



Small Seeds, Big Impact: Young Student Inspires Halsey Library Pollinator Garden

By Larissa Gangle, Halsey Correspondent



Halsey Librarian Kaitlyn Watts, left, and Central Linn Elementary student Aria Fagan stand beside the newly installed pollinator garden outside the Halsey Public Library. Aria's advocacy for pollinators helped inspire the community project.

A small idea planted by a young community member has blossomed into something much bigger for Halsey.

In May 2025, Aria Fagan, then a kindergartner at Central Linn Elementary, stood before the Halsey City Council with a message well beyond her years: pollinators matter. Passionate about protecting bees and other pollinators, Aria shared why they are essential to our environment and what communities can do to help. She didn't stop there — Aria also created and distributed pollinator-friendly seed packets to classmates and community members, encouraging others to take part.

Nearly a year later, her efforts have come full circle.

In April 2026, the Halsey Public Library unveiled its newly installed pollinator garden, a project inspired by Aria's advocacy and brought to life through the work of Librarian Kaitlyn Watts and the Parks & Library Committee. The garden was celebrated during a Pollinator Garden Party held the last week of April. Students from Central Linn Elementary participated in field trips to the library, helped plant seeds, painted rocks for a decorative rock garden, and enjoyed a pollinator-themed story time with City Council President Michele Isom.

Aria's work is far from finished. She is currently developing a proposal for a pollinator education program at Central Linn Elementary, with ambitions that extend well beyond her own school. Her goal is to expand the program throughout Central Linn Schools, then county-wide, and eventually

POLLINATOR continued on page 3

Eat Fresh — Shop Farmers Markets

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist

Support your local farmer. Eat local. Eat fresh. Farmers' markets are starting up for the season. Here are some local offerings.

The Sweet Home market at 1141 12th Avenue, next to the library, is open Tuesdays from 2–6 p.m.

The Lebanon Downtown Farmers' Market is held at 971 Park Avenue (next to Ralston Park) on Thursdays from 2–6 p.m. For details on both the Sweet Home and Lebanon markets, visit <https://sweethomefarmersmarket.org> or call 541-418-2603 for more information.

Tangent's market is at 33977 Highway 99 E, at Baxter's Brew and Riverland Rentals, and is open on the second Saturday of the month through August, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/tangentfarmersmarket> for more information.



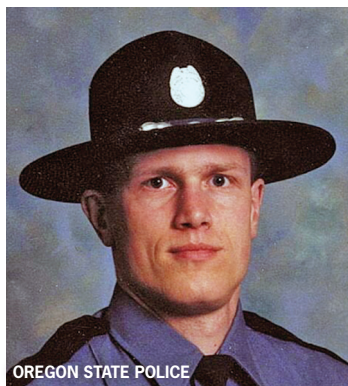
The Brownsville Thursday Market is at 185 Main Street, across from Dari Market, and the season begins on May 14, open from 3–6 p.m. More details can be found at <https://www.calapooiafoodalliance.org>.

Each market is different, but in these early days, expect to find vegetable starts you can plant yourself, such as salad greens or other early cool-weather crops. Baked goods and preserves will be available, and perhaps local crafts. Be sure to bring small bills and a bag to carry home your treasures. 🌱

Peace Officers Memorial Day: Honoring Service Close to Home

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

As this week's national observance of Peace Officers Memorial Day arrives on May 15, the reflections it calls for feel especially close to home in rural Oregon communities like ours.



Oregon State Police Sgt. John Burright, shown around 2001. Burright died in 2021 from injuries sustained in a 2001 line-of-duty crash near Albany.

On May 5, Oregonians gathered for the annual Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial ceremony, where officers, families, and community members honored those who lost their lives in the line of duty. The ceremony serves as a state-level remembrance, recognizing the names etched into Oregon's history and the families and colleagues who continue to carry that loss.

Among those remembered in recent years is John Burright, whose story carries particular weight in the Willamette Valley. Burright passed away in 2021, two decades after being critically injured while assisting a motorist along Interstate 5 near Albany. That night in 2001 also claimed the lives of Sr. Trooper Maria Mignano of the Oregon State Police and Officer Jason Hoerauf of the Albany Police Department. Their loss, and Burright's long struggle afterward, remain a powerful reminder of the risks officers face even during routine acts of service.

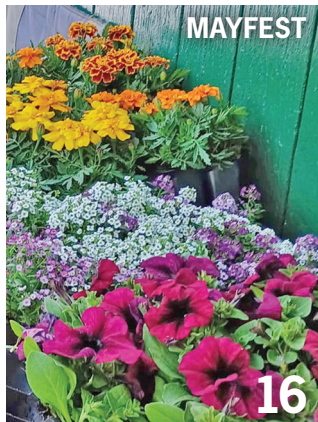
OFFICERS continued on page 3

INSIDE

TEACUP & THISTLE

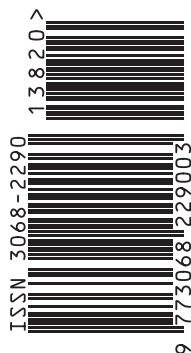


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ONGOING EVENTS

Sunny Nights Swim & Deep Water Aerobics

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays • 6 p.m.
Lebanon Community Pool, 1800 5th St., Lebanon
Led by longtime instructor Debbie, the ongoing sessions offer low-impact exercise, social connection, and a welcoming group of members, both longtime and newcomers alike.
lebanon.aquatic@gmail.com • 541-451-8551.

Lebanon Swim Club

Tuesday & Thursday afternoons • Ongoing
Lebanon Community Pool, 1800 S. 5th St., Lebanon
Youth are invited to join the Lebanon Swim Club, a year-round program focused on building swimming skills, fitness, and friendships. A summer session may also be offered.
541-451-8551 • Lebanon.Aquatic@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday Swim Lessons

Saturdays, through May 30 • 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
Lebanon Community Pool, 1800 S. 5th St., Lebanon
<https://www.lebanonpool.org> • 541-451-8551
lebanon.aquatic@gmail.com

Brownsville Thursday Market

Thursday, May 14 • 3–6 p.m.
185 Main St., Brownsville
The Brownsville Thursday Market returns May 14 at its location across from Dari Market. Shop local vendors and learn more about the community market initiative through the Calapooia Food Alliance.
<https://www.calapooiafoodalliance.org>

Central Linn Elementary Spring Carnival

Friday, May 15 • 4–7 p.m.
Central Linn Elementary School, 239 W 2nd St., Halsey
Central Linn Elementary School’s Parent Teacher Club will host its annual Spring Carnival featuring more than a dozen games and activities, including inflatables, mini golf, giant Jenga, life-sized Tetris, balloon pop, bean bag toss, and more. Admission is \$5 per person and includes unlimited game access. The event will also include a class art auction, basket raffles, and food available for purchase. Proceeds support field trips, student incentives, activities, and enrichment opportunities.

Linn County Lamb & Wool Fair

Friday, May 15 – Sunday, May 17 • FREE
Downtown Scio and multiple locations throughout town
The 2026 Linn County Lamb & Wool Fair returns with this year’s theme, “The Wild & Woolly West.” Events include the Northwest Championship Sheepdog Trials, a community parade, Lamb Trot 5K, live music, fiber arts demonstrations, quilt and flower shows, a petting zoo, talent show, tractor show, vendors, food, and more. Friday and Saturday evening concerts on the Carol Bates stage feature Muddy Creek Band, Surefire Music, Willamette Strays, and the Katrina Elizabeth Band.
<https://www.lambfair.com/schedule>

Central Linn Community Foundation Grant Awards Celebration

Friday, May 16 • 6 p.m.
Community Room, 255 N Main St., Brownsville
Upstairs in Brownsville City Hall
The Central Linn Community Foundation will host its annual Grant Awards Celebration featuring dessert, beverages, and recognition of local organizations receiving community grants. Residents are invited to learn more about projects supporting education, food assistance, recreation, and other community programs throughout Central Linn.

Mountain Top Mud Bogs Weekend

Saturday–Sunday, May 16–17 • 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
38919 S. Ruby Loop, Scio • 541-981-0401.
A full weekend of off-road action, featuring mud pits, trails, rock obstacles, and the region’s toughest “Bounty Hole,” with runs beginning at noon Saturday. Spectators welcome. Admission is \$20, \$10 for veterans, and free for kids 12 and under. Weekend passes are \$30; camping passes (including weekend admission) are \$100. Food trucks and vendors on site. See page 13 for more details.
<https://www.facebook.com/mttopmudbogs>

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. • 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.

Hope in Halsey Al-Anon Weekly Meeting

Fridays • Doors open at 6:45 p.m.; meeting 7–8 p.m.

Willamette Valley Dozer Day

Saturday, May 16 • 10 a.m.–5 p.m. • \$20/30
Knife River Training Center, 35973 Kennel Rd. SE, Albany
Kids can operate real dozers, excavators, and other heavy equipment under the supervision of trained operators. Designed for ages 2–12, with some flexibility for older children. Last entry at 4 p.m. Free parking on site; no smoking or pets allowed. Admission is \$20 per vehicle when purchased online in advance or \$30 per vehicle at the gate on the day of the event.
<https://wv.dozerday.org>

Preserving Fruit, Jams & Jellies Class

Saturday, May 16 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. • \$16/person
Benton County Fairgrounds
OSU Extension Service Linn and Benton Counties will host a hands-on food preservation class focused on preserving fruit, jams, and jellies.
<https://beav.es/NfD>.

The Story of the Lebanon Strawberry Festival

Tuesday, May 19 • 6:30 p.m.
Lebanon Public Library, 55 Academy St., Lebanon
Victoria Dobrokovsky, historian for the Lebanon Strawberry Festival, will present a program exploring the history and traditions of Lebanon’s longtime community celebration. Sponsored by the Lebanon Museum and the Lebanon Public Library. Open to the public.
<https://www.lebanonoregon.gov/233/Library>
541-258-4926

Culpepper & Merriweather Circus

Wednesday, May 20 • 5 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church of Brownsville, 27910 Seven Mile Ln.
The Circus returns to Brownsville under the big top, sponsored by the Central Linn Lions Club. The 90-minute family show features aerialists, tightrope acts, big cats, dogs, fire eating, and more.
The midway opens one hour before each show with concessions, pony rides, face painting, and inflatables. Discount advance tickets are available at the Brownsville and Halsey libraries, Halsey City Hall, Diamond K Sales, and Sharing Hands. Day-of-show tickets are \$17 for adults and \$10 for children and seniors. Children under 2 are free.

Eagle Park Ribbon Cutting & Celebration

Thursday, May 21 • 3–6 p.m. • Ribbon cutting at 4:30 p.m.
Eagle Park, Harrisburg
Celebrate the reopening of Eagle Park with an open house and ribbon cutting by the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce. Visitors can explore the upper park trail, ADA pathway to the riverfront, picnic areas and new interactive signs highlighting local history, nature and

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Park in front of the building. The group meets in the back room; walk down the hallway. The last Friday of the month is a Recovery Night book study.

