



CONNECT Linn County Launches Summer Dinners

By Allen L. Buzzard, Guest Contributor, Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist, and Eva Wada, Assistant Editor

BROWNSVILLE — The first of eight free public dinners planned this summer by CONNECT Linn County was held Wednesday, July 1, at the Pioneer Park Pavilion in Brownsville. The series continues on select Wednesdays through Aug. 26. The dinner marked the second year for the program, organized by four local mothers who formed the 501(c)(3) nonprofit to serve the community while giving their children a chance to volunteer.

To kick off the summer's first meal, co-organizer Tika Harrison led the crowd in a round of applause for the night's guests of honor: Linn County first responders and veterans. The park transformed into a hands-on exhibition as volunteers from the Brownsville Rural and Halsey-Shedd fire districts put their fleet of fire trucks on full display. The Linn County Sheriff's Office also participated, displaying patrol vehicles, a rescue drone, a Tucker Snowcat used for winter rescue, and a recruiting booth to share open job opportunities.

When asked about the group's objective, co-organizer Karmel Curtis said the mission is simple. "We're just a group of tattooed moms who saw a need for our children to do something meaningful," Curtis explained. "No religion. No politics. Just community, good food and fun."

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EVA WADA



EVA WADA

TOP: From left, Friends Kate Wada, Sloan Leach, Ingrid Walton, and Mercy Randklev devour the tasty meal free from CONNECT Linn County.

LEFT: Sergeant Colin Pyle, left, and Sergeant Steve Frambes enjoyed a sunny evening sharing stories with community members and colleagues.

From Reading Struggles to Scholarship Success

Marissa Fox receives Tangent Together's \$1,000 Pay It Forward Scholarship

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

Marissa Fox, a Santiam Christian Academy graduate, received the \$1,000 Pay It Forward Scholarship from Tangent Together. The award recognizes a young woman whose own educational challenges have inspired her to help others.



COURTESY: MARISSA FOX

Marissa Fox, center, celebrates her graduation with her great-aunt and great-uncle, Marianne and Don Wirth.

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New Documentary Recreates 'Stand By Me' Moments for 40th Anniversary

By Allen L. Buzzard, Guest Contributor



ALLEN L. BUZZARD

During production of a documentary celebrating the 40th anniversary of Stand By Me, Eli Pyke films Schones and DeVylde near the location of where the tree house was located overlooking Brownsville.

BROWNSVILLE — Tuesday, June 30, a passionate producer and budding young actors made a spirited effort to recreate memorable moments from the classic film "Stand By Me."

A handful of emotional scenes were captured by director and cinematographer Eli Pyke for a short documentary that will play in a continuous loop during the 1950s-themed sock hop at Brownsville's Pioneer Park dance hall as part of Stand By Me Day on Saturday, July 25. The documentary commemorates the 40th anniversary of the film's 1986 release.

Alpenglow Films of Central Oregon engaged local talent — 20-year-old Jeremiah Schones of Shedd as Chris Chambers and 19-year-old Ezra DeVylde of Tangent as Gordie Lachance — to recreate key scenes from the beloved film.

Using light reflectors, tripods, a camera dolly, costumes, wireless microphones, and other professional filmmaking equipment, Pyke filmed at several original "Stand By Me"

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HARRISBURG AREA MUSEUM



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ONGOING EVENTS

Free Coffee, Donuts, & Fellowship

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

Brownsville Thursday Market

Thursdays • 3–6 p.m.
185 S Main St., Brownsville

Located across from Dari Market — shop
local vendors and learn more about the
community market initiative through the
Calapooia Food Alliance.
<https://www.calapooiafoodalliance.org>

Jefferson Night Market

First Thursday of the Month • 4–7 p.m.
150 N. 2nd St., Jefferson

Held monthly through September, the
Jefferson Night Market features local
farmers, crafters, artists, food vendors,
and small businesses. Shop local, enjoy
the community atmosphere, and support
area vendors at this family-friendly out-
door market presented by the Jefferson
Area Chamber of Commerce.

Scio Saturday Market

Saturdays • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Linn County Lamb & Wool Fairgrounds
38999 NE 1st Ave., Scio

Open rain or shine through Sept. 26
(except July 4 and Aug. 1), this weekly
market features local produce, baked
goods, crafts, art, food vendors, live
music, demonstrations, and other
family-friendly entertainment. Accessible
parking, picnic tables, and an ADA
portable restroom are available on site.
<https://www.sciosaturdaymarket.com>

American Legion Bingo Night

Saturdays • 6 p.m.
American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184
339 N. Main St., Brownsville

Bingo is a community fundraiser support-
ing programs such as Quilts of Valor and
local senior activities. All are invited to
play and support the Post.

JULY EVENTS

ALBANY

Kraze Daze

Thursday–Saturday, July 9–11 • Downtown
Classic car show • Saturday, July 11 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Three days of sidewalk sales, craft vendors, food
specials, and family-friendly activities in the historic
downtown district. Browse discounted merchandise
from local businesses with inventory changing daily.
This year’s event also features Gary’s Great Escape, a free
downtown scavenger hunt inspired by a famous monkey
escape during the 1962 event.
<https://albanydowntown.com>

Kraze Daze Coloring Station

Thursday–Saturday, July 9–11 • 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Albany Regional Museum, 136 Lyon St. SW, Albany

Drop in during Downtown Albany’s Kraze Daze and enjoy
a relaxing indoor coloring station for all ages. Included
with museum admission.

River Rhythms: The Fabulous Thunderbirds

Thursday, July 9 • FREE
Food vendors 5:30 p.m. • Concert 7 p.m.
Monteith Riverpark, 489 NW Water Ave.

Enjoy an evening of Texas blues-rock with The Fabulous
Thunderbirds. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. A \$1 dona-
tion is encouraged. Outside beer, wine, cider, and hard
seltzer are permitted after 5:30 p.m.; no hard alcohol.
Service dogs only. Rain or shine.
<https://albanyoregon.gov/parks/events/river-rhythms>

A Midsummer Night’s Dream

July 10–25 • Fri. and Sat., 7:30 p.m. • Sun., 2:30.
Albany Civic Theater, 111 W. First Ave., Albany

Celebrate Albany Civic Theater’s 75th anniversary with
Shakespeare’s beloved comedy, featuring mischievous
faeries, young lovers, and plenty of magical mishaps.
Closed captioning is available for the July 11 evening
and the July 12 matinee performances.
<https://actshow.link/midsummerlive>

Linn County Fair

Thursday–Saturday, July 16–18
Linn County Fair & Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Rd E

Three days of family fun featuring 4-H exhibits, livestock
and animal shows, carnival rides, food vendors, and
live entertainment. Evening concert headliners include
Frankie Ballard on July 16, Montgomery Gentry featuring
Eddie Montgomery on July 17, and The Band Perry on
July 18. Rodeo events are scheduled for Thursday and
Friday. Reserved concert seating is available.
<https://www.linncountyfair.com>

Springhill North Albany Car Show

Sunday, July 19 • 9 a.m.
Bryant Park, 801 Bryant Way SW

This car show benefits the South Willamette Valley
Honor Flight, which provides veterans with trips to visit
military memorials in Washington, D.C.
Dave Faller: SHNACS@gmail.com

BROWNSVILLE

Junk Art Show Call to Artists

July 1–10 • Brownsville Art Center, 255 N. Main St.

Artists of all ages and experience levels are invited to
submit entries for the Brownsville Art Association’s 2026
Junk Art Show, themed “Signs of the Times.” Create
original artwork using recycled, reclaimed, or found ma-

terials. The exhibit runs July 15 through Aug. 29. Hours
are Wed., 1–4 p.m., and Thur.–Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<https://brownsvilleart.org>

Inaugural Community Connections Market

Fridays, beginning July 10 • 4–8 p.m.
Pioneer Christian Academy, 331 Blakely Ave.

A new weekly Community Connections Market will
launch in Brownsville on Friday, July 10, bringing togeth-
er local artisans, farmers, food vendors, small business-
es, community organizations, and families. Visitors can
shop locally, enjoy food, and connect with neighbors
during this community gathering held every Friday
through the season. Follow “Community Connections
Market in Brownsville” on Facebook for updates.
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61591166637411> • 541-214-1098

Gallery Night

Friday, July 10 • 5–8 p.m. • Free
Jenna Stutsman Homes, 128 Spaulding Ave.,

Browse works by local artists in a relaxed gallery setting
while enjoying complimentary wine and light refresh-
ments. Artwork will be available for purchase during this
free community event.

CORVALLIS

Sommer of the Witch Festival

Saturday, July 11 • Noon–10 p.m. • \$49.87
Central Park, Corvallis, 650 NW Monroe Ave.

