 6 p.m. • Free

Central Valley Church, 657 American Dr., Halsey

Free hot dog dinner at 6, picture booth, egg hunt at
6:30 p.m., prizes, and raffle at 7 p.m. Hunt areas are
broken down by age range: 0 to 4 inside in the sanctu-
ary (if adverse weather is present) or front yard, 5 to 9
on the playground, 10 and older on the back field

cvchalsey@gmail.com • 503-602-6796

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1AxuTevve/>

Halsey Park Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4 • 10 a.m.

Halsey Park, 300 W O St., Halsey

Children through middle school are invited to search
for more than 2,000 candy- and treat-filled eggs
hidden by volunteers from Spirit of the Valley United
Methodist Church and the Central Linn Lions Club.
The hunt begins promptly at 10 a.m. and goes quickly,
so arrive early.

spiritumc@gmail.com • 541-369-2322



BROWNSVILLE

Annual Brownsville Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4 • 1 p.m. • Free

Brownsville Pioneer Park

Prizes awarded for each age group: 0-3, 4-6, 7-9,
and 10-12. Sponsored by American Legion Travis
Moothart Post 184. Donations accepted and greatly
appreciated! Bring your own basket!

Call or text Jon Smith 541-974-9365 or Kim Smith
541-974-0356.

**Easter Sunday Service – First Baptist
Church of Brownsville**

Sunday, April 5 • 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Refreshments and fellowship: 10:15-10:45 a.m.

27910 Seven Mile Lane, Brownsville

Join First Baptist Church of Brownsville for Easter
Sunday worship, "It's All About Jesus!" based on Luke
24:13-27. Children's program and nursery care are
available during both services.

<https://www.fbcbrownsvilleoregon.org>
541-642-3000



HARRISBURG

Harrisburg Community Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4 • 10 a.m.

Ball fields behind Harrisburg Elementary School

Bring the whole family! Kids from 2 years old through
6th grade can hunt for 18,000 eggs filled with candy,
while the rest of the family enjoys FREE refreshments.
Adults can also enter to win raffles. Hosted by Life
Bible Church. No RSVP necessary, we'll see you on the
ball field!

<https://www.lifebiblechurch.org/easter>
541-995-8282

**Harrisburg Christian Church
Easter Service & Breakfast**

Sunday, April 5 • 9 a.m. Early worship, Sanctuary
Breakfast 9:15-10:26 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Late "modern" worship, Activity Center

Harrisburg Christian Church, 601 Smith St, Harrisburg

Enjoy yummy cinnamon twists and fresh fruit during
breakfast. Beverages available at the Coffee Café (all
proceeds go to Youth Mexico Mission)

[https://www.harrisburgchristianchurch.org/
get-connected](https://www.harrisburgchristianchurch.org/get-connected) • 541-995-6723



HOLLEY

Holley Christian Church Easter

Saturday, April 4 • 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 5 • 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Online 10 a.m.

40346 Hwy 228, Sweet Home

Easter worship services featuring a practical message,
kids' programs, baptisms, and a free photo booth.
New message series: "Breakthrough." Kids' Peep-A-
Looza activities included.

<https://holleychurch.org/easter> • 541-367-6030

Pre-registration for Kids' Peep-A-Looza:

<https://holleychurch.org/kids-pre-registration-form>



ALBANY

Hope in Bloom: Egg Hunt & Block Party

Saturday, April 4 • 10 a.m.–noon • Free

Hope Church, 2817 Santiam Hwy SE, Albany

Free family Easter block party featuring an egg hunt
for babies through fifth graders with 20,000 pieces of
candy, petting farm, face painting, games, giveaways,
coffee cart, and food vendors.

<https://www.hope.church/egghunt>

Easter Candy Handout at the Carrot-sel!

Saturday, April 4 • 11 a.m.–7 p.m. • Free

Albany Historic Carousel & Museum

503 1st Ave. W, Albany

Stop by for an Easter candy
handout while supplies last.

<https://albanycarousel.com> • 541-497-2934



EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 5

"It's All About Jesus!"

—Luke 24:13-27



Join us as we
celebrate the
resurrection
of Christ

Services: 9 & 10:45 a.m.

**Refreshments & Fellowship:
10:15-10:45 a.m.**

**Children's Program & Nursery Care
during both services**

First Baptist Church of Brownsville
27910 Seven Mile Lane

fbcbrownsvilleoregon.org • 541.642.3000

BROWNSVILLE ART ASSOCIATION

Melted Crayon Art Class Offers Creative Escape

BROWNSVILLE — A new hands-on art class at the Brownsville Art Center invites participants to explore creativity in a relaxed, welcoming environment. “Easy Melted Crayon Art with Diane Piro” will be held Saturday, April 18, from 1–3 p.m. The beginner-friendly workshop is open to ages 12 and up and is limited to 10 students.



Participants will use melted crayons, Sharpies, and aluminum foil to create a colorful Tree of Life design. The class emphasizes experimentation and creative expression, making it accessible for those with little or no prior art experience. All materials are provided, including a frame for the finished artwork. The cost is \$40 per person. Registration is required by April 11 due to limited space. More details at <https://brownsvilleart.org>.



From left, Colleen Becker, Connie Swindoll, and Christine Crowe display their finished pieces during the Watercolor Batik on Japanese Rice Paper class held March 21 at the Brownsville Art Center. The workshop was led by instructor Mishelle Tourtillott.

TANGENT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Notice of Budget Committee Meeting

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Tangent RFPD in Linn County, Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, will be held at the Tangent RFPD Classroom, 32053 Birdfoot Drive, Tangent, OR. The meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2026, at 7 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to present the budget message and to allow the public to comment on the budget. This is a public meeting where the Budget Committee will deliberate. Any person may attend and discuss the proposed programs with the Committee. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after March 23, 2026, at the Tangent RFPD Office, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Brownsville Community Library

Library Assistant

Saturdays Only :10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Closing Date: April 10, 2026

Apply: <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/jobopportunities>

Local Voice to Moderate Regional Candidate Forum

LEBANON — Central Linn County residents will have an opportunity to hear directly from candidates seeking to represent the region in Salem at an upcoming public forum in Lebanon. The discussion will be moderated by Scott Swanson — a familiar and trusted voice in local journalism. Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Linn County, the forum will feature candidates for Oregon House District 11 — Ivan Maluski (Scio), Ken Jackola (Lebanon), and Angelita Sanchez (Sweet Home) — and Oregon Senate District 6 — Nicole De Graff (Marcola), Jack Tibbets (Cottage Grove), Sierrah Williams (Sweet Home), Jami Cate (Lebanon), and Patrick Starnes (Brownsville), an Independent Party candidate who will not appear on the primary ballot but will participate in the forum. Both races nearly all of Linn County outside of Albany. For voters in Brownsville, Halsey, and surrounding areas, it’s a chance to better understand the people and issues shaping decisions that affect our region. The forum will be held Tuesday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m. at Lebanon First United Methodist Church. All are welcome to attend.

Halsey Library Plans ‘Book-It’ 5K Fundraiser

HALSEY — Runners, walkers, and community supporters are invited to lace up their shoes for the annual Halsey Library “Book-It” 5K Fundraiser on Saturday, May 9, beginning at 10 a.m. at Halsey Memorial Park. The event welcomes participants of all ages and fitness levels, whether they plan to run, walk, or simply enjoy the morning while supporting the local library. Proceeds from the fundraiser will directly benefit library programs and events, helping expand services and opportunities for the community. Registration is \$35 and includes a race T-shirt. Discounts are available for seniors, youth, and teams. Participants who register by April 21 are guaranteed a free race T-shirt. Those interested can register online at <https://www.raceentry.com/halsey-librarys-book-it-5k-fundraiser/race-information> or sign up in person at the Halsey Library or Halsey City Hall. Organizers encourage early registration and community participation to help make the event a success while supporting an important local resource.

Easter

AT HOLLEY CHURCH

TENEBRAE SERVICE

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

@ 7 PM

EASTER WORSHIP

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

@ 5 PM

EASTER WORSHIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

@ 8, 9:30 & 11 AM + 12:30 PM

40346 HWY 228, SWEET HOME, OR | [HOLLEYCHURCH.ORG/EASTER](https://holleychurch.org/easter)

LONG GRAY BRAID MUSINGS

Garden Gloves

By Annie Swensen, Copy Editor and Columnist

It's spring, and my flowers are showing their buds atop leafy stems. Some are dramatically bending and screaming, "I'm choking," as aggressive weeds encroach on their ground. It is time to start plucking the invaders and turning the dirt to free my beauties.

