



A Life Rooted in Land, Community, and Change

Wilma Nellie Starnes Byrom reflects on a lifetime in Shedd

By Sharon Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist



SHARON BANKS

Wilma Nellie Starnes Byrom stands on her family's historic Donation Land Claim near Pugh Dairy Road in Shedd, land first claimed by her great-grandparents in 1853 and still central to her family's story today.

Wilma Nellie Starnes Byrom was born in 1934 at home on her family's farm near Pugh Dairy Road in Shedd — land that had already been in her family for generations.

The property traced back to a 640-acre Donation Land Claim registered in November 1853 by her great-grandparents, William McCune McCormick and Anna Marie Boyd. Her great-grandfather, remembered in his obituary as a "pure and noble man," died at age 61 and was regarded as one of the finest farmers in the valley and a devoted member of the United Presbyterian Church.

Wilma was raised on that same land by her parents, Leola McCormick and Leroy Newton Starnes, alongside her sisters, Margaret Lotine and Ruth Opal. The farm, bordered by Spoon Creek, produced rye grass and provided a quiet, steady life during a time when few families had much money. As a child, Wilma recalled swimming and fishing in the creek.

She also has fond memories of playing with Nancy Pugh, who was a couple of years older. The large white farmhouse where they played still stands today, just across Highway 99 from Pugh Valley Road. The house where Wilma grew up was torn down years ago.



COURTESY OF WILMA BYROM

William McCormick and Anna Boyd McCormick family, circa 1871-72. Back row, from left: David Wylie, Mary E., Sarah Jane, Nancy Ella, and John Erskine. Seated, from left: William McCormick with Grace; William Boyd; Anna M.; Anna Boyd McCormick holding baby Nevin.

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Restaurant Cali Opens in Halsey

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer and Columnist

HALSEY — A new restaurant has opened in Halsey, and after stopping in for lunch, I can say it's worth a visit. Restaurant Cali, located at 693 West 2nd Street across from the Fire Station, is now serving up Mexican favorites in a freshly remodeled space.

I ordered an enchilada, which was very tasty, along with a Mexican Coke — a slightly different take on the familiar soda and a nice addition to the meal. The menu features a variety of traditional Mexican dishes, and everything is prepared fresh.

The restaurant is owned and operated by Max Garcia and his wife, Sami, who have completely refurbished and repainted the interior. The couple currently runs the restaurant themselves, keeping busy with the day-to-day work of a small, family-owned business.

Max and Sami are not new to the restaurant industry. They previously owned and operated Cali Mexican Grill at Heritage Mall in Albany, which opened in 2013. After closing that location, they began searching for a new place to continue their business and found what they believe is the right fit in Halsey.

The Garcias have lived in the Willamette Valley since 1997, when Max first worked on Christmas tree farms before eventually moving into the restaurant business.

Restaurant Cali opened March 2 and is now welcoming customers for dine-in and takeout. Orders can be placed by calling 541-642-3007. ☎



LARISSA GANGLE

Street-style tacos topped with fresh cilantro and onion are among the offerings at Restaurant Cali.

Linn County Shows Up Big for Central Linn Students

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer

The Cobra Dome buzzed with purpose on Saturday, March 14, as Linn County neighbors gathered in Halsey for the annual Cobra Booster Club fundraiser. This year's community gala was a true collaboration, bringing together staff and a dedicated fleet of local volunteers to ensure the tradition of supporting Central Linn students continued. Holding the microphones and maintaining the evening's momentum, Coach Mike Day and Principal Dean Rech guided the crowd through a lively itinerary including a silent bidding gallery, a game of Heads or Tails, and the highly anticipated live bidding auction.

The silent auction tables offered an impressive variety of curated displays, from fully stocked kitchen sets to generous gift certificates for local pampering experiences. High-profile packages drew significant attention, including

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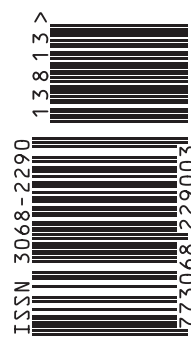
Coach Mike Day led a hilarious round of Heads or Tails to build excitement before the live bidding began. Participants wearing purchased beads stayed in the game by correctly guessing each coin flip with their hands on their head or "tail."



EVA WADA

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ONGOING EVENTS

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

Not Rocket Science Trivia
Thursdays • 6 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.

American Legion Bingo Night
Saturdays in March (and possibly April) • 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

Silver Screen Cinema
‘Little Shop of Horrors’
Friday, March 27 • 7 p.m. • \$2
American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184
132 N. Main St., Brownsville
Featuring the 1960 cult comedy “Little Shop of
Horrors,” directed by Roger Corman with an early
appearance by Jack Nicholson. To RSVP send a text
to 541-915-9322.

Spring Blossoms Bazaar
Saturday, March 28 • 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
American Legion Post 10, 1215 SE Pacific Blvd.,
Albany (Parking in back off 7th Street)
Local crafters, bakers, and other talented individuals
will be showcasing their creative wares the weekend
before Easter for your shopping pleasure. Sponsored
by the American Legion Auxiliary Albany Unit 10,
this event is a primary fundraiser for the Children
and Youth Programs to help provide scholarships to
deserving young ladies in the high school graduating
class of 2026.

**The Food Garden 2026 — Grow
Successfully Free Lecture Series**
Saturdays, March 28–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.

- March 28 — Growing Strong Plants & Plant Family Tips
- 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.

Kitty the Unicorn Joins the Carousel
Saturday, March 28 • 11 a.m.
Albany Historic Carousel & Museum
503 1st Ave. W, Albany
Celebrate the debut of Kitty the Unicorn as the
Carousel’s 47th finished animal. Cake will be served in
honor of Kitty’s first birthday while supplies last.
<https://albanycarousel.com> • 541-497-2934

EASTER EVENTS

HALSEY
**Central Valley Church
Community Egg Hunt**
Friday, April 3 • 6 p.m.
Central Valley Church, 657 American Dr., Halsey
Free hot dog dinner, picture booth, egg hunt, prizes,
and raffle at 7 p.m. Hunt areas are broken down by
age range: 0 to 4 inside in the sanctuary (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

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!
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
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.
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](https://www.fbcbrownsvilleoregon.org) • 541.642.3000

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WITH CENTRAL LINN!**

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

**[https://brownsvilletimes.org/
community-calendar](https://brownsvilletimes.org/community-calendar)**

Albany Carousel Plans Full Slate of Spring Family Events

ALBANY — Spring is bringing a carousel of celebrations to the Albany Historic Carousel & Museum, with four family-friendly events scheduled over the coming weeks.

The season kicked off March 25 with a birthday celebration honoring founder Wendy Kirby. The event featured free unlimited rides and welcomed families for a day of nostalgic fun.

Up next, on Saturday, March 28, the spotlight turns to the Carousel's newest addition. Kitty the Unicorn will make her official debut as the 47th completed hand-carved animal. The celebration begins at 11 a.m., and cake will be served while supplies last in honor of Kitty's first birthday.

April brings two more themed events for younger visitors and families. On Saturday, April 4, guests can stop by from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. for an Easter candy handout. Treats will be available while supplies last.

Later in the month, children are invited to dress in their royal best for the Little Royal Tea Party on Saturday, April 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is designed for princes, princesses, kings, and queens to enjoy an elegant tea party experience. Ticket information will be released on the Carousel's website and social media channels as the event approaches.

The Albany Historic Carousel & Museum is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) community project dedicated to enchanting visitors of all ages while preserving the artistry of traditional carousel building. Admission and museum tours are free, and carousel rides are \$2.

The menagerie-style carousel will eventually feature 52 hand-carved animals — from giraffes and zebras to unicorns, dragons, and other imaginative figures — arranged across three rows of standers and jumpers. Additional replacement and seasonal animals are also planned.

At the heart of the attraction is a fully restored 1909 Dentzel Carousel Corporation mechanism, The intricate restoration, led by engineer Carl Baker and a dedicated volunteer crew, returned the historic mechanism to working order after more than a decade of meticulous craftsmanship.

Volunteers remain central to the project. Community members serve as carousel operators, museum docents, gift shop staff, and artisans, while painters and carvers — from beginners to experienced artists — help create and maintain the carousel using traditional, old-world techniques.

More events and updates are available at <https://albanycarousel.com>.

LINN COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

Pioneer Picnic Princess Application Deadline Extended

Brownsville Pioneer Picnic has extended the application deadline for this year's Princess Court to April 2.

High school girls in the Central Linn area, from freshmen through seniors, are invited to apply to serve as a Pioneer Picnic Princess and compete for the title of queen during Pioneer Picnic, set for June 19–21.

Applications, which include details about princess responsibilities, are available at the Central Linn High School office or online at <https://www.pioneerpicnic.com>.

