



Central Linn Athletes Deliver Big Night at Harrisburg

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

HARRISBURG — The Central Linn track and field teams turned in a strong performance May 1 at the Harrisburg Twilight Meet, highlighted by multiple victories, relay success, and a long list of personal-best marks.

Senior Don Ware led the Cobras' boys team with victories in both the 200 and 400 meters while also anchoring the winning 4x400 relay team. Jackson Durringer added wins in the 800 and 1,500 meters, while teammate Ethan Denison earned runner-up finishes in both distance races. Creed Mast added a personal best in the 800.



Jackson Durringer, and Ethan Denison celebrate first- and second-place finishes in the 800 meters.

Bob Cunningham posted personal records in both hurdle events, and the Cobras also earned a third-place finish in the 4x100 relay. Central Linn added several strong field-event performances, including PRs in discus and pole vault.

On the girls side, sophomore Anya Griffith delivered one of the meet's top performances by winning both the 400 and 1,500 meters. She also helped Central Linn place second in both the 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

Jayne Neal added runner-up honors in the 800 and placed third in the 1,500, while Alyse Glenn finished second in the 3,000 meters.

In the field events, Ashley Greeno



Members of the Central Linn girls track and field team celebrate after winning the team title at the Harrisburg Twilight Meet.

won the high jump and posted personal-best times in both hurdle races. Georgia Wahl and Addie Wolff added strong finishes in the triple jump for the Cobras.

The Central Linn girls team capped the evening by claiming the overall team title at the Harrisburg Twilight Meet, while athletes across both squads continued building momentum heading into the final stretch of the season. 🌀

INSIDE

PLATYPUS DROP & CARNIVAL



A Legacy of Strength Among Central Linn Mothers

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

Long before modern conveniences and busy schedules defined daily life, the mothers of Brownsville and the surrounding Central Linn communities laid the region's foundation — one family, one meal, and one long day at a time.

From the earliest pioneer days in the mid-1800s, women who settled in the Calapooia River valley faced a rugged landscape and demanding responsibilities. Many traveled the Oregon Trail before building homesteads, raising children, cooking on wood stoves, tending gardens, preserving food, and helping manage farms in communities stretching from Tangent to Harrisburg and from Brownsville to Crawfordville.

Historic photographs preserved in the Linn County Pioneer Association's Pioneer Picture Gallery collection offer glimpses into those lives and the generations that followed.

One photograph captures three generations of the Curtis family together in January 1917 — Agnes Hogue, Ida Curtis, and 7-week-old Marjorie Lucile Curtis.

Another image from 1939 shows Brownsville teacher Faye Dedman with her young son. Dedman, a member of the Cooley family, later taught at Brownsville High School before her death in 1965.

Women throughout Central Linn were more than caretakers. They were educators, healers, and community builders. In an era before modern medicine, many also endured



Three generations of the Curtis family are pictured together in January 1917. Shown are Agnes Hogue, Ida Curtis, and infant Marjorie Lucile Curtis.

profound loss as illness, accidents, and hardship affected families across rural Oregon. Small cemeteries across the region still reflect those difficult years.

Community life provided connection and support. Mothers gathered for church services, school functions, and community traditions, including the Brownsville Pioneer Picnic — Oregon's longest-running celebration.

As the region evolved into a network of close-knit rural communities, mothers remained central to daily life. During difficult periods, such as the Great Depression and wartime, they stretched limited resources, supported their families, and kept households running.

Today, that same spirit lives on through mothers who remain active in schools, churches,

volunteer organizations, youth programs, and local events throughout Central Linn County.

As Mother's Day approaches, the community is reminded that the story of Central

Linn is also the story of its mothers — women whose love, sacrifice, and resilience have shaped generations. 🌀

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PIONEER PICTURE GALLERY.



Brownsville educator Faye Dedman poses with her son, Billy, in this 1939 photograph. Dedman was part of the Cooley family and later taught at Brownsville High School.

MAILING LABEL BELOW

\$2.00



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

‘The Pirates of Penzance’

Now–May 9 • Various times
Albany Civic Theater, 111 W 1st Ave., Albany
Enjoy a lively steampunk-style production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s classic comic opera. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., with matinees at 2:30 p.m. on select dates. Closed captioning available for select shows. Tickets available online or at the box office prior to performances.
https://www.albanycivic.org • 541-928-4603

Central Linn FFA Plant Sale

Friday–Saturday, May 8–9 • 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Central Linn High School Greenhouse, 32433 Hwy 228
Shop a wide selection of student-grown plants, including flowers, hanging baskets, vegetable starts, herbs, and strawberries. Prices range from \$2–3 for 4-inch pots, \$6 for bedding plant 6-packs, and \$35 for hanging baskets. Proceeds support Central Linn FFA student programs and activities.

The Caregivers Tea

Friday, May 8 • 1–4 p.m. • \$15 •• 541-466-3662
Yankee Dutch Quilting, 140 Spaulding Ave., Brownsville
This special tea event celebrates caregivers of all kinds — whether caring for a child, spouse, parent, or neighbor. Guests will enjoy high tea treats while relaxing in a transformed tearoom setting, along with an optional de-stress embroidery project. Unable to attend? Request a caregiver swag bag instead.
https://www.yankeedutchquilts.com/events

Grocery Deals Anniversary Mega Sale

Friday, May 8–Saturday, May 9 • 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Grocery Deals, 295 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
Featuring 10 percent off store wide, with no exclusions, plus 10 bonus deals marked by balloons throughout the store. Visitors will receive one raffle ticket just for coming in and one additional ticket for every \$10 spent at check-out. Free lunch, including a hot dog, snack-size chips, and a drink from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days. Free snow cones from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday also includes a petting zoo from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and raffle drawings for a purse or BBQ bundle. Winners do not need to be present, but phone numbers must be legible.
https://www.facebook.com/events/886338134427687

Tangent Farmers Market Opening Day

Saturday, May 9 • 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Baxter’s Brew/Riverland Rentals, 33977 OR-99E, Tangent
The Tangent Farmers Market kicks off its 2026 season with local vendors, handmade goods, food, and live entertainment. The market runs the second Saturday of each month through August (June 13, July 11, Aug. 8), offering a welcoming community atmosphere.
https://www.facebook.com/tangentfarmersmarket

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.

Pottery In Bloom: Annual Spring Sale

Saturday, May 9 • 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Calapooia Clay, 1533 SE 7th Ave., Albany
Shop handmade pottery from local ceramic artists, including mugs, bowls, planters, and more. Meet the makers, enjoy treats from Drizzle Coffee Break, and enter a raffle for a pottery workshop experience.
https://calapooiaclay.com

Albany Carnival & Great Platypus Drop

Saturday, May 9 • 11 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Mid-Willamette Family YMCA, 3201 Pacific Blvd. SW
Hosted by the Mid-Willamette Family YMCA and Albany Area Habitat for Humanity, this free community event features the Great Platypus Drop raffle, bounce zone and obstacle course, carnival games, food vendors, a toddler fun zone, photo booth, and more. Participants can purchase raffle entries (“platypuses”) in advance for a chance to win prizes, including a Disneyland trip for four. Proceeds support local housing and youth programs.
Tickets: https://go.rallyup.com/albanycarnival

Pre-Mother’s Day Paint & Graze Brunch

Saturday, May 9 • 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. • Free
Belle Âme, 136 Spaulding Ave., Brownsville
Family-friendly event for moms and kids featuring a mini pancake bar, grazing snacks, painting crafts, music, and a Polaroid keepsake. Supplies are limited and available first come, first served. One glass item per family, or bring your own to paint.
https://www.facebook.com/events/1529390588737499

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

May Flowers in Collage

Saturday, May 16 • 2–4 p.m. • \$40
Brownsville Art Center, 255 N. Main St., Brownsville
Join instructor Brynn Carter for a beginner-friendly collage class where students will create a colorful floral artwork using painted backgrounds and layered paper shapes. Open to ages 6 through adult. Cost is \$40, and all materials are provided. Registration closes May 9.
https://brownsvilleart.org.

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Halsey City Hall, First Floor, 100 W Halsey St.

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.

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

Willamette Valley Dozer Day

Saturday, May 16 • 10 a.m.–5 p.m. • \$20/30
Knife River Training Center, 35973 Kennel Road 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://ww.dozerday.org

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

https://brownsvilletimes.org/community-calendar

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Albany Community Carnival & Great Platypus Drop Returns May 9

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer and Tangent Correspondent



ASHLEY LANE

Bounce houses, a capybara, and rubber platypuses dropped by the Albany Fire Department highlight this free, family-friendly event.