Breaking Free Weekly AA Meeting

Fridays • Doors open at 6:45 p.m.; meeting 7–8 p.m.
Halsey City Hall, First Floor, 100 W Halsey St.
Park in front of the building. This group meets in the front room.

American Legion Bingo Night

Saturdays • 6 p.m.
American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184
132 N. Main St., Brownsville
Bingo is a community fundraiser supporting programs such as Quilts of Valor and local senior activities. All are invited to play and support the Post.

the park’s connection to Morse Bros. The park gate will remain open through fall.

Weston A. Price Foundation Meet, Greet & Eat

Thursday, May 21 • 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Natural Grocers Kitchen Demo Area, 1235 NW 10th St., Corvallis
The Linn/Benton Counties chapter of the Weston A. Price Foundation will host a casual gathering featuring food samples and information about traditional foods and healthy living. Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share along with a list of ingredients for allergy-sensitive guests. Booklets will be available for purchase for \$5, along with Weston A. Price Foundation products.
WAPFLinnBenton@gmail.com • 541-954-2047

‘Final Cut’ — Interactive Murder Mystery

Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23 • 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 23 • 2:30 p.m. matinee
Albany Civic Theater, 111 First Ave. W, Albany
An interactive murder mystery by Susan Haley directed by Jillian Alden and Casper Oliver. Set at a Hollywood gala, audience members become part of the mystery as betrayal, drama, and murder unfold around them. Guests are encouraged to dress up, interact with actors, and help solve the crime. Doors open 45 minutes before showtime. Admission is \$18.
<https://www.albanycivic.org> • 541-928-4603.

See what’s happening and add your event:
<https://brownsvilletimes.org/community-calendar>

WEDS • MAY 20

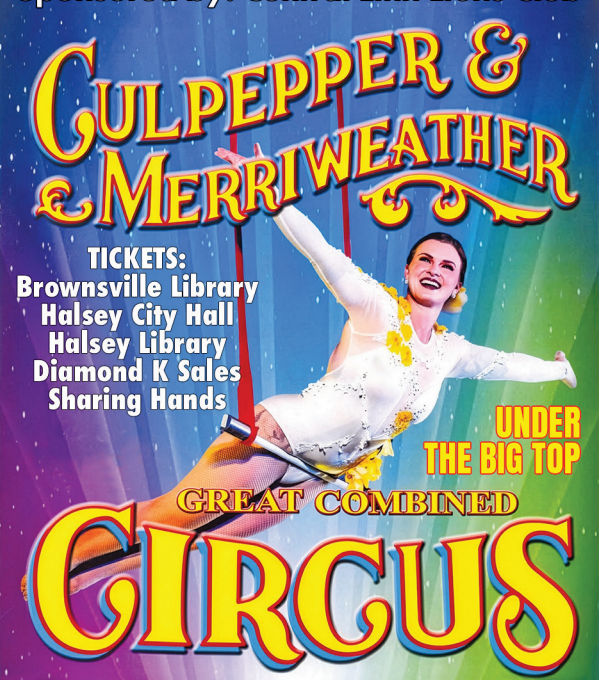
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OF BROWNVILLE

SHOW TIMES: 5:00 & 7:30 PM

Sponsored by: Central Linn Lions Club

GULPEPPER & MERRIWEATHER



TICKETS:
Brownsville Library
Halsey City Hall
Halsey Library
Diamond K Sales
Sharing Hands

UNDER THE BIG TOP

GREAT COMBINED

CIRCUS

POLLINATOR *continued from cover*

across the state and nation. As she has repeatedly told her mother, Stacy Strauss, over the past four years, she hopes to “save all the bees, in all the world in her lifetime.”



LARISSA GANGLE

Noah DeLoach, left, and Brodie Gangle of Ms. Moffitt's first-grade class scatter wildflower seeds in the Halsey Public Library's new pollinator garden on April 28 during a class field trip connected to the garden project.

The Halsey Library extends its sincere thanks to Spaeth Lumber, Central Bark, and Pennington Seed for their generous donations of materials and to the Halsey Public Works Department for constructing and installing the garden beds. The project was 100 percent funded by donations.

What began as one student's passion has grown into a lasting community space that will support pollinators for years to come. Aria's story is a reminder that even the smallest seeds can create meaningful change.

Coming this summer, the Halsey Public Library will continue to build on this theme with its 2026 Summer Reading Program, Plant a Seed, Read, which ties in seamlessly with the new pollinator garden. The program will feature weekly events each Saturday from July 11 through August 8, including a visit from Caesar the No Drama Llama, a special presentation by the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, and more. Program details coming soon at <https://www.halseyor.gov>. ☀

LINN COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

Student Art Show Invites Young Artists to Celebrate American Spirit at Pioneer Picnic

BROWNSVILLE — Young artists from across the region are invited to participate in the Linn County Pioneer Association's Student Art Show at this June's 139th annual Pioneer Picnic.

The show encourages students to explore their creativity across a range of artistic media, including painting, photography, mixed media, drawing, and sculpture. This year's theme, “250 Years of American Spirit,” invites participants to reflect on American history, pioneer heritage, or the enduring spirit of community and creativity.

Organizers say students may also draw inspiration from the history of Linn County's pioneers and the traditions observed at the annual Pioneer Picnic.

The competition will feature separate divisions for elementary, middle school, and high school students, with awards for the top three entries in each age category. Two additional honors — People's Choice and LCPA Choice — will also be awarded. Judging will be conducted by a panel of impartial artists, and the awards are sponsored by The Frame Shop.

Artwork submissions will be accepted on Thursday, June 18, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Flower Building in Pioneer Park. The public display will remain open June 19–21, with public voting ending at noon on June 21.

Artists are asked to retrieve their work on Sunday between 3:30 and 4 p.m.

Each piece must include a label listing the student's name, parent or guardian's name, grade, artwork title, medium used, and a contact phone number. Organizers noted that they are not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen artwork.

Students needing access to art supplies or assistance with printing artwork may contact Al Severson at The Frame Shop at 541-974-5616 or Debbie Wyne at 541-602-0945.

Organizers hope the event will inspire creativity while celebrating this year's Pioneer Picnic theme and the community's local heritage. ☀

OFFICERS *continued from cover*

faces at school events, and part of the fabric of the community. A deputy with the Linn County Sheriff's Office might stop to help on a quiet country road, or a local officer may be someone you see regularly around town.

Peace Officers Memorial Day, observed nationally on May 15, builds on that remembrance. It offers communities across the country a shared moment to pause and reflect on the risks officers take and the sacrifices they make in service to others. While the observance is national, its meaning is deeply personal in places where connections run deep.

The names honored — whether at the state memorial or across the country — represent lives of service cut short. They leave behind families, friends, and communities that continue to feel their absence. Though those losses may happen elsewhere, the responsibility carried by those who serve today remains the same in Linn County and across rural Oregon communities like ours.

Local recognition may be simple — a flag lowered to half-staff, a moment of silence, a patrol vehicle parked in reflection — but those gestures carry weight. They remind us that service and sacrifice are not distant ideas tied only to larger cities or headlines. They are part of life here, too.

As May 15 arrives, the message remains the same: remember those who did not come home, support those who continue to serve, and value the connections that help keep rural Oregon communities like ours strong. ☀

CENTRAL LINN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

CLCF Invites Community to Annual Grant Awards Celebration

The Central Linn Community Foundation will host its annual Grant Awards Celebration on Friday, May 16, at the Brownsville Community Room upstairs in City Hall.

Community members are invited to enjoy dessert and beverages while learning more about the organizations and projects supported through local grant funding. The event begins at 6 p.m.

Each year, the foundation provides grants to organizations that demonstrate a commitment to improving the health, vitality, education, and quality of life throughout Central Linn communities.

Recent grant recipients include the Brownsville Rec Association for softball equipment, Sharing Hands, Inc. for food purchases, the Calapooia Food Alliance, and the Central Linn Booster Club. In 2026, The Brownsville Times also received grant support to help offset printing costs.

The foundation relies on donations from community members to continue supporting local projects and nonprofit efforts.

Organizers encourage residents to attend the celebration to learn more about the impact of community giving and the programs helping make Central Linn a stronger place to live. ☀

Teacup and Thistle Offers Curated Vintage Finds

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

BROWNSVILLE — A charming roadside thrift stand is bringing vintage style and family tradition to the city.

Teacup and Thistle, located at 340 E. Blakely Ave., is a self-serve vintage stand curated by Brittiney McClelland and her mother, Darlene. The pair opened the stand in October 2025 to share their love of treasure hunting and vintage home décor with the community.

“We enjoy finding vintage treasures during our time together,” McClelland said.

The stand features carefully selected home décor items, including baskets, dishes, seasonal pieces, and other vintage-inspired treasures. Everything is individually priced, and shoppers can pay via the on-site cash box or via Venmo.

McClelland said the goal is to keep most items affordable, with most priced under \$20. During



Teacup and Thistle, a vintage thrift stand on E. Blakely Avenue in Brownsville, offers curated home décor and vintage finds selected by Brittiney McClelland and her mother.

special seasonal openings — such as a holiday-themed weekend in November featuring Christmas treasures — some larger or specialty items may be priced slightly higher.

The wooden stand itself reflects the cozy, cottage-style feel of the items inside, with displays that rotate regularly as new finds are added. McClelland said that every item is personally curated by the mother-daughter team.

Teacup and Thistle is open Fridays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., weather permitting. Because the stand is outdoors, it closes when it rains.

The thrift stand is at 340 E. Blakely Ave. in Brownsville. Community members can also follow updates and featured items via posts in the “Livin’ in Brownsville” Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1093344914651765>. ☀

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LINN COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE

2026-2027 Linn County Budget Slated for Adoption in June

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — After three days of presentations by elected officials and department heads, the Linn County Budget Committee approved a proposed budget of \$299,208,722 on April 30.

The current FY 2025-2026 operating budget is \$287.2 million. The budget will not become official until it is formally adopted by the Linn County Board of Commissioners at a June meeting.

Kerry Johnson chaired this year’s Budget Committee and Rex Watson was vice-chair. Fellow community member was Dustin Welters, and the committee was rounded out by Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger, and Will Tucker.

In the annual Budget Message presented on day one of the hearings, it was noted that the goal was “maintaining and improving services to Linn County citizens.”

The budget was based in part on a projected property valuation growth of 3.5 percent, which would provide an estimated net total of \$16.9 million in revenue to the General Fund and approximately \$59 million for the Law Enforcement Fund, an increase of about \$800,000 and \$3 million over the current budget year. Other revenues are primarily from dedicated pass-through funds, such as those for the Health Department and Road Department.