For more information, contact Betsy Ramshur at 541-619-3088.

CORRECTION

In the March 19 issue, page 2, the article "Rob Reiner Autograph & Poster Raffle for Stand By Me Day" did not include the ticket price. Raffle tickets are \$1 each.

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AT HOLLEY CHURCH

TENEBRAE SERVICE
THURSDAY, APRIL 2
@ 7 PM

EASTER WORSHIP
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@ 5 PM

EASTER WORSHIP
SUNDAY, APRIL 5
@ 8, 9:30 & 11 AM + 12:30 PM

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Spring Cleaning: A Fresh Start

By Sandra Beckwith, Columnist

Many cultures start their new year with the shift into Spring. The energy all around is budding, bursting, and bringing forth new life. Let's go with the annual flow and invite in a fresh start.

In the Spring, our ancestors needed to scrub soot off the walls, beat carpets, and tackle deep cleaning after long months in an enclosed home. Now we have lots of tools and products to make this easier, but it still needs to be done; thorough, deep cleaning. This doesn't have to be completed in one day. Take a month and a room at a time. Let's break this down: refresh and maintenance.

Refresh

Open your windows and get a good cross current going. Deep cleaning means wiping floorboards, moving furniture to sweep or vacuum, dusting the whole shelf, including books, washing curtains, and generally getting the harder-to-reach places. There are many sound health reasons to justify the added labor, such as dust mites. You might want to mask up. Remove all bedding, including mattress covers, and clean quilts and comforters. Wash pillows. Flip the mattress. Look for natural cleaning products with essential oils, and enjoy the fresh smell, too.

Work the perimeter of each room, and you'll see results. Don't forget lamp shades, dusting lightbulbs, and of course, cobwebs. Make it more fun by playing motivating music, listening to entertaining podcasts, using books on tape, or watching movies you know so well you only need to listen while working. Toss out junk mail and out-of-date catalogs. Put away winter items. Wipe the leaves of house plants and clean pet bedding. It's a lot of tasks, but a big payoff!

Maintenance

Replace smoke alarm batteries and air filters. Clean outdoor windows. Power wash if necessary. Clean the entranceway and remove unnecessary shoes or boots. Don't forget your vehicles! Clean drains and grout. Wash the shower walls. Update pantry items. Replace the toothbrush.

Helpers

You don't have to do this all yourself. Can you hire help? This is also a good process for kids to learn. Some folks rotate with neighbors and take turns on individual homes. It works well with yard maintenance.

Deep cleaning prepares you for a fresh start and a new chapter. All the effort also means you will enjoy your home more as a place of renewal and personal sanctuary. If you need help getting a jumpstart or going the distance, I'm here for you. Give yourself the gift of a lovely, clean home and watch how your mood and well-being improve.

For help, contact Sandra Beckwith, sbeckwith1@mac.com. ☼



SANDRA BECKWITH

Why Waiting on Hearing Aids Can Make Hearing Loss Worse

By Jeff Longtain, Licensed Hearing Care Provider

For many residents of Linn and Lane counties, hearing loss develops so gradually that it is easy to ignore. People begin turning up the television, avoiding noisy restaurants or pretending to "hear enough" in conversations. In many cases, years pass before they seek help.

That delay is common. Many patients do not seek assistance until they have struggled for five to seven years, often becoming fatigued from the constant effort required to follow even simple conversations.

Linn and Lane counties have a growing population of older adults, meaning more residents are entering the age when hearing loss becomes more prevalent. Despite that, hearing loss is often treated as a minor inconvenience rather than a significant health concern.

If vision suddenly declined, most people would promptly seek care. Hearing loss, however, tends to be postponed — and that delay can carry consequences.

Today's hearing aids are far more advanced than the bulky devices many people remember from decades past. Modern digital technology can separate speech from background noise, automatically adjust to different environments, and connect wirelessly to phones, televisions, and other audio systems.

The benefits go beyond simply amplifying sound. Many users experience clearer conversa-

tions, reduced listening fatigue, and improved awareness of important sounds such as traffic or alarms.

Research has also shown a connection between untreated hearing loss and faster cognitive decline, including an increased risk of dementia, particularly among older adults.

Hearing involves both the ears and the brain. When sound is not clearly received over time, the brain's ability to process speech can weaken. Addressing hearing loss earlier helps keep those pathways active.

Hearing evaluations are simple and painless. A test, along with a discussion of lifestyle and listening needs, can help determine whether hearing aids or other solutions are appropriate.

For many individuals, the greatest benefit is not just improved hearing but a renewed sense of connection. Conversations become easier, social situations more enjoyable and everyday interactions less stressful.

A common reflection among patients after treatment is a wish that they had acted sooner.

Those who find themselves increasing volume levels, asking others to repeat themselves or avoiding social situations may benefit from a hearing evaluation. Addressing hearing loss early can help preserve communication, independence and overall brain health for years to come. ☼

Celebrating the Strength of Our Hispanic Community

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

As March 31 approaches, a date often associated with Cesar Chavez Day, this year presents a different context. In light of recent allegations involving Cesar Chavez, it would not be appropriate to present a purely celebratory account focused on one individual. While it is important to remember that all individuals are presumed innocent unless proven otherwise, it is equally important for community voices to respond thoughtfully.

Instead, this moment offers an opportunity to recognize something broader and closer to home: the lasting contributions of the Hispanic community in Central Linn County.

For generations, Hispanic residents have been an essential part of local life. Their work supports agriculture, strengthens small businesses, enriches schools, and contributes to the day-to-day fabric of the community. These contributions are not abstract — they are visible every day in the people who live, work, and raise families here.

In a region where agriculture remains a cornerstone, many local families — past and present — have helped plant, harvest, and sustain the crops that support both the local and wider regional economies. Others serve in classrooms, operate businesses, and volunteer their time, helping to

build connections that make the Central Linn County area a stronger and more welcoming place.

This time of year can serve as a reminder of values often associated with it: hard work, fairness, service, and respect for others. Those ideals are not owned by any single person. They are demonstrated daily by members of our community.

As Central Linn County looks ahead, this can be a moment not just for reflection, but for appreciation — recognizing the individuals and families who continue to contribute to the strength, stability, and character of the place we call home.

Editor's Note

After this article was prepared, additional reporting published March 19, 2026, by The New York Times detailed broader fallout following recent allegations involving Cesar Chavez. According to the report, some states and cities are reconsidering or renaming Cesar Chavez Day observances, including a proposal in California to designate March 31 as "Farmworkers Day." This evolving context further underscores the importance of focusing on the contributions of farmworkers and Hispanic communities as a whole, rather than any single individual. ☼

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HALSEY CITY COUNCIL

Street Vacation Delayed; City Advances H Street Project Communication Plan

HALSEY — The Halsey City Council met March 10 to discuss infrastructure projects, community events, and city operations, with several items moving forward while one property matter was delayed due to a lack of quorum.

The council approved the consent agenda, including prior meeting minutes and February financial reports.

A report from the Linn County Sheriff's Office described February as a relatively slow month, with five traffic citations issued. Sgt. Steven Frambes also noted deputies spoke with children and their parents about lawnmowers being driven around town, and said those conversations were respectful and well received.

City Administrator Briana Parra reported on recent city efforts, including participation in the March 18 Central Linn School District career fair, coordination of student community service at City Hall and library outreach during Lit Night at the elementary school. She also reminded the council that Statements of Economic Interest are due April 15 and said Halsey will host a Small Municipal Advocacy Coalition meeting on April 7.

Parra also shared a public works update. The city recently received a CIS grant and used those funds to purchase an infrastructure inspection camera, which is now being used for stormwater work. Additional work in February included replacement of a water distribution pump, repairs to a sewer backup at City Hall, drainage improvements on West Sixth Street, and repairs to the city's vactor truck.

Council reviewed upcoming community dates, including Spring Clean-Up: April 25 and the city-

wide garage sale: June 12 and 13. A public surplus sale is also being planned for that weekend.

A proposed vacation of portions of West A and West B streets was discussed but could not be approved due to a lack of quorum. The request involves sections between West 6th and West 7th streets. Councilors asked about possible future uses, including classrooms, parking or a community garden, though no immediate development plans were presented.

In preparation for Halsey's 150th anniversary, council approved expanded activities for the annual BBQ and Movie Night, including tabletop carnival games and other family-friendly additions. Ideas such as a dunk tank, dessert vendors and a community cake cutting were also discussed. The Sheriff's Office may participate with equipment or displays for youth if given advance notice.

Council unanimously approved a communication plan for the West H Street improvement project, funded through a \$250,000 Oregon Small Cities Allotment Grant. The project will widen the roadway, improve drainage and add or replace sidewalks. Outreach efforts will include mailers, direct communication with nearby property owners and a project website.