The event is set for Saturday, May 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mid-Willamette Family YMCA, 201 SW Pacific Blvd., Albany. It is a collaboration between Albany Area Habitat for Humanity and the YMCA.

The carnival features free activities including

face painting, giant inflatables, games, and a toddler zone. A petting zoo includes a capybara from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. and Caesar the No Drama Llama from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Community organizations will host activity stations in nonprofit row, including Tangent Together, where kids can make pin-back buttons. The carnival is free thanks to community sponsors. Food trucks, vendors, and the dunk tank are the only elements of the carnival that cost — the rest of the day is entirely free.

As the carnival closes at 4 p.m., it's time for the Great Platypus Drop. For just \$5 per platypus, attendees can enter the Great Platypus Drop for a chance to win more than 50 prizes, including a Disney vacation for four. Entries are available on-site or in advance at <https://go.rallyup.com/albanycarnival>. This year includes a Beavers vs. Ducks team option.

Proceeds support Habitat for Humanity housing efforts and YMCA youth program scholarships.

Ashley Lane, Community Engagement Manager for Albany Area Habitat for Humanity, said her favorite part is watching the kids light up. "Seeing their smiles playing the games and knowing this is just another great event for families to do in our community," she said.

Tiffany Fallows, Resource Development Specialist for the YMCA, said the goal has always been accessibility.

"We've worked hard to create a fun, welcoming event that's truly accessible, so everyone can be part of it without worrying about cost," she said. ☺

CENTRAL LINN LIONS CLUB

Circus Returns to Brownsville with Local Ticket Sales Supporting Community

The Central Linn Lions Club reminds residents that the Culpepper & Merriweather Great Combined Circus is returning to the area on Wednesday, May 20. The Big Top will be set up at Brownsville Baptist Church, 27910 Seven Mile Lane SE, with two shows scheduled at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., offering families two opportunities to attend. All ages are welcome.

Tickets are available now at the Brownsville and Halsey libraries, Diamond K Sales in Halsey, Halsey City Hall, and Sharing Hands in Brownsville. Purchasing tickets locally helps support the Lions Club, with a portion of proceeds going toward community programs, service projects, and local initiatives throughout Central Linn County.

Don't miss this family-friendly tradition — right here in Brownsville. ☺



ASHLEY LANE

Oregon Ag Fest Brings the Farm to the City

Salem's annual festival bridges the rural-urban divide

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer and Tangent Correspondent

SALEM — Every April, the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem transforms into something special. Thousands of people — many of them city kids who've never stood in a field — get to dig up a potato, plant a flower, watch a sheep get sheared, or climb onto a pony named Lady and feel what it's like to be just a little bit country.

That's the heart of Oregon Ag Fest, now in its 39th year.

On the weekend of April 25–26, the fairgrounds buzzed with the kind of energy you only get when you mix curious kids, live farm animals, and the smell of fresh dirt. Steam-powered antique tractors from Powerland Heritage Park rumbled to life. Pedal tractor races drew crowds of pint-sized competitors. And somewhere in the mix, a very affectionate pony named Lady was collecting kisses from anyone willing to lean in close.

Macey Wessels, Director of Oregon Ag Fest and a veteran of the event for more than a decade, sees the festival as more than a fun day out. "It's a powerful way to help heal the divide between rural and urban communities," she said, "showing people the love for the land that farmers have — and that we are proud of what we do." More than 800 volunteers make the two-day event run, and community sponsors provide admission free for kids 15 and under.

Charles Ortiz of Scio was on hand representing the Oregon Seed Council, an organization funded by the Grass Seed and Clover Commissions. He's volunteered at Ag Fest for years, drawn back by the value of helping people make the urban-to-rural connection. He puts the stakes plainly: a single farmer feeds approximately 168 people. Everything that follows — the trucking, the boxing, the supply chain — traces back to someone working the land. "Food, fiber, energy, and water," he said. "Everything comes back to that."

Katie of Wish Upon a Pony, based in Aurora, has been bringing her horses to Ag Fest for over ten years. For many kids, it's their first real encounter with a living, breathing, nudge-you-with-her-nose horse.

Behind it all is Oregon Ag Fest, Inc., a local nonprofit, and more than 23,000 attendees in 2025, drawn from across the state. It's clear they're doing something right. People come to touch, taste, and experience a world that feeds them every day but often feels like it belongs to someone else's life.

It's the kind of event that reminds you — even if only for an afternoon — that the food on your table began somewhere real, in the hands of someone who cares about the land they work. ☺



MARCY HERMENS

Children lined up for a chance to ride Lady, a gentle pony from Wish Upon a Pony in Aurora, during Oregon Ag Fest at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem on April 26.



Josie El Marini, the 2026 Klamath County Dairy Princess Ambassador, watches as a young attendee spins a prize wheel at the dairy education booth.



A representative from Oregon Women in Timber greets visitors in a tree-inspired costume during Oregon Ag Fest at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem. The nonprofit organization promotes forestry education, careers, and sustainable forest management across Oregon.

TABLE TALK: DINING IN AND AROUND BROWNSVILLE

A Taste of Italy in Albany

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

My wife and I were in the mood for some good Italian food recently, and someone recommended Vito's Trattoria. We made the short drive to Albany and walked through the door, not quite sure what to expect. Almost right away, we realized we had eaten there several years earlier. It had been great then, and I was curious to see if it would still hold up.



JEFF BROWN



JEFF BROWN

It did not disappoint.

There were a few other couples in the restaurant when we arrived, and the dining room had a relaxed, comfortable feel. We arrived at an odd time between the usual lunch and dinner rushes. Our server, Bri, was the only person working the dining room while the chef handled things in the kitchen, but she kept everything running smoothly.

I ordered the Chicken Piccata, a pan-cooked chicken breast topped with a lemon-caper butter cream sauce and served with a side of fettuccine Alfredo. The dish arrived hot and looked great on the plate. The chicken had a crisp coating, and the sauce struck the right balance of lemon and capers without being overpowering. The fettuccine Alfredo on the side was rich and creamy, pairing well with the chicken.

My wife chose the Milano, featuring chicken, garlic, sun-dried tomatoes, and mushrooms in a Parmesan cream sauce. She was very happy with her choice. The sauce was smooth and

flavorful, and the ingredients worked well together without any one item overpowering the others.

Both meals were served quickly, and everything arrived hot and fresh.

Even though Bri was clearly busy handling the dining room by herself, she took care of us like a pro. Our drinks stayed full, and she checked in just enough to make sure everything was right without hovering.

Last year, my wife and I spent a month traveling in Italy, so we have a pretty good sense of what good Italian food is supposed to taste like. The flavors here honestly reminded us of the meals we enjoyed there.

The restaurant itself is comfortable and welcoming. There is seating on the main floor, and if things get busy, the upstairs seating area can be opened to provide extra room. They also offer an extensive wine list and a full bar.

If you are looking for a solid Italian meal in the Albany area, I strongly recommend Vito's Trattoria for your next night out. ☺



JEFF BROWN

SEASONS EATINGS

Two Takes on a Comfort Classic: Mac and Cheese, Reimagined

By Lisa Keith, Columnist

Hello everyone! I'm so thrilled to be sharing more of my favorite recipes with you. These two variations on the same dish have come together after years of trial and error. I know we all strive for the richest, creamiest mac and cheese possible.

The first version dates to the early 2000s, and I still change it often depending on what bits of cheese I have in the fridge. The second came from my daughter, Emily, around the same time. In our house, we're always trying to sneak vegetables into every dish possible.

First Draft Mac & Cheese

- 8 cups cooked elbow macaroni
- ½ C butter (1 stick)
- ½ C flour
- 1 Tbsp dry onion soup mix
- ¼ C mustard
- 1 C each cottage cheese, shredded cheddar, shredded Parmesan, and mozzarella — or any combination totaling at least 4 cups (Swiss, cream cheese, Colby Jack, American, etc.)
- 4 C milk
- ¼ C powdered cheese (nutritional yeast works too)
- ½ tsp each salt and pepper
- ½ C sour cream
- 1 tsp granulated garlic
- 1 C toasted breadcrumbs, for garnish



STOCK PHOTO

Heat oven to 350°F. Place butter and flour in a large saucepan and gradually add milk, powdered cheese, dry onion soup mix, salt, and pepper. Cook over medium heat until thick and bubbly, stirring constantly. Reduce the heat, then add the cheeses, sour cream, and mustard. Mix well until melted.

Combine cooked pasta with the cheese sauce and pour into a greased casserole dish. Sprinkle breadcrumbs over the top. Bake for 20–30 minutes, until bubbly and golden — very rich and tasty.