Enjoy a full day of live music, local artists, tattoo artists,
craft vendors, food, and family-friendly activities at the
inaugural Sommer of the Witch festival. Advance tickets
are recommended due to limited capacity.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sommer-of-the-witch-music-art-tattoo-festival-tickets-1985637590485>

HARRISBURG

Summer Sounds Concert Series: Inner Limits

Thursday, July 9 • 5:30–8:30 p.m.
Riverfront Park Gazebo, First and Smith streets

The Summer Sounds Concert Series opens with a
performance by Inner Limits. Food trucks begin serving
at 5:30 p.m., followed by live music at 6:30 p.m. Bring
lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy a free evening of music
along the Willamette River.
<https://www.tri-countychamber.com>
<https://www.ci.harrisburg.or.us>

Hometown Fun Day and Pop-Up Farmers Market

Saturday, July 18 • 9 a.m.–7:30 p.m.
Grocery Deals, 295 N. Third St., Harrisburg

Enjoy a day of shopping, local vendors, and family fun.
Free hot dogs and snow cones will be served from 11:30
a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Shoppers can also enter to win a steel
fire pit and receive a free pair of sunglasses with any \$10
purchase, while supplies last.
<https://grocerydealsor.com>

LEBANON

Waterloo County Park Encampment 2026

Friday–Sunday, July 24–26 • 10 a.m.–5 p.m. • FREE
Waterloo County Park, 39510 Gross St., Lebanon

Join the Native American Cultural Encampment this July
at Waterloo County Park near Lebanon for a weekend

celebrating Native culture, music, and community.
Flutestock Lite will join the encampment on Saturday,
featuring flute music throughout the day accompanied
by drum, rattle, and vocals.
<https://www.nativeamericanencampment.com>
541-570-5950 • petersdietz@gmail.com

SWEET HOME

Sportsman’s Holiday

Wednesday–Saturday, July 8–11
Various Locations, Sweet Home

Celebrate Sweet Home’s annual Sportsman’s Holiday
with this year’s “Legacy of Liberty” theme. Events
include the Queen’s Coronation, Chips-N-Splinters
Variety Show, Community Yard Sale, Icebox Cut the Gut
Cruise, Sportsman’s Holiday Parade, Logger Olympics,
and more. Many events are free; some activities require
registration or admission.
<https://www.sweethomechamber.com/events/sportsmansholiday>

Icebox Cut the Gut Car Cruise

Friday, July 10 • 6 p.m.
Downtown Sweet Home • Rain or shine

Cruise through downtown during the ninth annual
Icebox Cut the Gut Car Cruise. All makes, models, and
years are welcome. Registration is \$25 and includes a
commemorative passport, sponsor swag, raffle eligibili-
ty, and more. Event check-in begins at 5 p.m.
Register: <https://CutTheGutCruise.com> • 541-367-6186

Sportsman’s Holiday Parade

Saturday, July 11 • 11 a.m.–Noon
Downtown Sweet Home, Main & Long streets

Celebrate Sweet Home’s annual Sportsman’s Holiday
Parade with this year’s theme, “Legacy of Liberty.”
Entries are encouraged to feature patriotic colors, mili-
tary appreciation, hometown pride, historical tributes,
or creative interpretations of freedom. Registration is \$10
and up. Parade staging opens at 10 a.m. on Long Street
between 18th and 22nd avenues.
Info and registration: <https://www.sweethomechamber.com/event-detail/TNgmWHqcnZizlJYBRp9GhQ2/sportsman-s-holiday-parade>

TANGENT

Tangent Farmers Market

Saturday, July 11 • 9 a.m.–2 p.m. • Free
Baxter’s Brew at Riverland Rentals, 33977 Hwy. 99E

Shop more than 35 local vendors featuring fresh
produce, baked goods, handcrafted items, art, flowers,
candles, woodwork, meats, jams, and more. Enjoy food
vendors and live music by Unfamiliar Friends while
supporting local small businesses.
<https://www.facebook.com/tangentfarmersmarket>

STAY CONNECTED!

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

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

Midsummer Magic Debuts on Albany Stage

By Eva Wada, Assistant Editor

ALBANY — The Albany Civic Theater is celebrating its 75th anniversary with a captivating production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” reminding audiences that “the course of true love never did run smooth.” In this timeless tale, two young couples trying to escape their meddling parents and a group of local workers rehearsing a play find themselves caught up in the chaotic world of faerie magic. Rather than mocking these struggles, the performance sympathetically highlights the wild, unpredictable journeys the characters endure to find true connection.

Running from July 10 through July 25 at 111 W 1st Ave. in Albany, this production unfolds in a mystical forest on the summer solstice of 2026, giving the classic comedy a modern twist. To ensure the entire community can enjoy this enchanting experience, closed captioning is available during the July 11 and 12 performances via Cue Captions. Tickets can be purchased at <https://actshow.link/midsummerlive>. Sponsored by Renaissance Roofing and Art Plus Signs & Designs, the play offers a perfect mix of magical mishaps and genuine heart. 🌿

Cool Cars and Good Times in Sweet Home

By Eva Wada, Assistant Editor

SWEET HOME — Downtown Sweet Home is about to transform into a living time capsule for the annual Icebox Cut the Gut Car Cruise. Rolling into town this Friday, July 10, from 6–9 P.M., this highly anticipated event promises a spectacular evening of “Scenic Cruise, Cool Cars, Good Times!” Proudly brought to Linn County by event sponsors Icebox Radiator Supply House (RSH), Buck’s, and East Linn Roofing, the Tony & Shelly Larson Family Foundation, it turns the traditional car show concept completely on its head. The invitation is simple: skip the long walk through rows of parked vehicles, pick a prime spot along Hwy 20, and sink back into a comfortable lawn chair.

Decades ago, teenagers and young workers from local timber mills and surrounding rural communities would regularly descend upon the area’s central corridors. While Albany had its historic downtown loop and Lebanon ruled Main Street, “cutting the gut” was the ultimate weekend ritual on Sweet Home’s own stretch of Highway 20, affectionately dubbed “The Gut.” In those days, sidewalks were packed with onlookers who gathered simply to socialize, feel the heavy rumble of a V8, and admire the beautiful lines of a freshly polished machine in motion.

This Friday marks the ninth year the community has gathered to jumpstart the historic Sportsman’s Holiday. The event perfectly captures that classic mid-century energy. Pack a cooler, grab the kids, and claim your piece of the asphalt along the old cruising strip. Whether you are a lifelong resident remembering the glory days of the hometown cruise or a newcomer looking for a magical night out, all that is required of you is to relax, soak in the view, and enjoy the show. It is the ultimate low-stress, feel-good family tradition, on the main drag of Sweet Home. 🌿



A classic blue Chevrolet pickup cruises past the A&W Restaurant checkpoint during Sweet Home’s annual Icebox Cut the Gut Car Cruise.

JACK HANKINS

Enchanting Family Friendly Festival Brewing

By Eva Wada, Staff Writer

CORVALLIS — The first-ever Sommer of the Witch festival, coming to Central Park in Corvallis, is an all-ages event centering on the guiding belief that communal connection, artistic independence, and restorative music are essential to a thriving society. Created and presented by Studio Lumos and The Plug — the collective of local creators behind the festival — the event promises an enchanting day of creative expression on Saturday, July 11, from noon to 10 p.m.

The entertainment lineup brings together regional talent alongside musicians traveling from Texas and New Orleans. Scheduled musical acts include Holy Locust, Beggars Canyon, Rockbottom String Band, Donut Larsen, Brooklyn Deb & The Revelators, The Church Ladies, and Daniel & The Blonde. In addition to live performances, attendees can explore booths featuring tattoo artists, local craft vendors, food options, and interactive family activities.

Local interest in the upcoming gathering has been exceptionally high. Organizers capped ticket capacity at 400 passes, and the remaining entry spots are nearly gone. Final call admission tickets are available on Eventbrite for \$49.87 by searching “Sommer of the Witch — Music Art Tattoo festival.” For those looking to attend for free, organizers are actively recruiting local volunteers to assist with setup, security, and entry checkpoints. All volunteers will receive a festival T-shirt and full-day admission. 🌿

Art Meets Community at Jenna Stutsman Homes

By Eva Wada, Assistant Editor

BROWNSVILLE — Linn County has an exciting new cultural event to look forward to this summer. Jenna Stutsman Homes, affiliated with Hybrid Real Estate, announced, “I’m excited to share that I will soon be hosting quarterly Gallery Nights in my office!”

Jenna Stutsman Homes, recently relocated to 128 Spaulding Ave. across the street from her previous location, is perfectly situated to welcome art lovers and future homeowners. The community gathering is designed to be a relaxed, engaging experience for everyone. “You are invited to come down, check out the lovely work in a gallery-like setting, purchase pieces if you’d like [without pressure], have a glass of wine, and snack on some finger foods,” Stutsman explained. The event is free and open to the public.

The inaugural Gallery Night will showcase the work of three local artists. Rhoda Fleischman will exhibit her oil and acrylic paintings, Lori Garcy will feature her handmade jewelry, and Lynnlee Bischoff will display her photography and mandala artwork.

“Contributing to the Brownsville community has always been very important to me,” Stutsman shared. Excited to introduce this new opportunity for engagement, she added, “Each evening will feature a few local artists whose work I admire.”

Mark your calendars for Friday, July 10, from 5–8 p.m. at 128 Spaulding Ave. to enjoy an evening of art, conversation, complimentary refreshments, and the opportunity to support local creators. 🌿



BARBARA ANDERSEN

New Community Market in Brownsville

By Eva Wada, Assistant Editor

BROWNSVILLE — The Community Connection Market is coming to Brownsville. This fun evening is all about food, family, and bringing the community together. Mark your calendars for July 10 from 4–8 p.m., and head over to the Pioneer Christian Academy at 331 East Blakely Avenue. Admission is completely free, and everyone is welcome to attend and celebrate what makes the town so special.