Council also reviewed the city's annual Total Maximum Daily Load report, which outlines efforts to reduce stormwater pollution. Discussion included adding information about mercury disposal and reminding youth to stay out of storm drains.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m., with the street vacation expected to return for future consideration. 🌻

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SEASONS EATINGS

Potluck Inspiration and Everyday Cooking

By Lisa Keith, Columnist

Oh my gosh! We recently went to a potluck, and a dear friend brought sweet-and-sour meatballs. My husband raved and raved about how fantastic they were. So, of course, I had to get the recipe, and I will follow it to a T when I make it the first time... then comes the “old tweakaroo!” Because that is what I do, as should you... Modify it to your own liking. I almost sounded like I was going a bit Dr. Seuss there for a minute, lol. So, thank you, Heleene, for a fantastic new recipe to share with you.

The second one comes in handy when you look in the fridge and see at least four eggs, several bits of cheese, and a few random veggies, and wonder, “What the heck am I going to eat?” Quiche, of course! Or if it has no crust and you use potatoes, then we give it the fancy moniker, “Frittata.” Quiche is one of those wonderfully versatile dishes that can be as fancy or simple as you like. My husband prefers his with meat and says, “Oh, you are making egg pie.”

Heleene's Sweet and Sour Sauce

- full Jar of Heinz Chili Sauce
- full Jar of Apricot Preserves
- full can of pineapple chunks
- 1 each red and yellow pepper, cut into medium chunks
- 1 medium onion, cut into chunks



Mix the chili sauce, preserves, and half of the pineapple juice. Use the reserved juice as a marinade or add it to the crock pot. Toss in the vegetables and desired meat (Heleene used a bag of frozen turkey meatballs). Simmer until the meat is heated through. She says it is fantastic with chicken, too. I like it served over rice.

Basic Quiche

- ½–1 cup sauteed or roasted veggies (onion, zucchini, asparagus, sweet peppers, spinach, etc.)
- ½ cup cooked meat (bacon, diced ham, sausage, etc.), optional
- 1 cup shredded cheese (1–3 different cheeses lend a more flavorful pie)
- 4 eggs
- 1½ cups cream (all milks work, even non-dairy)
- 2 Tbsp herbs, fresh or dry
- ½ tsp cayenne or paprika, optional
- ½ Tbsp lemon zest
- Salt and pepper to taste



Par-bake your crust at 375°F. Beat eggs and cream together. Layer your vegetables, meat, and cheeses. Sprinkle with your preferred seasonings. Lower the oven temperature to 350°F. Pour the egg mixture over the other ingredients in the prepared crust. Bake until set and golden, about 40–60 minutes. Let it rest, lightly cover with a tea towel for 20–30 minutes. Serve with hollandaise sauce, a creamy cheese sauce, or salsa.

Have a recipe to share, a cooking puzzle to solve, or an idea for a future column? Reach out to me at iamcheflisa@gmail.com. ☺

TABLE TALK: DINING IN AND AROUND BROWNSVILLE

Dinner at Sybaris Bistro: Farm-to-Table Done Right

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

I'll be honest — I enjoy a good meal, and when I find a place that feeds me well, I'm happy to talk about it. My wife and I recently stopped in at Sybaris Bistro, right across the street from the Albany Historic Carousel & Museum. The restaurant sits in a historic industrial building on the corner of 1st and Washington, and it's a pretty impressive space — roomy, comfortable, and a bit on the upscale side without feeling stuffy.

One thing we didn't know ahead of time: reservations are usually required. We just showed up and hoped for the best. Luckily, they were able to seat us after a short wait.

The place is run by just three people — owners Janel and Matt Bennet, along with one employee, Jesse Brown. Matt handles the cooking while Janel runs the front of the house. When we walked in, we were greeted



JEFF BROWN

warmly and asked to wait for a table to open up. We were seated right next to a big fireplace with a roaring fire, which definitely felt pretty nice after coming in from the cold outside. We felt like honored guests in someone's home. Nobody rushed us, and the whole experience felt relaxed and welcoming.

Sybaris is known as a farm-to-table restaurant with a menu that changes monthly. Their website and Facebook page describe the food as “eclectic, innovative Pacific Northwest with global influences

focusing on local and seasonal ingredients.” That sounded fancy to me, but what really mattered was that it tasted great.

The night we visited, the menu had dishes that claimed to be a “nod to Ireland.” We started with mocktails, which were very tasty and a great way to begin the meal. I ordered the house corned beef tenderloin with Pot o' Gold potatoes, along with an assortment of salad greens, and a really flavorful chutney. My wife went with the flat-iron steak with mashed potatoes and buttered cabbage. Both plates were excellent — hearty, well-cooked, and full of flavor.

For dessert, I kept things simple with the house-made Valrhona Madagascar vanilla ice cream. My wife chose the Irish coffee crème brûlée, and judging by how fast it disappeared, I'd say that was a good choice too.

Overall, we had a wonderful evening. The restaurant looked like it could handle both larger groups and couples like us. If you're planning to go, I'd recommend calling ahead for reservations at 541-928-8157 — it seems to be a popular spot.

One more bit of news: the owners are currently renovating the former 1912 Electric Railway Station at 133 5th Ave. SE in Albany and hope to move the restaurant there sometime in April, though the exact date hasn't been set yet. ☺



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TANGENT CITY COUNCIL

Transportation Planning, Hazard Mitigation Plan Approved

TANGENT — The Tangent City Council met on March 9 for a work session that focused heavily on long-range planning, infrastructure priorities, and required annual updates.

Mayor Loel Trulove Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with Councilors Trina Henderson, Garry Pullen, and Mathew Swenson present. Councilor Rändi Letson was absent due to work obligations.

The primary discussion of the evening centered on the city’s draft Transportation System Plan (TSP), with the council sitting and the planning commission for the review. The plan outlines future transportation needs and safety improvements, particularly on highways and traffic flow throughout the community.

Council members reviewed proposed projects categorized into three priority levels — high, medium, and low — and identified six specific projects within city limits. The conversation also included how best to communicate the scope and importance of the TSP to residents, emphasizing the need for public awareness and engagement as the plan develops.

Officials noted the Transportation System Plan is extensive, with a full version included in the council packet for public review.

In other business, the council approved the adoption of the Linn County Hazard Mitigation Plan. A brief report explained how such plans function and the role they play in preparing communities for natural disasters and emergencies. The update will be funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The motion to adopt the plan passed unanimously.

The council also addressed the city’s annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), as required by ordinance. After discussion, members approved a 2.8 percent adjustment for the coming year. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting concluded with no further business, and the council adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The March 9 session highlighted Tangent’s focus on long-term planning, infrastructure safety, regulatory compliance, and keeping residents informed about future developments. 🌳

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Support WesternU Grant Application

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — At their March 17 meeting, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger, and Will Tucker signed a letter of support for a grant application by Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) to obtain an ODOT Connect Oregon grant to aid in the construction of a new medical school campus in Lebanon.

WesternU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Northwest (COMP-Northwest) opened in Lebanon in 2011 west of Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital and adjacent to what is now the Edward C. Allworth Veterans Home.

WesternU plans to create a 150-acre campus on property that was donated by the Heatherington Foundation. The property is east of the current campus and is bordered by Gil’s Landing and the South Santiam River.

Connect Oregon funds would be used to create a street and underpass of an existing railroad and allow access to the new campus.

In the letter of support, Commissioner Tucker noted, “This project will offer a significant influx of highly trained health care professionals through the longer-term offering of post-graduate doctoral programs, contributing to the demands of our fastest growing and largest industries in Linn County and the larger region.”

The commissioners added that private education and health services were the state’s fastest growing industries last year, with employment up 2.9 percent. In Linn County, private education and health services account for nearly 20 percent of the private, non-farm jobs.

The commissioners also pointed out the numerous community activities WesternU students take part in community-wide, donating more than 16,000 hours at community clinics, health fairs, literacy programs and donation drives. 🌳

HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL

Council Advances Veterans Memorial, Reviews 4th Street Progress

HARRISBURG — The Harrisburg City Council met on March 10 at 6:30 p.m., covering a range of community projects, infrastructure updates, and redevelopment efforts. The council will meet March 24 for a work session.

One of the main actions was gaining consensus approval for a new Veterans Memorial at Riverfront Park. The memorial, estimated to cost about \$18,000, will be funded through Community and Economic Development reserves and placed near the flagpole and gazebo. City staff is requesting input from local veterans on design aspects, including whether to add an eagle to the monument. Feedback will be shared at the council’s March 24 meeting.