Many years ago, I lived in the city, had two young daughters, a full-time job, and little interest or time for landscaping. During those years, my husband called me the plant assassin and proudly shared the name with everyone we knew... though it was obvious.

Then we moved to the breathtaking beauty of the Brownsville countryside. Inspired by the gorgeous nature all around me, I scratched a very large plot of ground for a flower garden. A good friend brought me a truckload of starts from her beautiful landscape. As she handed each one to me, she stated its name and affirmed, "You can't kill this." That was true, yet you can definitely cause them to look like they are dying.

My transformation in gardening came from the dirt. Digging and reviving those plants I've killed at least once gave me a motherly sense of nurturing. Every day, when I arrived home from work, my dog would walk with me to rest on the grass beside the garden's edge. I would welcome the new blooms, weed and deadhead, transplant, water, and feed... and I felt a timeless contentment, only giving up when I realized I could no longer see my hands for the darkness.



On a following visit, that same friend, glancing at my hands, told me, "You'll want to get some garden gloves." While over time I had accumulated all the hand tools, rakes, and hoes, I hadn't invested in those. I loved the feeling of the soil in my hand, and my first finger and thumb were a perfect pincher for plucking weeds. I admit, I was half-hearted in my purchase of a five-pack of Martha Stewart's garden mitts. Indeed, within a month, the drawer opened to four left-hand gloves, the proof they were not working... I was clearly removing them before the job was done. I never tried again.

I have always preferred the therapy of turning the soil over, spending time in a manicurist's chair... especially when I intended to extend my ten digits into a mound of dirt. I did, however, have an upper management job with the presumptive need to look professional. One day, one of my fellow managers, also a rugged gardener, told me my nails looked nice. I looked down at my polished fingertips and flatly stated, "It's to hide the dirt under my nails." She laughed knowingly.

And I went home to talk to my gorgeous flowers, who were thriving. I plucked the invaders and scratched the ground with my hands. And in the morning, I slapped on paint so no one would know... I don't wear garden gloves. Happy Spring! ☀

CENTER *continued from cover*

and Mathematics, reflected: "It speaks so highly of our community partners, our alumni, and our faculty that we have been able to offer such dynamic agricultural programs without the centralized infrastructure that is needed." That's about to change.

The project traces back to 2018, when Cascadia Equine reached out to LBCC and proposed that the college purchase 53 acres on Looney Lane with a shared agricultural vision. LBCC acquired the land in June 2019. In 2021, the college received \$8 million in state appropriation funds. In 2022, local voters approved a matching \$8 million bond — a strong show of community support. The LBCC Foundation is now running a \$6 million capital campaign to carry the project through to completion.

The new Agricultural Center is being built in three phases.

- Phase 1 — the Multispecies Classroom/Arena, barns, storage facilities, and initial paddocks — is currently under construction and expected to be complete in late 2026.
- Phase 2 adds the horse barn and remaining paddocks, targeted for 2028. Together, these two phases are about consolidation: bringing Animal Science and Agricultural Science students together on one campus, ending the scattered model that has defined LBCC agriculture tracks for decades.
- Phase 3, tentatively targeted for 2030 and supported by the Foundation's capital campaign, adds a wet lab and expanded classroom space — opening the door to new degrees.

Once Phase 1 is complete, the new facility won't just serve LBCC students. The on-site arena and classrooms will allow LBCC to host FFA, 4-H, and Oregon High School Equestrian Teams (OHSET) events, deepening ties with the agricultural community it has long depended on. As Holton shared, "The new Ag Center will help us provide students with a better educational experience, as well as allow us to engage the community in broader ways."

Looking further ahead, LBCC has its sights set on adding a Crop & Soil Science degree and a Veterinary Technician degree — long-term goals that become possible only once the full facility is in place.

The road has been long. But thanks to community partners, supportive voters, dedicated faculty, and an enduring belief in agricultural education, LBCC's future in agriculture has never looked more promising.

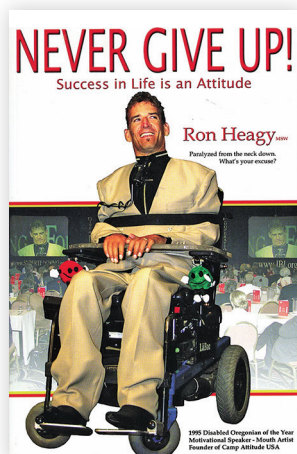
To learn more, visit <https://foundation.linnbenton.edu/ag-center>. ☀

HEAGY *continued from cover*

of Foster, a fully accessible camp for children of all abilities. The camp focuses on helping young people grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

He documented his experiences in his autobiography, "Never Give Up: How Tragedy Taught Me That Life is an Attitude."

The Sunday before his death due to natural causes on February 27, Heagy spoke at Peace Fellowship, "I am celebrating on March 17, 46 consecutive years of being paralyzed from the neck down, that's not too bad." An audio recording of the entire message can be heard online at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M8gshDUj67yF_A0IIA8c2hwnySj8c8hz/view?usp. More information about his work can be found online at <https://fish-clavichord-p3ea.squarespace.com>.



The book, "Never Give Up!" chronicles Ron Heagy Jr.'s journey from a life-altering injury to becoming a speaker and artist, sharing his message of resilience and choice.

Heagy is survived by his father, Ron Heagy Sr., and step-mother, Betty, of Tangent; and his two daughters, Roni Heagy, 26, and Gracie Heagy, 21. His mother, Theresa, died at age 64.

Heagy is remembered by family, friends, and community members for his work as a speaker, artist, and advocate. His message — that each day brings a choice in how to respond to life's challenges — remained central to his work.

Donations may be made to Camp Attitude, 45829 Santiam Hwy, Foster, OR 97345. More information about Camp Attitude is available online at <https://campattitude.org>. ☀



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MY HEARING CENTERS

ALBANY CIVIC THEATER

Stage Lights and Sassy Stars

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer



Seventh Grader, Mila Nguyen, gave an impeccable performance as Alice on the stage of the Albany Civic Theater on March 20.

The lights dimmed at Albany Civic Theater this March, and the humor started immediately as a voice warned, “The Queen will have your head if you don’t silence your phone.” While the final curtain has fallen on this sass-filled production of Alice in Wonderland, the whimsical spirit inside the historic theater at 111 W 1st Ave will carry on next month. Have no fear.

Directed by Conner Riley, this adaptation by Charlotte Chorprenning seamlessly blended Lewis Carroll’s classic tales. You don’t have to be mad like the March Hare to know the production was a hit! The all-volunteer cast shimmered with sequined costumes and self-applied angular, high-contrast makeup. From the dual-cast Alices, Mila Nguyen and Teagan Hearn, who delivered flawless, rapid-fire dialogue, to the comedic relief of gossiping flowers and a “valley girl” Mock Turtle, the production was a testament to local talent. The true judges of the audience, children approximately eight to fifteen, were delighted, and their voices could be heard throughout the play, exclaiming, “The puppets are amazing!”

The magic of Albany Civic Theater lies in its community-built foundation. It’s a place where mothers and daughters, like Emily and Kate Clark, who pretend to play air guitars as Twiddle Dee and Twiddle Dum, create lifelong memories together. For Mila Nguyen, it’s a space where a



As the March Hare, Jillian Alden delivers whimsical humor and Wonderland mischief on stage at Albany Civic Theater.



Madeline Yzaguirre played several roles, including the 4 of Hearts. Her mother said, “She started in high school and has stayed busy in theater ever since. I couldn’t be prouder.”

seventh grader can find a welcoming first stage experience before aiming for Portland. Each production, like each performer, is unique and captivating. Get your tickets for the upcoming steampunk-style “The Pirates of Penzance,” opening April 17.

The curtains may be closed on Wonderland, but the door is wide open for new faces to join the next production, whether you are a seasoned pro or a first timer. You can audition, help with props, or serve as an usher. Mark your calendars for “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” auditions on April 20 and 21. Visit <https://www.albanycivic.org> to find your place in the spotlight. ☼

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Sweet Petals Bakery Brings Fresh, Organic Baking to Rural Halsey

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer and Columnist



DANIEL R. MURPHY
Abigail Kropf, left, and Wanda Drist prepare fresh-baked goods at Sweet Petals, a home-based bakery west of Halsey specializing in sourdough and organic, fresh-milled flour products.