Emily's Butternut Squash Mac & Cheese

- 2 C cooked, cubed butternut squash
- 1 C chicken broth
- ¾ C milk
- ¼ C sour cream
- 1 tsp dry mustard
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- ½ C grated Parmesan
- ½ C grated cheddar
- ½ pound elbow macaroni, cooked



STOCK PHOTO

Combine squash, broth, milk, sour cream, dry mustard, salt, and pepper in a food processor or blender and blend until smooth. Stir in cheeses and pasta. Pour into a greased 9-by-9-inch baking dish.

Bake at 350° F for 20 minutes, covered. Uncover and broil for 5 minutes.

I'm so excited that so many of you are enjoying this column. I'm wondering if any of you would be interested in hands-on cooking experiences. We could start with the basics and move into more complicated dishes — and maybe even baking. Let me know by email at iamcheflisa@gmail.com. ☺

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Little Women Finally Debuts at Cobra Theater

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer

The Cobra Theatre recently showcased the incredible talent and persistence of local students in their production of “Little Women.” The road to opening night was much longer than expected for this dedicated group at Central Linn High School in Halsey.

These students began preparing for their roles way back in September when the school year first started. Although they originally planned to perform in January, a wave of sore throats and upset stomachs hit the school and the community. To make sure everyone was healthy and ready, the school decided to postpone the show until last week.

The long wait didn’t stop the cast from delivering a great performance. Kahaeli Morris, Hannah Travis, Lily Diaz, and Paesi Baney led the show as the four March sisters. They were joined by JJ Baney as Marmee, Reine Frankin as Laurie, and Enrique Luis Gonzalez as John. Many of these students took on extra responsibilities, such as Kahaeli Morris helping with costumes and Brogan Melero managing both off-stage voices and the lights.

To prepare for such a big production, the group used creative methods. Erin Klein, parent of stagehand Matthew Torres-Klein, noted that the students played fun games to practice different voices and actions. They used improv activities to help everyone, including the stagehands, learn to think quickly in different scenarios. This creative training was clearly shown on stage. Heidi Cliston, a junior at CLHS, said during intermission, “I think that they are doing a wonderful job.” She continued, “I’m sure any production in the future will be just lovely as they get better.”

Under the direction of Joseph Demianew, the crew and cast showed great teamwork by putting in extra effort to reach out to the community for costumes and props. The production ran for two nights, April 23 and 24, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the CLHS cafeteria, with tickets priced at \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. During intermissions, the audience joined in the fun with a “Minute to Win It” fundraiser, where seniors competed to see who could fill their baskets with the most cash. Their hard work since September clearly paid off in performances that the whole community could finally enjoy together. 🌸



The March sisters and Marmee read a letter from “Father” during a scene from “Little Women” at Central Linn High School. Back row: Kahaeli Morris, left, and Hannah Travis. Front row: Paesi Baney, JJ Baney, and Lily Diaz.



The cast of “Little Women” gathers for a photo following opening night in the Central Linn High School cafeteria. From left: JJ Baney, Paesi Baney, Kahaeli Morris, Enrique Luis Gonzalez, Hannah Travis, Reine Franklin, and Lily Diaz.

CENTRAL LINN SOFTBALL & BASEBALL Cobras Split with Santiam

The Central Linn softball team came away with a strong showing against Santiam last week, sweeping the Wolverines in league play, while the Cobra baseball team dropped both contests.

The Lady Cobras opened with a 12–1 home win on April 28, then completed the sweep with a dominant 23–7 victory on May 1. The pair of wins marked Central Linn’s third victory in four games and improved its record to 7-11 on the season.



Lilly Diaz tracks down a ball at shortstop during league action for the Lady Cobras

Kayla Moore powered the Cobras in Friday’s win, going 3-for-5 with three stolen bases, six RBIs, and two runs scored. Lilly Diaz added to the offensive surge by reaching base three times, stealing three bases, scoring three runs, and driving in one.

Central Linn’s offense was firing on all cylinders, finishing with a .588 team batting average — its best mark of the season — while averaging 11.3 runs over its last four games.

Earlier in the week, the Cobras bounced back from a loss with a 10–4 win behind a standout performance from Callie Northern. Northern struck out eight over seven innings in the circle, allowing three earned runs on six hits. She also contributed



Callie Northern delivers a pitch during Central Linn’s league matchup against Santiam.



Freshman catcher Kurry Travis reaches for a pitch behind the plate during Central Linn’s game against Santiam.

at the plate, going 1-for-4 with a double, two stolen bases, and two runs scored.

Diaz continued her strong play in that game, going 2-for-3 with four stolen bases and a career-high three runs, while Moore added two hits and three RBIs.

On the baseball field, Central Linn struggled against Santiam, falling 20–2 on April 28 and 11-1 in the rematch on May 1. Cameron Offutt led the Cobras in the opener, going 2-for-3 with a stolen base, one run, and one RBI.

In Friday’s game, Elijah Jeffery was one of five Cobras to record a hit, finishing 1-for-2 with an RBI.

The losses dropped Central Linn’s baseball record to 1–14, while Santiam improved to 7–7 on the season. 🌸

Family Dentistry

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Roberts Wins Lawn Mower in Sharing Hands Raffle



JUDITH BUSHNELL

Gary Roberts stands behind the lawn mower he won during the recent Sharing Hands raffle in Brownsville. The fundraiser raised about \$500 to support the food bank's ongoing mission of providing food and assistance to local families in need.



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Food donations may be dropped off at 107 W Bishop Way in Brownsville during pantry hours Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. ☺



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HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL

Crime Reports, Advocacy Efforts Highlight Meeting

By Caitlyn Walden, Staff Writer and Harrisburg Correspondent

The Harrisburg City Council met April 28 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Lane County Sheriff's Office quarterly crime report, the Coburg Police Department's traffic enforcement report, and future legislative advocacy efforts.

Crime and Traffic Enforcement Reports

LCSO's year-to-date crime results indicate that Harrisburg, with 34 crimes this year, leads in comparison to Millersburg and Mill City. Meanwhile, Harrisburg's property crime rate is the lowest it's been in the last two years.

The Coburg Police Department's traffic enforcement report included statistics for the quarter ending March 31, 2026. In Harrisburg, there were 40 traffic/personnel stops, 41 traffic violations (citations), and 9 traffic violations (warnings).

Harrisburg Legislative Advocacy Efforts

The Harrisburg City Council continued discussions on how it will engage in state-level advocacy ahead of Oregon's 2027 legislative session, following its participation in a recent regional meeting of small cities.

Council members attended a Small Municipality Advocacy Coalition (SMAC) meeting in Halsey on April 7, where city leaders from across the region discussed reorganizing the group and preparing for upcoming legislative priorities.

Council members are expected to continue the conversation in the coming months as they consider how actively Harrisburg should engage in advocacy efforts. Residents will also have an opportunity to learn more when Harrisburg hosts a League of Oregon Cities (LOC) small cities meeting on May 15. ☺

PUBLIC NOTICE

Harrisburg Budget Committee Meetings Set for May 11

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Harrisburg Redevelopment Agency and the City of Harrisburg, Linn County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, will be held at the Harrisburg Municipal Center, 354 Smith Street, Harrisburg.

The Harrisburg Redevelopment Agency Budget Committee will meet Monday, May 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. The City of Harrisburg Budget Committee meeting will follow immediately after.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and take public comment on the proposed budget. This is a public meeting where deliberations of both budget committees will take place.

Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the committees.

Notice of the second budget meeting is posted at <https://www.ci.harrisburg.or.us>. A copy of the budget document is available online and at Harrisburg City Hall, 120 Smith Street, Harrisburg, between 7:30 a.m. and noon and 1-5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. and noon Friday. ☺

HALSEY MAYOR'S CORNER

Understanding Public Right-of-Way Responsibilities

By Jerry Lachenbruch, Mayor, City of Halsey

Well, holy smokes — it is already May! This year is blazing along. Flowers are blooming, kids are riding bikes, and the parks are full of activity. I love seeing all of it.

Lately, the city has received several questions about public right-of-way areas and who is responsible for maintaining them. With the noxious vegetation season approaching, it is a great time to discuss the topic. It can be confusing, but the city will do everything we can to make it easier to understand. All you have to do is ask.

A public right-of-way, often called a ROW, includes land dedicated to public use. This includes streets and roadways, sidewalks and pedestrian paths, curbs and planting strips, utilities such as water, sewer, power, and communications lines, as well as drainage ways and easements. In Halsey, all streets and access ways must be within a public right-of-way and meet City Public Works standards.

Maintaining these areas is a shared responsibility among the City, property owners, and utility providers.