The council also received an update on ongoing efforts to improve the 4th Street railroad crossing. City officials recently met with representatives from BNSF and Portland & Western Railroad, with discussions described as more productive than in the past. The city and BNSF are pursuing multiple funding opportunities, including a \$7.2 million federal BUILD grant, a state CONNECT grant to cover matching requirements, and a federal CRISI grant focused on rail safety.

In redevelopment news, the Harrisburg Redevelopment Agency approved nearly \$8,000 in property improvement grants for a commercial building on Moore Street. The project will include window replacements as part of ongoing efforts to revitalize the property and attract future tenants.

The council also approved the second-quarter expense reports and finalized the City Administrator’s performance review.

Additional updates included the opening of a new business, WCI Off-Road, at the former Akins Trailers site on Highway 99E.

Community members also spoke to the council about regional topics, including the proposed Muddy Creek Solar Project and ongoing concerns regarding progress on 4th Street.

Agendas, meeting times, and minutes are available at <https://www.ci.harrisburg.or.us/meetings>. 🌳

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CENTRAL LINN TRACK AND FIELD

Cobras Ready to Run: Opens 2026 Season

Speed, strength, and depth highlight the outlook for the Central Linn High School track and field team as the Cobras head into the 2026 season with a well-balanced roster and experienced coaching staff.

Under the direction of head coach Mike Day, Central Linn returns a mix of seasoned competitors and promising newcomers across nearly every event group. With strong representation in distance, throws, sprints, and field events, the Cobras are positioned to be competitive throughout the Valley League schedule.



The distance crew looks to be a cornerstone of the team this spring. Runners like Logan Bunday, Ethan Denison, Jackson Durringer, Alyse Glenn, Anya Griffith, Jayne Neal, and Addi Wolff give Central Linn both depth and versatility in longer events and relays. Their ability to compete across multiple races could prove critical in tight meets.

In the sprints and relays, the Cobras bring speed and athleticism with athletes such as Izzy Curtis, Sawyer Kirk, Don Martinez Ware, and Georgia Wahl. Aaliyah Hite adds another dynamic element, competing in sprints, long jump, and relays, making her one of the team's key multi-event contributors.

Central Linn's field events are equally strong. The throwers group is one of the largest on the team, led by Lorelai Adams, JJ Baney, Peyton Gaskey, Lucy Kennedy, Gabby Mills, Jericho Reed, Callin Schallig, and Marvin Serna. Their strength and consistency could provide valuable points in every meet.

In the jumps and vault, athletes like Leif Erickson and Chaz Mast will handle pole vault duties, while Aren Schneider and Bob Cunningham compete in the high jump. Wahl also contributes in the triple jump, adding further depth in the field events.

Hurdles and relays will feature athletes such as Bob Cunningham and Ashley Greeno, giving the Cobras flexibility in lineup decisions week to week.

The coaching staff rounds out a strong program foundation. Troy Harkins leads jumpers and sprinters, Johnna Neal works with distance athletes, and Sky Short coaches the throwers, creating a well-supported environment for athlete development.

With a full roster and athletes competing in multiple events, Central Linn has the pieces in place for a successful season. As the Cobras take to the track this spring, the focus will be on steady improvement, teamwork, and making a strong push in league competition. 🌀

CLHS VARSITY BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Season Opens with Tough Losses

Central Linn High School's varsity boys baseball and girls softball teams opened their seasons March 16 under nearly perfect spring weather, with temperatures reaching 75 degrees and clear blue skies overhead. Fans turned out to cheer on the Cobras and enjoy a beautiful afternoon of early-season competition.

The Central Linn varsity baseball team faced a difficult opener against Elmira. The Cobras were unable to get their



Hannah Travis makes a play at home plate.



Callie Northern delivers a pitch during the Cobras' season opener against Salem Academy March 16.

offense going and fell 20-0 to the Falcons in the first game of the season. Despite the lopsided score, the Cobras continued to battle through the matchup and showed determination against a tough opponent.

The Central Linn varsity softball team also opened its season Monday, taking on Salem Academy. The Cobras put runs on the board and showed offensive promise, but Salem Academy pulled away for a 21-6 victory. Central Linn's six runs reflected effort at the plate and gave fans something to cheer about throughout the contest.



Central Linn baseball players stand along the baseline during the national anthem prior to their season opener against Elmira.

While neither team came away with a win, opening games often provide valuable experience and a chance to identify strengths and areas for improvement. Early-season matchups can be challenging, especially as athletes work to settle into competition and build momentum.



Cam Offut on base

With strong community support in the stands and excellent weather adding to the excitement, the season opened with energy and optimism. While the Cobras will look to build confidence and improve in the weeks ahead, opening day served as a reminder that every season begins with promise, hard work, and a community ready to stand behind its teams. 🌀



Jacob Helms on the mound

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BOOSTER *continued from cover*

a 2026 Graduation Package with front-row seating and a photo shoot with Maddie Neuschwander, a “Duck Hunter’s Delight” waterfowl experience, and even vacation packages to Hawaii and Mexico. The night’s highest bid reached a staggering \$1,300 for a Blackstone Grill and cooler combo stocked with premium meats from Wahl Family Farms.

Dining was central to the night’s success, with Bailey Laythrum, Jenna Miller, and Amelia Curtis serving Italian iced sodas. The meal, expertly overseen by Betsy Ramshur, featured mouthwatering lamb and pork that received universal praise. The excitement peaked during the dessert dash, where the



Dessert Dash winner

top ten contributing tables competed for the chance to claim one of 47 provided treats. While the final total is still being tallied, early estimates suggest our neighbors’ generosity will mirror last year’s impressive figures. We extend a huge thank you to the tireless efforts of the Cobra Booster Club and the volunteers who helped put on such an amazing evening for our schools.



Table centerpieces were decorated by different sports teams.



All staff at the CLHS Teacher’s Union table were all smiles as they enjoyed the food and festivities.

ROOTED *continued from cover*

With farming, Wilma said, there were always risks.

“Too much rain or not enough, and you could lose everything,” she recalled.

Her mother wrote for local newspapers, including the Albany Democrat-Herald and the Halsey Review, while her father worked the land. Together, they built a life rooted in hard work and community connection.

Wilma loved school from an early age, especially her primary teacher, Margaret Harding. When World War II began, she was just 7 years old. Though rural life in Shedd remained relatively unchanged, the war was ever-present.



Three Starnes sisters from left to right; Margaret, Wilma, and Ruth with their future sister-in-law Nema Rose.



The Pugh Dairy farmhouse near Shedd, where Wilma Starnes Byrom and her childhood friend Nancy Pugh spent time playing, remains a lasting landmark of the area’s early rural life.

The family did not yet have electricity, but her father depended on a battery-powered radio for war updates. The children had to stay quiet while he listened carefully. When the battery was running low, it needed to be taken into town to be recharged.

Rationing soon followed. Sugar, essential for canning fruit, was especially scarce. While Wilma had no brothers who served, many of her cousins did. She followed the war through newspapers and comic strips such as “Tillie the Toiler” and was fascinated

by women joining the WACs (Women’s Army Corps) and WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). She was too young to join, but thought it sounded like a grand adventure.

Her family attended the United Presbyterian Church in Shedd, diagonally across the street from the Methodist church — a reminder of the community’s close-knit nature.

Like many rural households, the family shared a party-line telephone.

“You weren’t supposed to listen in,” Wilma said with a smile. “But everybody did.”

The phone was especially important for her mother’s reporting work.

Wilma later spent 26 years working at the Shedd Post Office, from the late 1960s until her retirement in 1995. She handled everything from sorting mail to assisting customers, building lasting relationships along the way.

“It was fun getting to know everyone,” she said. “The best part was seeing the kids’ faces when they got packages.”

At times, the job required discretion. She recalled instances when peo-

ROOTED continued on page 14

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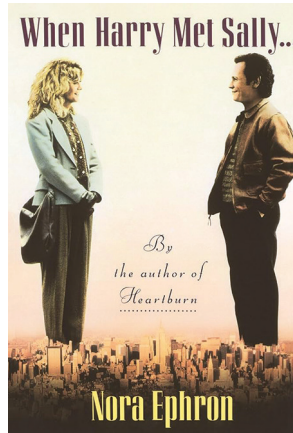
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BOOKS TO CONSIDER

Nora Ephron Essays on Aging

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer and Columnist



I recently picked up “I Feel Bad About My Neck and Other Thoughts on Being a Woman” (2006) about every woman’s battle with aging, at the Brownsville Library book sale and was reminded how much I love her laugh-out-loud humor and witty dialogue.