Tucked among the rolling fields west of Halsey, Sweet Petals is a home-based bakery offering small-batch, made-to-order baked goods with a focus on organic ingredients and traditional methods.

Elvin Kropf and his wife, Abigail, operate the farm, which includes acres of grass seed and nut crops. Inside their home kitchen, Abigail and her friend Wanda Drist prepare a weekly selection of baked goods, specializing in sourdough bread and other items made with fresh-milled flour.

Using organic grains, they grind some of their own flour on-site. Their sourdough bread is made from organic hard red wheat, while cookies and muffins use soft white organic flour. Bagels are also made using sourdough starter. Ingredients include organic products throughout, including mineral-rich pink salt.

Orders are placed online at <https://www.hotplate.com/sweetpetals> and are baked fresh for pickup. Customers can also place orders by phone at 660-221-3175 between Monday and noon Wednesday. Pickup is available Thursdays. Sweet Petals is located at 27115 Peoria Road in Halsey.



DANIEL R. MURPHY
A table filled with Sweet Petals baked goods, from sourdough bread and bagels to cookies and muffins, all made with organic ingredients and fresh-milled flour.

This reporter sampled both the muffins and sourdough bread. The muffins were notably moist and flavorful, and the bread ranks among the best I have tasted. ☼

WIC Program Expands Access to Healthy Foods for Central Linn Families

Families in Central Linn County are benefiting from expanded access to healthy foods through Oregon's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, according to a new report released during National Nutrition Month.

The Oregon Health Authority's 2025 annual report shows WIC continues to play a key role in supporting families facing rising grocery and housing costs. Across the state, nearly \$68 million in WIC benefits were spent last year at authorized grocery stores and pharmacies — dollars that also support local retailers and farmers.

For families in rural communities like Brownsville, Halsey, Shedd, Tangent, and surrounding areas, WIC helps stretch household budgets by providing a consistent monthly package of nutritious foods. The program also connects participants with health screenings, breastfeeding support, and nutrition education.

Recent updates to WIC food options offer more flexibility and variety, including choices that reflect cultural preferences and dietary needs, such as gluten-free and allergen-friendly foods.

Programs like Farm Direct allow WIC participants to purchase fresh, locally grown produce at farmers' markets and farm stands — supporting local agriculture while improving access to healthy food.

Local access to fresh foods will continue to grow as the farmers' market season approaches. The Calapooia Food Alliance Farmers' Market in Brownsville returns in May, while smaller markets like Tangent's community market and the larger Albany Farmers' Market offer additional options nearby. WIC's Farm Direct benefits can be used at many of these markets, helping families bring home fresh produce while supporting area farmers.

Statewide, WIC serves more than 119,000 participants, including infants and young children. Health officials say the program plays an important role in supporting healthy pregnancies and early childhood development.

Families interested in applying for WIC can call 211 or visit <https://healthoregon.org/wic> for more information. ☼



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LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Grant Will Fund New Lights at Fair & Expo Buildings

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — New high-efficiency lighting systems funded by a Business Oregon Grant will soon be installed in three buildings at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker approved the project at their March 24 meeting.

In a written report to the commissioners, Fair & Expo Center Director Kris Barnes said the project will cost about \$174,783.60 supported by a \$277,000 Business Oregon Grant.

The Cooper Lighting System fixtures and controls will come from Solus Lighting and Controls in Portland through a cooperative state procurement system.

Upgrades will be made in the Willamette Expo Center, 6,000 square feet, Santiam Building, 21,000 square feet and Cascade Livestock Pavilion, 42,000 square feet.

“These buildings are in need of lighting upgrades to improve energy efficiency through the use of LED technology,” Barnes wrote. “The existing fixtures are fluorescent T-5HO, which are no longer available due to the statewide phase-out of fluorescent lamps.”

Barnes added, “The proposed upgrades will enhance overall light levels and quality, improve emergency egress lighting systems and increase the flexibility of these spaces through the addition of dimming capabilities and advanced fixture controls.”

The Linn County Fair & Expo Center opened in 1997.

In other business the commissioners:

- Were informed that 21 young people from Linn County, four from Benton County and two from Lincoln County were housed at the Juvenile Detention Center in February. The average length of stay was about nine days. There were 30 referrals and there are 189 youth in the Probation Unit. The Victim Advocate made 109 contacts.
- Approved the following budgetary transfers: \$205,000 within the Road Fund from contingency to Personal Services and Materials and Services; \$115,000 within the General Fund within the Justice of the Peace Courts; \$161,000 within the General Fund from contingency, Personnel Services, Materials and Services for the offices of County Attorney, Veterans Services, Medical Examiner and General Administration; \$700,000 within the Health Fund from Personal Services and other requirements to Capital Outlay and other requirements — Mental Health, Alcohol & Drug and Environmental Health — for office renovations.
- Approved annexation petitions to move properties owned by the following families into the Brownsville Rural Fire Protection District: Thomas and Jamie Griffin, Scott and Renee Williams, Shawn and Tracy Garber, Rex and Amy Lowther, Zachary and Courtney Lincoln, Douglas and Tawnya Dailey, Randy and Paul Geil and Joe Dooley. A public hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. on April 7 in the Board Room.
- Appointed Jeremiah Barawis and Sophia Adams to the Linn County Compensation Board.

Help Keep Local News Thriving — Volunteers Needed

The Brownsville Times is seeking volunteers to help support our growing community newspaper. We welcome individuals with skills in editing, spreadsheet management, Adobe InDesign layout, invoicing, and advertising sales. There are also opportunities for those who simply enjoy helping in the office or being part of a collaborative team. Whether you can give a few hours a week or assist on a project basis, your time and talents make a difference.

Contact Sharon Banks at thebrownsvilletimes@gmail.com or call her at 458-266-0511 to learn more.



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OSU EXTENSION SERVICES

4-H Seeks Local Families to Host International Youth This Summer

Linn County families have an opportunity to open their homes — and broaden their horizons — through a summer cultural exchange program organized by Oregon State University Extension Service 4-H.

Youth delegates from Japan, Korea, and Taiwan will visit Oregon from July 21 to August 16, and local families are needed to host participants during the four-week program. Hosts may welcome either a youth delegate, ages 12–18, or an adult chaperone. The program is volunteer-run, and no stipends are provided.

Hosting focuses on everyday family life rather than elaborate activities. Delegates are eager to experience American culture firsthand — from family routines and summer outings to farm chores, 4-H meetings, and community events. Many are especially excited to meet and care for animals, a new experience for some.

Families who send children to summer camp may include their delegate, with camp fees covered by the program. Host families should have a child of the same gender within four years of age of the visiting youth; children must be at least age 9. Families without children — or with younger children — may host an adult chaperone.

Organizers emphasize that no special programming is required. The goal is cultural connection, friendship, and language development through full participation in family life.

The exchange is part of 4-H’s international programs, which foster global understanding and lifelong relationships among young people.

Families interested in hosting can contact Jon Gandy, Summer Inbound and Outbound Coordinator and Core Academic Year Program Coordinator, by phone at 541-460-7683 or email at Jon.Gandy@oregonstate.edu. Additional information is available at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/4h/international-exchange>, and state-specific contacts can be found at <https://states4hexchange.org/state-contacts>.

TANGENT TOGETHER

Scholarship Aims to Support Tangent Students, Workers

TANGENT — Tangent Together is accepting applications for its 2025–26 “Pay It Forward” Scholarship, offering two \$1,000 awards to individuals connected to the Tangent community pursuing education, training, or career advancement.

The volunteer-led nonprofit created the scholarship to support not only graduating seniors but also working adults and community members pursuing education through college programs, trade schools, certifications, or career-related tools.

“This didn’t happen overnight. Our team has worked hard to bring this to life, and we’re proud to turn that effort into something that gives back to our community and supports our people,” said Trina Henderson, president and founder of Tangent Together. “This is about investing in people who show up for this community and want to be part of its future.”

Applicants must demonstrate a connection to Tangent, which may include current or past residency, family ties, volunteer or work experience in the community, or attendance at Tangent Elementary School.

In addition to outlining their education or career plans, applicants are asked to reflect on how they would “pay it forward” and contribute to the Tangent community in the future.

The application is available at <https://brownsvilletimes.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tangent-Together-Scholarship-Application-26-27.pdf> and is due Friday, May 15, 2026. Completed materials may be submitted by email to tangenttogetherscholarship@gmail.com, delivered in person to Tangent City Hall, 32166 Old Oak Drive, or mailed to the Tangent Together Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 271, Tangent, Oregon 97389.