The City of Halsey is responsible for maintaining public streets and travel lanes, overseeing street construction and major repairs, traffic control infrastructure, and storm drainage systems, and for regulating use of the right-of-way through permits and design standards.

At the same time, adjacent property owners also have responsibilities under the city code. Property owners are required to maintain areas bordering their property including keeping sidewalks clear of snow, debris, and leaves, keeping parked vehicles off sidewalks, managing vegetation overgrowth, maintain planting and grass strips, and ensure landscaping does not obstruct visibility or create safety hazards.

Residents may use portions of the adjacent right-of-way in limited ways, including parking licensed, operable vehicles for up to 72 hours and installing approved landscaping or trees with a city permit. However, junk, debris, inoperable vehicles, trailers, RVs, and boats may not be stored in the right-of-way.

Utility companies and developers also have responsibilities. Utilities must obtain permission or enter into franchise agreements to install and maintain infrastructure, while developers may be required to dedicate additional right-of-way or to construct sidewalks, streets, and utility improvements that meet City standards.

Above all, safety remains the top priority in all right-of-way decisions, including public access, emergency access, and infrastructure protection.

Hopefully, this overview was helpful. If you have questions, please contact City Hall by visiting 100 W. Halsey St. Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., email contact@halseyor.gov, or call 541-369-2522, and we will do our best to answer them or point you in the right direction. ☺

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TANGENT CITY COUNCIL

Council Passes Resolution Opposing Elementary School Closure

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer and Tangent Correspondent

The Tangent City Council voted unanimously Thursday night, April 30, to formally oppose any closure of Tangent Elementary School, adopting Resolution 26-06 before a packed room of residents who came to speak, to listen, and to stand together for their community.

More than a dozen community members attended the special meeting, called specifically to address the Greater Albany Public Schools district's ongoing facilities review, which has placed Tangent Elementary among four small schools under consideration. The public comment period that preceded the vote was, by any measure, deeply personal.

Virginia Glaser, a longtime Tangent resident, gave the evening some of its most powerful context. Her husband helped build the current school building. For her, the question of closure is not an administrative matter — it is an affront. “How dare they try to close our school?” she said.

David Neal shared that he attended Tangent Elementary before the 1979 consolidation that folded the school into GAPS. That consolidation still carries a sting in the community's memory. Residents recall a brand-new bus the town had purchased — one that GAPS took and reassigned to another school during the merger. Decades later, the wound hasn't fully healed.

Neal, joined by Glaser, also raised a question that cut to the heart of the matter: what happens to the building if the school closes? Tangent residents bought the land. Tangent residents built the school. The community considers it a community asset, and they want to know who would control it if GAPS walked away.

Neal also questioned the district's logic on transportation, pointing out that closing the school would mean longer bus rides for students and higher costs for the district — at a time when a shortage of bus drivers is well-documented and ongoing across Oregon school districts.

Jay Jackman, a current board member for Sandridge Charter Schools, attended not as an opponent but as a neighbor offering support and institutional knowledge. His presence signaled that Tangent is not alone in this fight.

Another resident put it simply: “We need to rectify this situation and keep our school.”

After public comment closed, City Manager Joe Samaniego explained the intent behind Resolution 26-06. The resolution carries no legal authority over the GAPS School Board — the school falls outside the city's jurisdiction — but it puts Tangent's position on record, formally and in writing. Council members discussed the measure with visible emotion before casting their votes. The resolution passed unanimously.

The signed resolution will be presented publicly at the GAPS School Board meeting on May 18.

For Tangent, this is not a bureaucratic skirmish. It is a fight for the kind of town they want to remain — one with a school at its center, close to the homes and families that built it.

Halsey Library ‘Book-It’ 5K Fundraiser this Saturday

HALSEY — Grab your running shoes and hit the trail this Saturday, May 9, for the annual Halsey Library “Book-It” 5K Fundraiser at 10 a.m. in Halsey Memorial Park.

The community event welcomes runners and walkers of all ages, with proceeds supporting Halsey Library programs and events.

Registration is \$35 and includes a T-shirt while supplies last. Discounts are available for seniors, youth, and teams.

Register at https://halseyor.gov/news_detail_T24_R315.php or sign up at the Halsey Library or Halsey City Hall.

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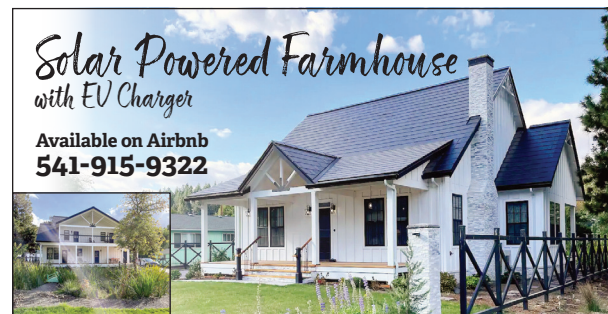
Register by May 9 for
"May Flowers in Collage"

Registration closes Saturday, May 9, for the upcoming "May Flowers in Collage" class with instructor Brynn Carter at the Brownsville Art Center.

The class will be held on Saturday, May 16, and invites students ages 6 and up to create a colorful floral collage using painted backgrounds and layered paper shapes. The relaxed, beginner-friendly workshop is designed for all skill levels.

Class size is limited to 10. Cost is \$40, and all materials are provided, though participants may bring additional collage paper if desired.

Register online at <https://brownsvilleart.org>. 🌻



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CAREGIVING 101

Always Carry a
Screwdriver

By Mari VanderStelt, Guest Contributor

A long time ago — or at least it feels that way now — I was briefly paid to do what many family caregivers do for free: keep elders' company, help around the house, and make sure they were safe.

It led to several unexpected adventures — including the time I was briefly held hostage by an angry bathroom door.

The house was a split-level, and the caregiver's bathroom sat off the laundry room behind a long, cave-like den. It was a half bath, packed with miniature figurines on nearly every surface.

My client had memory loss, and her dog had recently been stolen. Whenever she heard a dog bark, she would head out to find it. Her husband, hard of hearing, often didn't notice she was gone until much later. Since dogs were always barking and she was a fast walker, any break I took had to be quick.

Then came the day the bathroom door lock decided that unlocking was not necessary.

I washed my hands and went to open the door, confident in my decades of door-opening experience.

It wouldn't open.

I tried again. Nothing.

Soon, I was turning the lock in every possible direction and pushing and pulling the knob like that might help. It didn't.

I didn't have my phone, no one could hear me over the washing machine, and my shift had two hours left.

Then the neighbor's dog started barking.

From experience, I knew I had about five minutes before my client would be out the door looking for her dog. It was time to get creative — or everyone's evening could get interesting.

I moved the figurines to the sink so I wouldn't break them, said a quick prayer, and opened the window. Thankfully, it slid up, and I managed to push the screen out without breaking it.

Standing on the toilet, I attempted to climb out, wishing I had inherited more of the family's tall genes. Another couple of inches would have helped.

I aimed for grace but likely looked like a Burmese sheepdog trying to navigate a water slide. I also had a brief moment of wondering if someone from the neighborhood watch was already dialing 911.

Thankfully, I made it back to the front door before my client went looking for her dog, and no one called the police.

At the end of our shift, we were required to write a detailed report. Later, my supervisor laughed so hard reading mine that she popped a stitch from a recent surgery.

Training for caregivers is invaluable. Whether caring for a loved one, a relative, or a stranger, it helps to have tools for managing agitation, encouraging eating, and assisting with daily living tasks.



Here is one more tip I think all caregivers should know: Carry a screwdriver and your cell phone.

And always keep them with you.

You never know when you might get locked in someone's bathroom. 🌀

LINN COUNTY LAMB & WOOL FAIR

Lamb and Wool Fair
Returns to Scio
May 15-17

SCIO — A longtime regional tradition returns May 15-17 as the Linn County Lamb and Wool Fair brings three days of agriculture, fiber arts, live entertainment, and family-friendly activities to town. This year's theme, "The Wild & Woolly West," sets the tone for a weekend celebrating rural heritage and community spirit.

The fair is one of Oregon's oldest fairs, promoting agricultural excellence, celebrating local heritage, and strengthening community by supporting youth involvement in 4-H, FFA, and school programs.

Organized entirely by volunteers and supported through donations and fundraising efforts, the fair continues a long tradition of offering free admission and accessible activities for all ages.

Activities begin Friday with vendor openings, the petting zoo, the pie-eating contest, and the start of the Northwest Championship Sheepdog Trials. Friday evening will also feature the Royal Court Coronation at 7 p.m. on the Carol Bates Stage.