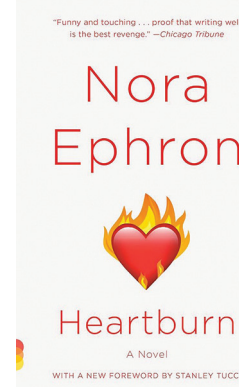
Last week, I revisited one of my favorite films — all the way back to 1986 — “Heartburn,” starring Meryl Streep and Jack Nicholson. The film is Ephron’s fictionalized account of her marriage to award-winning investigative journalist, author, and political activist Carl Bernstein. Bernstein is well known as the co-reporter who helped expose the Watergate scandal, which led to President Richard Nixon’s resignation. During their marriage, Ephron stepped away from journalism for a time. “Heartburn” offers an honest and touching look at a relationship unraveling during pregnancy, as well as the resilience it took for Ephron to move forward.

According to IMDb, Ephron was educated at Wellesley College and went on to become an acclaimed essayist and novelist, as well as a screenwriter for several popular films. Her sharp, observant sensibilities helped shape Rob Reiner’s “When Harry Met Sally” (1989) into a clear-eyed portrayal of modern romance, earning her an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay.

For more in-depth reading about Ephron’s life, see “The Nora Ephron We Forget” by Rachel Syme, published in The New York Times on Aug. 15, 2022. The article notes that, since her death, Ephron has often been remembered for romantic storytelling, but her true focus was how words can bring people together or drive them apart. I agree. Ephron was one of the great writers of recent times and remains a personal favorite, both on the page and on the screen.

Ephron was an Academy Award nominee and an acclaimed essayist, novelist, director, and producer. Many of her books are available through the Brownsville Library on Libby eBooks and Libby audiobooks. 🌀

If you have enjoyed books and movies such as “Bewitched,” “Julie & Julia,” “When Harry Met Sally,” “Heartburn,” “Silkwood,” and “Sleepless in Seattle,” then you have experienced the brilliant writing of Nora Ephron. In addition to iconic films, Ephron authored many plays, books, and memoirs.

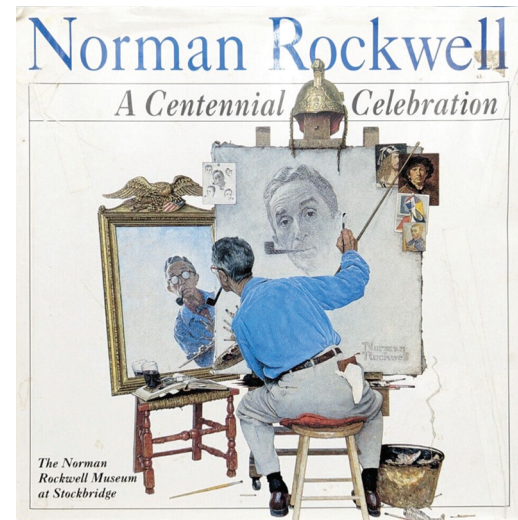


KIDS' KORNER

The Art of Norman Rockwell

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer and Columnist

According to Kids Encyclopedia Facts, Norman Rockwell, born in 1894, was a well-known American painter and illustrator who created cover illustrations for The Saturday Evening Post for 40 years. Much of his work is now displayed at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Learn more at https://kids.kiddle.co/Norman_Rockwell.



“Norman Rockwell: A Centennial Celebration,” published by the Norman Rockwell Museum, highlights the life and work of one of America’s most beloved illustrators.

Nana of ChalkPastel.com writes, “First, let’s learn a little bit about Norman Rockwell. He was born in 1894 in New York and died in 1978. He is known as an ‘Iconic American Artist’ and created over 4,000 works of art during his lifetime, mainly consisting of illustrations for books, advertisements, and magazine covers. In particular, he produced over 300 covers for the Post magazine. He started drawing as a young child while his father read aloud to him. As his father read, he would draw illustrations of what he was hearing. Norman Rockwell grew up in the city but enjoyed summer trips to the country, and his artwork showed life as he would like it to be. Many of his creations feature idyllic family scenes. Rockwell also spent some time in the U.S. Navy as an artist and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.”

More information, including homeschool activities and lesson plans, can be found in “Famous Artist Norman Rockwell: Homeschool Activities” at <https://chalkpastel.com/famous-artist-norman-rockwell>.

Activity: Self-Portrait

You will need a piece of blank paper, something sturdy to draw on (such as a notebook, book, or clipboard), a mirror, and a pencil. Look at your face in the mirror as you draw what you see.

To begin a self-portrait, lightly sketch a large, egg-shaped oval for the head. Use the mirror to guide your features. Draw the eyes on either side of the center line. Place the nose halfway between the eyes and chin, and add the mouth below the nose. Ears should align with the eyes. Don’t forget to include your hair. Finish by adding details and shading with pencil or chalk. 🌀



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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.

Library Hours: Tue 1–5 p.m.; Wed 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

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.

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<https://www.ci.harrisburg.or.us/library>

<https://www.facebook.com/HarrisburgOregonLibrary>

HARRISBURG PARKS

Access Limited at Eagle Park as Improvements Planned

HARRISBURG — Eagle Park remains open, though vehicle access is currently restricted outside the dog park due to seasonal conditions.

City officials report the access driveway will reopen in spring once the ground has dried. Pedestrian access remains available, and visitors are encouraged to use caution in muddy or flooded areas.

Planned improvements at Eagle Park include additional trails, picnic tables, benches, and interpretive signage highlighting local history and natural features, along with tree and wildflower plantings and expanded trail systems.

Additional projects under consideration include improvements at Tadpole Park and possible outdoor fitness equipment at Priceboro Park.

Residents can access park planning materials and development concepts at <https://www.ci.harrisburg.or.us/parksrec>.

HARRISBURG REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

HRA Approves Property Improvement Grant on Moore Street

HARRISBURG — The Harrisburg Redevelopment Agency (HRA) Board convened on March 10 at 6:30 p.m. to review a property improvement project aimed at supporting local redevelopment efforts.

The board approved nearly \$8,000 in funding for window replacements at a commercial building on Moore Street. The improvements are part of ongoing efforts to revitalize the property and attract future business tenants.

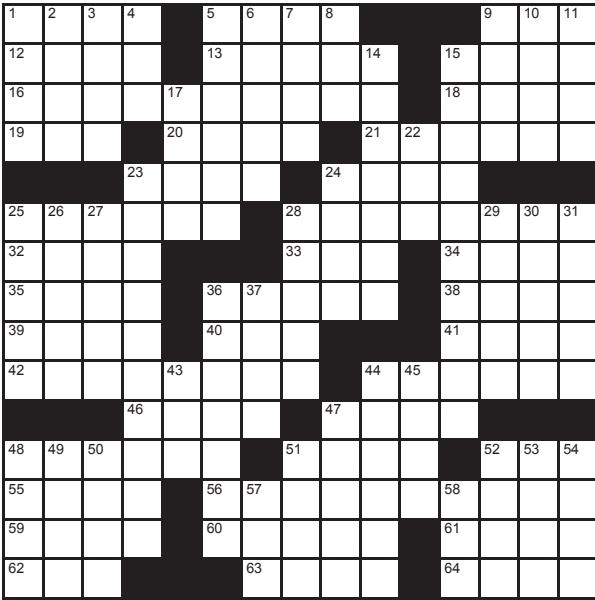
City officials noted the building features various window types, some of which are currently boarded up, and the upgrades will greatly enhance both the appearance and functionality of the space.

The property was previously occupied by Bennett Ceilings and is expected to be marketed to potential tenants after the improvements are completed.

The HRA Board also approved and reviewed second-quarter expense reports during the meeting.