Tangent Together is an independent, volunteer-led nonprofit focused on strengthening the community through events, education, and local partnerships. Proceeds from its events help fund programs such as the scholarship.

LINN-BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Board Approves Tuition Increase

ALBANY — Tuition will increase at Linn-Benton Community College for the 2026–27 academic year following action by the college’s Board of Education at its March meeting.

The board approved a 7 percent increase, raising in-state tuition by \$10.50 per credit hour and fees by \$1.20 per credit hour. The new in-state tuition rate will be \$160.30 per credit hour, while out-of-state tuition will rise to \$372.55 per credit hour.

The updated rates will take effect for students registering for summer term classes, which begin June 29.

Board Chair Jeff Davis said the decision followed careful consideration of the college’s financial needs and the impact on students.

“This was not an easy decision, and we explored every option before arriving here,” Davis said in a statement. “Through difficult work, the college was able to address its budget deficit without eliminating a single credit academic program.”

Davis added that maintaining programs while stabilizing the college’s finances was a key priority.

LBCC serves students across Linn and Benton counties, including many from Central Linn communities, making tuition changes particularly relevant for local families planning for the upcoming academic year.

LBCC Announces Winter Term Honor Roll Students

ALBANY — Linn-Benton Community College has announced its Winter Term 2026 honor roll, recognizing students who earned a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher while completing 12 or more graded credits between January and March 2026. Pass/no pass and incomplete credits were not included.

Students from Brownsville named to the honor roll were Caleb Helfrich, Zion Larson, Abigail Lee, and Blaise Timmons.

Halsey students recognized were Saydey Johnson, Celine Mejia, Joselyn Morales, Leah Smucker, and Willamena Wilkinson.

From Harrisburg, students named to the honor roll were Misty Cruz, Eunice Guerrero, Evangeline Kelson, Harrison Mast, Reed Rush, and Davita Thomas.

Tangent students recognized were Seth Albert, Thane Johnson, Trevon Nofziger, Amy Samples, and Monte Willie.

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UNIVERSE UNFOLDED

Artemis to the Moon

By Jim Isenberg, Columnist

As an avid follower of the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo astronaut programs for many years, I was immensely excited on July 20, 1969, to watch Neil Armstrong climb down the “LM” ladder and step onto the moon. I was afraid I would miss it because on that Sunday night, I had to take a bus from home to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where I had a summer job at Westinghouse Elevator. Fortunately, the moonwalk was delayed, as such things usually were, so when I arrived at my boarding house late that night, I was delighted that the two landladies (both in their 80s) had the TV on, and I was able to watch the event in real time. I still remember hearing “One small step for man, and one giant leap for mankind.” I was also pleased that my two landladies were as excited by the event as I was.

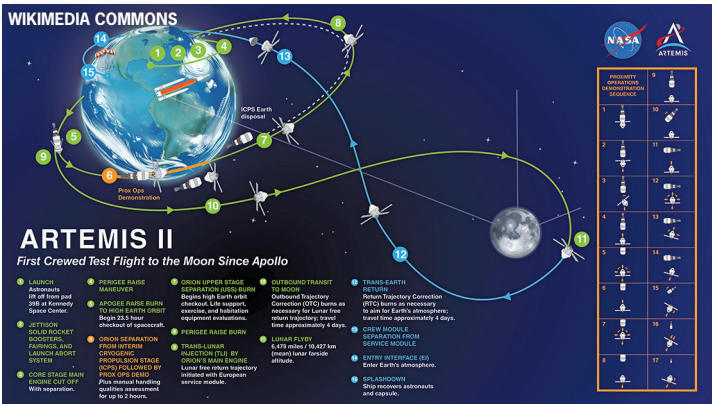
Although the Apollo program had planned several more Moon landings, only five more were completed. Apollo 13 famously failed to land on the Moon because of a catastrophic onboard explosion, and all the Apollo missions were canceled after Apollo 17 in 1972 due to a lack of public interest.

No man (or woman) has traveled to the Moon — whether landing or not — since 1972. Launch is scheduled no earlier than April 1, 2026, at 6:24 p.m. EDT from Kennedy Space Center in Florida at time of publication.

While the US, in cooperation with several other countries, has been very active in near-Earth orbit space missions since 1972, including almost continuous activity on the International Space Station since November 2020, 250 miles above the Earth, Artemis II is planned as a crewed lunar flyby mission that will send four astronauts around the Moon and back to Earth, rather than landing on the lunar surface.

The launch vehicle for Artemis II — NASA’s Space Launch System rocket, which will carry the Orion spacecraft — is designed to match or exceed the capabilities of the Saturn V used during the Apollo program. The crew for this first Artemis II mission will be noticeably more diverse than those of the Apollos. It will consist of Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen, making it the first mission to send a woman, a person of color, and a non-American astronaut on a journey around the Moon. Appropriately, in Greek mythology, Artemis was the twin sister of Apollo and a fiercely independent figure.

Artemis II is planned to be just the first step in an ambitious lunar exploration program over the next several years, with eventual plans to land on Mars. I plan to watch, and I hope some of you do as well. 🌕



Artemis II mission diagram showing the Orion spacecraft's planned journey from Earth to the Moon and back.

So, What Now? Practical Paths from High School to the Space Age

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

In our January 8 article, “Moon Missions and Math Classes: The Space Age Starts in School,” we focused on one key idea. It is not too late for today’s high school juniors and seniors to build the skills the space industry and many other technical fields will need well into the future. Once that point is understood, a more practical question naturally follows. What comes next?

Space missions, such as NASA’s Artemis program, rely on a large workforce that extends far beyond astronauts and scientists. These missions are supported by technicians, machinists, electricians, programmers, inspectors, and engineers on the ground. Many of these careers begin not with a four-year degree but with targeted training after high school.

Community colleges and technical schools are often the first step. Two-year degrees and certificate programs in electronics, advanced manufacturing, computer systems, and robotics prepare students for immediate employment. These programs emphasize practical skills and are generally more affordable than traditional universities, making them a realistic option for many families.

Apprenticeships offer another direct path. In these programs, students earn a paycheck while learning a trade. Classroom instruction is paired with hands-on experience in real-world workplaces. Apprenticeships are common in manufacturing, electrical work, and mechanical systems, all of which support aerospace and space-related industries.

Military service is also a proven pathway into technical careers. Branches such as the Air Force, Space Force, Navy, and National Guard offer training in communications, avionics, cybersecurity, and equipment maintenance. Service members often leave with certifications, experience, and education benefits that can be applied to civilian aerospace jobs.

For students pursuing a four-year degree, starting locally can make sense. Many community colleges offer transfer agreements that let students complete math, science, and general education courses near home before transferring to universities with engineering or science programs. This approach lowers costs and gives students time to strengthen their academic foundation.

The most important takeaway builds directly on the earlier article’s message. There is no single timeline or path into the space age. Math and science skills can be developed, improved, and applied at many stages of life. The space industry and the broader technical workforce depend on a steady stream of trained workers, not just early starters.

For families in small communities like ours, the conclusion is simple. The door is still open. With clear options and practical planning, students can take meaningful steps after graduation toward careers that will remain in demand for years to come. 🌕

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BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

Surprise Gift Highlights Community Generosity

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

An unexpected act of generosity brightened a recent Tuesday morning at the Brownsville Community Library.

A patron stopped in to check out books and mentioned he planned to leave a gift to the library in his will. His wife responded simply, “Why wait?” He then placed a \$100 gold coin in my hand — a moment that left me both surprised and deeply grateful.

The gift was directed to the Friends of the Brownsville Community Library, whose mission is to support and enhance library services. According to its Articles of Incorporation, the organization works to promote public interest in the library, encourage use of its resources, and receive gifts and donations that help strengthen services and facilities for the community.

This contribution will help purchase new materials for patrons to enjoy — a lasting benefit from a spontaneous act of kindness.

Thank you, John. The library and our entire community truly appreciate your generosity. ☀

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.

Library Hours: Closed Sun–Mon.

Tue–Wed & Fri 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thu 1–7 p.m.
Sat 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

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HARRISBURG LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Tiny Tots Story Time

Wednesdays • 11 a.m • Story time for ages 0–3.

Craft Club

Thursdays • 4–6 p.m.
A hands-on craft program for library visitors.