Visitors can look forward to a lively atmosphere packed with delicious options from local food trucks. There will also be a great lineup of local vendors, offering a perfect chance to meet your neighbors and support small businesses. Whether you are coming out for a bite to eat or just to enjoy the friendly vibe, it promises to be a great night.

Organizers are also looking for local vendors to join future weekly markets. If you are a maker, grower, artisan, small business owner, or part of a community group, applications are open. You can message the organizers directly or email communityconnectionbrownsville@gmail.com to apply and be part of this special neighborhood gathering. 🌿

U-Pick Blueberries

541-335-9005

39880 Crawfordville Dr. Sweet Home OR 97386



JEFFERSON LIBRARY CALENDAR

Storytime
Wednesdays • 11:30 a.m. • Ages 0–6
Stories, songs, and early literacy activities for young children and caregivers.

Robotics
First Saturdays • 10 a.m.–2 p.m. • Ages 10–18
Explore coding and robotics through hands-on projects.

All Ages Craft Day
Second Saturdays • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons/ Game Day
Third Saturdays • noon–4p.m. • All ages and experiences

Upcoming June and July Events

- July 11 — Play with goats from Goat It Solutions, noon–2 p.m.
- July 16 — Red Yarn performance, 12:30 p.m.
- July 23 — Bee Amazed presentation, 12:30 p.m.

Library Hours: Closed Sun, Mon, Fri
Tue–Thu 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Connect with the Library
150 N 2nd St., STE B • 541-327-3826
<https://jeffersonpubliclibrary.org>
info@jeffersonpubliclibrary.org
<https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonOregonPublicLibrary>

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BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY

Summer Fun with Bike Rodeos and Garden Gnomes

By Smiley Wright, Youth Contributor

Can you believe that summer is almost halfway over? How many books have you read so far? Don't forget to fill out your reading log and turn it in at the Brownsville Community Library.

Did you know the local library will have an awesome Bike Rodeo obstacle course on Thursday, July 9 at 4 p.m.? Make sure to bring your bikes or scooters. Also, get ready to check out a real fire truck with our local firefighters!

I am secretly most excited about next week! On Thursday, July 16, the library is inviting kids to enjoy Fairy Gardens and Gnome Shenanigans. I actually just finished building my very own fairy garden at home. I can't wait to learn more and try it out with my friends at the Brownsville Library.

The library is a magical place every day of the week. You can grab a great book, do some crafts, and even build with Legos.

So, what are you waiting for? Get out there and make your summer the best ever! 🌸



While fairy gardens usually sit outdoors, you can make your very own indoor fairy garden at the Brownsville Community Library on July 16.

SCIO LIBRARY CALENDAR

Tiny Tots Story Time
Tuesdays • 9:30–10:30 a.m. • Ages 0–6
Scio Fire District Community Room, 38975 SW 6th Ave.
Stories, songs, finger-plays, crafts, and free play time.

Summer Reading Club 'Plant a Seed, Read'
Thursdays, July 9 to August 13 • 12:30 p.m.
ZCBJ Hall, 38704 S. Main St., Scio

Weekly educational and interactive presentations for children and families.

- July 9 — Pegasus Puppet Theatre's "Stellaluna"
- July 16 — Create a Fairy Garden (pre-register)
- July 23 — Make Music with Matt
- **Monday, July 27** — OMSI presents "Going Batty!" (pre-register); sessions at 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.)
- Aug. 6 — Museum of Natural and Cultural History presents "Bee Amazed!"
- Aug. 13 — The Oregon Reptile Man

Library Hours: Closed Sat–Sun.
Mon–Thu 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Fri 9 a.m.–Noon

Connect with the Library
38982 SE 2nd Ave., Scio • 503-394-3342
<https://www.sciooregon.gov/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.

Summer Reading Program 'Plant a Seed, Read'
Through July 31 • 4–5 p.m. except July 31 • FREE

Brownsville Community Library's summer reading program features weekly activities, special presentations, and prizes for readers. Bring weekly reading logs to enter weekly prize drawings.

- July 9 — Bike Rodeo and Fire Safety
- July 16 — Let's Make Fairy or Gnome Gardens
- July 23 — University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History presents "Bee Amazed,"
- July 30 — Going to Seed at the Library and the 3rd Annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover
- July 31 — Story Time and stuffed animal pickup 11 a.m.–noon.

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>

HARRISBURG LIBRARY CALENDAR

Tiny Tots Story Time
Wednesdays • 11 a.m. • Ages 0–3

Friday Storytime & Activity
Fridays • 10 a.m. • Ages 4 and up

Adult Craft Night Out
Thursdays • 4–6 p.m. • 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, through August 7 • 10 a.m. • FREE
Family-friendly activities, storytimes, crafts, and educational presentations. Supplies for some activities are limited.

- July 10 — Build a Bouquet
- July 17 — Honey bee presentation by Ethan from Honey Bee Apiary
- July 24 — Nature Walk Scavenger Hunt and wildflower seed scatter
- July 31 — Storytime and Make-and-Take Seed Bombs
- Aug. 7 — Carnival

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.

Connect with the Library
354 Smith St., Harrisburg • 541-995-6949
<https://www.ci.harrisburg.or.us/library>
<https://www.facebook.com/HarrisburgOregonLibrary>

HALSEY LIBRARY CALENDAR

Summer Reading Program 'Plant a Seed, Read'
Saturdays, July 11 to August 8

This year's theme aligns with the launch of our Pollinator Garden and our much-loved Seed Library. Here's what's on the schedule so far.

- July 11 – Caesar the No Drama Llama.
- July 18 – Planting Party
- July 25 – To be Announced
- August 1 – Museum of Natural and Cultural History
- August 8 – Ice Cream Party!

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>

Black Sheep Gathering Draws Fiber Enthusiasts from Across the Country

By Barbara Andersen, Staff Writer

ALBANY — The Black Sheep Gathering took place June 26–28 at the Linn County Fairgrounds, a literal fiber extravaganza drawing thousands of people from across the country. Every year for the past 52 years, knitters, spinners, weavers, ranchers, vendors, and fiber artists have gathered to learn, buy, admire, teach, compete, and demonstrate all things fiber.

Filling all four buildings at the Linn County Expo Center, there was a lot to take in. More than 50 vendors displayed their wares, enough to tempt even the toughest customer. Among them was the Eugene Textile Center, a regular vendor at the event. Susannah Day called owner Suzie Liles to ask how long they have been participating in Black Sheep.

“Probably since we began, so around 18 years” Liles estimated.

Why do they keep coming?
“Because these are our people!” Liles replied.

Bellwether Wool Company of Wren, Oregon also had a stunning array of yarn and fiber ready to spin from animals they raise. Co-owner Linda Hansen greeted visitors while partner Lois Olund taught a class on sheep breeds from around the world.

In the Sheep & Goat Barn, Randy Thompson, oversees the barn where the judging takes place. Roughly 45 farms and ranches brought their finest animals to compete for coveted ribbons. Although this is Thompson’s first year in charge, he has been involved with sheep for nearly 30 years. Placing well at Black Sheep can have a big financial impact for the farmers. Thompson said that the Black Sheep Gathering is well-known and highly respected across the industry. When people on the East Coast think about traveling west for sheep and wool shows, he said this is the one.

Ellie Gregory of Billy Goat Mountain Ranch in Rogue River has shown Angora goats at Black Sheep for about 23 years. She’s been knitting since she was 8, but when she started thinking about where the yarn came from, she got interested in spinning, and then in raising the fiber animals.

“Sheep are dumber than hoe handles, and I love working with goats,” she said. Another fiber artist suggested Angora goats, so she bought four — three pregnant does and a buck.

How many goats does she have now?

“Too many! We had 34 kids this year, 27 bucks, and 7 does. I think my total number right now is 80! I do all the shearing, and I do some of the processing, and I do all the knitting here.”

Her hard work paid off, as she took home some nice ribbons. Nearby, the best raw fleeces from across the country were judged before being offered for sale. Many happy shoppers left with bags full of wonderful potential.

While all this was going on, more than 50 classes were taking place across the campus, taught by masters of their crafts. Spinning, dyeing, weaving, breeding, knitting, felting, herding, felted soap, anything fiber related.

The event is entirely run by volunteers who put in countless hours to create a truly impressive event every year.



Susannah Day represents the Eugene Textile Center at the Black Sheep Gathering.



Ellie Gregory of Billy Goat Mountain Ranch in Rogue River shows one of her Angora goats at the Black Sheep Gathering.

DOCUMENTARY continued from cover



Eli Pyke films Jeremiah Schones and Ezra DeVylde behind Brownsville’s Blue Point Diner as they recreate a memorable scene from Stand By Me for a 40th-anniversary documentary.

locations in Brownsville. Scenes included the infamous alley gun encounter behind the Blue Point Diner and closing shots near the former tree house overlooking the fictitious town of Castle Rock.

The filming is just one of many projects underway as the Stand By Me Day committee and an army of volunteers work together to ensure fans from around the world enjoy a memorable celebration in Brownsville.