Agendas, meeting times, and minutes are accessible at the City of Harrisburg website at <https://www.ci.harrisburg.or.us/meetings>.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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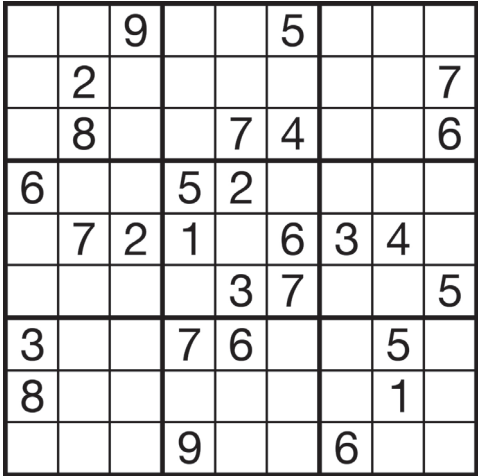
ACROSS

- 1 Camera part
- 5 Clumsy person
- 9 Bonkers
- 12 Creme-filled snack
- 13 Scrutinize the books
- 15 For Pete's ____
- 16 Explosive holders
- 18 Hibernia
- 19 Sharp curve
- 20 Stocking stuffers
- 21 Pressing
- 23 Seagulls
- 24 Unique person
- 25 Beauty shops
- 28 Attraction-filled magazine
- 32 Norse war god
- 33 Skirt edge
- 34 Horror film staple
- 35 Tiger's tooth
- 36 Hindu teacher
- 38 Locality
- 39 Teen follower
- 40 Even (Poet.)
- 41 Race
- 42 Love song
- 44 Shells out cash
- 46 Mercury and Mars, e.g.
- 47 Okla. city
- 51 Wistful word
- 52 Durable wood
- 55 Adjoin
- 56 Take a ride
- 59 Ice cream holder
- 60 After land or moon
- 61 Motorcar
- 62 Social drink
- 63 Very, in Versailles
- 64 Attention getter
- 23 Assemble
- 24 Utah city
- 25 Divans
- 26 Maxim
- 27 Eye makeup
- 28 Feudal lord
- 29 Sophia of Two Women
- 30 Mountain nymph
- 31 Engine parts
- 36 Old salts
- 37 Marries
- 43 "____ so fast!"
- 44 Traps
- 45 Tower site
- 47 Take the honey and run
- 48 Agreement
- 49 Cousin of a bassoon
- 50 Cat chow flavor
- 51 At a distance
- 52 Musical composition
- 53 River islets
- 54 Clove hitch
- 57 Columbus Day mo.
- 58 Tree juice

DOWN

- 1 Bound
- 2 Cupid's counterpart
- 3 Tidings
- 4 Ground cover
- 5 Bean trees
- 6 Askew and Perry
- 7 Keats creations
- 8 Excavate
- 9 Stallion's mate
- 10 Blood-related
- 11 Fender mishap
- 14 Earthquake aftermath, at times
- 15 Isolated from others
- 17 Collar type
- 22 Minister (Abbr.)

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- ERFSGAUF _____
- MOTIIPSM _____
- ENEISLECRI _____
- MSVTIAIC _____
- LYAEUTQI _____

PUZZLE Solutions on page 15

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WORSHIP DIRECTORY

BROWNSVILLE

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://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>

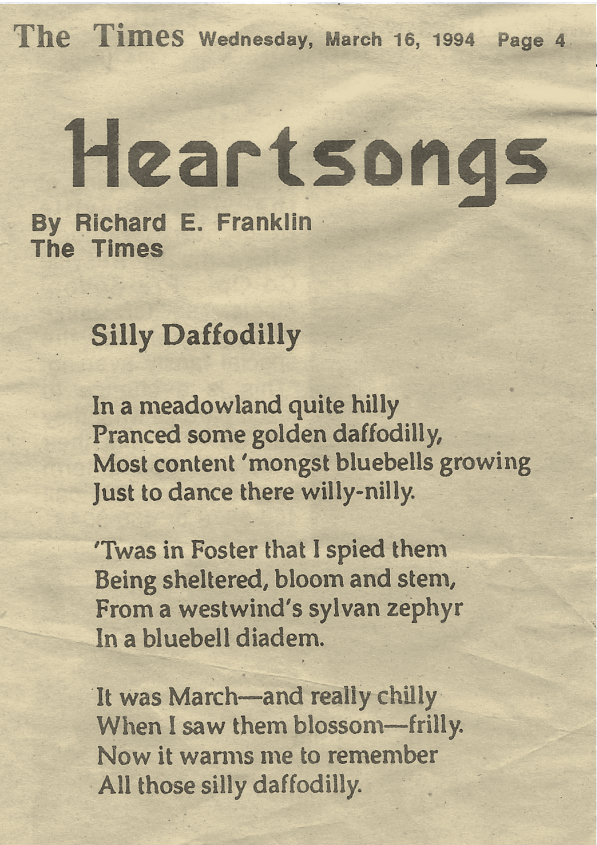
Life Bible Church
23650 Peoria Rd · 541-995-8282
<https://www.lifebiblechurch.org>
Sunday Services 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.

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.



A piece of the past — Kathy Rogers found this March 16, 1994 issue clipping in her desk drawer and brought it back to life for a new generation of readers.

SERVICE NOTICE

Betty Elaine Bagley
November 4, 1934 – February 8, 2026
Betty Elaine Bagley, 91, of Brownsville, died February 8, 2026. A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the First Baptist Church of Brownsville. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. <https://www.sweethomefuneral.com>.

MOUNTAINTOP REFLECTIONS

The Veil

By Jacquie Hoekstra, Columnist

I normally stay home when the fog is thick, especially when it freezes. However, I have had a few occasions this winter when I had to brave the elements. I set my GPS, so I know when a sharp corner is coming, and head out. Once I get comfortable with the dense, white wall, I begin to appreciate the different perspective it provides. Amazed by how disorienting it can be, I find myself getting excited when a landmark barn, house, or tree emerges from the shadows, revealing to me where I am in the world.

I thought about how the fog is like our walk with God. Sometimes we get lost in the in-between spaces. We are not sure where we are, but God has provided us with testimonies — landmarks — to remind us of how He has come through before. These memories are anchors of hope to hold on to until we come to our promised destination. In the fog, those landmarks look different. Shrouded in mist, they have an ethereal quality and bring a thrill at the new perspective. It says to us, yes, God did it before, and He can do it again, but it also says, “Don’t remember the former things, and don’t consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing” (Isaiah 43:18-19a WEB).

A new perspective releases hope. Moses met with God face to face, causing his face to shine with the glory of being in God’s presence. He would place a veil over his face to shield the fading glory seen there. (Exodus 34:33-35; 2 Corinthians 3:13) Only Moses and the high priests could enter into the presence of God and experience his glory behind the temple veil. Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, “But whenever one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, seeing the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:16-18 WEB).

The difference between the two is the Spirit of the living God dwelling within those who believe in and surrender to Jesus as Lord and Savior. He died for our sins and rose to life for our freedom. “For God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him” (John 3:17 WEB). In Jesus, the veil is taken away for all. “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and entering into that which is within the veil” (Hebrews 6:19 WEB). The veil, like the fog, can distort our perception, but in Christ, the veil is taken away, and our vision is made clear. Invite him to remove the veil and give you a new perspective as you celebrate this Easter season. ☀

OBITUARY

Linda Kay Eichner

Linda Kay Eichner, née Turrell, 75, of Harrisburg, passed away Nov. 12, 2025.

Eichner was a beloved friend and family member and served as an elementary school secretary from 1980 to 2014. She enjoyed baking, reading, and tending a lush garden.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, April 25, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Harrisburg Christian Church. ☀



CALAPOOIA WATERSHED COUNCIL

From Classrooms to Creeks: Watershed Council Connects Students to Nature

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist

The Calapooia Watershed Council is special but not unique. About 90 locally organized, volunteer watershed councils across the state are dedicated to improving natural resources. Our Watershed Council works to enhance the health of the Calapooia River and its tributaries by promoting habitat restoration along the 81 miles of river and providing educational outreach to students in the Central Linn, Harrisburg, and Albany school districts. Recently checking in with the CWC, headquartered on Main Street in Brownsville, The Times learned about several important and interesting projects currently underway. Operations Coordinator Fiona Julian reported that “we’re currently very focused on a large fish passage and habitat restoration project at Albany Oxbows and Truax, as well as along Periwinkle Creek, which involves several public parks and spaces and will very much be a community project.” Kristen Daley, Education and Outreach Program Manager, and Alex Rice, Habitat Restoration Program Manager, are working with schools near the restoration areas to involve students in designing and restoring those areas. Many of these projects involve former industrial or agricultural lands that have become overgrown with blackberry and other invasive plants.

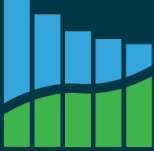


COURTESY OF CALAPOOIA WATERSHED COUNCIL
Urban ecology students experiment with simple water filtration using coffee filters, sand, and gravel as part of a watershed education lesson.

school program where fifth and sixth-grade students participate in a three- to six-day residential field science experience designed to enhance their scientific understanding, confidence, and connection to nature. Students will wear wetsuits with snorkels and masks to float down the Calapooia River, providing a fisheye perspective of what is necessary for a healthier environment. 🌀



COURTESY OF CALAPOOIA WATERSHED COUNCIL
Using binoculars, kids scan the water’s edge for turtles during a hands-on habitat exploration activity.



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TAKING ROOT

Fruit Tree Pruning — Not Too Late to Start

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist



DONALD LYON
Master Gardener Arianna Mustoe “heads” the branch at Thompson’s Mill’s cider orchard.