Personnel costs are expected to increase by about 6 percent due to Cost of Living Adjustments in salaries, as well as increases for payroll and insurance costs.

The budget reflects a decrease of 2.27 personnel, bringing the total to 757.47 FTE staffing.

The following funds were approved by the committee: **General Fund:** \$57,661,254; **Road Fund:** \$53,606,262; **Fair Fund:** \$860,000; **Law Library:** \$347,326; **General Grants Fund:** \$18,827,915; **Bicycle and Pedestrian Fund:** \$896,076; **Corner Preservation Fund:** \$430,394; **Law Enforcement Levy:** \$58,987,584; **Historical Fund:** \$50,680; **County Forest Park Fund:** \$1,561,500; **Health Fund:** \$97,568,588; **County School Fund:** \$1,966,100; **Internal Service Fund:** \$6,445,043. **Total:** \$299,208,722.

Permanent Tax Rate: \$1.2736 per \$1,000 of property valuation. **Law Enforcement Levy:** \$3.08 per \$1,000 of property tax valuation.

4-H and Extension Service District

The 4-H and Extension Service District Budget Committee, chaired by Audrey Raschein, also approved its 2026-2027 proposed budget. It is scheduled for adoption by the Board of Commissioners at a June meeting.

The approved budget is \$967,823. The funds will be used to pay for salaries, \$390,285; other payroll expenses, \$223,540; student and intermittent salaries, \$25,000; and services and supplies, \$102,548. The permanent tax rate was set at seven cents per \$1,000 of property tax valuation. ☼

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Receive Juvenile Department Report

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — In March, the Linn-Benton Juvenile Department held 23 young people from Linn County, six from Benton County, two from Marion County and one from Lincoln County, Director Torri Lynn told the Board of Commissioners at their April 28 meeting.

The average length of stay for Linn County youth was 8.08 days; 4.14 days for Benton County youth; 13 days for the one Lincoln County youth; and 2.50 days for Marion County’s two young people.

There were 60 referrals in March and there are 185 young people in the Probation Unit. Of those, 31 are considered high-risk.

The intervention specialist is working with 144 youth and the victim advocate made 114 contacts.

The eight-member Tier I work crew completed 133.5 hours of community service in 13 project days compared to 10 youth completing 202 hours of community service during the same time in 2025.

Some 23 young people in the Tier II work crew completed 528.25 hours of community service in 19 days, compared to 29 youth completing 662.5 hours in 2025.

The Community Wildfire Risk Reduction program saw five youth complete 78.25 hours of service. ☼

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners OK Transportation Grant Requests

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — At their May 5 meeting, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger, and Will Tucker approved applying for \$1,266,932 in grants from the Oregon Department of Transportation to support transportation programs in Albany, Lebanon, and Sweet Home.

The requests were presented by Reagan Maudlin, Linn County Special/Rural Transportation Coordinator.

In a written report, Maudlin said the individual grant requests have previously been approved by the Linn County Transportation Advisory Committee.

If approved, the funds would be distributed during the 2027-2029 biennium.

Grants would assist the following programs:

5310 Small Urban Grant: City of Albany, \$324,157, for the Call-A-Ride senior and disabled transportation program.

5310 Surface Transportation Block Grant: Albany Call-A-Ride, \$45,000; Chamberlin House, \$12,000; Lebanon LINX, \$74,616; Lebanon LINX, \$312,651; Oregon Mennonite Residential Services, \$9,691; Senior Citizens of Sweet Home, \$217,272; Sweet Home Dial-A-Bus, \$44,865; Sunshine Industries: \$45,995. Total: \$762,090.

5310 Rural Grant: Senior Citizens of Sweet Home Inc.: \$180,685.

In other business the commissioners:

- Approved the purchase of 15 night vision goggles and other ancillary equipment for the Linn County Sheriff’s Office, totaling \$207,255.
- Awarded the Whispering Falls Campground pavement project to Jesse Rodriguez Construction of Silverton with a bid of \$166,053. This project will be funded by the U.S. Forest Service through the Good Neighbor Authority Agreement. This campground is managed and maintained by the Linn County Parks & Recreation Department.
- Approved a contract with Douglas Burton of Re/Max Integrity Real Estate to list certain properties that Linn County has received in lieu of back taxes. A new Oregon law specifies that real estate agents or brokers are required for the sale of properties that are zoned residential and were the primary residence of the former owner at the time the taxes were assessed. Tax-foreclosed properties being auctioned must also be listed in a multiple listing service (MLS) for at least 30 days prior to the auction.
- Approved the purchase of a generator and two transfer switches for installation at the Willamette Health Center Campus in Albany. The total cost is \$72,630.
- Announced that a management staff meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 6, in the courthouse basement meeting room.
- Announced that the 2026-2027 Linn County budget and the 4-H and Extension Service District budget are scheduled for adoption at the June 23 board meeting.
- Were updated about the Friends of Gap Road activities by Troy Jones of Harrisburg. The group opposes development of a large-scale solar panel project called the Muddy Creek Energy Park south of Brownsville and east of Harrisburg. Jones asked the commissioners to consider supporting a code revision to no longer allow conditional use permitting of solar projects on all properties zoned Exclusive Farm Use in the county. He said Marion County has banned the siting of commercial battery energy storage projects in rural areas.
- Announced that a tour of the courthouse, which was built in 1939, will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, as part of National Historic Preservation Month. ☼

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CITY OF BROWNSVILLE

Budget Hearing Set for May 28

BROWNSVILLE — The Brownsville Budget Committee met April 30 and finalized its recommendations for the City’s proposed 2026–27 fiscal year budget. The budget covers the period from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

The proposed budget and related documents are available for public review online at the City of Brownsville Budget Committee page at <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/budgetcommittee> or at Brownsville City Hall, 255 N. Main St., during regular business hours.

The Brownsville City Council will hold the official Budget Hearing on Thursday, May 28, at 7 p.m. during its regularly scheduled council meeting at Brownsville City Hall. The second State Revenue Sharing hearing will also take place during that meeting, with discussion of the possible uses of State Revenue Sharing funds. Members of the public may attend and provide comment.

The City Council is scheduled to consider adopting the FY 2026–27 budget during its regular meeting on June 23, 2026.

For special accommodations, contact Brownsville City Hall at 541-466-5880 at least 48 hours before the meeting. 🌞

CITY OF HALSEY

Public Notice — Trees and Noxious Vegetation

HALSEY — All Residents and Property Owners in the City of Halsey, Notice is hereby given: Per Halsey Municipal Code 5.05.150 Trees and Noxious Vegetation, between May 15 and September 30 of any year, no owner or person in charge of property shall allow noxious vegetation to be on the property or in the right-of-way of a public thoroughfare abutting the property. An owner or person in charge of property shall mow, cut, dig, or otherwise remove noxious vegetation as often as needed to prevent it from becoming unsightly, from becoming a fire hazard, or an obstruction to a public right-of-way.

This includes mowing the public right-of-way bordering your property

The term “noxious vegetation” does include, at any time between May 15 and September 30: (a) Weeds more than 10 inches high; (b) Grass more than 10 inches high; (c) Poison oak; (d) Poison ivy; (e) Rampantly growing plants or vines (such as blackberries or bamboo) that: (i) Cross property lines without permission of the adjacent property owner; (ii) Cause damage to fences or structures; (iii) Cross onto the public right-of-way, obstruct vision or impede travel on any part of a street or sidewalk; or (iv) Constitute a fire hazard as defined in an applicable provision of the State Fire Code. The City is willing to abate the nuisance on a particular parcel of property at the request of the owner for a fee of \$100.00 per hour. Even in the absence of such request, the City may choose to abate such nuisances and charge the cost of doing so to the owner or person in charge of the property, or the property itself as a lien.

The abatement procedures are not exclusive but are in addition to any penalty or procedure allowed through ordinance of the city or by state law. The city may seek nuisance enforcement through a citation proceeding in addition to an abatement remedy. (HMC 5.05.460)

Contact City Hall if you have any questions: 100 W. Halsey Street, Halsey, OR 97348. Email contact@halseyor.gov or call 541-369-2522. 🌞

BROWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Water Report, Chamber Agreement Highlight Council Meeting

By Sravya Tadepalli, Staff Writer

BROWNSVILLE — The Brownsville City Council received updates on water quality, state legislation, and community partnerships during its April 28 meeting.

Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink presented information from the City’s 2025 Annual Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report. He said Brownsville continues to meet or exceed all federal drinking water standards despite new reporting requirements added by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Frink said that many of the new rules applied only to larger cities, while Brownsville was already meeting most of the remaining requirements.

The council also heard updates from City Administrator Scott McDowell about the 2026 Oregon Legislative Session. MacDowell expressed concern about SB 1517, a new law limiting liability waivers used by recreational activity providers.

“There’s risk management and liability problems you could drive semi trucks through,” McDowell said.

McDowell also highlighted the success of the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition, which helped pass legislation that made it easier for small cities to qualify for infrastructure matching grants.

The council unanimously approved a one-year Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Brownsville and the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce for the use of Pioneer Park during Chamber events, such as the Citywide Garage Sale and Antique Faire.

Council also approved a resolution allowing the city to remain eligible for State Revenue Sharing funds and passed another resolution honoring Don Andrews for 34 years of service on the Planning Commission and 18 years on the Budget Committee.

An ordinance establishing a standard process for public memorials in city parks was also approved. The new policy limits memorial plaques to designated benches in Pioneer Park and Library Park and ends the practice of planting memorial trees, which city staff said has posed maintenance challenges.

Additional business included recognizing the Linn County Pioneer Association and issuing proclamations declaring May as Mental Health Month, Older Americans Month, and Military Appreciation Month.

Linn County Sheriff’s Office Sgt. Frambes also warned the council about a rise in fraud cases targeting elderly residents. He said scammers are convincing victims to withdraw cash and buy gift cards, often leading to significant financial losses. Frambes also discussed the rise in overdoses linked to fentanyl and other drugs in Linn County.

The council authorized staff to advertise an opening on the Planning Commission. There were no citizen comments. 🌞

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Food donations may be dropped off at 107 W. Bishop Way in Brownsville during pantry hours Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Most-needed items include canned foods, pasta, cereal, bread, toiletries, and laundry soap. Please do not donate expired items. More information is available at <https://sharinghands.org>



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 **MY HEARING CENTERS**

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

ALBANY — Linn County Mental Health is recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month, highlighting the importance of mental health and the availability of local services that support community members.

In Oregon, approximately one in five adults experiences a mental health condition each year. Linn County Mental Health served more than 2,500 individuals and provided more than 40,000 hours of clinical services to Linn County residents over the last year, reflecting the growing need for behavioral health support across our community.