FOX continued from cover

Fox knows what it feels like to struggle in school. As a young student, she was falling behind in reading. At first, educators believed she had a learning disability, but her family later learned that the problem was an eye-tracking disorder — a correctable vision issue.

After six months of vision therapy, Fox’s condition was fully corrected. Once she could see and track words properly, her reading improved rapidly. She soon caught up to grade level and continued to excel.

Today, Fox is an avid reader with a goal of reading 120 books this year. Her story is one of perseverance, hope, and the importance of finding the right answer when a child is struggling. Her grandmother, Michelle Robinson of Albany, said she is proud of Fox and encourages parents of children with reading difficulties to have them tested for correctable vision problems.

Fox plans to attend Linn-Benton Community College this fall through a transfer program to Oregon State University. She hopes to become an early childhood educator, using her own experience overcoming a learning challenge to encourage and support children facing similar obstacles.

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JULY CIVIC CALENDAR

BROWNSVILLE

Library Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, July 9 • 4:30–5:30 p.m.
Brownsville Library, 146 Spaulding Ave., Kirk Room

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 28 • 7 p.m.
Brownsville City Hall, 255 N Main St., Fisher Hall

The public is welcome to attend. Opportunities for public input are provided at each meeting. Copies of meeting materials and agendas are available at City Hall and online.

<https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us> • 541-466-5880

HALSEY

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 21 • 7–9 p.m.
Halsey City Hall, 100 W Halsey St.

Public comment is welcome. Remote attendance via Zoom is available. Agendas and packets are posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Please confirm with the city before attending.

<https://halseyor.gov/government> • 541-369-2522

HARRISBURG

Planning Commission
Tuesday, July 21 • 7 p.m.

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 28 • 6:30 p.m.
Harrisburg Municipal Center, 354 Smith St.

<https://www.ci.harrisburg.or.us> • 541-995-2200

JEFFERSON

City Council Meeting
Thursday, July 23 • 6:30 p.m.
Jefferson City Hall, 150 N 2nd St

You can view the complete agenda, meeting packet, and Zoom attendance links on the City of Jefferson official site.

<https://jeffersonoregon.org/city-council> • 541-327-2768

TANGENT

Planning Commission Meeting
Thursday, July 9 • 7–9 p.m.

Work Session & Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, July 13 • 6:30–9 p.m.

All meetings: Tangent City Hall, 32166 Old Oak Dr.

To attend virtually, email jsamaniego@tangentor.gov before 4 p.m. on the meeting day.

<https://www.tangentor.gov>

Tangent Together Meeting
Thursday, July 16 • 6:30–7:30 p.m.
Tangent Rural Fire District, 32053 Birdfoot Dr.

Tangent Together is a nonprofit organization run by volunteers that organizes citywide events for the public. Anyone is welcome to attend and contribute.

<https://tangenttogether.org>



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BROWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Council Affirms Pig Ordinance, Adopts Budget

By Sravya Tadepalli, Staff Writer

The Brownsville City Council voted June 23 to retain its ordinance prohibiting pigs within city limits, approved the 2026–27 budget and 3 percent water and sewer rate increases, and designated The Times once again as the city’s paper of record.

Ryan Vogt, executive director of Oregon Cascade West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) and Community Services Consortium (CSC), presented alongside OCWCOG agency director Paul Egbert on the organizations’ ongoing efforts to support older and low-income residents. He also discussed the administrative integration of OCWCOG and CSC and how it has helped streamline services.

“Our hope for the coming years is that we’re able to consolidate information for both organizations so you get a better sense of how many people are receiving utility assistance, food assistance, rides, or whatever it is across the two organizations, and you’re able to start seeing us as really one service delivery model, regardless of what our logo says,” said Vogt.

Council considered a request from resident Brandi Neese to revise a city ordinance prohibiting pigs within the city limits. Neese owns two pet pigs, and city staff informed her that keeping them outside, as she had been, violated city code. When Councilor Lynda Chambers asked whether neighbors had complained about the pigs, McDowell said the city had identified the issue early and had not yet received any complaints.

“The whole point of the inspection program is to ensure we don’t pit neighbors against each other,” said McDowell.

The council voted to affirm the current ordinance prohibiting pigs and swine but gave Neese 90 days to determine what to do with her pet pigs. The city would also allow Neese to keep her pigs indoors.

The council adopted revisions to the city’s right-of-way ordinance clarifying how private encroachments onto public rights-of-way are addressed. City officials said the measure affects 173 properties with existing encroachments.

“This is a project that we’ve wanted to do for some time,” said McDowell. “Historical happenstance really led to a lot of this, where folks moved out from the Midwest where due north was due north, but it’s plus 7 degrees out here, so some property lines were askew.”

The City of Brownsville voted to return to The Times as its paper of record. After The Times ceased publication in December 2024, the City designated the Sweet Home New Era as its paper of record. With The Times once again qualifying to publish legal notices, the City restored the newspaper as its official paper of record.

McDowell shared that the City has finalized an agreement with the Brownsville Canal Company for the company to assume operations and maintenance of the Mill Race canal. The City plans to revisit the agreement with the Company in December.

Councilor Winklepleck complimented McDowell on his stewardship of the City’s finances and asked about the projected cost of new playground equipment. McDowell estimated the total installation cost at about \$315,000. 🌻

HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL

City Adopts Budget, Thanks Councilor for Years of Service

By Michele Eldridge, Harrisburg City Administrator

The Harrisburg City Council and the Harrisburg Redevelopment Agency Board met Tuesday, June 23, and adopted the city’s 2026–27 budget.

Like many households, the City continues to face rising maintenance and operating costs. Beginning in August, utility rates will increase, with water rates rising 7 percent (14 cents per unit), sewer rates increasing 4 percent (35 cents per unit), and stormwater rates increasing by \$2 per month.

For most residential customers, the changes will increase monthly utility bills by about \$4.64. City officials noted they are thankful that expenses can be covered without the \$10-per-customer water rate increase that had been projected during planning for the water bond project. More information is available at <https://www.ci.harrisburg.or.us/utilitybilling/page/water-sewer-utility-rates>.

The City Council and staff also recognized Councilor Charlotte for more than a decade of service to Harrisburg. She served on the Planning Commission starting in 2013 and joined the City Council in 2018. Beyond her service to the city, Charlotte has been active with the Harrisburg Boosters, worked in local schools, and served as secretary of the Harrisburg Harvest Festival Association. The city wishes Charlotte and her family all the best as they begin their next chapter in Heppner.

The popular Summer Sounds Concert Series returns to the Riverfront Park gazebo starting July 9. Concerts will be held Thursday evenings through Aug. 6, with food trucks opening at 5:30 p.m. and live music beginning at 6:30 p.m. Details are available at <https://www.ci.harrisburg.or.us/community/page/summer-sounds-concert-series>.

City staff also recently completed a walkthrough of Eagle Park as part of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department’s grant project. While the trail system is in excellent condition, blackberry vines and other vegetation continue to encroach on the paths. Residents who use the trails are encouraged to bring clippers to help keep vegetation under control. Public Works crews maintain the park’s garbage cans, dog waste stations, and other facilities, but volunteers can make a big difference in keeping the trails accessible to everyone. 🌻



Harrisburg City Councilor Charlotte Thomas displays a commemorative award recognizing her years of service to the city during her final council meeting June 23. She and her family are relocating to Heppner.

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HALSEY MAYOR'S CORNER

Working Together
to Conserve Water
this Summer

By Jerry Lachenbruch, Mayor of Halsey

Welcome to July!

As summer arrives in Halsey, our community once again faces warmer temperatures, drier conditions, and greater demand on our water system. This is an excellent time to reflect on the importance of water conservation and the role each of us plays in protecting one of our most valuable resources.

Water is essential to our daily lives. It supports our homes, businesses, farms, parks, and public services. Although Oregon is known for its rainfall, our summer months can strain water supplies. Conserving water helps ensure adequate resources remain available for residents, agriculture, emergency services, and future generations.

Every gallon saved makes a difference. Simple actions, such as watering lawns in the cooler morning hours, promptly repairing leaks, using drought-tolerant landscaping, and avoiding unnecessary outdoor water use, can significantly reduce overall consumption. These small changes add up when embraced across our entire community.

Water conservation is also closely tied to public safety. During periods of extreme heat and dry weather, our water system must be prepared to support firefighting if needed. Responsible water use helps maintain system reliability and ensures resources are available during emergencies.

As a community with strong agricultural roots, we understand the importance of stewardship. Farmers, residents, businesses, and local government share responsibility for using water wisely. By working together, we can preserve this vital resource while maintaining the quality of life that makes Halsey such a special place to live.

I encourage everyone to take a few moments this summer to evaluate their water use and identify opportunities to conserve. Through thoughtful actions and community cooperation, we can help ensure a sustainable water future for Halsey.

Thank you for doing your part to protect our community's resources and help keep Halsey strong and resilient.

As always, I remain your mayor. The City Council and I work for you. Please let us know your thoughts and needs. You can call 541-369-2522 or email me at mayor@halseyor.gov.



Halsey Utility Rate
Changes Now in Effect

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

HALSEY — Halsey's updated water, sewer, and stormwater utility rates took effect July 1. Residents will first see the changes on utility bills mailed in early August.