Whoops — did you forget to prune your fruit trees this winter? Ideally, this job is done in February, when plants are dormant and before new buds open, but it is not too late. Check your tools — loppers, saws, and hand pruners should be sharp and clean. Sharp to make the job easier and to avoid mashing the branches (which invites infections). Clean blades with alcohol, especially as you move from one tree to the next. Try to prune on a dry day to avoid spreading diseases. What and where to cut? One purpose of pruning fruit trees is to maintain a convenient height. You’ll want to harvest soft fruits like pears and peaches by hand. Walnuts and hazelnuts fall from the tree when ripe, so height is not so important. The first step is to remove broken or diseased branches — with a pruning saw if the branch is more than a half inch in diameter. Remove any branches below the graft scar, then cut off the suckers or water sprouts that are growing straight up. They are not often productive. Prune away any branches that cross other branches or that grow towards the interior of the tree. Air circulation helps reduce disease, and sunshine on developing fruit means bigger, healthier fruit, too. When you shorten a branch that is too long or thin to support fruit, you are making a “heading cut”. Make that cut just beyond a bud. If your cut is further along the branch, that wood beyond the bud is going to die back to the bud and is a possible route for disease. When you want to remove an entire branch, look for the “collar” of wrinkled wood where the branch leaves the trunk or major branch. Make you cut just on the outside of the collar to avoid providing a pathway, or vector, for disease to attack the tree. Don’t worry about over-pruning; that rarely happens. Reducing the number of fruit buds means larger fruit next summer.

Got a gardening question? Contact a Master Gardener by email at phototraveler02@gmail.com. 🌀

LBCC Ag Center Takes Shape

Construction is underway on LBCC’s new Agricultural Center on Looney Lane, a project that will bring animal and agricultural programs together in one location. Long supported by community partners and voters, the multi-phase development will modernize facilities, expand opportunities for students, and create space for regional events. Read more in the April 2 issue of The Brownsville Times. 🌀



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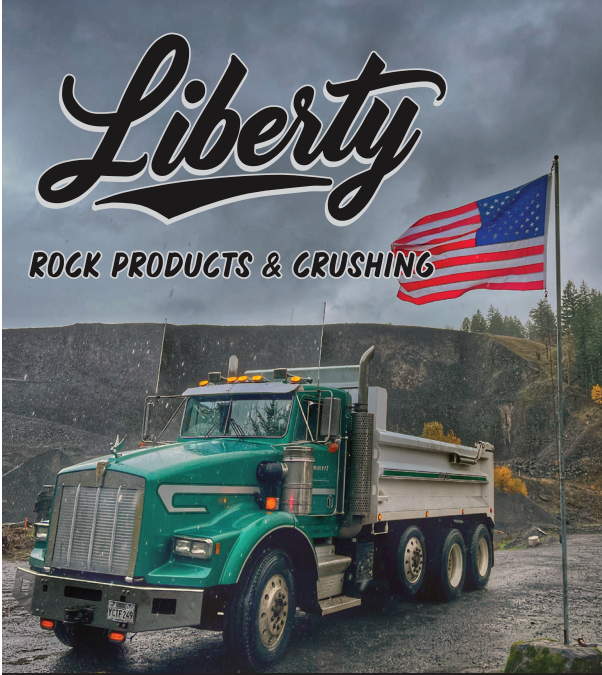
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ROOTED *continued from page 9*

ple tried to intercept mail or obtain information about former partners — situations in which privacy had to be carefully protected.

Wilma raised four children: Mamie Hobbs (1955–2017), Keith Laxton, Dearl Laxton, and Linda Bivens. Family has always been at the center of her life, and she takes great pride in the generations that followed. She has several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as one great-great-grandchild.

Over the course of her lifetime, Wilma has witnessed remarkable change.

“A phone used to hang on the kitchen wall,” she said. “Now you carry it wherever you go.”

While she appreciates modern conveniences, she misses the slower pace of earlier days — visiting neighbors, sitting on porches, and spending time together face-to-face.

After retiring, Wilma continued serving her community as a caregiver and volunteer with Sharing Hands, bringing comfort and companionship to others.

Now 92, Wilma continues to live in her home — a house filled with stairs that she still navigates with ease.

From pioneer roots to the digital age, her life reflects the endurance of family legacy and the quiet strength of small-town living. 🌻



Five generations: Wilma Nellie Starnes Byrom (seated, left) with her daughter Linda Bivens, granddaughter Angela Proctor, great-granddaughter Megan Proctor, and great-granddaughter Elianna McDonald, representing a living legacy of family across generations.

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Driver Critically Injured in Train Crash Near Harrisburg

HARRISBURG — A 72-year-old Terrebonne man was critically injured early Saturday morning, March 14, after his vehicle was struck by a Union Pacific train near Harrisburg.

According to the Linn County Sheriff’s Office, dispatchers received a 911 call at about 3:47 a.m. reporting a crash involving a vehicle and train at the intersection of Powerline Road and Highway 99.

Deputies arriving at the scene found the driver, identified as Jon McKibben, unresponsive but breathing inside the vehicle. Emergency crews from Harrisburg Fire District and Central Lane Paramedics provided aid before McKibben was transported to RiverBend Hospital, where he remained in critical condition.

Investigators said McKibben turned onto Powerline Road from Highway 99 and drove north onto the railroad tracks, traveling about 50 feet before the vehicle became stuck. The vehicle was reportedly positioned perpendicular to the tracks when the southbound cargo train struck the right rear passenger area. The impact spun the vehicle, which came to rest blocking the northbound lane of Highway 99.

Sheriff’s officials said investigators obtained a search warrant for a blood sample after evidence at the scene indicated alcohol may have been a contributing factor. The reason McKibben drove onto the tracks remains under investigation.

The Linn County Sheriff’s Office was assisted by Harrisburg Fire District, Central Lane Paramedics, Union Pacific, and the Oregon Department of Transportation. Anyone with information is asked to call the Linn County Sheriff’s Office at 541-967-3950. 🌻

ICAC Investigation Leads to Arrest

HARRISBURG — A Harrisburg man was arrested March 19 following an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigation conducted by the Lane County Sheriff’s Office.

Detectives contacted the suspect at a residence in the 1400 block of Heckart Lane. Ryan Martin Smith, 20, of Harrisburg, was taken into custody and lodged at the Lane County Jail.

Smith faces multiple charges, including 10 counts of Encouraging Child Sex Abuse in the First Degree, 10 counts of Encouraging Child Sex Abuse in the Second Degree, and 10 counts of Encouraging Sexual Assault of an Animal.

According to the Lane County Sheriff’s Office, the arrest stems from an ongoing ICAC Task Force investigation focused on child exploitation. The Linn County Sheriff’s Office, Lane County District Attorney’s Office, and Oregon State Police assisted in the case. The investigation remains ongoing, and no additional details have been released. 🌻

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SHERIFF'S REPORT

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

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

The following is a list of abbreviations that may appear in our log reports: LCSO (Linn County Sheriff's Office); OSP (Oregon State Police); APS (Adult Protective Services); DHS (Department of Human Services); LCCC (Linn County Circuit Court); LCJC (Linn County Justice Court); LCJD (Linn County Juvenile Department) AMC (Albany Municipal Court); FTA (failure to appear); FTC (failure to comply). A Roman numeral listed after a charge means that the charge is of that numbered degree: theft I (first-degree theft).

Sunday, March 15

1:01 p.m. — A woman reported finding bones in an abandoned storage unit in the 400 block of N 3rd St., Harrisburg. The deputy confirmed that the bones were non-human.

Monday, March 16

7:04 a.m. — Deputies spoke with a citizen experiencing a mental health episode in the 27300 block of Fisher Rd., Brownsville.

8:15 a.m. — A 92-year-old woman was found dead in bed by her husband in the 32100 block of Tangent Loop, Tangent. Report taken.

9:27 a.m. — Caller reported a civil dispute in the 800 block of W Bishop Way, Brownsville. The deputy was unable to contact the caller.

10:01 a.m. — Deputy assisted DHS in the 32300 block of Old Oak Dr., Tangent.

1:14 p.m. — Deputy received a 911 call about a vehicle crash in the 31600 block of Cartney Dr., Harrisburg. The deputy found the phone on the road and returned it to the owner. There didn't appear to be any crash.

2:08 p.m. — Caller reported that the delivery driver took photos of vehicles after dropping off a package in the 1000 block of Pine St., Brownsville. The deputy recorded the information.

2:18 p.m. — Deputy took a fraud report in the 1000 block of S 6th St., Harrisburg.

2:23 p.m. — Jeramie

Stucky, 19, of Sweet Home, was cited for not wearing his seatbelt at Pearl St./W. Bishop Way, Brownsville.

2:42 p.m. — Jose Ayala, 68, of Albany, was cited for using his cell phone while driving in the 34200 block of Hwy 228, Halsey.

4:04 p.m. — Kodie Bixby, 33, of Junction City, was arrested on outstanding warrants at S 6th St./Sommerville Loop, Harrisburg. Report taken.