Mental health is a key part of overall health and well-being. Linn County Mental Health provides services to individuals and families across the county, including outpatient treatment, psychiatric services, crisis response, community-based supports, and early intervention services.

“Mental Health Awareness Month is an important opportunity to remind our community that help is available and that no one has to face challenges alone,” said Sandy Minta, PsyD, Program Manager of Linn County Mental Health. “We see every day that with the right support, recovery is possible and people can move forward with hope.”

Residents are encouraged to take simple steps this month to support mental health, including checking in on friends and family, learning about available resources, and seeking help when needed.

“There is hope, and there is help,” Minta said. “When we stay connected and support one another, we build a stronger and healthier Linn County.”

Linn County Health Services staff will participate at the following events: LBCC Pride Event, May 26; Sources of Strength Fair, May 27; and Linn Benton Lincoln ESD Resource Fair, June 4.

For more information about Linn County Mental Health services, visit <https://www.linncountyhealth.org/services/mental-health>.

Individuals in crisis can call or text 988 for immediate support.

SAMARITAN HEALTH SERVICES

Town Halls on Proposed MultiCare Affiliation

Samaritan Health Services will host two upcoming community town halls to discuss its proposed affiliation with MultiCare Health System and gather public input.

Samaritan President and CEO Marty Cahill and other leaders will provide updates and answer questions about the proposal, which Samaritan says could help expand services, improve access to care, and support long-term sustainability.

Two local town halls are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, May 19, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Boulder Falls Event Center in Lebanon
- Friday, May 22, from noon to 1 p.m. in a virtual online session

Register at <https://samhealth.org/about-samaritan/our-organization/samaritan-multicare-affiliation>.



Sandy Minta, PsyD, Program Manager of Linn County Mental Health

New Dentist Joins Johnson Family Practice in Albany

ALBANY — Dr. Nicholas Mantovani recently joined Johnson Family Practice in Albany after relocating to Oregon earlier this year. A 2023 graduate of the Creighton School of Dentistry, Mantovani brings a diverse background in dentistry, aesthetics, and public health to his new role.

Before moving to Oregon, Mantovani spent the first years of his dental career managing a public health dental clinic in Dunsmuir, California. While he valued the experience of serving patients in a community clinic setting, he said his long-term goal is to eventually own and operate a private practice.

Mantovani’s path to dentistry includes a variety of experiences that continue to shape his approach to patient care. A former collegiate athlete and history major, he also worked as a dental implant surgical guide technician before becoming a dentist.

Outside the clinic, Mantovani enjoys cooking and often prepares recipes passed down from his Italian and Costa Rican grandmothers. His multicultural background also helped him become fluent in both Italian and Spanish.

Now settling into life in Oregon, Mantovani has embraced the state’s outdoor lifestyle and is currently training for his first marathon, inspired by the region’s scenic trails and landscapes.



Dr. Nicholas Mantovani, left, recently joined Douglas M. Johnson D.M.D. Family Dentistry in Albany.

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CENTRAL LINN HIGH SCHOOL
MAY STUDENT ATHLETE

Jayne Neal



COURTESY: JOANNA NEAL

Central Linn High School senior Jayne Neal has been named Student Athlete of the Month after a standout season on the track and a strong finish to her high school athletic career.

Neal has placed herself among the top runners in Central Linn history. Her 400-meter time of 1:03.39 is the third-fastest 400-meter time in school records. In the 800 meters, she has run 2:27.38 this season, with a personal record of 2:25.17, ranking second all-time at Central Linn behind her sister, Jessica. Neal is currently ranked third in the state in Class 2A in the 800.

She has also excelled in the 1,500 meters, running 5:03.66 this season, with a personal record of 4:59.99. That mark ranks third in Central Linn school history, and Neal is currently ranked seventh in the state in 2A.

Neal also helped Central Linn's 4x400 relay team run 4:16.94, a school-record time that currently ranks second in the state.

In addition to her accomplishments on the track, Neal has been a dedicated student and multi-sport athlete. After graduation, she plans to attend George Fox University, where she will study biology and play soccer for the Bruins.

Neal's work ethic, competitive drive, and leadership have made her a standout representative of Central Linn High School and a deserving Student Athlete of the Month. 🌟

CENTRAL LINN SOFTBALL

Cobras Roll Past Gervais for Third Straight Road Win

GERVAIS — Central Linn broke a road drought against Gervais in convincing fashion Tuesday, May 5, defeating the Cougars 21-6 in a league softball matchup.

The Cobras had not beaten Gervais on the road since April 14, 2022, but that history did not slow them down. Central Linn used steady base running, timely hitting, and constant traffic on the bases to take control early and finish with one of its biggest offensive performances of the season.

The win marked Central Linn's third straight road victory and improved the Cobras to 8-11. Central Linn has now won six games this season by six runs or more.

Kayla Moore and Callie Northern led the charge at the plate and on the base paths. Moore reached base in three of her four plate appearances, scored four runs, drove in two, and stole seven bases. Northern also reached base three times in four plate appearances, scored three runs, and stole eight bases.



RACHAEL TRAVIS
Hannah Travis, Sigrid Swartzendruber, and Brynna McLain sport matching Converse shoes after the Cobras' 21-6 road win over Gervais on Tuesday.

Lilly Diaz added another strong performance for Central Linn, going 1-for-3 with a double, two runs, and two stolen bases.

Central Linn kept pressure on Gervais throughout the game, finishing with a .722 on-base percentage. The Cobras have now improved their on-base percentage in three consecutive games, a sign of a lineup that is becoming more consistent late in the season.

The team's recent road success has been fueled by offense. During the three-game road winning streak, Central Linn has averaged 18 runs per game.

Gervais dropped to 2-13 with the loss. The Cougars have now lost eight straight games. 🌟

TANGENT TOGETHER

Does Your Water Bottle Make the Best Dressed List?

By Marcy Hermens, Tangent Correspondent

Move over, designer labels. Tangent Harvest Festival stickers are the newest must-have accessory for local water bottles — and they're free.

The festival's social media reel declared this season's "best dressed" bottles are sporting the stickers.

They are available, one per person while supplies last, at participating Tangent businesses including Baxter's Brews, Kim's Kafé, Complete Ag, J&H Auto, JTI Supply, Chillys Custom Auto Works, Dixie Saloon, SafeHaven Humane Society, and Farmland Tractor Supply.

CENTRAL LINN BASEBALL

Cobras Fall to Unbeaten Crosshill Christian

TURNER — On Tuesday, May 5, Central Linn's baseball team played one of the top teams and lost 25-1 to undefeated Crosshill Christian.

Central Linn is 1-15 for the season, after a three-game losing streak. Crosshill Christian improved to 14-0 with the win and remained unbeaten at home, where the Eagles have now won 10 straight games dating back to last season.

Colten Northern led the Cobras at the plate, going 1-for-1 with a double and scoring Central Linn's lone run.



RACHAEL TRAVIS
Jacob Helms delivers a pitch during Central Linn's May 1 home game.



RACHAEL TRAVIS
Colten Northern hit a double and scored the Cobras' lone run against Crosshill Christian on May 5.

Last Tuesday's game also served as a rematch of last season's meeting between the two teams, when Crosshill Christian defeated Central Linn 11-3 in May 2025. 🌟

Crosshill Christian controlled the game early and continued to add runs behind a strong all-around performance from Carter Hinderks. Hinderks pitched three innings, allowing one hit and no earned runs. He also contributed offensively, reaching base twice, stealing two bases, and scoring three runs.

The Eagles' offense has been a major part of their perfect start to the season. Crosshill Christian has won by an average margin of 9.6 runs per game.



Kurry Travis, who plays catcher and infield for the Cobras, reaches for a throw.

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MARCY HERMENS

The 2026 Tangent Harvest Festival — now in its fourth year since being revived — will take place Saturday, Sept. 19. Tickets for the combine demolition derby and power pulls are available at <https://tangenttogether.org>, along with information about the festival's free family-friendly activities.

Organizers are encouraging residents to share photos of their "dressed up" water bottles on Facebook or Instagram using

#BestDressedTangent and #StickerSeason. 🌟

OPINION

When a Town Loses Its School, It Loses Its Heart

By Marcy Hermens

On Friday afternoons, when the bell rings at Tangent Elementary, something happens that you can't put on a balance sheet. Kids pour out into the afternoon light. Parents gather at the fence. Neighbors stop to talk. For a few minutes, Tangent feels like exactly what it is: a community.

The Albany School District's Long Range Facilities Advisory Committee (LRFAC) is evaluating whether to close schools, including Tangent Elementary, not because it under performs, but because of small enrollment. Before that conversation goes further, I want to share what closing a rural school actually does to a small community. We have a cautionary tale right down the road.

Drive south on Highway 99E a few miles of Tangent, and you'll reach Shedd. In 1993, the Central Linn School District closed the Shedd Elementary site. The school was gone. Today, Shedd's population is about 87 people — a decline of more than 45 percent since 2020. There is no school within its borders. The closing was the moment its future changed direction.

Research on rural school closures bears out what Shedd experienced: lower home values, higher child poverty rates, weakened social bonds, and population declines that compound over time. The Greater Albany Public Schools (GAPS) budget argument has its own flaw — the projected savings from closing small rural schools are consistently overestimated. The short-term line-item relief rarely accounts for the long-term economic costs that ripple outward into the community.

What makes this moment urgent is that Tangent is not struggling — we are rising. In 2022, community members formed Tangent Together, a nonprofit committed to helping the town thrive. They revived the Tangent Harvest Festival, a tradition dating back to 1938; last year, in just its fourth year of revival, it was recognized as an award-winning event across Oregon. The City of Tangent is currently building a pavilion at City Hall — an investment in our future. Young families are here. They're choosing Tangent.

Tangent has had a school since 1854. Closing it now, in the middle of a genuine community revival, would send an unmistakable message to every young family weighing their options: there is no future here.

I'm asking the GAPS district to recognize that our town needs our school — and that the relationship runs both ways.

I'm also asking our community members to make their voices heard. Write or email the Albany School District. Show up to Albany School Board meetings and sign up to speak. Let them hear, clearly, that Tangent Elementary is needed — not just for our kids, but for the future of our town.

I'm not dismissing the fiscal realities. I'm writing because some costs don't show up in a spreadsheet — and the cost of losing the heart of a community is one of the heaviest. Stop by local Tangent businesses and ask what it means to have our school here. You'll hear it in their voices.

Tangent Elementary has stood here since 1854. Please don't make our town the next cautionary tale.

Marcy Hermens grew up in Shedd, Oregon, is a resident of Tangent, Oregon, and is a retired elementary school office manager.



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CENTRAL LINN JUNIOR HIGH WRESTLING

Branson Wins Freestyle, Greco Roman State Wrestling Titles

BROWNSVILLE — Porter Branson, a seventh-grader at Central Linn Junior High School, brought home two state wrestling championships in April.