According to the city, the adjustments are intended to keep pace with rising operating costs, including inflation and higher prices for utilities, materials, equipment, and contracted services. Officials also said the increases will strengthen the city's water and sewer reserve funds, helping prepare for emergencies and reducing the need for larger one-time rate increases in the future.

The additional revenue will support several planned infrastructure projects, including completion of the new municipal water well, improvements to the water treatment facility, upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant, and sewer line repairs designed to reduce stormwater infiltration and extend the life of lift station pumps.

The Halsey City Council approved the following monthly rate adjustments:

Water

- **Base rate (0–3,000 gallons):** increase of \$2.50
- **Higher usage tiers:** increases ranging from 4 to 10 cents per 1,000 gallons
- **Commercial water use over 3,000 gallons:** increase of 50 cents per 1,000 gallons

Sewer

- **Residential:** increase of \$1.40 across all use tiers
- **Commercial:** increase of \$2 across all use tiers
- **Stormwater:** increase of 50 cents per month

City officials said the investments will help ensure safe, reliable utility service while maintaining and improving the infrastructure the community depends on for years to come.

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE

StrongPeople Classes Offered in Tangent

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

TANGENT — Looking to improve strength, balance, and flexibility? The Linn County OSU Extension Service offers StrongPeople, a free, evidence-based fitness program designed primarily for adults.

Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9–10 a.m. at the OSU Extension Service Linn County Office, 33630 McFarland Rd., Tangent. Participants engage in progressive resistance training and balance exercises using dumbbells, ankle weights, and body-weight movements.

The program is designed to help adults build strength, improve mobility, and maintain independence through safe, structured exercise.

For more information or to sign up, contact Tina Dodge at 541-730-3541 or at Tina.Dodge@oregonstate.edu.

TANGENT CITY COUNCIL

Council Adopts Budget,
Sets November Election

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer and Columnist

TANGENT — The Tangent City Council met June 8, 2026, at 7 p.m. with all council members in attendance.

The council reviewed the proposed budget from the previous meeting and officially adopted it for the 2027 fiscal year.

Additionally, the council approved a November 3 election date for the mayor's seat and two council seats. The council seats carry four-year terms, while the mayoral seat carries a two-year term.

During the staff report, City Manager, Joe Sanmaingo addressed the need for brush clearing. While the Linn County Sheriff's work crew typically handles this task, they are unavailable this year. The city hopes to hire a subcontractor to complete the work instead.

The Tangent City Council holds its regular meetings on the second Monday of each month. The next work session meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, located at 32166 Old Oak Dr.

City Manager
Highlights Budget,
Maintenance Priorities

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

TANGENT — City Manager Joe Sanmaingo reported that city staff wrapped up Fiscal Year 2026 while preparing for the new fiscal year, which began July 1. Purchases are being timed to either use remaining funds from the current budget or to align with projects planned for the new budget, including a park sprinkler system, business signs, and landscaping improvements.

Sanmaingo said the city has issued warnings to owners of vehicles with expired registrations parked along McFarland Road near Ashwood Estates. Linn County may issue citations or tow vehicles if violations continue. Staff have also noted an increase in roadside litter in the area.



MIKAYLE STOLE

Public works staff are developing a long-term plan to improve ditch maintenance, including work along Birdfoot Drive, where drainage has not been regularly maintained.

Sanmaingo also reported that no new developments have been announced regarding the proposed high-speed rail project. He said discussions are expected to remain on hold until after the November election unless rising fuel prices renew interest in the proposal.

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SENIOR AMERICAN BROWNSVILLE HAYMAKERS

Gaskey's Four-hit Night leads Haymakers Past Lebanon

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

Landon Gaskey went 4-for-4 at the plate as the Brownsville Haymakers' Senior American team defeated Lebanon 7-4 on June 15 in Lebanon.

Both teams are made up of seventh- and eighth-grade players.

Gaskey singled in the first, fourth and seventh innings and doubled in the sixth to help power the Haymakers' offense. He also stole four bases as Brownsville finished with 10 stolen bases in the game.

Lebanon took an early lead, scoring on a steal of home in the second inning. Lebanon added two more runs in the third after Finn Borrueel singled to center field and Shawn McQuistan grounded out, each bringing in a run.

Brownsville rallied in the sixth inning to take control. Gaskey doubled to center field, Arlo Hubbard walked, Shepherd Strauss doubled, Kash Dodge singled, and Aiden Riel singled to left field, with each play driving in a run.

Lincoln Martinez earned the win for Brownsville, allowing five hits and four runs over 5½ innings. He struck out eight and walked three. Jack Martinez pitched 1⅔ scoreless innings in relief, giving up one hit while striking out four and walking one.

McQuistan took the loss for Lebanon, allowing two runs on five hits over four innings. He struck out seven and did not walk a batter.

Brownsville collected 10 hits in the win. Strauss went 2-for-3 and led the team with three RBIs. Dodge also had two hits in three at-bats.

The Haymakers played clean defense, committing no errors and turning one double play. Strauss led the team defensively with 12 chances in the field.

Haymakers coach Andrew Kinder reflected on the team's season:

"Coaching these boys in a highly competitive environment has been such a highlight for me and my family. Coaching is not only about teaching baseball skills, but also about helping them develop life skills they will carry with them as they grow into young men. It was rewarding to watch them battle through challenges and emotions while encouraging one another along the way. It was a great season, and seeing these kids compete at such a high level — many for the first time — proved how committed and driven they are. I'm so proud to have coached them, and I look forward to watching them continue to excel." 🌟



Landon Gaskey connects for one of his four hits during Brownsville's 7-4 Senior American victory over Lebanon on June 15.

MINOR BROWNSVILLE HAYMAKERS BASEBALL

Haymakers' Bats, Baserunning Lead to Win Over Stayton

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

The Brownsville Haymakers 3/4 JBO Minor American team, made up of third- and fourth-grade players, used patient hitting and aggressive baserunning to defeat Stayton 16-13 June 23 at W O St.

The Haymakers collected four hits and drew 16 walks in the win. They also stole 31 bases.

Stayton opened the scoring in the first inning when Jonah L. singled, bringing in one run.

Brownsville answered in the bottom of the first, taking the lead after Bowen Short, Leland Pope, Greyson Hostetler, and Silas Manning each drew walks. Pope also stole home, with each play bringing in a run.

The Haymakers added five more runs in the second inning on one hit. Titus Koontz singled to score one run, while Gavin Brazil, Short, and Coen Kinder each drew bases-loaded walks. Another run scored on a steal of home.



Greyson Hostetler waits for the pitch during the Brownsville Haymakers' game against Stayton.

RBIs. Brazil led the Haymakers with three walks.

Koontz, Craven, Short, Pope, Manning, Brazil, Adley Koontz, and Holmes each stole multiple bases for Brownsville. 🌟

Koontz leads Haymakers past Independence/Monmouth

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

Titus Koontz went 3-for-3 at the plate as the Brownsville Haymakers 3/4 JBO Minor American team defeated Central of Independence/Monmouth, 11-8 on Thursday, June 18.

Koontz doubled in the first inning and singled in the third and fourth innings to lead the Haymakers' offense.

Brownsville opened the scoring in the first inning when a steal of home brought in one run.

Central tied the game in the top of the second on a groundout by Archie H. Central then took a 4-1 lead in the third after Micah J. walked, Blake E. singled to left field, and Maddox N. walked, each bringing in a run.

The Haymakers answered in the bottom of the third, scoring five runs on five hits to take a 6-4 lead. The biggest hit of the inning came from Bowen Short, who doubled on a 0-2 count to drive in two runs.

Central regained the lead in the top of the fourth after Micah grounded out, Spencer R. singled, and Blake singled down the left-field line, each scoring



Titus Koontz delivers a pitch for the Brownsville Haymakers during their game against Central.

one run.

Brownsville responded again in the bottom of the fourth, scoring five runs on three hits to take an 11-7 lead. Kash Holmes delivered the biggest hit of the inning, a two-run single on a 0-2 count.

Coen Kinder started on the mound for Brownsville, allowing one hit and four runs over 2⅔ innings. He struck out three and walked three. Koontz and Colt Craven each appeared in relief.

Maddox started for Central, allowing six hits and six runs over 2⅔ innings. He struck out six and walked two.

Short led Brownsville with three RBIs and went 1-for-2. Kinder and Holmes each collected multiple hits. Adley Koontz led the team with two walks as the Haymakers drew six walks in the game.

Koontz, Leland Pope, and Greyson Hostetler each stole multiple bases. Brownsville finished with 13 stolen bases.

The Haymakers played clean defense, committing no errors. Short led the team with five chances in the field. 🌟

ALL HAYMAKER PHOTOS: LISSI GRUNBERG



Colt Craven warms up on the mound as teammates Adley Koontz, Gavin Brazil, Kash Holmes, Leland Pope, and Titus Koontz cheer him on from one knee.

CENTRAL LINN WRESTLING

Cobra Wrestler Earns Multiple Titles at Idaho Tournament

By Mikayle Stole, Editor

Central Linn wrestlers Porter Branson and Levi Haskett delivered impressive performances June 21–27 at the Turf Wars Duals and the Western States Championships at Holt Arena in Pocatello, Idaho.