Live music is scheduled both Friday and Saturday evenings on the Carol Bates stage. Friday's performers include Muddy Creek Band at 5:30 p.m. and Surefire Music at 7:30 p.m. Saturday night features Willamette Strays at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Katrina Elizabeth Band at 7:30 p.m. A

beer garden presented by Snow Peak Brewing Co. will also be open both evenings in the Big Red Pavilion.

Saturday marks the busiest day of the fair, beginning with the Lamb Trot 5K run and walk in the morning, followed by the community parade through downtown Scio. Throughout the day, visitors can explore vendor booths, a fiber arts marketplace, sheep-to-shawl demonstrations, and a wide range of exhibits. Family-friendly activities include the pet show, talent show, family games, and interactive demonstrations. A Tractor Show on Main Street will also be part of Saturday's lineup.

Events continue Sunday with the lamb show, hula hoop contest, and additional fiber arts activities, along with vendors and exhibits open through the afternoon.

Additional attractions throughout the weekend include a quilt show, flower show, and hands-on opportunities to learn about wool production from sheep to finished product.

Visit <https://www.lambfair.com> for the full line up and event details. 🌀



Amity Parker poses with her lamb after earning honors during the Linn County Lamb & Wool Fair in Scio last year. The annual fair returns May 15.

Young participants show off their hula hoop skills during the 2025 Linn County Lamb & Wool Fair.



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BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

Japanese Friend Shares Handmade Gifts with Brownsville Community

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

Junko Morii, a Japanese fan of the movie “Stand By Me” and Brownsville, recently posted on the Livin’ in Brownsville Facebook group that she had made gifts for her Oregon friends.

Her Japanese friend and Brownsville resident, Nobuo, was visiting Japan and agreed to bring these gifts back with him. He returned on Thursday, April 30, and delivered them to the Brownsville Community Library, where they are available for the community while supplies last.

Linda McCormick, administrator of the Livin’ in Brownsville Facebook group page, said Junko has long felt connected to Brownsville through the friendships she has made online and wanted to share a gift with the community.

Included in each gift bag are a handmade fabric-covered button made with traditional Japanese-patterned fabric, an origami crane, and a handwritten note from Junko.

In her message, Junko wrote, “Thank you for always being so kind to me. I made all of this myself. I hope my small gift adds a little color to your daily life. I wish you good health and happiness from Japan.”

Junko also included the Japanese word “友情” (“friendship”) written in calligraphy and stamped with a seal using the “Jun” from her name.

The origami crane included in each gift is considered a symbol of good luck in Japan. Junko said she folded each crane “with all my heart, wishing for everyone’s happiness and health.”

McCormick said she was touched by the thoughtful details included in the gift she received.

“Purple! She knew that’s my favorite color. How sweet,” McCormick said.

Junko asked that visitors please limit themselves to one gift per family so that as many people as possible can receive one.



Some of the handmade gifts created by Junko Morii include origami cranes, fabric-covered buttons, and handwritten notes.



Nobuo, left, delivered handmade gifts from Japan to the Brownsville Community Library on behalf of Junko Morii. Pictured with him are librarian Sherri Lemhouse and Linda McCormick.

Library Program Helps Residents Spot Scams

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer & Columnist

BROWNSVILLE — Scammers are getting smarter — but thanks to a pair of recent programs at the Brownsville Community Library, local residents are learning how to protect themselves.

“Avoid Scams with Sam,” presented by legal assistant Samantha Heathcote, was held March 26 and April 23 in the library’s Kirk Room. Both sessions drew strong attendance, but the message was clear: anyone can become a victim.

Heathcote, who works with Danielle M. Myers, Esq., Attorney at Law, LLC, guided attendees through a variety of scams, from familiar phone and email schemes to newer tactics designed to catch people off guard.

One example was the “say yes” scam, in which callers ask simple questions like “Can you hear me?” or “Is this [your name]?” in hopes of recording a “yes” response that may later be used to support fraudulent charges or agreements. Heathcote advised residents to avoid answering unknown calls directly and instead let them go to voicemail.

She stressed three key steps when dealing with suspicious or urgent calls: stop, verify, and talk to someone. Pause before reacting, confirm the caller’s identity through trusted sources, and seek a second opinion before taking action.

While much of the focus centered on protecting older adults, Heathcote emphasized that scams can affect anyone. As technology evolves, awareness and caution remain the best defense.

Programs like this reflect the Brownsville Community Library’s role in helping residents stay informed and connected.

HARRISBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer Reading and Rocket Languages Launch

The Harrisburg Public Library is inviting area families to take part in its 2026 Summer Reading Program, themed “Plant a Seed Read.”

The free program runs Fridays from June 12 through Aug. 7 at 10 a.m. at the Harrisburg Municipal Center. Organizers say the program will feature reading activities and summer fun for local children and families. For more information, call the library at 541-995-6949.

The library is also launching “Rocket Languages,” a new online language-learning service available free to library patrons. The interactive program offers self-paced lessons, games, downloadable content, and instruction in multiple languages.

Patrons can access the service online by creating an account with their library card number. Library cards must include the “PHPL” prefix to register for the service. Residents whose cards need updating can contact the library by phone or visit the library in person.

Library cards are free for Harrisburg residents living within city limits. The Harrisburg Public Library is part of the Linn Library Consortium, giving patrons access to materials from six regional libraries.

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BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY CALENDAR

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Wednesdays • 1–3 p.m. • History Room
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Songs, Rhymes & More Story Time

Fridays • 11 a.m.
Story time with rhymes, songs, and a craft activity.

Brownsville 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.

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HALSEY LIBRARY CALENDAR

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Fridays • 10 a.m.

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Tangent Celebrates Its Tree City and Bee City Status

By Marcy Hermens,
Staff Writer
and Tangent
Correspondent

TANGENT — Sunday, April 26, brought sunshine as residents gathered at Tangent City Hall to celebrate something worth savoring: their small Linn County town being both a Tree City USA and a Bee City USA affiliate.

City Manager Joe Samaniego manned the grill, serving hot dogs and lemonade, while community member Cheryl Hase staffed a table stocked with free red cedar baby tree starts. It was a charming celebration for a small town with deep roots in the land.

“Tangent as a city benefits from being recognized as a Tree City and a Bee City, because it shows we are a community that cares about the land around us,” Samaniego said. “It is also encouraging to other small towns to do the same.”

Tangent earned its Tree City USA designation in March 2024 through the national Arbor Day Foundation, whose Oregon program is administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry. To qualify, cities must maintain a tree board, adopt a tree care ordinance, invest at least \$2 per capita in urban forestry, and hold an annual Arbor Day observance. Tangent joined 68 other Oregon communities that have met those standards.

Samaniego said the Tree City designation had been a goal set by the city council. When the council reviewed the requirements, Tangent was already most of the way there, needing only a few additional steps — including establishing a tree ordinance — to make it official. The designation has since unlocked grant opportunities that enabled Tangent to plant trees, purchase books for Tangent Elementary School, and pursue other community beautification projects.



Garry and Alicia Pullen, City Manager Joe Samaniego, Mayor Loel Trulove Jr., Cheryl Hase, Austin Trulove, and Paul Hermens celebrate Tangent's Tree City USA and Bee City USA status outside Tangent City Hall.

In September 2025, Tangent added another feather to its cap by becoming a Bee City USA affiliate. Council members first learned about the program at the League of Oregon Cities Conference and saw an immediate fit. Bee City affiliates commit to reducing pesticide use and maintaining low-mow areas that provide pollinators with forage and nesting sites.

“With bee populations declining, committing to being a Bee City is a way we show our commitment to helping and to holding ourselves accountable,” Samaniego said.

Mayor Loel Trulove said the benefits of both designations extend beyond aesthetics. “It’s important to take care of our community, and being a Tree City and Bee City helps with air quality, water quality, and livability in our town.”



Machelle Bamberger displays a red cedar sapling during Tangent's Tree City USA and Bee City USA celebration April 26 at Tangent City Hall.

Kitty Kat's Legacy and a Tangent Pavilion

Historic property faces modern challenges
By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer

TANGENT — A Tangent farm once home to one of Oregon’s most famous felines may soon gain a new public pavilion.

A tomcat named Kitty Kat lived with owner John Bass on the property during the 1980s. When Bass died in 1983, he left his farm and about \$70,000 in trust for Kitty Kat’s care and upkeep of the property. The unusual arrangement reportedly made Kitty Kat one of Oregon’s richest cats.

The property later became associated with the City of Tangent, which rented the home for use as City Hall. In 2001, the city considered selling the farm, but strong public opposition led officials to retain the property instead.