Branson won the 14U 96-pound Freestyle State Championship on April 18, finishing the tournament with two technical falls and one pin. The next day, April 19, he added the 14U 96-pound Greco State Championship, winning all four of his matches by technical fall.

The victories qualified Branson for Team Oregon's National Dual Team. He is scheduled to compete at National Duals from June 7–12 in Wesley Chapel, Florida, and at Turf Wars Duals from June 21–23 in Pocatello, Idaho.

Branson is from Brownsville and represents Central Linn Junior High as one of the area's young standout wrestlers.



Porter Branson won the 14U 96-pound Freestyle State Championship on April 18.



Porter Branson captured the 14U 96-pound Greco Roman State Championship on April 19.



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BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

Library Programs Highlight Donation Awareness, Community Connections

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

The Brownsville Community Library has invited Donate Life Northwest to present a special program on organ, eye, and tissue donation. Carolyn Petersen, a kidney recipient, will share information about Donate Life Northwest, its mission, and its community partners. She will also provide an introduction to organ, eye, and tissue donation, explain why donation matters, and discuss ways individuals can make a life-saving impact.

The presentation will be held Thursday, May 21, at 7 p.m. in the Kirk Room at the Brownsville Community Library. The event is free and open to the public.

The library also continues to offer a variety of regular community programs, including weekly Story Time, a stitchery group, and a monthly book club.

“Songs, Rhymes and More” takes place every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon. I read stories, lead songs and rhymes, and Mrs. Thea helps children create crafts. Families often say the songs continue long after Story Time ends, with children singing them on the ride home. The program offers a fun way for children and families to connect with the community.

The Thread Wizards Stitchery Group meets Wednesdays from 1–3 p.m. Participants gather to knit, crochet, sew, embroider, or work on other handcraft projects while enjoying conversation and fellowship. Newcomers are always welcome, and advice is freely shared — especially when it comes to fixing mistakes.

The Brownsville Community Library book club, The Page Turners, meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Kirk Room. The next meeting will be May 20. Readers interested in joining the club can stop by the library for more information about the monthly selection and discussion. 🌻

KIDS’ KORNER

Leafy Greens: Healthy Foods Around the Globe

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer and Columnist

There are at least 80 types of leafy green vegetables grown worldwide and commonly used in food. There are over 1,000 plants with edible leaves! The ones you are probably familiar with include lettuces, spinach, kales, and cabbages.

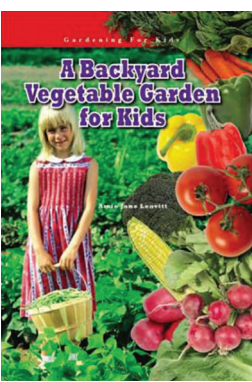
All countries around the world prioritize farming and eating these healthy vegetables. For example, Kiddle Encyclopedia lists common leafy greens cooked in various countries on its website: <https://kids.kiddle.co>. In Africa, a leafy green called amaranth is boiled and eaten for its nutritional benefits.

In Greece, leafy greens from almost 80 different types are cooked and served hot or cold, drizzled with lemon and olive oil, and called khurta. Some Greek greens include dandelion, chicory, kale, and even caper leaves.

In Italy, a group of wild greens called preboggion is used in ravioli, frittatas, and minestrone soup. In Poland, they make a botwinka soup that includes leafy vegetables such as chard and beet leaves.

Leafy vegetables contain many important nutrients because the leaves of plants use photosynthesis to make food from sunlight. Most contain high concentrations of Vitamin K, important for nutrition, and many leaves also contain A, C, E, and B vitamins.

Some plant leaves are toxic to humans and animals, and some are even deadly. Be sure not to taste an unfamiliar leafy green unless you know it is safe and healthy for you.



If you are interested in growing healthy leafy greens, you might enjoy reading “A Backyard Vegetable Garden for Kids” by Jane Leavitt. It is available on Libby eBooks at the Brownsville Library for Ages 8–12.

For younger kids ages 3–8 who are interested in gardening, “Growing Vegetable Soup,” written and beautifully illustrated by Lois Ehlert, offers a fun introduction to growing vegetables. Ehlert guides you in selecting the right tools and, of course, seeds! Then the magic happens: planting, weeding, harvesting, washing, chopping, and cooking. There is even a simple vegetable soup recipe at the end. It is also available at the Brownsville Library. 🌻



BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY CALENDAR

Parents & Pals Story Time

Wednesdays • 10–10:15 a.m.
A short story time followed by free play together.

Thread Wizards 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.–noon
Story time with rhymes, songs, and a craft activity.

The Page Turners Book Club

Wednesday, May 20 • 7 p.m. • Kirk Room

Donate Life Northwest Presentation

Thursday, May 21 • 7 p.m. • Kirk Room
Carolyn Petersen, a kidney recipient and volunteer with Donate Life Northwest, will introduce the organization’s mission and partners, explain the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation, and share ways community members can help make a life-saving impact. Free and open to the public.

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.

Connect with the Library

146 Spaulding Ave., Brownsville • 541-466-5454
<https://www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/BVORLibrary>

HALSEY LIBRARY CALENDAR

Summer Reading Program ‘Plant a Seed, Read’

Saturdays, July 11 to August 8
The Free 2026 Summer Reading Program will feature reading activities and summer fun for local children and families.

Library Hours: Closed Sun–Mon.
Tue– Fri 1–5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Connect with the Library

773 W 1st, Halsey • 541-369-2705
<https://www.halseyor.gov/library>
<https://www.facebook.com/HalseyLibrary>

HARRISBURG LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Tiny Tots Story Time

Wednesdays • 11 a.m. • Story time, songs and rhymes for ages 0–3. Play and socialize afterward.

Friday Storytime & Activity

Fridays • 10 a.m.

Adult Craft Night Out

Thursdays • 4–6 p.m. • A hands-on craft program for library visitors. Free knitting and crochet lessons. Share and learn tips and tricks while you work on your own crafts or pick up something new.

Summer Reading Program ‘Plant a Seed, Read’

Fridays, June 12 to Aug. 7 • 10 a.m.
The Free 2026 Summer Reading Program will feature reading activities and summer fun for local children and families.

Lego Club

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

Library Hours: Tue 1–5 p.m.; Wed 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thu 1–6 p.m.; Fri 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

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

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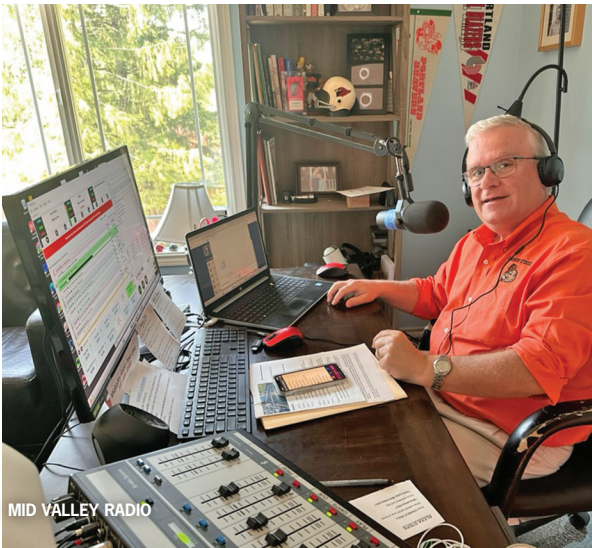
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Mid Valley Radio Launches Local Streaming Station for Mid-Willamette Valley

ALBANY — A new online radio station is delivering locally focused programming to listeners across the Mid-Willamette Valley via around-the-clock digital streaming.

Mid Valley Radio, founded by veteran broadcasters Jon Warren and Glenn Nobel, officially launched its full on-air lineup on March 9 and now offers a mix of music, local news, sports, and talk programming for listeners in Linn, Benton, and Marion counties.

“Our goal is to keep local radio local, even as the way people listen continues to evolve,” Warren said in a press release. “Mid Valley Radio allows us to serve the community we know so well and to make that programming available wherever listeners happen to be.”



Jon Warren in the main Mid Valley Radio studio in Albany.

Warren brings more than 30 years of broadcasting experience to the project, including more than two decades as a morning host on KLOO 1340 AM in Corvallis. He now hosts Mid Valley Radio’s morning program from 6–9 a.m.

Nobel, the station’s co-founder and operations and technical director, has nearly 40 years of experience in radio and mass media. In addition to overseeing the station’s broadcast operations and streaming systems, he hosts an afternoon show from 2–6 p.m.

The station’s lineup also features longtime Mid-Valley broadcaster Mike Bell and radio personality and actor Geno Romo.

Mid Valley Radio streams music from the 1970s to the present, but station leaders say the primary focus is current local content. The station airs national news hourly and provides updated local and statewide news between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Daily sports reports highlight Oregon State Beaver athletics and local high school sports.

Listeners can interact with hosts via phone and text during live broadcasts, helping maintain the community connection often associated with traditional local radio.

Mid Valley Radio is available via web streaming, mobile apps, and Apple CarPlay. Find out more on <https://www.midvalleyradio.com>.

CRITTER CHRONICLES

The Taming of Mickey

Boy’s Experiment in the Woodshed Ends with a Lesson Learned

By Opal Hetterle, Guest Writer

In a time when children often made their own entertainment with whatever the day provided, one boy’s attempt to tame a wild creature ended with a sharp reminder about the ways of nature.

Jerry, a boy with a fondness for animals of all kinds, once set his mind on catching and domesticating a mouse. To him, no creature was too small to be trained or befriended. With youthful confidence, he shared his plan with his younger sisters, Carol and Opal.

“I’m going to catch a mouse and teach it tricks,” Jerry told them.

His sisters were doubtful. Their mother had long warned against such things, noting that mice were unclean and best kept out of the home. When Jerry presented his idea, her response was firm and immediate.

“Absolutely not,” she said. “Mice carry disease, and we don’t need them here.”

Though disappointed, Jerry was not easily deterred.

Behind the house, in the family woodshed, he devised a simple trap. Using a large glass jar, he leaned a piece of kindling against its rim to form a ramp. From the kitchen, he gathered a small supply of oats, carefully placing a trail leading up the stick and into the jar, where a larger portion waited.

By morning, his efforts were rewarded. Inside the jar was a small gray mouse.

Jerry named him “Mickey.”

In the days that followed, Jerry devoted himself to the creature. He spoke to it, called it by name, and offered bits of food as treats.



AI GENERATED IMAGE

The mouse would scramble up the smooth sides of the jar in search of the oats, and Jerry took this as a sign of growing trust.

Convinced he had succeeded; Jerry announced one afternoon that Mickey was ready to be handled.

“I’m sure he loves me already,” he said.

His sisters gathered in the woodshed to watch as Jerry reached his hand into the jar.