Branson competed with Team Oregon at the Turf Wars Duals, helping the team finish first in Greco-Roman and second in Freestyle.

He continued his success at the Western States Championships, placing fourth in Greco-Roman and Freestyle and winning the Folkstyle championship.

Haskett joined the trip to compete in the individual championships and also filled

Team Hawaii’s 147-pound spot in the duals, despite weighing 129 pounds. Wrestling in a heavier weight class, he helped Team Hawaii finish second in Greco-Roman and fourth in Freestyle.

Competing in his first-ever Greco-Roman and freestyle tournaments, Haskett placed fifth in both styles at the Western States Championships. He also competed in folkstyle.

Porter’s father, Mark Branson, praised both wrestlers. “I couldn’t be more proud to be part of these two boys’ journey as they head into the final year of junior high school,” Branson wrote. “Great things are coming for both of them.”

The tournament marks another successful off-



Central Linn wrestlers Porter Branson (left and Levi Haskett display the medals they earned during the Turf Wars Duals and Western States Championships in Pocatello, Idaho.

season performance for Branson, who has previously been featured in The Times for his wrestling accomplishments, while Haskett’s strong showing in new wrestling styles highlights the potential of another rising Cobra wrestler. 🌀



Porter Branson stands atop the podium after winning the Folkstyle title at the Western States Championships.

CENTRAL LINN HIGH SCHOOL JULY STUDENT ATHLETE

Lily Diaz

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

Central Linn graduate Lily Diaz is a stand-out three-sport athlete, bringing toughness, energy, and determination to everything she plays.

As a key figure in the Cobras’ growing girls’ wrestling program, Diaz placed fifth at districts. On the softball diamond, she was a powerhouse at the plate and a threat on the base paths — slugging home runs, driving in runs, and stealing bases. She also anchored the varsity girls’ soccer team with her athletic, competitive spirit.

Diaz graduated this June and will head to Linfield University to wrestle for the Wildcats.

In addition to her athletic career, she received Linfield’s Leadership and Ethics Across

Disciplines (LEAD) Scholarship. She will pursue a degree in law, rights, and justice through the LEAD Honors Program, which prepares high-potential students to become ethical, collaborative leaders.

Congratulations, Lily, and welcome to the Wildcat family! 🌀



RACHAEL TRAVIS



COURTESY: LILY DIAZ

DINNERS

continued from cover

Their children were busy throughout the evening serving food, clearing tables, washing dishes, and helping count the meals. By the end of the evening, 175 meals had been served.

Kate Wada and her friends were thrilled to find Mandy Peterson of Brownsville’s Handy Mandy on-site offering two-dollar face painting. Between bites, Kate laughed, “That was probably the best spaghetti I’ve ever had — sorry, Mom.”

The face painting took a hilarious turn when Ingrid Walton requested a custom design. “When I think about this place, I remember this delicious biscuits-and-gravy breakfast, so that’s what I want,” Ingrid said. “It’s the most unique request I’ve ever gotten,” Peterson said. “But her face when she saw it made my day!”

The July 1 menu included spaghetti, buttered bread, tossed salad, watermelon, and lemonade. Dessert included a surprise 13th birthday cake for Harrison’s daughter, Addi. The crowd joined together to sing “Happy Birthday,” adding a personal touch to the first community dinner of the summer. The series continues July 8, July 22, July 29, Aug. 5, Aug. 12, Aug. 19, and Aug. 26. Visit CONNECT Linn County’s website for upcoming dinner themes. Make sure to check out <https://www.connectlinncounty.net> for upcoming dinner themes. 🌀

RIGHT: Oz Smith was overjoyed when the Linn County Sheriff’s Office gave him the chance to “drive the bus” — his name for the department’s Tucker Snowcat search-and-rescue vehicle — during CONNECT Linn County’s community dinner July 1 at Brownsville Pioneer Park.



SHARON K. BANKS

Quinn Rolfe, Mari Cuillo, and Ellye Basye, sixth-grade volunteers, help serve dinner during CONNECT Linn County’s first free community dinner of the summer at Brownsville Pioneer Park.



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TABLE TALK

Big Breakfast Burritos, Friendly Service, and Small-Town Charm

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

I had been hearing quite a bit about The Farmer's Food Shack from friends over the past couple of months, so I decided that the next time I was in Halsey, I would stop in and see what all the talk was about.

The restaurant is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

When I walked in, the owner Becky Kropf, greeted me right away. The place is fairly small, but it was clean, bright, and full of people. There were farm workers having lunch, families eating together, a mother and her young daughter, and a few high school-aged boys stopping in for lunch. It felt like the kind of place where locals gather for a meal and conversation.

One thing I liked was that they serve breakfast and lunch all day. I ordered a sausage breakfast burrito and a cup of coffee.

The coffee was hot and good,



which is really all you can ask for. Then the burrito arrived, and I was honestly surprised by how big it was. It was packed with seasoned ground sausage, scrambled eggs, diced potatoes, onion, cheese, and a mild salsa, all wrapped in a large flour tortilla and lightly grilled until the outside was golden and crisp. There was plenty of flavor, and it definitely filled me up.

To finish things off, they brought out a warm white-chocolate lemon cookie, which was a nice surprise and a good way to end the meal.

Nothing too fancy here, just good food, friendly people, and a clean place to sit and eat. In a small town, that goes a long way. ☺

PHOTOS: JEFF BROWN



TAKING ROOT

More Fun with Snails

By Don Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist

We talked about the Brown Garden Snail in our May 27 issue and its epic journey from France to California to your garden, in just 150 years. Snails (escargot) are on the menu in France, usually prepared with a rich garlic-herb butter sauce, then put back in the shell and served as an appetizer. Quite tasty. If you like octopus and garlic, you'll love escargot.

Now I've learned that the snail's glistening white eggs are farmed and canned as snail caviar, sometimes called "pearls of Aphrodite" for their supposed aphrodisiac properties. I haven't tried these, but I will at the first opportunity. I'll harvest my own because, at \$40 per ounce (the same as Beluga caviar), the cost is a bit dear.

Snails are in the Order Gastropoda, which means "stomach foot." They move on that broad, flat foot in rippling waves. Put a snail on a piece of clear glass for a demonstration.



To eat, they use their tongue, which is covered with 14,000 tiny teeth that act like a file, tearing ragged holes in your petunias and kale. When next observing snails at work, listen carefully, and you may hear the faint rasping sound.

Snails have eyes on the tips of their tentacles. They don't see particularly well and are, therefore, easy to capture. Having their eyes on the tips of stalks gives them the opportunity to get the "bigger picture" and head for the best pickings.

Snails retreat to dark, cool hideouts during the day, leaving a slimy trail that helps them retrace their route the next night to a favored dining spot.

Snails move at, well, a snail's pace, typically about one yard per hour. Why not organize a snail race? Gather a few tonight and write numbers on their shells with a felt-tip pen. Put them together in the center of a large table. Invite the neighbors, crack a beer, and place your bets. Let them loose for twenty minutes, with the winner being the one covering the greatest distance.

Got a question that actually relates to gardening? Ask a Master Gardener at phototraveler02@gmail.com. ☺



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Create Unforgettable Linn County Fair Memories

By Eva Wada, Assistant Editor

ALBANY — The 2026 Linn County Fair brings family fun to the Fair and Expo Center in Albany July 16–18. This year's event features daily entertainment on the Expo Center stage, including Jeff Martin Magic, the Starr Studios Company Dancers, and the Legacy Dance Project. You'll find all your favorite fair food, from sweet elephant ears to huge corn dogs, and, of course, baskets of fries piled high. The fairgrounds, located at 3700 Knox Butte Road East, also feature exciting carnival rides and midway games. Onsite ride options include single tickets for \$8, a five-ride pass for \$35, or an all-day wristband for \$42.

You can plan ahead to save on admission with a variety of ticket options and discounts. General admission is \$10 for adults at the gate, but buying online is a bit easier on your wallet when you save a dollar per ticket. Seniors aged 60 and older enjoy special rates of \$8 at the gate or \$7 online. Best of all, kids 12 and under get in free every single day! Season passes are also up for grabs to maximize your fair experience, and daily parking is just \$5.

Thursday rolls out the red carpet for Senior and Military Day, offering free admission to seniors 60 and older and to military members with an official ID. Packed into the schedule is Senior Bingo at 11 a.m., plus a senior ice cream social served by local officials. Other special daily themes include Friday's Family Day and Saturday's Health Day. New this year, fairgoers can stop by the Oregon Authors Table to meet bestselling author Whitney Dineen, a USA Today bestselling author known for her witty, laugh-out-loud romantic comedies. There is so much in store at the 2026 Linn County Fair in Albany — make sure you don't miss a thing by checking out the full daily schedule online at <https://linncountyfair.com/schedules>. ☀

Hands On History Event Set for August 22

By Eva Wada, Assistant Editor

BROWNSVILLE — Step back in time with the whole family at the fifth annual Hands On History event on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Library Park, 101 Park Ave. in downtown Brownsville. The free event invites visitors to listen to old-time fiddlers, hear authentic Kalapuyan stories, enjoy wagon rides, and experience history firsthand through interactive activities for all ages.