After Bass died, Dale Clark became Kitty Kat’s caretaker. Kitty Kat died in 1995 and was buried in the front yard beneath a gravestone near the flagpole.

Now, decades later, city officials are considering another major change to the property.

In 2011, the city determined the aging barn required substantial repairs and began discussing the possibility of replacing it with a public pavilion. One major obstacle quickly emerged: a public pavilion would likely require ADA-accessible restroom facilities and plumbing infrastructure, significantly increasing project costs. Officials have also discussed the possibility of installing “dry toilets” instead.

The proposal resurfaced during the April 13 Tangent City Council meeting. Staff reported that Adair Village could provide the public works support needed to operate a water system for the site. However, officials said the existing well may not provide sufficient water, and because the property originally served as a private residence and farm, the city does not currently hold water rights there.

September 19, 2026, is the current target completion date for the pavilion project, though water and restroom issues remain unresolved.

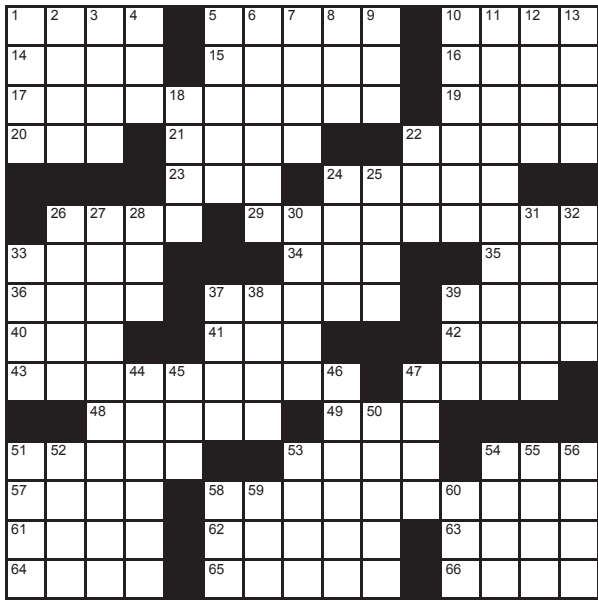


Dale Clark, caretaker of the John Bass Farm property after John Bass' death, holds Kitty Kat in a framed historical photo displayed at Tangent City Hall.



The City of Tangent is exploring The City of Tangent is exploring plans for a new pavilion at Bass Estate Park east of Tangent City Hall. Officials are still working through water and restroom infrastructure issues tied to the project.

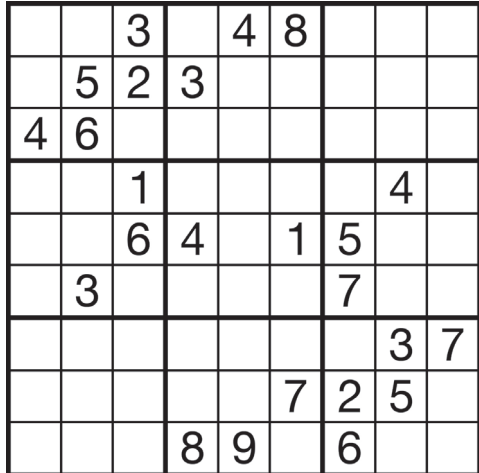
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- ACROSS**
1 Mower's target
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16 Assistant
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19 Hidden valley
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46 Evergreen State city
47 Flower holder
50 Bronze Star, e.g.
51 Pain
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53 Wight, for one
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60 Society girl

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Adult classes 10 a.m.

Brownsville Community Church 198 Washburn St
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Central Valley Church 657 American Dr
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m. (during school year)
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. • Mon. Prayer 7–8 p.m.

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Harvest Reformed Baptist Church 411 W 2nd St
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Sunday School 9 a.m. • Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Fellowship Meal noon

Spirit of the Valley United Methodist Church
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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

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

Riverside Christian Fellowship 29360 Abraham Dr
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United Methodist Church 710 Smith St • 541-995-6656

A Life Well Lived:
Brownsville Gathers to
Honor Ray McCormick

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

A full house gathered at the Brownsville Rec Center on April 25, 2026, as friends, family, and neighbors came together to celebrate the life of longtime resident Raynard “Ray” McCormick, who passed away on February 10 at age 86.

The gymnasium was nearly at capacity, a testament to how many lives Ray touched over the years. Folks came from near and far, including several family members, former college roommates, and coworkers who hadn’t seen him in decades but still felt the pull to be there and pay their respects. The audience loved hearing the wonderful stories about the impact Ray had on so many lives.



Local chaplain, Nick Droback served as master of ceremonies, guiding the afternoon with a steady, thoughtful hand. Family members shared memories, including those from a favorite waitress at The Pioneer Villa, where Linda and Ray were known as regulars and friends. One line from the back of his memorial card — “Once a troublemaker, always a troublemaker!” — drew knowing smiles and a few quiet laughs from the crowd.

Members of the Brownsville Women’s Study Club provided refreshments, giving attendees a chance to visit, reminisce, and reconnect.

A heartfelt slideshow, prepared by his wife Linda, offered a glimpse into Ray’s life and the many moments he shared with those closest to him. The service closed with Frank Sinatra’s “My Way,” followed by the audience joining in The Lord’s Prayer, led by Chaplain Droback. ☼



Family members, longtime friends, former classmates, and loved ones gathered at the Brownsville Community Center on April 25 to celebrate the life of Raynard “Ray” McCormick. Left to right: Debbie Richards (Johnson), Linda’s cousin; Jimmy Desbiens, Linda’s niece’s fiancé; Jen Chevalier, Linda’s niece; hidden behind Jen is Amanda Arroyo, Linda’s niece; Gail Vought, Linda’s cousin; Peter Johnson, Linda’s cousin; Junko Johnson, Linda’s cousin; Pamela Wollaston, Linda’s sister; and Christine Dorschal, Linda’s sister.

REMEMBRANCE NOTICE

Celebration of Life for Jim Daniels

A celebration of life for Jim Daniels will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at Kirk’s Ferry, 217 W. Bishop Way, Brownsville.

Those who knew Jim are invited to come share time with the Daniels family. ☼

Carlene SanMartin — a
Community Treasure

For almost five decades, Carlene SanMartin brought joy and commitment to the Brownsville community through her creative hairstyling, organizing car shows, and participation in many local events.

Born in Oregon, she was inspired by her grandmother — the first licensed lady barber in Portland — to enroll in beauty college. After graduation, her teacher was so impressed with her talent that she opened a salon where Carlene became a popular beautician in Myrtle Creek.

She married Rudy SanMartin in 1980. During their travels, they discovered Brownsville and chose to raise their daughter here. Carlene first worked downtown as a hairstylist and, in 1986, opened Hair Care. In the late 1990s, she moved the salon to its current location along Highway 228, where her daughter, Carine, later joined her. Known for her expertise in perms, shampoo sets, cuts, and mustache trims, Carlene quickly built a loyal clientele and warm friendships throughout the community. Today, the business remains one of the oldest in town.

Rudy enjoyed stock car racing and later developed a passion for classic cars. Carlene loved riding shotgun with her husband at cruise-ins and local parades, always smiling and waving to the crowd. When preparations began for the first Stand By Me celebration in 2007, Carlene’s connections and vibrant energy made her a natural fit to help bring vintage 1950s cars to town, adding authenticity to the event. She later expanded the classic car show into the Brownsville Antique Faire and, with Carine’s help, helped bring the well-loved event to town each year since.

Music also became an important part of Carlene’s life.

In 2006, after a patron casually mentioned needing a drummer for his band, she decided to learn the drums and soon joined the group for many performances. She later supported her church community as drummer for the First Assembly of God Worship Team. Carlene also inspired and encouraged her grandsons — Elijah on guitar and Isaiah on drums. Elijah would later join his grandmother on the church worship team.

Sadly, Carlene SanMartin passed away on Feb. 23, 2026. She was proud to be an active part of the community and led family and friends by example, creating beautiful memories along the way. Her legacy of kindness, generosity, and commitment to Brownsville will continue for generations to come. ☼



Rudy and Carlene SanMartin



Carlene and her daughter Carine at the 2025 Brownsville Antique Faire and Car Show.

Mud, Memories, and a Rolling Jackpot: Mountain Top Mud Bogs Brings the Fun

By Marcy Hermens, Staff Writer and Tangent Correspondent

SCIO — If you grew up anywhere near the Willamette Valley, there's a good chance you've got a memory that involves a muddy field, a roaring engine, and a crowd of people cheering like it was the best day of their lives. For a generation of off-road enthusiasts, that memory has a name: Foster Mud Flats.