Lego Club

Fridays • 3 p.m.
Build, create, and explore with Lego activities.

Grief Support Group

First and third Mondays of each month • 6 p.m.
A support group for those experiencing grief.

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Thu 1–7 p.m.; Fri 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Library patrons can also access digital books through the Libby app and language-learning tools through Rocket Languages.

Connect with the Library

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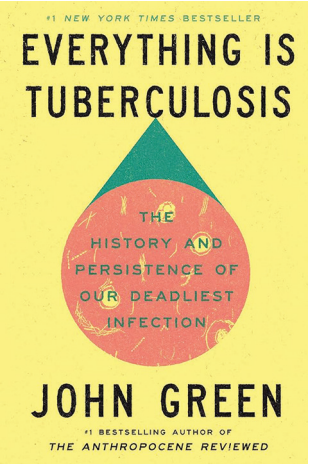
BROWNSVILLE BOOK CLUB

From Colonial History to Modern Health, Book Club Explores a Complex Read

By Anne Clarke, Brownsville Book Club Member

One of the best reasons to join a book club is discovering books you might otherwise overlook. This month’s selection was no exception. We read “Everything Is Tuberculosis” by John Green.

I’ll admit I had left the book sitting unread on my kitchen counter until the morning of our meeting. After a friend stopped by, noticed it, and told me how much she enjoyed it, I picked it up intending to skim. Instead, I read it cover to cover in a single sitting and was grateful I did. Many aspects of it resonated deeply with my own experiences and values.

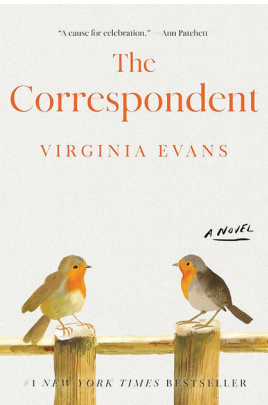


I met my husband in Kenya, where his family’s history traces back to the early 1900s, when his grandfather traveled from Wales to work on the colonial railroad between Mombasa and Uganda. Green’s discussion of colonial infrastructure — built primarily for extraction rather than to support local communities — offered a new lens through which to view that history and immediately drew me in.

The title initially suggested a dry, clinical read filled with medical statistics. I was happy to discover it is anything but that. Green explores the far-reaching historical and social impact of tuberculosis, weaving together examples that show how the disease has touched people across centuries, regardless of wealth or status. His wife even joked that he had become so absorbed in the subject that everything he talked about seemed to connect back to tuberculosis — and after reading the book, it’s easy to see why.

Tuberculosis remains one of the leading causes of death worldwide. Though briefly surpassed by COVID, it regained that position after 2023. Green’s exploration highlights not only the persistence of the disease but also the broader systems and conditions that allow it to continue affecting so many lives.

Our group discussion ranged beyond the book itself to current concerns about global health, including how changes in healthcare access and international aid may influence the resurgence of diseases once thought to be under control. It made for a thoughtful and engaging conversation.



Our next selection for April is “The Correspondent” by Virginia Evans, published in 2025 and currently on the New York Times bestseller list. You can also hear an interview with the author on NPR at <https://plus.npr.org/bookoftheday>.

Please join us for discussion, homemade treats, and community at our next meeting on Wednesday, April 15, at 7 p.m. in the Kirk Room at the Brownsville Library. ☀

KIDS’ KORNER

We Love Teddy Bears!

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer and Columnist

Aww, teddy bears — those cute, soft, and cuddly little friends. Most of us have or have had a special teddy bear, a fluffy, cuddly best friend among stuffed animals. Why are teddy bears so popular? Where did they originate? According to “The History of Teddy Bears” on Lil’ Baby Cakes’ website, the Teddy Bear was created to honor President Theodore Roosevelt around 1902. A candy shop owner in Brooklyn, New York, saw a cartoon drawing of President Roosevelt with a bear. He had an idea that could boost sales at his shop. He asked his wife to make two stuffed bears, which he then placed in his shop window. He also asked President Roosevelt personally for permission to call them “Teddy’s Bears,” and the President agreed. Teddy is a nickname for Theodore, and President Theodore Roosevelt didn’t actually care for the name; however, the name “Teddy Bear” stuck, and those lovable little bears have been with us ever since.



A collection of teddy bears on display at Sagamore Hill, the New York home of President Theodore Roosevelt, whose name inspired the beloved toy.

Why are teddy bears so popular? Just look at their cute little faces, feel their soft fur, and sense their unique personalities. They are all nearly irresistible. The Brownsville Library has a book called “The Ultimate Teddy Bear Book,” published in 1991 by Pauline Cockrill. This book catalogs more than 70 classic bears, from the original Teddy to Pooh, Paddington, Smokey, and many of the remarkable Steiff bears. Every bear is accompanied by a description that places it in historical context and highlights its characteristics.

An interesting fact is that the world’s largest teddy bear, according to Guinness World Records, stands at 55 feet tall! When you have a chance to see a stuffed teddy bear or a picture of one, try to get a sense of that particular bear’s personality. You may find that each one is just a little different — whether they are cute, sweet, grumpy, or happy, you probably will have a smile on your face after looking at a teddy bear, especially if it is your own special friend. ☀

TEDDY BEAR PICNIC WORD SEARCH

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SANDWICH
TEDDY BEAR

CRITTER CHRONICLES

A Dog Named Bear: A Veteran's Lifeline in Uncertain Times

As told by Laura Meckle to Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

Bear was born April 15, 2020, in the early days of the COVID-19 shutdown, when uncertainty touched nearly every part of daily life.

He was one of six puppies, though only four survived. His owner had raised his mother, Minnie, and his granddam, Dixie — a deeply trusted companion who had recently died of cancer. Though never formally trained, Dixie served as a service dog, helping her owner manage post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) related to military service.

Bear was originally intended for a family member, but within weeks, it became clear he had a different purpose.



Bear and his owner, Laura Meckle, share a close bond built on trust and training, as he provides daily support managing PTSD.

At just 5 or 6 weeks old, Bear separated himself from his litter mates, went to the enclosure gate, and scratched to get out. When he was let out, he ran straight to his owner, pawing urgently at her leg until she picked him up. The tiny puppy

placed his paws on her face and began licking.

In that moment, she realized she was at the onset of a panic attack — and that Bear had recognized it before she did.

“He brought me back,” she said.

From that day forward, Bear stayed.

With training programs shut down during the pandemic, much of his early development took place at home. As restrictions eased, Bear was evaluated by a professional trainer and passed temperament, basic obedience, and advanced obedience tests “with flying colors.” He complet-



Wearing his signature shades, Bear takes in a local car show — friendly with the crowd but always attentive to his owner's needs.

ed his service training and was certified before his second birthday.

Today, Bear continues the work once carried out by Dixie, providing daily support that helps his owner navigate the challenges of PTSD — a condition that affects individuals in different ways and, in severe cases, can be life-threatening.

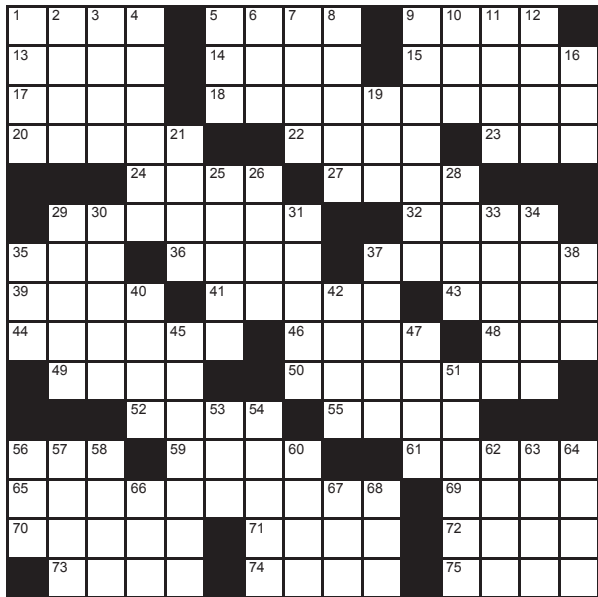
“Not everyone understands PTSD,” Meckle said. “But thanks to Dixie and Bear, I am not one of those statistics.”

Around Brownsville, Bear is easy to recognize. Known affectionately as “Boo Boo Bear,” he serves as an unofficial greeter at community events such as the Brownsville Antique Faire and citywide yard sales. Friendly and calm, he enjoys meeting people, posing for photos, and traveling with his owner — including trips to Denver, New York, and Sarasota, Florida.