4:42 p.m. — Carter Hostetler, 19, was cited for careless driving and failing to stay within his lane on Lake Creek Dr./Stubbs Rd., Brownsville.

8:49 p.m. — Malachai Nickelson, 31, of Harrisburg, was cited in lieu of arrest for a warrant out of the Harrisburg Municipal Court at Territorial St./N 4th St., Harrisburg.

10:11 p.m. — Deputy investigated a no-contact order violation at Belts Dr./Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg. Report taken.

Tuesday, March 17

11:55 a.m. — Deputy tried to contact a dog owner about a dog violation in the 800 block of Linn Way, Brownsville.

12:50 p.m. — Caller reported a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of Clay Ct., Harrisburg. Deputy responded and found the occupants were high school students eating lunch.

3:12 p.m. — Deputies responded to a potential overdose in the 100 block of W Kisling Ave., Brownsville. The incident seemed to be accidental and non-criminal.

10:44 p.m. — Breann Vercauteren, 32, of Junction City, was booked on two warrants: one for theft I from the Linn County Circuit Court, and another from the Albany Municipal Court for failure to appear at LaSalle St./S 2nd St., Harrisburg. Report taken.

11:49 p.m. — Deputy responded to a motorist assist in the 23000 block of N Coburg Rd., Harrisburg. While en route, the vehicle caught on fire and was destroyed. The occupant exited the vehicle safely as the fire started. Report taken.

Wednesday, March 18

7:47 a.m. — Deputy spoke to six classes at Central Linn Junior High and High School about law enforcement careers.

8:40 a.m. — Citizen reported a front license plate

that was stolen about three months ago in the 34200 block of Powell Hills Loop, Shedd. No suspect info. Report taken.

8:51 a.m. — Deputies responded to a suicidal individual in the 100 block of W Kisling Ave., Brownsville. The person was transported to a local hospital for a police officer mental health hold. Report taken.

9:53 a.m. — Deputy conducted a welfare check on an elderly woman in the 600 block of N 8th St., Harrisburg. The woman was taken to the hospital. Non-Criminal. Report taken.

10:20 a.m. — Deputy responded to a report of trespassing in the 500 block of Spaulding Ave., Brownsville. Investigation ongoing, report taken.

3:01 p.m. — Stephen Yingling, 63, of Brownsville, was arrested for Assault IV and Menacing in the 100 block of Kisling Ave., Brownsville. Stephen was booked at the Linn County Jail without incident. Report taken.

4:14 p.m. — Deputy attempted to contact a dog owner by phone about dog violations in the 800 block of River Ave., Brownsville.

4:41 p.m. — Caller reported items valued at \$400 were stolen from his vehicle while it was parked at his work in the 34300 block of Lake Creek Dr., Brownsville. Report taken.

4:53 p.m. — Citizen reported a juvenile being harassed by an adult. The deputy conducted interviews, notified school staff, and determined it was non-criminal. Statements were documented.

4:58 p.m. — Jeffery Zeller, 42, of Albany, was cited for

failing to drive on the right side of a divided highway at Plainview Dr./Parker Rd., Shedd.

6:46 p.m. — Caller reported a parking issue in the 800 block of Kirk Ave., Brownsville. Occupants were notified.

6:58 p.m. — Deputy tagged a non-functioning vehicle for removal that was blocking five parking spots at McKercher Park in the 37800 block of Hwy 228, Brownsville.

7:54 p.m. — Deputies investigate bank account fraud on the 500 block of W 4th St., Halsey. Report taken.

7:57 p.m. — Operator missed a corner and drove off the roadway at Hwy 34/McFarland Rd., Tangent. No injuries. The operator was pulled out and continued on her way.

8:01 p.m. — Caller reported a runaway juvenile in the 500 block of S 6th St., Harrisburg. Deputies found the juvenile at a friend's house and returned them to their parents' residence. Report taken.

11:30 p.m. — Linsey Mae Northrup, 36, of Brownsville, was arrested on an outstanding warrant at W Bishop Way/Loucks Way, Brownsville. Linsey also was cited for driving while suspended at a violation level.

Thursday, March 19

5:12 a.m. — Jared Scott Swenson, 42, of Sweet Home, was cited for speeding at 64 in a 45-mph zone and for failing to renew vehicle registration at W Bishop Way/Pearl St., Brownsville.

9:30 a.m. — a lockdown drill was conducted with ADP at the Tangent Elementary School.

10:13 a.m. — DHS 307 referral reported in the 1000

block of S 5th St., Harrisburg. No public narrative provided. Report taken.

10:31 a.m. — Deputy responded to a report of a theft where some power cords were cut from camper trailers in the 30700 block of Diamond Hill Dr., Harrisburg. The cords were valued at about \$70. Investigation ongoing, report taken.

11:43 a.m. — Matthew Hough, 35, of Harrisburg, was cited for driving uninsured in the 200 block of Schooling St., Harrisburg.

12:44 p.m. — Nathaniel Miranda, 30, of Junction City, was cited for not wearing his seat belt and received a warning for several other violations in the 200 block of Macy St., Harrisburg.

12:55 p.m. — Deputy investigated a livestock at large matter in the 37100 block of Courtney Creek Dr., Brownsville.

1:23 p.m. — Chloe Straub, 22, of Coburg, was cited for using a cell phone while driving in the 200 block of S 3rd St., Harrisburg.

3:45 p.m. — Caller requested deputy to warn and document juveniles threatening each other in the 1000 block of S 6th St., Harrisburg. Non-criminal.

4:03 p.m. — Caller reported identity theft in the 31900 block of N Lake Creek Dr., Tangent. Investigation ongoing, report taken.

8:23 p.m. — Caller reported a runaway in the 33900 block of Hwy 99E, Tangent. Report taken.

11:00 p.m. — Caller reported a disorderly person in the 700 block of LaSalle St., Harrisburg. Deputies learned it was an intoxicated male who eventually went to bed on his own. ☀

PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 11

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

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Cobra Cheer: A Legacy in Motion

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer

"Hey, let's hear it, for the red and the blue!" The chant voiced by the Central Linn Junior High Rec Cheer team echoed through three Oregon competitions this winter. On January 17, this squad of five — fifth through eighth graders — took home a second-place plaque in Sweet Home. They battled illness and nerves, proving that courage and physical strength are the foundations of modern cheerleading.

As a Cobra Cheer alumna (1995–1999), I see my own history in these girls. I arrived in eighth grade as a Seattle "outsider" thrust into a land of Wranglers and line dancing. Joining the squad under Coach Glenna Boshart provided more than an extracurricular activity; it gave me a family that cared for me in ways I had never experienced.

Historically, cheer was often the only high-profile athletic outlet for Oregon girls before Title IX. In Halsey, that foundation was built by leaders like Megan Day, who grew a squad of four into a K–12 powerhouse of 52 and brought home a state title. Today, Athletic Director Rodney Baney notes cheerleaders — the "ultimate hype teams" — represent their school on a national level. Closer to home, "their presence ensures a lively atmosphere which in turn can make games more exciting and create higher attendance," Baney says, emphasizing their role in uniting the student body.

The program's future rests on a "pipeline" model starting long before high school. Chriszma Erickson, Junior High and CLRA coach, aims to

"prepare students for a bright future in senior cheer and beyond." High School Coach Heidi Donahue reinforces this, stating that "starting the love of cheerleading at the elementary age is crucial to strengthening the amount of athletes" at the varsity level.

While the path is hopeful, we must protect it. Athletes have spoken up about challenges like social media bullying and the outdated "not a sport" stigma. As a community, it is our responsibility to ensure youth find a nurturing environment during these influential years. We are moving toward a future where athletes are respected for their strength — a shift supported by the IOC's 2021 recognition of cheer as an Olympic sport.

Beyond the Cobra Dome, scholarship opportunities are available through the OCCA and university grants, rewarding elite technical skills developed in Halsey. More information is available on The Brownsville Times Facebook page.

To the boys and girls of Central Linn, we invite you to reimagine what is possible. Whether you are an "outsider" looking for your voice or an athlete seeking a challenge, there is a place for you here. We are rebuilding the family of support and joy I found thirty years ago. Join us in creating a future where our voices boom, our stunts thrill, and every Cobra knows they belong. Sign-ups for 2026–2027 varsity cheer at Central Linn High School are open now — come find your footing with us. 🌀



EVA WADA

Parents and future cheerleaders, if you have never been on the award mat at a national competition, you are missing out. The floor shook with hundreds of enthusiastic athletes dancing and singing, chanting together, "We are proud of you!" Left to right from floor up: Maci Kennedy, Syrha Erickson, Kim Jacobsen, and flyers left to right, Maddie Chance, and Roxy McMillen.

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