Foster closed after its 2000 season, and while the Santiam Mt. Mud Festival spun off and carried the torch until 2018, local enthusiasts were already expanding their sights. Even in the Foster days, the rigs that were still running at the end of the day would head to a spot on South Ruby Loop in Scio to keep going under the stars. When Foster closed for good, those same dedicated off-roaders worked with property owner Jim to turn that after-dark gathering place into something lasting. The land, Jim's steady hand, and a shared commitment to good old country fun have been there through every chapter since, and Mountain Top Mud Bogs has quietly grown into one of the Pacific Northwest's premier off-road destinations.

Today, Mike Bonogofski is at the helm. A Salem native now living in Silverton, Bonogofski came



MIKE BONOGOFSKI
A heavily modified mud truck powers through deep water and thick mud during competition at Mountain Top Mud Bogs.

to the Bog the way most people do — through family. His dad's love of mudding took them to Foster Flats together for years. When they heard rumblings about the Bog, they tracked it down and attended their first event there in 2012. Mike never looked back.

"The mudding community has become my family," he said.

Over the past 14-plus years, Bonogofski has moved through every role the venue has to offer — spectator, participant, volunteer, and, since 2022, the person running the show. He still holds down a day job as a fiberglass

specialist, but Mountain Top is where his heart is.

Under his leadership, the venue has grown to over 140 acres of mud holes, off-road terrain, trails, rock walls, and more. There's something for every skill level, from families watching the action to seasoned mudders tackling the most punishing terrain on the property. Spectators are welcome — the energy in the crowd when the big machines tear through is worth seeing on its own.

The crown jewel is the Bounty Hole — billed as the toughest in the Pacific Northwest, and so far, undefeated. The rolling jackpot has climbed past \$5,500.



MIKE BONOGOFSKI

Spectators line the hillsides and off-road rigs gather around the massive Bounty Hole during a packed weekend near Scio.



MIKE BONOGOFSKI

Kids cool off and embrace the muddy fun during a summer event at Mountain Top Mud Bogs.

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LONG GRAY BRAID MUSINGS

IYKYK

By Annie Swensen, Copy Editor and Columnist

Ten years ago, I texted a good friend about something funny that had just happened. She replied instantly, “ROFL!”

My response: “Riding on fluffy lamb?”

She shot back, “No, Silly, Rolling On Floor Laughing!” And I’m sure she was. Just how far behind was I in the new language of the world?

In my younger years, long before the double-thumb typing on cell phones, I wasn’t aware that my vocabulary included acronyms. When my dad yelled ASAP, there was no “as possible” in it. Dressed up like a word, it was used frequently by parents and bosses to get an immediate response. It became so angry, the rest of us avoided using it. Then, as a teenager, I was clear that PDA was unacceptable, and I handled anything fragile with TLC. Once off to college on an airplane, sending my ETA guaranteed a ride when I landed. When I began working for a large State agency, we were surrounded by SNAFUs. I thought it was an actual word, and indeed it has proudly taken its place in the dictionary. It would be years before I learned that the term was coined by military personnel. Yes, the situations of being all fouled up were indeed normal. TGIF and BYOB!

Many years ago, as I struggled with a project we were working on, my husband advised, “KISS.” My inquisitive look and puckered lips generated his explanation, and I became the “Stupid” in his plea to “Keep it Simple.” No kiss for him.

For so much of my life, communications to friends, family, and coworkers were all written in words with proper spelling and grammar. There were, of course, the Mr. and Mrs., and an occasional LOL (lots of love) followed by the kisses and hugs in Xs and Os.

With the onset of texting, the art of conversation blew past me. I have adapted to some. I understand that LOL now means my dog can hear me laughing, and I quickly adopted IDK, since there is so much I don’t know. But this trend is moving faster than my mind is able or willing to absorb. And some new acronyms confuse themselves with known words. I love goats and envision them hopping, bouncing, and butting heads with one of their own. I didn’t think I wanted to be called a goat. How did a star player become a GOAT? I had to look it up, and I realized my ignorance may indeed be the greatest of all time.

Webopedia lists 1,697 text and chat abbreviations from A3 to ZZZ. Of the most common top ten, I knew one, thanks to my friend, who is probably still ROFL (pronounced roffling) If You don’t Know You don’t Know. Can someone make me a pocket dictionary? ☺

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SAMARITAN LEBANON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Girod Birth Center Reopens After Temporary Pause

Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital reopened labor and delivery services at the Girod Birth Center on April 27 after a temporary pause.

Hospital officials said the hospital now has the clinical support needed to safely care for patients and will continue to build its team to meet the community’s long-term needs.

Outpatient obstetric services have also resumed at Samaritan Health Clinic — Lebanon, including prenatal visits, postpartum care, and gynecologic care. These services are available Monday through Friday.



Staff members at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital gather inside the newly reopened Girod Birth Center during a May 1 community open house. Labor and delivery services resumed April 27 after a temporary pause in services. Photo courtesy of Samaritan Health Services.

“Reopening the Girod Birth Center is an important step for supporting our community,” said Jennifer Kimberlain, RN, hospital administrator at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital. “Our teams have worked carefully and consistently to make sure we can resume care in a safe and reliable way. We’re looking forward to continuing to support parents through every stage of pregnancy and delivery.”

Letters are being sent to patients who previously received OB-GYN care in East Linn County, including details about the reopening and how to reestablish care to deliver at the birth center.

During the pause, the birth center underwent cosmetic updates, including new flooring and paint. The work was funded by the Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation and its donors.

A community open house was held May 1, giving guests an opportunity to tour the refreshed space and meet members of the care team.

“We appreciate the patience shown by staff, patients, and the community, and look forward to welcoming families back to the birth center,” Kimberlain said.

For more information about labor and delivery services at the Girod Birth Center located at 525 N Santiam Hwy, Lebanon, call 541-258-2101 or visit <https://www.samhealth.org/Baby>. ☺

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SHERIFF'S REPORT APRIL 27-MAY 3

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., Apr. 27, 11:42 a.m. — Deputy began a criminal mischief investigation in the 300 block of N Main St. Report taken.

4:30 p.m. — A driver was cited for speeding in the 28700 block of Seven Mile Ln.

Tue., Apr. 28, 7:49 p.m. — Deputy stopped and warned a driver for expired registration near W Bishop Way and Loucks Way. The vehicle was also associated with an unpermitted soliciting event, and the occupants were spoken to about it.

Wed., Apr. 29, 2:16 p.m. — Deputies answered questions regarding towing abandoned vehicles from private property in the 300 block of Spaulding Ave.

Thur., Apr. 30, 8:55 a.m. — Deputies responded to a complaint about noise from a specific trucking company in the 900 block of Oak St., within the city limits. Deputies will be briefed on the vehicle and attempt to contact it when it is traveling through town.

3:30 p.m. — Deputies performed a welfare check in the 25500 block of Gap Rd. All was fine.

Fri., May 1, 10:59 a.m. — A driver was cited for failing to provide proof of insurance in the 34600 block of Hwy 228, Brownsville.

2:58 p.m. — A driver was cited for driving while suspended near Hwy 228 and Walker Ln.

3:14 p.m. — Lucas Jones, 46, of Albany, was arrested for DUII and cited for speeding near 36100 Hwy 228 and Courtney Creek Dr. Report taken.

Sat., May 2, 8:45 a.m. — Deputy responded to a dog complaint in the 200 block of W Bishop Way.

9:34 a.m. — Deputy assisted a citizen in the 200 block of N Main St.

9:53 a.m. — Michael Fortson, 62, of Brownsville, was cited in lieu of arrest for criminal Mischief II in the 200 block of N Main St.

2:29 p.m. — Caller reported that a cougar had killed her goats in the 38200 block of Courtney Creek Dr. A Federal Wildlife trapper was notified.

2:30 p.m. — Caller reported a theft in the 300 block of E Washington Ave. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

3:52 p.m. — William Bailey, 70, of Brownsville, was arrested on a burglary warrant in Marion County and for theft III. Report taken.

9:47 p.m. — Deputies responded to a physical domestic disturbance in the 1100 block of Ash St. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Sun., May 3, 1:16 p.m. — Kellin Rosillo, 43, of Halsey, was pulled over due to a report of reckless driving and was arrested for DUII in the 200 block of W Park Ave. Report taken.

5:56 p.m. — Deputy responded to a shoplifting theft at Dollar General involving items valued at \$129.55. Items were recovered. Report taken.

5:58 p.m. — A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 36600 block of Mountain Home Dr. A deputy checked the area, and the vehicle was being towed.

9:15 p.m. — Deputy performed a welfare check on an individual reporting heart-related complications in the 1100 block of Linn Way. The individual stated they were calm, feeling better, and would see their doctor soon.