But even in those moments, his focus never wavers.

“He loves people,” she said, “but his number one job is taking care of me.”

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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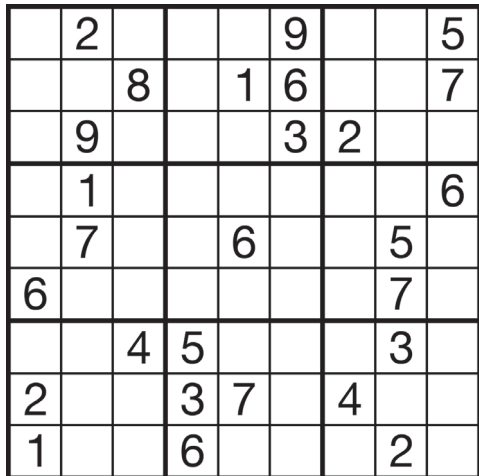
ACROSS

- 1 Bauble
- 5 Corn units
- 9 Prohibits
- 13 Ornamental purse
- 14 Radar image
- 15 Rewrites
- 17 Makes lace
- 18 Red Cross benefactor
- 20 Reserved
- 22 Travel package
- 23 Ram's mate
- 24 Frail
- 27 Limb extension
- 29 Field sport
- 32 Gain's opposite
- 35 Family room
- 36 Cruising
- 37 Punches
- 39 Showy flower
- 41 Southpaw
- 43 Genuine
- 44 Capable of movement
- 46 Visage
- 48 Time zone
- 49 Sandwich shop
- 50 Cream puffs
- 52 Sensed
- 55 Hardy heroine
- 56 Down Under bird
- 59 Mountain goat's perch
- 61 Search site
- 65 Tough luck
- 69 Corn Belt state
- 70 Girder material
- 71 Hibernia
- 72 Copycat
- 73 Promised land
- 74 Bumpkin
- 75 Cluckers
- 25 Supermarket area
- 26 Leg's midpoint
- 28 Honk
- 29 Biblical king
- 30 Join forces
- 31 Blooper
- 33 More likely
- 34 Building boards
- 35 Faint
- 37 It goes around
- 38 Arrange
- 40 Fine fabric
- 42 Diplomacy
- 45 16th President
- 47 Effortless
- 51 Hebrew prophet
- 53 Go astray
- 54 No-cal drink
- 56 Dash lengths
- 57 Tiny insect
- 58 Employed
- 60 Wise one
- 62 Anticipation
- 63 Mrs. Miniver actor Reginald
- 64 Boat propellers
- 66 Invoice amount
- 67 Bird's beak
- 68 Compass pt.

DOWN

- 1 Gr. letter
- 2 And others (Abbr.)
- 3 Coupé
- 4 Renounce a relative
- 5 Subside
- 6 Entirely
- 7 Donnybrook
- 8 Take-off, as a movie
- 9 Cowboy's sleeping bag
- 10 Commotion
- 11 Supreme Court count
- 12 Pack
- 16 Sp. woman (Abbr.)
- 19 Twosome
- 21 Greek cheese

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PUZZLE Solutions on page 14

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Brownsville Assembly of God

313 Washburn St • 541-466-5030
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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://brownsvillechristianchurch.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>

First Baptist Church of Brownsville

27910 7 Mile Ln • 541-642-3000
<https://www.fbcbrownsvilleoregon.org>
Sunday Services and Nursery 9 and 10:45 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

104 W Blakely Ave • 541-367-2530
holytrinitybrownsvilleor@gmail.com
Weekday Mass Wednesday Noon
Sunday Service 11:30 a.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

1111 North Main St • 541-570-2903
Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Brownsville Mennonite Church

34795 OR-228 • 541-466-5622

CRAWFORDSVILLE

Crawfordsville Calvary Chapel

38353 Glass St • 541-730-4519
<https://www.crawfordsvillecc.org>
Sunday Service 10 a.m.

HALSEY

Central Valley Church

657 American Dr • 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.

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 • 541-220-1902
<https://harvestrbc.org>
Sunday School 9 a.m.
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Fellowship Meal Noon

Spirit of the Valley United Methodist Church

611 W 3rd St • 541-654-8144
spiritofthevalleyumc@gmail.com
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Valley Christian Fellowship

690 W 2nd St • 732-434-3592
<https://vcfhalsey.com>
Sunday Service 10 a.m.
Wednesday Service 7:15 p.m.

HARRISBURG

Calvary Chapel Tri-County

255 Smith St • 541-995-8221
<https://cctriconity.com>
Sunday Service 10–11:30 a.m.
Wednesday Morning Women's Study 10 a.m.
Wednesday Night Study 6:30–8 p.m.

Harrisburg Christian Church

601 Smith St • 541-995-6723
<https://www.harrisburgchristianchurch.org>
Sunday Worship 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible studies and children's programs available

Harrisburg Church of God (Seventh Day)

820 Diamond Hill Rd • 541-995-8003
<https://harrisburgcog7.com>
Saturday Classes 10 a.m.
Saturday Service 11 a.m.

Harrisburg Mennonite Church

23688 Powerline Rd • 541-995-3446
<https://www.pilgrimministry.org>
Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Harrisburg Riverside Church

210 LaSalle St • 541-743-1582
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

550 Peoria Rd • 541-995-4800
<https://www.jw.org/en>

Life Bible Church

23650 Peoria Rd • 541-995-8282
<https://www.lifebiblechurch.org>
Sunday Services 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.

United Methodist Church

710 Smith St • 541-995-6656

SHEDD/PEORIA

Oakville Presbyterian Church

29970 Church Dr • 541-758-0647
<https://oakvillechurch.org>
Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Riverside Christian Fellowship

29360 Abraham Dr • 360-880-4734
Sunday Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service 10 a.m.
Sunday School 11 a.m.



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Farms + Tourism = Agritourism

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist



LEAPING LAMBS FARM

A visitor shares a quiet moment with a kid at Leaping Lambs Farm near Alsea, where hands-on experiences are part of daily life for guests.

Not so long ago, almost everyone was a farmer, especially in the early days of settlement in the Willamette Valley. Read the personal accounts of pioneers, and you see they were preachers, carpenters, doctors, and lawyers, but they still had to put in some crops and raise some animals if they wanted to eat. We have become more specialized in the last hundred years, with folks leaving the farm, heading for the city, shucking the straw hat and bib coveralls to take up citified professions.



LEAPING LAMBS FARM

A young visitor interacts with a chicken during a farm stay at Leaping Lambs Farm, where guests can help with chores like feeding animals and gathering eggs.

People left the farm, but did the farm leave them? That is the question that came to this reporter's mind while reading the recent article on agritourism in the March "Growing" magazine published by the OSU Extension Service. Agritourism is defined as "the practice of combining agricultural production or processing with tourism to attract visitors onto a farm, ranch, or other agricultural business for the purpose of entertaining or educating the visitor while generating income for the farmer or rancher." The fact that Agritourism is even a thing reinforces the idea that, while we may be two or three generations off the farm, there is something calling us back. The bleating of newborn lambs gamboling about, the sun setting over the meadow, and the smoke curling from the nearest neighbor's house a half mile away — the joy of such things is in our DNA. If we don't live on a farm or ranch, some part of us wishes we did.

AGRITOURISM continued on page 14

MARK LIFE'S GREAT PASSAGES WITH US

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or place a longer paid notice at <https://brownsvilletimes.org/notices>

CALAPOOIA FOOD ALLIANCE

Supporting Birds Munch Night Theme

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist

“For the Love of Birds” was the theme of Meredith Love’s presentation at the Friday, March 20, Calapooia Food Alliance Munch Night at the Brownsville American Legion Hall.

Love, an avid birder and wildlife conservation student at Oregon State University, has spent several years researching declining bird populations in the American Southwest. While sharing her photographs, she explained the important role birds play in the environment and the significant declines seen in recent decades due to habitat loss and reduced food sources — particularly insects affected by pesticide use.

She also offered simple ways people can help their feathered neighbors. Because many birds navigate by the stars during migration, turning off porch lights at night can make a difference. Keeping domestic cats indoors can also help, as cats are responsible for the deaths of large numbers of songbirds each year.



Meredith Love presents “Splendid Sparrows” during her “For the Love of Birds” talk at the Calapooia Food Alliance Munch Night on March 20.