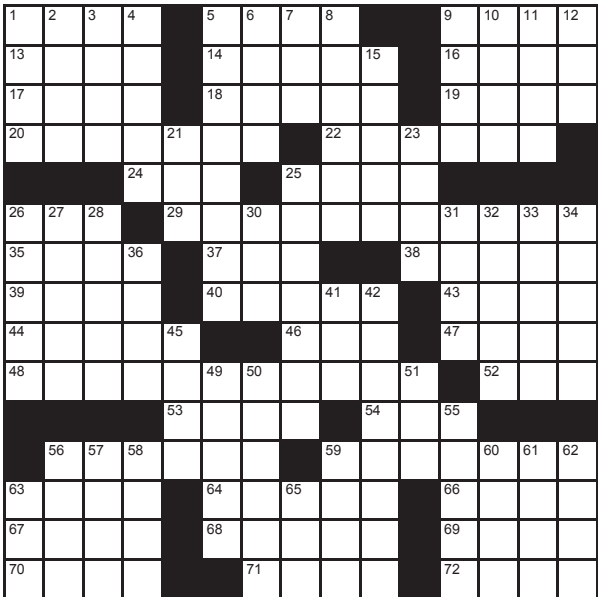
What followed was swift and memorable.

The mouse, acting on instinct rather than affection, bit down hard on Jerry’s finger and refused to let go. Startled and in pain, Jerry leapt about, shaking his hand as blood spattered the shed floor. Carol ran to fetch their mother, who quickly tended to the wound with a dose of red antiseptic common in households of the time.

The injury was minor, but the lesson endured.

Even in simpler times, children learned that wild creatures are not so easily tamed — and that a mother’s warning is often worth heeding.

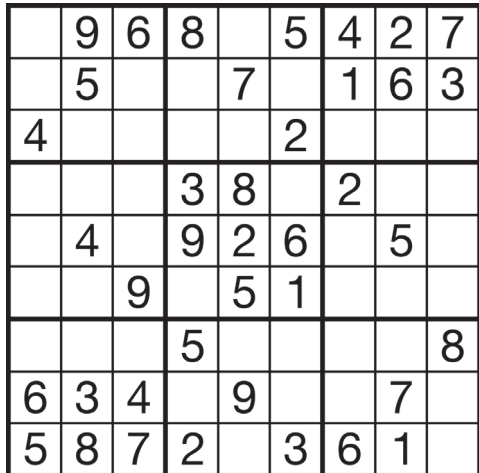
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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- ACROSS**
1 Operation reminder
5 Magazine genre
9 Smudge
13 Jab
14 Mountain nymph
16 Mystique
17 Large-scale
18 Chivalrous
19 Detail
20 Generators
22 Drops off
24 Campaigner, for short
25 Outback birds
26 Spider’s work
29 Alaska: Land of the ____
35 Sheltered, nautically
37 Blast maker
38 Chip away at
39 Inactive
40 Sheik’s bevy
43 Tacks on
44 Markets
46 Actress Hagen
47 Versifier
48 Interlopers
52 ____ Miniver
53 Got down
- 54 Harbor craft
56 Temporary
59 Relative
63 Dour
64 Lasso
66 Biblical twin
67 Himalayan legend
68 Claw
69 Charity
70 Former
71 Snoozes
72 Encounter
- DOWN**
1 Scurried
2 Replicate
3 Blood-related
4 Sum up
5 Single great stone
6 Cupid
7 Beak
8 Deli offering
9 Can of worms?
10 Mandolin relative
11 Bonanza finds
12 Scottish cap
15 Remove errors from a computer
21 Soccer ____
- 23 Tennis great Arthur
25 Put into the care of someone
26 Midsection
27 Church leader
28 Miss Starr
30 Genetic material
31 Pitfall
32 Sin city
33 Milk source
34 Bird retreats
36 Congers
41 Season, in France
42 Our neighbors, perhaps?
45 Petty quarrel
49 On the lookout
50 Apelike
51 Hero
55 Twinkle
56 Request
57 Grooves
58 Exclude
59 Cease
60 Capri, e.g.
61 Appoint
62 Burst of wind
63 Cheat
65 Fla. neighbor

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Classes Wed. 7 p.m. all ages • 541-466-5030

Brownsville Christian Church 117 N Main St
541-466-3273 • <https://brownsvillechristianchurch.com>
Sunday Services 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 Wed. Noon • Sunday Service 11:30 a.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1111 North Main St • 541-570-2903 • Sun. Service 10 a.m.

Brownsville Mennonite 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>
Sun. Corp. Service 8 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. (during school year)
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. • Mon. Prayer 7–8 p.m.

Halsey Mennonite Church 910 E 1st St
712-432-8773 • <https://www.halseymennonite.org>
Sunday Service 10 a.m. • 1st & 3rd Sunday 6 p.m.
Prayer meeting 1st & 3rd Wed. 7:30 p.m.

Harvest Reformed Baptist Church 411 W 2nd St
541-220-1902 • <https://harvestrbcb.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.

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.

HARRISBURG

Calvary Chapel Tri-County 255 Smith St
541-995-8221 • <https://cctrcounty.com>
Sunday Service 10–11:30 a.m. • Wed. Women’s Study 10 a.m. • Wed. 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.

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>
Sun. Services 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. • Wed. Service 6:30 p.m.

United Methodist Church 710 Smith St • 541-995-6656

PAST TIMES

Cooley House Remains One of Brownsville’s Oldest Homes

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer and Columnist

One of Brownsville’s oldest homes is the Cooley House, located at 220 Blakely Ave. in the southern part of town. Also known as the George C. Cooley Cottage, the home was built in 1857 and is listed as a historic place.

The original structure was relocated from an unknown location to its current site in 1857. The one-and-a-half-story design, with a gable roof and vertical plank construction, was common in early Brownsville homes. A kitchen was added in 1858, and a bathroom in 1920. The ceilings were insulated with six inches of sawdust, a common practice at the time.



A hand-painted marker beside the doorway identifies the historic George and Harriet Cooley home, dating back to 1857.

severe disrepair and were removed. During restoration, the kitchen was replaced and the bathroom rebuilt.

The home was originally classically proportioned, with cornice returns, a pediment, and temple style decorative architectural moldings around the windows and doors.

George C. Cooley was the home’s first occupant, though the original builder remains unknown. Historical records indicate the materials used to construct the house cost \$161.90.

In 1900, the Cooley family moved to a Queen Anne-style home a block away and deeded the Blakely Avenue house to their daughter, Kitty Chrischma, as a wedding present. Her husband, William Walter Bailey, practiced law in early Brownsville.

According to Ruth Bailey Ramstead, Cooley’s granddaughter, the only major change during her childhood was the addition of the bathroom in

At some point, a 10-by-14-foot brick building for storing milk and fruit was added behind the house. By the 1980s, both the original bathroom and the brick structure had fallen into



The Cooley House at 220 Blakely Ave. was built in 1857 and is considered one of Brownsville’s oldest surviving homes. The historic residence remains an example of early vertical plank construction and Classical Revival design.

1920. She moved into the home in 1902 at age 4.

After Kitty’s death, Bailey remarried Edna Fox. Byron Fox, her son, who worked at the woolen mill, lived in the house until his death in 1982.

The house was later purchased by the Brownsville Restoration Society, a group of residents dedicated to preserving the historic structure. Volunteers undertook significant restoration to save the home.

The Cooley House was officially listed as a historic place on May 9, 1983. It is recognized as an example of vertical-plank (box) construction, rather than the era’s more common balloon-frame construction. The house is also considered a vernacular Classical Revival structure.

Sally Lockhart purchased the home in 2012 and still lives there. ☼

REMEMBRANCE NOTICE

Celebration of Life for David Rogers

Friends and family of David Rogers are invited to gather for a celebration of life at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at the Pioneer Park Pavilion and Dance Hall in Brownsville.

Those attending are invited to pay their respects, share stories of Dave’s life and many adventures, and join the family for a barbecue following the ceremony. ☼

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LINN COUNTY SMALL WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION

Camas Springs Restoration Featured During LCSWA Tour

By Larry Mauter, LCSWA member

CRAWFORDSVILLE — A property in the Crawfordville area once known locally as the “Pigeon Shoot” is now a habitat restoration project focused on native wildlife and forest diversity.

About 45 people attended a May 1 tour of Camas Springs, the 38-acre property owned by Phil Callaway along Crawfordville Drive near the Calapooia River, hosted by the Linn County Small Woodlands Association.

The land is known for its sodium-rich mineral springs, which draw large numbers of band-tailed pigeons from April through September. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has told Callaway that the site hosts the largest population of these birds in the south Willamette Valley.

Hunting on the property ended after the Phil and Karyn Callaway purchased the land in 2016 and built a home there.

“It was just bare land. We built a home and moved in 2018,” said Callaway, a retired software engineer. “It was a dream come true to get this place.”

The property now includes mature stands of Willamette Valley ponderosa pine and incense cedar, as well as a six-acre wet prairie filled with camas and buttercups.

Callaway explained that restoration work was supported by Natural Resources Conservation Service cost-sharing programs and by assistance from conservation professionals. Advanced Land Management LLC of Sweet Home cleared invasive blackberries and brush from forested areas, while Llew Whipps of the Institute for Applied Ecology helped guide the restoration efforts.

Future plans include planting elderberry and cascara trees, which provide food for band-tailed pigeons and other wildlife species.



LARRY MAUTER
Greg and Karen Harty examine a large ash tree during the Linn County Small Woodlands Association tour on May 1 at Camas Springs.

Callaway said he considers himself a “temporary caretaker” of the land.

“I want to leave it a little better than I found it,” he said.

The property has also faced challenges, including damage from the January 2024 ice storm and concerns that nearby subdivision development could affect water flow.

Although Callaway harvests firewood for personal use, he said he has no plans for commercial logging operations.

The Linn County Small Woodlands Association hosts tours and educational events year-round. More information is available at <https://www.linncountyswa.com>. ☼

Growing Community Beauty, One Barrel at a Time

By Lisa Keith, Columnist

BROWNSVILLE — Hello friends! I am trying something new — writing about a project rather than sharing recipes! About three years ago, while on one of our many walks around Brownsville, my friend Dayna Hansen and I noticed several flower beds and whiskey barrel planters along Main Street were looking neglected. After many calls and emails trying to determine who was responsible, we decided to simply roll up our sleeves and help. We began caring for the brick planters at Highway 228 and Main Street, as well as the downtown whiskey barrel planters, with the city’s permission. We focused on planting hardy perennials that would return year after year, helping reduce future costs and maintenance.