BRUSH CREEK

Wed., Apr. 29, 7:53 a.m. — Campbell Global reported a theft in the 23000 block of Brush Creek Rd. A battery and fuel were stolen from

road-construction equipment. Damage was also done to the equipment. The deputy is awaiting an estimate of the damage value. The value will be at least \$500. Report taken.

CRAWFORDSVILLE

Fri., May 1, 3:01 p.m. — Christopher Ciullo, 40, was cited in lieu of custody for Linn County Circuit Court and Sweet Home Court warrants, both for failing to appear on criminal citations in the 40100 block of Hwy 228.

HALSEY

Mon., Apr. 27, 8:50 a.m. — Deputy responded to two dogs at large in the 1100 block of W 3rd St. The dogs had been put away prior to the deputy's arrival.

2:20 p.m. — Deputy conducted a welfare check in the 100 block of W 2nd St.

2:55 p.m. — Deputy investigated a traffic hazard in the 28100 block of Ogle Rd.

Thur., Apr. 30 — 3:22 a.m. — A caller reported being scammed in the 1000 block of W 4th St. by a man posing as a woman online who threatened to post pictures. The caller took precautionary steps and did not give out any money or personal information.

Fri., May 1, 9:38 a.m. — Female reported domestic violence in the 100 block of NW 2nd St. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Sat., May 2, 11:20 p.m. — Caller reported a suspicious vehicle in the 29200 block of Pine Grove Dr. Female was told to ask permission to enter properties.

11:34 p.m. — Deputy observed a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of a closed business in the 300 block of W 1st St. The occupant of the vehicle was taking a short nap during a long trip. Nothing suspicious was found.

Sun., May 3, 9:12 p.m. — Yasmine Ramos, 27, of California, was cited for failing to obey a traffic control device near W 2nd St and American Dr.

HARRISBURG

Mon., Apr. 27, 7:56 a.m. — Deputy checked on a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 500 block of Territorial St and found it was unoccupied and appeared someone was living out of it. Non-criminal.

Tue., Apr. 28, 7:19 p.m. — Deputies conducted a death investigation in the 500 block of S 2nd St. Report taken.

8:54 p.m. — Medications from a deceased family member were turned over to be destroyed in the 500 block of S 2nd St. Report taken.

Wed., Apr. 29, 10:03 a.m. — Deputies responded to a juvenile complaint in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr.

10:30 a.m. — Caller requested LCSO assistance because their 11-year-old child would not enter Harrisburg Middle School. The deputy provided non-law enforcement options to resolve the issue.

12:54 p.m. — Deputy resolved a neighbor dispute over trash can usage in the 500 block of 6th Pl.

7:26 p.m. — Deputy investigated juveniles lighting a firework mortar near N 6th St. and Quincy St. that exploded on the ground and caused a bush to burn. The deputy could not locate the juvenile who lit the firework. Report taken.

Thur., Apr. 30, 11:15 a.m. — Deputy arrested a 13-year-old male for Minor in Possession of marijuana at Harrisburg High School.

1:54 p.m. — Deputy performed a welfare check on an elderly couple in the 23400 block of Hwy 99E. The deputy reached out to resources in hopes of providing them some relief.

4:49 p.m. — Deputies responded to a juvenile complaint in the 800 block of Sommerville Loop. Deputies documented the information given for future problems that may occur in the area.

Fri., May 1, 9:33 p.m. — Deputy documented information regarding a child and their caregiver in the 900 block of S 9th St. There was no indication that a crime occurred.

9:55 p.m. — Deputy responded to a suspicious situation involving an unknown male pulling into a residential driveway and speaking with a juvenile. Information was documented. Non-criminal.

10:59 p.m. — Deputy responded to a prowler call in the 800 block of Crimson Pl. The prowler was gone when the deputy arrived just minutes after the call.

Sat., May 2, 8:21 a.m. — A driver was cited for driving uninsured near LaSalle St. and S 3rd St.

8:43 a.m. — A driver was cited for driving while suspended in the 700 block of S

3rd St.

10:19 a.m. — A driver was cited for equipment violation in the 700 block of S 2nd St.

2:44 p.m. — A driver was cited for failing to carry proof of insurance in the 300 block of N 3rd St.

3:52 p.m. — A driver was cited for an equipment violation in the 500 block of N 7th St.

4:41 p.m. — A driver was cited for failing to carry proof of insurance in the 300 block of LaSalle St.

Sun., May 3, 12:12 a.m. — Deputy observed suspicious vehicles in Eagle Park. The deputy educated juveniles regarding park hours and curfew.

12:57 a.m. — Deputy contacted a male at Riverfront Park after hours. He left without incident.

11:44 a.m. — A driver was cited for failing to carry proof of insurance near Schooling St and S 3rd St.

SHEDD

Mon., Apr. 27, 5:00 p.m. — Deputy addressed a possible littering situation in the 33600 block of Linn West Dr.

Tue., Apr. 28, 11:34 a.m. — Deputy took a fraud report in the 29300 block of Stark St.

Thur., Apr. 30, 7:58 a.m. — Caller reported a traffic complaint near Peoria Rd and Brattain Dr. Vehicle left Linn County before deputies arrived in the area. Deputies transferred to the appropriate agency.

TANGENT

Wed., Apr. 29, 11:04 a.m. — Caller reported an iPad and laptop stolen from a vehicle left at a business in the 33600 block of McFarland Rd. Report taken.

2:59 p.m. — David Laylon, 56, of Tangent, was arrested on two Linn County Circuit Court warrants for failure to appear in the 32600 block of Sand Ridge Rd., Lebanon. He was also cited in lieu of custody for one Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear. Report taken.

Sat., May 2, 9:16 a.m. — Deputies performed a welfare check in the 31900 block of N Lake Creek Dr.

Sun., May 3, 5:41 p.m. — Deputies responded to a report of people riding four-wheelers near Tangent Dr. and McLagan Rd. The people involved were gone on the deputies' arrival. ☼

Spring Fling Honors Oregon Veterans

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer

LEBANON — The Oregon Veterans' Home on North 5th St. in Lebanon was a place of honor and fun on Saturday, April 25. The "Spring Fling Military History" event brought people together to celebrate our local heroes. From 10 am to 2 pm, the grounds were filled with military displays and community members eager to say thank you. Many groups participated, showcasing everything from old Air Force gear to uniforms from different wars.



Larry Kirkes assists a visitor with a rubbing of a fallen soldier's name from the Oregon Memorial Traveling Wall.



Donald Ray Ahrens and Bob Denton, both former members of the U.S. Coast Guard, shared stories about their military service and life at the Oregon Veterans' Home in Lebanon.



A vintage 1951 Chevrolet convertible departs the Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home following the annual Spring Fling Military History event in Lebanon.



Children who attended the Spring Fling Military History event in Lebanon found surprises around every corner, including a free dunk tank staffed by a Brownsville volunteer.

The Oregon Memorial Traveling Wall stood as a powerful center of remembrance. Veteran Sandy Chillemi, bringing the wall from Roseburg, explained: "All the names on the wall are names of Oregon veterans who were killed in the line of duty." Volunteers helped visitors honor these fallen soldiers by making paper rubbings of the names to take home as keepsakes.

The event also highlighted the stories of the people living at the home. Eugene Robinson, a Korean War veteran, wore a special hat decorated by the "Bead Lady," who has crafted designs for more than 100 veterans. He shared a poignant memory of using jeep motors to power the lights in his tent, only to have them taken away, leaving soldiers in the dark again. Eugene said, "Some of the people would say bring on the war because at least I had lights to read by!"

Both Donald Ray Ahrens and Bob Denton

once served in the U.S. Coast Guard and now reside at the Oregon Veterans' Home, proudly wearing matching shirts as they answer questions about their service. Donald recalled how his journey came full circle after his initial service, noting: "Someone came waltzing in [to the Linn County Sheriff's Office in Eugene] one day and he was telling me he was part of the Reserves... and if I wanted to get back into it, I could do it." Donald continued in the Coast Guard for thirty more years.

It wasn't just about history, though. Kids enjoyed free face painting, a dunk tank, and balloon animals. The Classic Car Cruise in Military Uniform Display was a favorite among spectators on a bright, sunny April afternoon. With food trucks and old tunes playing from the speakers, the day proved how much the Lebanon community cares about its veterans.

PHOTOS: EVA WADA



Abigail Beaver shows off her balloon dog while exploring booths featuring face painting, military displays, and conversations with veterans.



Arya Sproston holds a snake for the first time with help from owner Shelby Davis during the Spring Fling.

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