Protecting habitats such as old-growth forests, planting native species, and reducing pesticide use are additional steps that can help reverse the trend.

The decline in bird populations, Love noted, should serve as a “canary in the coal mine” warning for humankind.

Several dozen attendees enjoyed a variety of salads, homemade bread, and desserts prepared by Calapooia Food Alliance board members.

Munch Nights are a regular community outreach event of the organization. The next gathering is scheduled for April 17, when retired entomologist Rich Little will present “The Insects That Bug You.” All are welcome. 🌿

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STUDENT VOICES

Boiling Crabs Alive: Tradition or Unnecessary Cruelty?

Three Oregon State University students examine the ethics and science behind a common seafood practice

By Jack Freitag, Sierra Borst, and Miriam Lancaster, Oregon State University students

Boiling crabs alive has long been defended as a necessary step to ensure freshness and prevent food poisoning. For decades, consumers and restaurants have accepted the practice as standard, but growing scientific evidence suggests this tradition deserves reconsideration. Crabs should no longer be cooked alive, as research suggests they can feel pain, and food safety can be maintained without it.

The custom originated as a way to prevent food poisoning, but alternative methods can ensure the same level of safety.

Bacterial growth can be prevented if crustaceans are cooked promptly after dispatch. It is not necessary for a crab to be alive when it enters a pot, as cooking the animal immediately after humane dispatch yields the same food-safety outcome.

While some argue that these reactions are simply instinctive due to their simple nervous systems, research suggests that crabs are likely capable of experiencing pain. They show physiological and behavioral responses to harmful stimuli, including attempts to escape and prolonged guarding of injured limbs. In addition to causing pain, live cooking methods result in a prolonged dying process. A large crab can live up to 11.0 ± 0.53 minutes in boiling water. Because of their shape, it takes longer for the interior to reach lethal temperatures, meaning they may suffer in scalding water for several minutes before death. Other methods, such as freezing or placing crabs into heated salt baths, also result in a drawn-out process, while electrocution or mechanical dispatch causes almost instantaneous death.

It is possible to prepare crabs safely without causing unnecessary suffering, provided they are cooked promptly. There is currently no legal requirement in the United States to consider welfare during storage, handling or killing, though the practice has been banned in several other countries, with a phase-out in the United Kingdom predicted by 2030.

The practice of cooking live crabs should be abandoned, as it causes prolonged pain without providing greater safety than other methods. Studies show crabs respond negatively to harmful stimuli and that immediate cooking after dispatch ensures food safety. Seafood restaurants and the public should re-evaluate their approach and support efforts to end the practice.

Editor’s Note

Jack Freitag, Sierra Borst, and Miriam Lancaster are students in the Communication Life Sciences (BI 319) course at Oregon State University, taught by Matt Waterhouse. The views expressed are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of The Brownsville Times. We publish student and guest commentary to encourage thoughtful, respectful discussion on complex issues affecting science, ethics, and the environment. Follow Jack’s ongoing work on this topic on Instagram at @crabbby.crew. 🌿



A Dungeness crab caught off the Newport Municipal Crabbing Pier highlights a common species at the center of ongoing debates about cooking practices.

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AGRITOURISM *continued from page 12*

Let’s say you are a farmer experiencing all the above-mentioned joys but having a hard time making ends meet because farming, as much as you want to keep the family Century Farm going, is not always paying the bills. Maybe agritourism is the answer. Certainly, some local farmers are making it work. Scottie and Greg Jones of Leaping Lambs Farm in Alsea make it look easy. Besides selling market lamb, they invite visitors to experience some of that inner farmer — feeding the chickens, gathering eggs, giving orphan lambs a comforting bottle, then savoring the sunset with a glass of local pinot noir. Scottie and Greg are, themselves, urban refugees, moving from the city to a farm in 2003, full of “romantic delusions.” I asked Scottie what advice she would give someone considering agritourism: “Make sure that not just all family members are on board, but that neighbors are too, since getting their OK is part of the application process.” Scottie recommended an online course called “Developing a Successful Agritourism Business in Oregon.” Leaping Lambs Farms offers farm tours and overnight stays. When asked if she and her husband would make the switch to agritourism all over again, the answer was unequivocal: “Definitely!”



Leaping Lambs Farm in Alsea offers a peaceful working landscape, where guests can experience farm life alongside scenic views of pasture, forest, and creek.

On the tourist side of the equation, we are lucky here in Linn County in that there are numerous ways to experience your inner farmer. We are smack dab in the center of something called “The Mid-Willamette Valley Food Trail,” which, along with a map, lists eleven ranches, farms, and farm stays nearby. Other stops along the trail are for craft beverage spots, bakeries, and cafes. Pick up the brochure at Visitor Centers or at the Brownsville Times office. ☼



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BROWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Council Ratifies CLRA Agreement, Advances Memorial Ordinance

BROWNSVILLE — The Brownsville City Council met Tuesday, March 24, at City Hall, ratifying a recreation agreement and advancing several resolutions and community initiatives.

The council formally ratified an agreement with the Central Linn Recreation Association following a presentation, continuing the city’s partnership in supporting local recreation programs.

Councilors approved Resolution 2026-05, a routine workers’ compensation declaration, and Resolution 2026-06, dissolving the Linn County Emergency Telephone Agency as part of broader regional changes to emergency communications.

Ordinance 811, relating to memorials in public places, received its first reading. The measure establishes a framework for installing two memorial benches, with community members able to purchase placards honoring loved ones. A second reading is expected at a future meeting.

The council approved a road closure request from the Linn County Pioneer Association for upcoming events and adopted the 2026 Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation, recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

A \$1,200 donation to the Cascade West Council of Governments’ Meals on Wheels program was also approved unanimously, with one councilor abstaining.

Public Works Administrator Scott McDowell reported crews had been preparing Pioneer Park for opening, grading streets and the cemetery, and performing general maintenance. He said the Oregon Health Authority will conduct a sanitary inspection of the water treatment plant on April 16. Initial PFAS testing showed no detection.

A Linn County Sheriff’s Office report showed 130 calls for service in February, totaling 202 hours. Deputies issued 20 citations and 16 warnings.

City Administrator Scott McDowell said planning is underway for a full season of events, including Fourth of July festivities organized by Connect Linn, the 40th anniversary of Stand by Me, the citywide garage sale, and the Antique Faire. Sweet Home Sanitation’s Cleanup Day is set for April 11 at the Rec Center parking lot.

Mayor Craven reminded residents that vineyard wind machines may begin operating soon and can be heard across town.

No citizens signed up for public comment. Councilors also discussed liquor license renewals, Oregon Government Ethics Commission filing reminders, and reviewed February financial reports.

The council later entered into an executive session to consider the employment of a public officer or employee and adjourned following the session. ☼

PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 11

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LAMB
CHICK
SPRING
EGGS
CHOCOLATE

CENTRAL LINN RECREATION ASSOCIATION

CLRA Reports Growth, Scholarships, and Volunteer Needs

During its presentation to the Brownsville City Council, the Central Linn Recreation Association (CLRA) reported steady growth and an ongoing need for volunteers.

CLRA President Ashley Moore said the organization served 392 youth athletes between March 2025 and February 2026, with strong participation in multiple sports programs. Spring sports included 10 teams and 136 athletes, while summer and fall programs continued to draw participation from Pre-K through sixth grade. Basketball programs alone included more than 150 participants across camps and league play.

CLRA also emphasized efforts to keep programs accessible. In 2025, the organization provided 19 scholarships to help cover registration costs and relied on community sponsors to keep fees affordable.

The group awarded its first college scholarships, selecting two local seniors. Gracie Droback and Coen Schneider, who each received \$500 awards in 2025. Recipients are expected to give back to the recreation center as part of the program.

Despite the growth, Moore said the organization faces a continued shortage of volunteer directors, particularly in football, soccer, and basketball programs.

“We are still in great need of new directors,” Moore said.

CLRA leaders expressed appreciation for coaches, sponsors and families, and said they will continue building a unified youth athletics program serving students from early childhood through high school.

To volunteer, email the president, Ashley Moore at president@clrasports.org. ☼

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SHERIFF'S REPORT MARCH 20-28

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).

BROWNSVILLE

Mar. 20, 10:29 a.m. — Caller reported a found cell phone in the 100 block of Galbraith St. Owner was located, and the phone was returned.

Mar. 20, 1:39 p.m. — Caller reported harassment involving a juvenile in the 500 block of Hausman Ave. Report taken.