This year, we expanded the project further by adding 13 new barrels in front of businesses that previously lacked them, while also replacing one aging barrel between Harper’s and the Brownsville Stitching Parlor. Combined with the 15 existing barrels already in place, downtown now features 28 whiskey barrel planters. We arranged with J&S Supply to deliver the barrels, soil, and filler material,



LISA KEITH
A freshly replanted whiskey barrel adds new color to downtown Brownsville.

and they also helped place the barrels along Main Street. We purchased flowers from J&S Supply, Summit Ace, and Wilco in Lebanon. These businesses are not required to offer discounts, but they graciously supported the project because they believe in helping beautify our community. We greatly appreciate them.

The City of Brownsville contributed funding toward the expansion project this year, and the Brownsville Community Chamber of Commerce matched the city’s donation to help fund the additional barrels. Downtown businesses also help by watering and caring for the planters throughout the season.

Dayna and I do this out of love for our town, for our friendship, and for the simple joy of making Brownsville more beautiful. ☼



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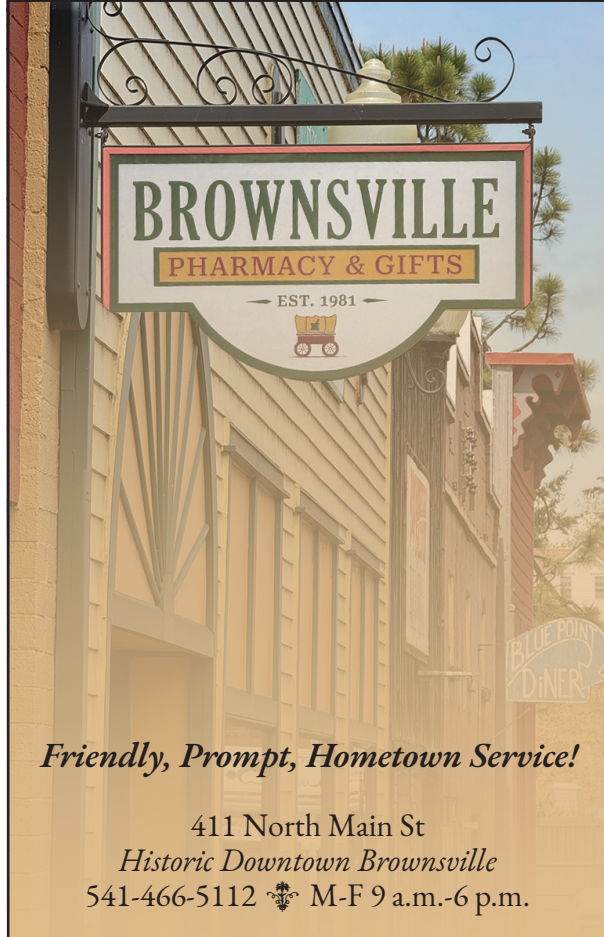
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Puzzles on page 11

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BRANCHES
OXYGEN
FOREST

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HERITAGE & HONOR

Honoring Asian American Heritage

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

Each May, communities across the country observe Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month to recognize the histories, cultures, and contributions of people whose roots trace to Asia and the Pacific Islands. For many small towns, it can feel like a distant observance — yet its meaning reaches closer to home than we might think. In Linn County, this history is woven into the very landscape we live in today.

The timing honors the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in 1843 and the completion of the trans-continental railroad in 1869 — an achievement made possible by Chinese laborers whose contributions were long overlooked. Locally, that same labor helped build our infrastructure. In the 1870s, Chinese workers undertook the grueling task of digging the Santiam Canal, which still carries water from Lebanon to Albany.

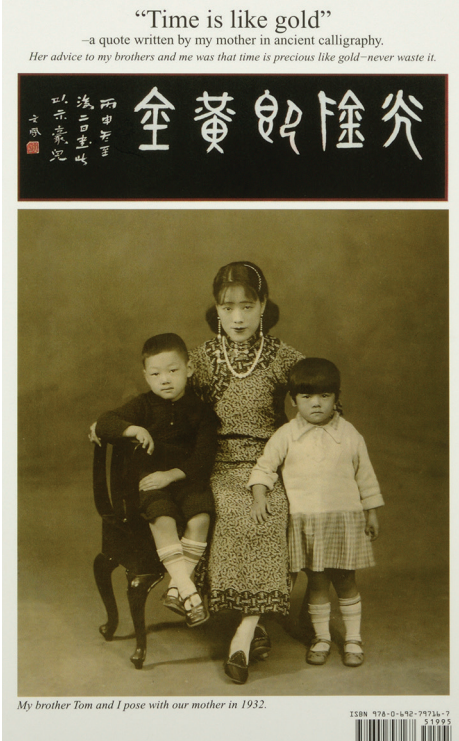
While the month celebrates culture, it also invites reflection on a more difficult history. In the late 1800s, Albany's Chinatown faced severe discrimination. The city enacted laws specifically targeting Chinese business owners. These weren't distant events

— they unfolded in communities not so different from our own. Perhaps the most widely remembered is the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, thousands of people of Japanese descent — many of them U.S. citizens — were forced from their homes and farms. Fear and prejudice, rather than evidence, guided those decisions.

Recognizing AAPI Heritage Month isn't about dwelling on the past but about understanding it. It offers a chance to acknowledge both the contributions and hardships of AAPI individuals, such as longtime Linn County Senator Mae Yih. Even in places where diversity may seem limited, these histories are part of the broader American story we all share.

Editor's Note:

This history is personal for my family. In 1925, my great-grandmother and great-grandfather, who was Hawaiian, had to travel to Washington to marry because Oregon law prohibited interracial marriage (until 1951). Their story is a reminder that discrimination was woven into Oregon's history and affected real families. ☯



Mae Yih's 2017 memoir, "East Meets West," features a family photo of Yih, her mother and her brother on the back cover. Courtesy image via The Oregon Encyclopedia.

Japanese Traditions Alive in Oregon

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer

As the warm spring breeze carried the scent of pine through the streets of Tokyo, Japan recently concluded its most famous holiday season. Known as Golden Week, the period featured four national holidays that brought the country to a standstill. The celebration began on April 29 with Showa Day, followed by Constitution Memorial Day on May 3, Greenery Day on May 4, and Children's Day on May 5. The final holiday was marked by the display of Gogatsu Ningyo — miniature samurai dolls and kabuto (helmets) kept inside homes to symbolize strength and protection for children.

The name Golden Week was originally a clever marketing term created by the Japanese film industry in 1951. After seeing record-breaking ticket sales during these holidays, movie executives labeled the week after the radio term Golden Time, or prime time. Beyond the cinema, this became the busiest travel season in the country. Shinkansen (bullet train) seats often sell out months in advance, and while major tourist spots stay open, many small shops and big businesses close for the week to give staff a break. The season is also defined by unique traditions, such as shobu-yu, a ritual bath with iris leaves meant to ward off evil, and seasonal treats like kashiwa-mochi (rice cakes wrapped in oak leaves).

Even though these holidays took place across the Pacific Ocean, Oregon's deep-rooted connections to Japan offered ways to honor these traditions at home. The Oakridge Tree Planting



Traditional Daruma dolls, symbols of perseverance and good fortune in Japanese culture, are often used to represent goals and determination.

Festival served as a local equivalent to Greenery Day, celebrating our region's forest history. Meanwhile, the Portland Japanese Garden brought Children's Day to life with thunderous taiko drum performances and colorful carp windsocks flying across the courtyard.

The spirit of these celebrations continues with upcoming local events. You can visit the Asian Night Market in Eugene on Friday, May 22, for street food and cultural performanc-

es. Additionally, the Portland Japanese Garden will host traditional music and art throughout May, including koto performances and flower-arranging demonstrations. For more information, please visit <https://japanesegarden.org> and <https://asiancouncil.org>. ☯



Taiko drummers perform during the Japanese-American Association of Lane County's annual Obon Festival at Alton Baker Park in Eugene.

SHERIFF'S REPORT MAY 3-10

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); LCJ (Linn County Jail); 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

Mon., May 4, 3:15 p.m. — Deputy assisted Brownsville Fire in responding to a vehicle fire at the top of Washburn Heights. The vehicle was a total loss. No injuries were reported. Report taken.

Tue., May 5, 10:17 a.m. — A caller reported being financially taken advantage of by a man who claimed to be an attorney in the 700 block of Amelia Ave. Report taken.

11:17 a.m. — Deputy investigated a theft of a \$400 bike from the 76 station (Jerry's) in the 200 block of W Bishop Way. Report taken.

5:59 p.m. — Deputy responded to an alarm call and cleared it at Pioneer Park. The local T-Ball team asked the deputy to watch a few plays. The deputy observed the game and cheered on the team.

10:21 p.m. — Aiyana Larsen, 22, of Sweet Home, was cited for speeding 40 in a 25-mph zone in the 800 block of N Main St.

Wed., May 6, 1:54 a.m. — A juvenile was cited for speeding 40 in a 25-mph zone near N Main St and North Ave.

12:11 p.m. — Michael Forston, 62, of Brownsville, was cited in lieu of arrest for a Linn County probation-violation warrant in the 700 block of Amelia Ave. Report taken.

5:27 p.m. — Brittany Ellison, 52, of Brownsville, was cited for speeding in the 26700 block of Gap Rd.

Thu., May 7, 12_08 p.m. — A driver was cited for driving uninsured in the 200 block of S Main St.

1:16 p.m. — Deputy responded to a DHS 307 referral reported in the 100 block of Moody Ct. Information regarding reported drug use in a child's home was documented.

3:14 p.m. — Aaron Clemmer, 46, of Brownsville, was cited in lieu of custody for an Albany Municipal Court warrant in the 200 block of N Main St. Report taken.

7:46 p.m. — Deputy spoke with a citizen regarding a no-contact order in the 500 block of Kay Ave.

Fri., May 8, 1:08 p.m. — Caller reported theft in the 500 block of Kay Ave. Report taken.

2:14 p.m. — A juvenile was feeling suicidal in the 800 block of Kirk Ave. The juvenile was taken to Linn County Mental Health to speak with someone. Report taken.

Sat., May 9, 5:48 p.m. — Deputy helped a Brownsville resident who found a lost chicken find the chicken's home in the 100 block of S Main St. The chicken was safely returned home.

Sun., May 10, 1:42 p.m. — Deputies responded to a report of a suicidal juvenile in the 800 block of Kirk Ave. Deputies determined the juvenile was not suicidal, just sad, and did not want assistance from deputies. The juvenile was released into the custody of a parent.

BRUSH CREEK

Fri., May 8, 11:35 a.m. — An Oregon Department of Forestry employee reported that a gate pin and lock at the BR3r90 in the 24200 block of West Brush Creek were damaged. The gate and pin belong to Cascade Timber Consulting, and the lock belonged to Campbell Global. The pin is estimated to cost \$200 to replace. The lock is estimated to be worth \$50. Report taken.

Sat., May 9, 3:49 p.m. — Deputies assisted OSP with a motor vehicle crash investigation on Brush Creek Rd. near Hwy 228.