The event features a variety of traditional skills and crafts. Attendees can try their hand at spinning wool, pan for gold, or learn how obsidian projectile points are flaked. "Can I try that?" is heard all over the park as kids and adults dive into favorite heritage activities like cornhusk doll making and blacksmithing. Families can even try washing clothes with an old-fashioned washboard and galvanized tub — always a hit on a hot day.

While at the park, visitors can discover the challenges faced by Oregon's Black pioneers or visit the Linn County Historical Museum right next door to try on pioneer-style clothing.

Hands On History is sponsored by the Linn County Museum Friends, a nonprofit organization dedicated to sharing local history with the public. For more information, visit <https://linnparks.com> or email lchm@co.linn.or.us. ☀

Linn County 4-H Livestock Auction Set for July 18

By Marcy Hermens, Tangent Correspondent

For families in the Willamette Valley, 4-H and FFA are a way of life woven into the fabric of rural Oregon. The JR Farms Livestock Club out of Halsey has spent decades welcoming Central Linn youth into programs centered on cattle, swine, lambs, and goats. Co-leader Sarah Damon, who started as a parent, remains a dedicated volunteer for a program that teaches invaluable life skills.

The learning begins the moment a member commits to a project animal. Beef cattle are selected in the fall — nearly a year before the fair — while swine, lambs, and goats are chosen in the spring. Months of hands-on work follow, including feeding, training, tracking growth, and keeping records.



Meryl Walton poses with Tyson as she prepares for the Linn County Fair. Months of daily care, training, and recordkeeping culminate in the annual 4-H Livestock Auction on July 18.

In Oregon, youth must be at least 9 years old by September 1 to participate, and many carry both 4-H and FFA projects right up to high school graduation.

The path to the fair demands strict dedication. Members weigh their animals in mid-May to establish a base weight. From then until mid-July, they train their animals while carefully managing their rate of gain. At the fair weigh-in, the results are final. Animals must fall within strict weight limits (e.g., swine between 230–300 lbs; cattle between 1,000–1,600 lbs). Members who meet these requirements are eligible to sell; those who fall short compete only in feeder classes. It is a hard but honest lesson.

The JR Farms Livestock Club is issuing an open invitation to this year's auction. The Linn County 4-H Livestock Auction will be held Saturday, July 18, at noon at the Calapooia Pavilion on the Linn County Fairgrounds in Albany. Roughly 300 animals are sold each year. Buyers must register on-site to bid. For full details, visit <https://www.lcyla.com>. ☀



Local Museums Showcase Vibrant Seasonal Lineup

By Eva Wada, Assistant Editor

ALBANY — The Albany Regional Museum, 136 Lyon St. SW, has scheduled a variety of summer and fall events for families, history enthusiasts and adults.



The Albany Regional Museum occupies one of downtown Albany's historic landmarks, offering exhibits that explore the rich history of Linn County and the Mid-Willamette Valley. Creative Commons photo by Gary Halvorson/Oregon State Archives.

Families and young learners looking for interactive, screen-free engagement can look forward to several vibrant activities. The museum kicks things off with a relaxing indoor coloring station during Downtown Albany's Kraze Daze from July 9–11. This is followed by an all-day Marbles Activity Day on July 24, where visitors of all ages can learn the game and participate in matches.

Later in the season, on Sept. 26, the museum will host the Worldwide Day of Play, featuring dynamic games with a historical flair. For ongoing family fun, the Albany Regional Museum hosts an I Spy photo-finding challenge and offers rewards for sharp-eyed visitors.

Adults seeking unique evening socials will find tailored experiences combining local history with craft beverages. The museum has partnered with Sinister Distilling for a special 21-and-over after-hours event on Aug. 20. Called "Marks of the Maker," this night features signature cocktails, a coat-of-arms workshop, and exclusive access to historic tool collections. On Sept. 10, the History Sips series moves to Calapooia Brewing for a fascinating presentation on the hidden physical dangers of 19th-century fashion.

For history enthusiasts, researchers, and art lovers, Albany Regional Museum offers midday lectures and rich cultural exhibits. The History Bites lunch series features presentations on the Calapooia Watershed Council's ecology on Aug. 12, and the Bureau of Mines on Sept. 9. Art and regional heritage take center stage on Aug. 7 with the public opening of "Carving a Legacy," showcasing the woodcarvings of Robert Ferguson.

To learn more about the summer and fall events through Albany Regional Museum, visit <https://www.armuseum.com>, call 541-967-7122, or email info@armuseum.com.

Also in this issue: See page 16 for coverage of the Harrisburg Area Museum, and visit the Linn County Historical Museum in Brownsville this summer for its exhibit on historic local Fourth of July celebrations. ☀



New Chairs for Senior Center

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

BROWNSVILLE — Visitors to the Travis Moothart American Legion and Brownsville Senior Center building will notice a welcome improvement: 50 new chairs have recently arrived for use throughout the facility.

The new chairs replace older seating that had become increasingly uncomfortable and was breaking down after years of use. The sturdy, easy-care vinyl chairs will provide safer, more comfortable seating for the many meetings, events, and activities held in the building each year.

The Senior Center thanks the Central Linn Community Foundation for providing a grant that made the purchase possible. Additional support came from the Brownsville Senior Center, the American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary. Organizers are grateful for the community’s continued generosity, which helps make improvements like this possible.

The American Legion/Senior Center building serves as a gathering place for many local organizations, including Quilts of Valor, the Pioneer Picnic Association, local Scout troops, and the Calapooia Food Alliance. The new chairs will benefit everyone who uses the facility.

The building is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at 339 N Main St. The host on duty can answer questions and help residents and visitors connect with activities and resources throughout the community. ☼



SHARON K. BANKS



SHARON K. BANKS

CRITTER CHRONICLES

Meet Jackie

By Trina Henderson, Guest Contributor

Jackie is a rescue black cat who somehow went from “SafeHaven rescue” to “running the entire household.”

Every morning at exactly 3 a.m., she performs her most important duty: making sure I’m awake. Apparently, sleep is a privilege, not a right. Whether it’s a paw to the face, a dramatic meow, or what sounds like a herd of elephants galloping down the hallway, Jackie takes her alarm clock responsibilities very seriously.

She also believes I suffer from severe memory loss because every single day she leads me to the treat cabinet as if I’ve never seen it before.

“Mother, this way.”
“Mother, the treats.”
“Mother, I am literally starving.”

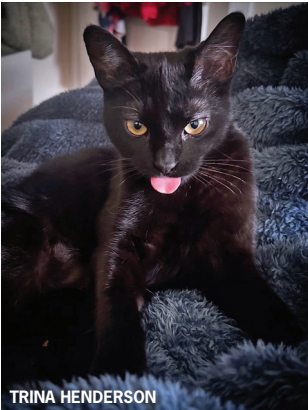
For the record, she has never missed a meal in her entire life!

Jackie has perfected the art of being equal parts sweet and sassy. One minute she’s curled up beside me purring like an angel, and the next she’s judging every decision I’ve ever made from across the room.

She supervises my work, inspects every box that enters the house, and somehow manages to make me feel guilty for leaving for more than 20 minutes.

Life with Jackie means early mornings, constant negotiations over treats, and being owned by a tiny black furry dictator.

And honestly?
I can’t imagine my life without her. ☼



TRINA HENDERSON



COURTESY: TRINA HENDERSON

Doug Tries to Go Camping Again

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

After nearly losing our cat, Doug, at Dead Horse Lake, we decided to leave her at home during camping trips. This time, we were headed to Florence to enjoy the ocean breezes and the surf.

We didn’t know that Doug had other plans. She was a stowaway. She wedged herself between the trailer and the truck and rode there until she suddenly realized it was not a good spot. The wind whipped through, and she could barely hang on. In desperation, she climbed up the tailgate and into the truck bed.

She saw that the driver’s side window was open, so she made a bold move and took a leap of faith into my husband’s lap. He was surprised and relieved that she had not used up her final 9th life. ☼



AI ASSISTED ILLUSTRATION: SHARON K. BANKS

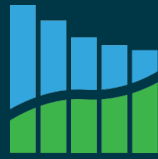


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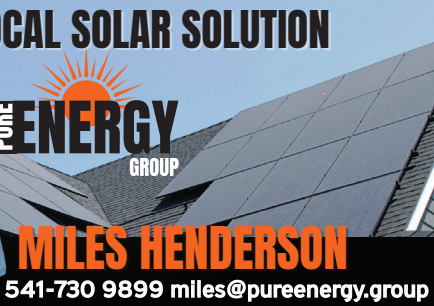
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KIDS' KORNER

Here Are a Few Fun Ideas for Summertime!

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer and Columnist

House of cards

Use any flat surface and a deck of cards. Place two cards in an inverted “V” (a triangle). Place a second triangle of two cards next to the first two. Balance a card flat on top of the two card triangles. Create a triangle on top of the flat, balanced card. Add more flat cards and balance more card triangles on top of each. Keep building until the house falls. For more of a challenge, set a timer and beat your previous speed record.



Teddy bear picnic

Set up a blanket and have your favorite stuffed animals sit in a circle. Make small snacks or “pretend snacks,” and small cups of water or “pretend drinks.” Animate the stuffed animals so they pretend to eat, drink, and chat with you.