Mar. 22, 9:56 p.m. — Caller reported a disturbance in the 700 block of N Main St. Deputies mediated with the family for a calm resolution for the night.

Mar. 22, 10:47 p.m. — A speeder was able to avoid being stopped by hiding at Forry Dr./Brownsville Rd.

Mar. 22, 11:37 p.m. — Caller reported illegal parking in the 500 block of Calapooia Ave. The deputy issued a parking citation for the car blocking the roadway.

Mar. 23, 10:07 a.m. — Medical Center requested that a deputy perform a welfare check on a patient who missed an appointment in the 400 block of Kay Ave. The deputy contacted the patient by phone, and the patient confirmed she was going to her next appointment.

Mar. 23, 3:23 p.m. — Cynthia Brown, 61, of Brownsville, was cited for speeding in the 28700 block of Brownsville Rd.

Mar. 23, 3:35 p.m. — Deputy took a report of bank fraud in the 700 block of Templeton St. The theft

was valued at approximately \$60,000. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Mar. 23, 9:31 p.m. — Caller reported dogs running through town in the 300 block of Spaulding Ave. The deputy located the owners and returned the dogs to their home.

Mar. 24, 11:50 a.m. — Caller reported a dog complaint in the 200 block of Hunter St. The deputy issued a written warning to the dog owner for the dog as a public nuisance, trespass, and failing to license the dog.

Mar. 24, 7:04 p.m. — Caller reported a lost dog in the 600 block of Kirk Ave. The caller agreed to hold the dog overnight in hopes of finding the owner through word of mouth and social media. Deputy forwarded to Linn County Animal Control.

Mar. 25, 12:16 a.m. — Brandon Scott Leopard, 44, of Sweet Home, was cited for speeding 63 in a 45-mph zone at W Bishop Way/Pearl St.

Mar. 26, 6:49 p.m. — Adolfo Duarte, 46, of Brownsville, was arrested for an outstanding warrant in the 400 block of Washburn St.

Mar. 26, 8:15 p.m. — Anna House, 41, of Brownsville, was arrested on an active warrant in the 1000 block of Pine St. She was transported to the Linn County Jail without incident. Report taken.

Mar. 27, 7:53 p.m. — Colton Raymond Green, 26, of Albany, was cited for speeding, 61 in a 45-mph zone. Colton was also arrested for an outstanding warrant and cited in lieu of custody at W Bishop Way/Pearl St.

Mar. 28, 12:51 a.m. — Zaide Faith Allen, 22, of Halsey, was cited for speeding 60 in a 45-mph zone at W Bishop Way/Pearl St.

Mar. 28, 4:09 a.m. — Andrea Gale McClintock, 41, of Foster, was cited for speeding 51 in a 35-mph zone at Washburn St./W Bishop Way.

Mar. 28, 12:55 p.m. — Deputy took a report on a death in the 37900 block of Hwy 228. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Mar. 28, 2:16 p.m. — Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance between a father and stepson in the 35400 block of Holmes Dr. They were not getting along. The incident was non-criminal.

Mar. 28, 6:26 p.m. — Deputies responded to a

domestic disturbance in the 36300 block of Kirk Dr. Upon their arrival, it was determined to be a longtime married couple arguing over how to make dinner. It was non-criminal and no further assistance was needed.

Mar. 28, 6:48 p.m. — Caller reported observing bones near the roadway in the 36200 block of Courtney Creek Dr./Timber Rd. The deputy responded and contacted state forensic anthropologists, who determined the bones were non-human.

Mar. 28, 9:42 p.m. — Deputies responded to an argument between adults in the 38100 block of Courtney Creek Dr.

Mar. 28, 10:10 p.m. — Denise Doan, 69, of Brownsville, was cited for driving while suspended, no insurance, and no ignition interlock device in the 100 block of N Main St.

CRAWFORDSVILLE

Mar. 20, 4:29 p.m. — Caller reported trespassers in the 39000 block of Crawfordville Dr. Trespassers left the property.

Mar. 22, 3:36 p.m. — Caller reported an RV blocking the road in the 39200 block of Crawfordville Dr. The RV has been moved.

Mar. 23, 12:18 p.m. — Michael DeLay, 38, of Sweet Home, was cited in lieu of custody for outstanding municipal warrants in the 39100 block of Hwy 228.

Mar. 24, 1:14 p.m. — Deputy handled a dog complaint in the 38300 block of Hwy 228.

Mar. 26, 11:04 p.m. — Driver was cited for speeding 77 in a 55-mph zone at Crescent Hill Rd./Hwy 228, near Crawfordville.

HALSEY

Mar. 20, 11:04 a.m. — Blake Boshart, 20, of Shedd, was cited for failing to obey a traffic control device at Seefeld Dr./W 1st St.

Mar. 21, 8:33 p.m. — Charity Bowers, 21, of Halsey, was cited for speeding 80 in a 55-mph zone at Peoria Rd./American Dr.

HARRISBURG

Mar. 20, 2:35 p.m. — A citizen found a small amount of marijuana at 6th St./Smith St. The deputy seized and destroyed the marijuana.

Mar. 21, 6:00 p.m. — Deputy dealt with a juvenile issue in the 700 block of LaSalle St.

Mar. 21, 8:59 p.m. — Dylan Hoffman, 24, of Junction City, was cited for speeding

92 in a 55-mph zone at Hwy 99E/Carney Dr.

Mar. 21, 10:26 p.m. — Caller reported a suspicious female parked in the cemetery in the 24500 block of Hwy 99E. The deputy asked her to move along.

Mar. 21, 11:10 p.m. — Deputy contacted juveniles out after curfew at LaSalle St./4th St. Deputy contacted parents.

Mar. 22, 12:22 p.m. — Deputy responded to a vehicle theft in the 800 block of Sommerville Loop. Approximately \$100 in damage and \$500 worth of items were stolen. Report taken.

Mar. 23, 4:37 p.m. — Caller reported a non-street-legal motorcycle riding in the 800 block of Umpqua St. Deputy contacted and warned the rider, who was giving his kids rides.

Mar. 23, 9:55 p.m. — Deputies responded to a report of a prowler in the 1000 block of S 11th St. Juveniles were observed in the area and were not contacted due to their fleeing on foot. Deputies conducted extra patrols in the neighborhood to hopefully deter such behavior.

Mar. 24, 3:34 p.m. — James Cravens, 62, of Springfield, was cited for speeding at Peoria Rd./Cartney Dr.

Mar. 25, 3:26 a.m. — Brett Blair, 27, of Harrisburg, was arrested for physical harassment and assault in the 300 block of N 7th Pl.

Mar. 26, 11:53 a.m. — Deputy took a report of missing or possibly stolen firearms in the 600 block of Territorial St. Report taken, investigation ongoing.

Mar. 26, 4:53 p.m. — Deputy spoke with a juvenile riding a mini motorcycle in the 30600 block of Diamond Hill Dr.

Mar. 26, 7:30 p.m. — Cameron De Alicante, 36, of Bend, was cited for speeding at Substation Dr./Hwy 99E.

Mar. 26, 8:46 p.m. — Deputy advised an individual that they were not welcome to sleep in a private parking lot in the 23600 block of Peoria Rd.

Mar. 26, 10:10 p.m. — Deputy spoke with an individual who believed a stalking order might be violated in the 33000 block of Priceboro Dr.

Mar. 27, 1:33 p.m. — Citizen reported an online scam in the 300 block of S 4th St., but did not give money and requested that the deputy document it.

Mar. 28, 10:29 a.m. — Non-injury crash reported in the 23800 block of Hwy 99E. No public narrative was provided.

Mar. 28, 11:48 p.m. — Deputy patrolled McCartney Boat Ramp in the 29000 block of Cartney Park Dr. Nothing to report.

TANGENT

Mar. 23, 12:46 p.m. — Deputy investigated a citizen's concern for a neighbor's child at Meadowlark Loop/Conser Pl. The child was in no danger. Non-criminal.

Mar. 24, 3:36 p.m. — Deputies conducted a death investigation in the 31900 block of Rolland Dr. Non-criminal. Report taken.

Mar. 25, 2:14 p.m. — Deputy educated juveniles on electric scooter laws in the 32900 block of Old Church Rd.

Mar. 28, 2:37 p.m. — Caller reported trespass of a male in his field in the 31400 block of Allen Ln., yelling at him about spraying his crops. The caller just wanted the incident documented. ☎

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