5:33 p.m. — Deputy assisted a male having a mental health crisis with getting him back in contact with family in the 24300 block of

West Brush Creek Rd.

CRAWFORDSVILLE/HOLLEY

Tue., May 5, 8:19 a.m. — Deputies responded to an unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle in the 40200 block of Hwy 228. Thousands of dollars' worth of construction tools were stolen over a four-day period. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Fri., May 8, 8:59 a.m. — Deputy investigated a pickup with a camper suspected of illegally camping at McKercher Park. Deputy tagged the vehicle, and it moved along later that day.

HALSEY

Mon., May 4, 3:08 p.m. — Deputies responded to a death that appeared to be from natural causes in the 28600 block of Potter Rd.

Thu., May 7, 8:07 a.m. — Deputies and EMS responded to a single-vehicle rollover into a field in the 28500 block of Peoria Rd. The driver was transported to Samaritan Hospital with injuries. Report taken.

5:47 p.m. — A driver was cited for speeding near Oak Plain Dr. and Hwy 99E.

Sun., May 10, 1:42 p.m. — Deputy responded to a report of ongoing unwanted contact and concerning behavior in the 600 block of WC St. by an individual who repeatedly attempted to visit a local family and contact a family member at her workplace. The deputy explained the process for obtaining a stalking order and issued a trespass warning to the individual.

HARRISBURG

Mon., May 4, 7:41 a.m. — Jack Yocom, 66, of Corvallis, was cited for failing to obey a traffic control device following deputies' response to a two-vehicle collision near Powerline Rd. and Priceboro Rd. Report taken.

11:25 a.m. — Deputy took a report of vandalism at the McCartney Boat Ramp. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

1:27 p.m. — Deputies responded to a report of a minor in possession in the 200 block of S 6th St. Deputies arrived at the school and collected evidence. Report taken.

5:10 p.m. — Deputy investigated a \$500 phone-scam theft in the 300 block of S. 1st St. Report taken.

Tue., May 5, 7:24 a.m. — Caller reported a juvenile

stole \$2.95 worth of candy from Dollar General on N 3rd St.

Wed., May 6, 3:35 p.m. — Caller reported that a person was selling marijuana to juveniles at the skate park in the 500 block of Smith St. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

11:06 p.m. — Deputy observed a car parked in the middle of 6th St. near LaSalle St. with no lights on at night. The Door Dasher operating the vehicle was educated on why that was dangerous and what to do going forward.

Thu., May 7, 11:21 a.m. — Robert Jones, 62, of Junction City, was cited for driving with a suspended license and without insurance near N 7th St and Quincy St.

1:33 p.m. — Deputy cited a driver for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, and failing to use an ignition interlock device near N 3rd St. and Territorial St.

2:16 p.m. — Deputy retrieved an abandoned bicycle from the side of the road in the 800 block of Diamond Hill Dr. If the red Roadmaster Mt. Storm bicycle is not claimed soon, the deputy will dispose of it.

2:38 p.m. — Ashton Wagoner, 28, of Harrisburg, was cited and released for two failure-to-appear warrants in the 800 block of S 6th St. Report taken.

4:06 p.m. — Deputy spoke with a juvenile and their parent regarding a concerning picture on social media in the 800 block of Crimson Pl. Non-criminal.

6:52 p.m. — Deputy spoke with a citizen regarding phone harassment by an ex-significant other in the 900 block of Greenway Dr.

Fri., May 8, 11:33 a.m. — Deputy handled a mental health call for service in the 34000 block of Priceboro Dr. The caller reported things that are known not to have occurred.

2:59 p.m. — Deputy responded to a hit-and-run in the 800 block of Smith St, where a vehicle was struck while parked in front of that residence. Report taken.

6:42 p.m. — Caller reported a two-vehicle non-injury crash on Diamond Hill Rd near Powerline Rd. Alexis Hanakes, 27, of Corvallis, was cited for failing to obey a traffic control device. Report taken.

8:24 p.m. — Blake Cole, 40, of Eugene, was arrested for DUII, reckless driving, reck-

less endangering, and was cited for refusal to take an intoxicant test. Report taken.

Sat., May 9, 6:18 p.m. — Deputy documented a dog incident that occurred at the Harrisburg boat ramp in the 100 block of N 1st St. Non-criminal.

Sun., May 10, 7:51 a.m. — Caller reported a burglary in the 100 block of Moore St after video footage captured an individual climbing over a fence. The property owner later identified the suspect as a family member who was not authorized to be on the premises. Report taken.

3:00 p.m. — Deputies responded to a hit-and-run crash in the 100 block of Smith St near S 2nd St, where the suspect vehicle ran over a stop sign and fled the scene. Deputies located the vehicle near Junction City and conducted an investigation. Carl Gray, 63, of Eugene, was arrested for DUII, reckless driving, reckless endangering, and failure to perform the duties of a driver. Gray was lodged in LCJ. Report taken.

SHEDD

Fri., May 8, 9:12 a.m. — LCSO Civil Division conducted an eviction lockout in the 31900 block of Oakville Rd. The property was posted and turned over to the lawful representative.

5:22 p.m. — Deputy responded to a non-injury, non-reportable motor vehicle crash near Linn West Dr. and Ogle Rd.

TANGENT

Thu., May 7, 7:06 a.m. — Deputy conducted a welfare check in the 32100 block of Arrowhead Way.

10:56 p.m. — Deputy spoke with a citizen regarding a loud noise coming from an industrial business in the 31900 block of Rolland Dr. during the late hours of the night.

Fri., May 8, 4:37 p.m. — Deputy took a report of possible criminal mischief in the 32800 block of Hwy 99E. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Sun., May 10, 1:20 p.m. — Caller reported theft of his wallet in the 33600 block of Hwy 99E. Information was gathered and no crimes were disclosed. ☀

H.A.R.T. Community Center Celebrates First Mayfest

By Caitlyn Walden, Staff Writer and Harrisburg Correspondent

HARRISBURG — The Harrisburg Activities and Resources Team (H.A.R.T.) Community Center held its first Mayfest on Saturday, May 2, from 1–4 p.m. in celebration of May Day.



Guests at the first Mayfest celebration could decorate flower pots and plant flowers to take home.

Flats of colorful flowers greeted attendees at the plant-and-take-home station near the entrance of the center's building. Mayfest-goers were encouraged to decorate a pot and to choose a flower to plant and take home.

H.A.R.T. board member Angela Miller said, "This is our way of giving back to the community and gathering people together. We liked the potting station idea because it provides others with ideas for their mom for Mother's Day."

Crafts, treats, and snacks were displayed inside, including Rice Krispies treats, cookies, vegetables, fruit, a meat-and-cheese tray, popcorn, and beverages.

Children and teenagers gathered in a nearby circle, playing various group games, including "Honey, do you love me?"

The center hosted a 10-minute escape room challenge, "The Secret Garden Mystery". Escape room challengers solved riddles and found clues to escape. Plant seeds were given as prizes.

There was also a prize raffle for attendees wishing to participate. The prizes were indoor and outdoor-themed baskets.

Visit the H.A.R.T.'s website at <https://hartcommunitycenter.godaddysites.com> or drop by the center's location at 354 Smith Street to learn more about the center and future events. ☼



Angela Miller and Curtis Griffith sit beside raffle prizes and activity supplies.

PHOTOS: CAITLYN WALDEN

TAKING ROOT

Eating Wild: Sourcing the Blue Camas

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist

When Hugh Brown, James Blakely, Alexander Kirk and other immigrants on the first wagon train settled along the Calapooia River in 1846, their provisions from Missouri were meager. It was spring, and before they could plant wheat and corn, they had to clear land and build shelter.

Fortunately, the surviving Kalapuya people were willing to trade their principal foodstuff: blue camas bulbs, cooked in an underground oven, mashed into a patty, and dried in the sun or over a fire.

Camas, or *Camassia quamash*, is a small, onion-sized bulb in the lily family. Early accounts of its flavor varied widely. Members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition became violently ill after eating camas acquired from the Shoshone in 1805. In 1836, Narcissa Whitman, living among the Cayuse near Walla Walla, described the bulbs as sweet, with a fig-like taste. The difference appears to be preparation.

Camas bulbs contain inulin, a starch many people cannot digest. Long cooking converts inulin to fructose, making the bulbs sweeter and easier to eat. Undercooked camas could cause illness; properly prepared camas became an important food source.

The Kalapuya prepared camas by digging a pit, lining it with stones, and heating the stones with fire. They added sweet grasses, bulbs and more hot rocks, then covered the pit with dirt and kept a fire burning on top for at least 12 hours. The moisture from the grasses, combined with the heat, steamed the bulbs.

Forager Hank Shaw describes the taste as somewhere between baked pear and cooked fig.

The Kalapuya harvested camas in the fall, after the blue flowers seen across the valley had died back. Experienced foragers knew to avoid the poisonous white camas, also known as death camas.

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



DONALD LYON

Albany Preservation Month Continues with Historic Tours and Demonstrations

ALBANY — Albany continues celebrating National Historic Preservation Month throughout May with a series of upcoming tours, walking events, and preservation demonstrations focused on the city's rich architectural history and historic districts.

One of the featured events later this month is the Tour of Oregon Electric Railway Depot and Hackleman District Walk on May 31 at 2 p.m. Participants will begin at the historic Oregon Electric Railway Depot, now home to Sybaris Bistro, before taking a guided walking tour through the Hackleman Historic District.



LONNA CAPACI

The tour will be led by Lonna Capaci, Liz Rapp, and Sybaris owner Matt Bennett, who will share the history and restoration of the 1912 building. Participants will also enjoy a special treat before the walk begins. The event is limited to 20 people, and reservations are required through the Albany Visitors Association at 541-928-0911.

Additional Preservation Month events later in May include a Historic Window Demonstration at the Albany Farmers' Market on May 23, where Vance McDermott of Tried and True Historic Windows will demonstrate restoration techniques for preserving older windows. Later that day, visitors can also attend the Vintage Windows Open House at 635 Water Ave. NE to learn more about historic window restoration tools, materials, and preservation methods.

Downtown walking tours will continue May 27 and 28 with guided history walks along First Avenue and Second Avenue led by Oscar Hult of The Natty Dresser. Both tours begin at 6 p.m. at Burkhart Square and will explore Albany's historic storefronts and architectural details.

The month concludes May 30 with "Objects of Albany" at the Carnegie Library, where visitors can view historical artifacts and local treasures rarely displayed publicly from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Albany's Preservation Month events highlight the city's longstanding commitment to preserving historic buildings, neighborhoods, and community traditions throughout the Willamette Valley. For more events and a calendar, visit: <https://www.albanyvisitors.com/events> or call 541-928-0911 for more information and a full lineup of events. ☼



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