Thumb wrestling

Sit across from your opponent, close enough to clasp hands in a handshake. Thumbs are side-by-side, resting on top of both opponents’ clasped hands. On a count of 3, only the thumbs move, and the ‘hand’ is won when a thumb is held down by the opponent for a count of three.



Play checkers with stones

Draw a checkerboard with sidewalk chalk. A checkerboard has 64 same-sized squares, with every other square darkened. Use darker and lighter stones instead of black and white checkers. Play a game of checkers with these unusual items.

Scavenger hunt

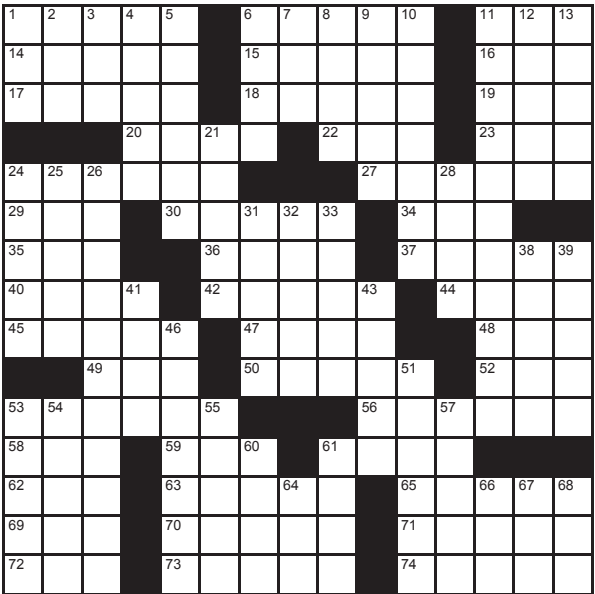
Create a list of activities such as:

- Find something lumpy, something fuzzy, something squishy, and something slimy.
- Find four flowers or plants that are different colors.
- Find a street address nearby that includes the number 3.
- Find something big, something small, and something wet.
- Find a twig in a “Y” shape.
- Listen to the sounds around you. Listen for birds chirping, dogs barking, and someone laughing.
- Check off each activity as you accomplish it. Compare finished lists with a friend.

Classic summer fun

On a hot day, nothing beats squirt guns, water balloons, splash pools, garden hoses, mud pies, lawn sprinklers, or water stations. ☀

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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ACROSS			49	Goat god	13	Minor
1	Bores out	50	Hiker's path	21	Museum piece	
6	Stadium walkways	52	Asian holiday	24	Detested	
11	Spigot	53	Whine	25	Compadre	
14	Comet's path	56	River currents	26	Informer	
15	Wagner work	58	Child's game	28	Attired	
16	Arles article	59	Goal	31	Take as one's own	
17	Where Minos ruled	61	To be (Lat.)	32	More artful	
18	Honeydew, e.g.	62	High card	33	Reddish brown	
19	Blast maker	63	Scoundrel	38	Terminated	
20	O.K. Corral lawman	65	Indian lodge	39	Breathers	
22	Little bit	69	Favoring	41	Croat, e.g.	
23	Egyptian boy king	70	1950s Ford flop	43	Mixes up	
24	Perturbation	71	Arouse	46	Tennis shoe	
27	Mt Etna location	72	Biddy	51	Survived	
29	Quantity (Abbr.)	73	Values	53	Kind of infection	
30	Cut down	74	Hinder	54	Mother-of-pearl	
34	Brownie	DOWN				
35	Uncle (Sp.)	1	"Arabian Nights" bird	57	Annoy	
36	Not working	2	Goof	60	Sail holder	
37	Harder to find	3	Honest ____	61	Congers	
40	Freudian topics	4	Minute arachnids	64	Neckline shape	
42	Nickels and dimes	5	Purloins	66	Flower holder	
44	Beach feature	6	Cavort	67	____ out a living	
45	Puppets	7	Tarzan extra	68	Always, in verse	
47	Confined: ____ up	8	Defrost			
48	NFL stats	9	Outriggers			
		10	More lighthaired			
		11	Ice cream flavor			
		12	Invalidate			

SUDOKU BEGINNER

	4	3			9			
	9	7		1				
	1	2	4			5		
1	5			3	4	7	2	8
	3	8		2		9	1	
7	2	9	8	6			5	3
		1			7	8	9	
				5		2	3	
			1			6	7	

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International Joke Day, July 1

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PUZZLE Solutions on page 15

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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

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

HALSEY

Central Valley Church 657 W 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://harvestrbcc.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 • 541-369-2322
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
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Sunday Service 10 a.m. • Sunday School 11 a.m.

HARRISBURG

Calvary Chapel Tri-County 255 Smith St
541-995-8221 • <https://cctriconity.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 • 541-369-2322

OBITUARY

Jean Weygandt

Jan. 9, 1937 – June 4, 2026

Jean Weygandt stepped into the arms of Jesus on June 4, 2026, with the quiet grace and unwavering faith that sustained her throughout her life. She was known for her generosity, compassion, prayers, and the unconditional love she shared with family, friends, and all who crossed her path.



Jean and her twin sister, Carol, were born Jan. 9, 1937, in Oregon City to Howard and Mabel Blake. While attending high school in Ephrata, Washington, she met the love of her life, Ken Weygandt. The couple married four days after her graduation and shared 64 years together.

Together, they raised five children: Larry (Char) Weygandt, Deanne (Bob) Gray, Steve (Day) Weygandt, Viktor Weygandt, and Ken (Chris) Weygandt. Jean was also a devoted aunt to Carol’s five children, whom she loved as her own.

A gifted homemaker, Jean created a warm, welcoming home while raising her family. Later, she faithfully served alongside Ken after he became an ordained minister. She supported his ministry through encouragement, hospitality, prayer, and countless hours of service to their church family.

For more than 40 years, Jean baked cookies for Sunday school classes and Vacation Bible School, earning the affectionate nickname “the cookie lady.” She welcomed anyone in need of a meal, a place to rest, or a listening ear. Her family believes her faithful prayers were a source of strength and protection throughout their lives.

Jean also enjoyed life’s simple pleasures: cats curled up on her lap, chocolate ice cream, hot coffee, and spirited games of 10,000 and Scrabble.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ken; her sons, Viktor and Steve; her twin sister, Carol; and her grandchildren, Jesse Gray and Aspen Buckle.

Jean’s legacy lives on through her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family, church family, and the many whose lives were touched by her kindness, faith, hospitality, and steadfast love. Though deeply missed, her family rejoices that she is now in the presence of the Savior she faithfully served throughout her life. ☸



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The Little City Nobody Can Pronounce

Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer and Columnist

Medjugorje (med-yoo-gor-ya) is a town of about 5,000 residents in present-day Bosnia and Herzegovina, formerly part of Yugoslavia, near the Croatian border. Medjugorje hosts about one million tourists each year, including Reverend Scott Baier, Pastor of both Holy Trinity Mission Catholic Church in Brownsville and St. Helen’s Catholic Church in Sweet Home. Reverend Baier, or “Father Scott,” became interested in Medjugorje at 16 after discovering the book “Medjugorje: The Message” by Wayne Weible. The book recounts the author’s journey to Medjugorje and how his life was forever changed by the experience. After telling no one about his interest in the subject for 30 years, Father Scott embarked on a pilgrimage of his own to Medjugorje last month.



COURTESY: FATHER SCOTT BAIER
Father Scott Baier (front row, in black clerical attire holding a white envelope) joins fellow pilgrims during a visit to Medjugorje as part of his recent pilgrimage to the Catholic shrine in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Medjugorje is a special place, drawing over 30 million visitors since June 24, 1981, when six local children were visited by an apparition of the Virgin Mary, the mother of God, bearing a message of peace for the world. “I have come to tell the world that God exists.” For some time, the area was unsafe for travel due to military conflict. Today it is a destination for many tourists, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. The city is considered a Catholic sanctuary in an otherwise predominantly Muslim population.

Though the apparitions of the Virgin Mary continue to this day, Father Scott did not “see” her. His experience, however, was a profound sense of peace, more peaceful than he had felt in a very long time, along with new clarity and inspiration for growth.

To understand a Catholic view of the Virgin Mary, Father Scott said, “Catholics do not worship Mary. This is a common misconception. We honor Mary as the mother of God, the first disciple, the one who said “Yes” to God’s request, “Yes” at the Annunciation, when she was visited by the Angel Gabriel and told she would bear the Son of God, Jesus Christ.”

Father Scott came to the area last July from St. Paul, Oregon, to replace the previous pastor of Holy Trinity and St. Helen’s churches. When you see Father Scott around town, stop and say hi! He will be the guy wearing a clerical collar. ☸

Mark Life’s Great Passages with Us

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Hospice Nurse Shares Lessons on Living Well Until the End

By Jacquie Hoekstra, Staff Writer and Columnist

Nan VanSandt, who facilitated Brownsville's recent Death Cafe, discussed her end-of-life care experiences as a hospice nurse. Though retired from nursing, she continues to volunteer.

VanSandt chose nursing for its versatility and flexibility. She decided to pursue her degree and then explore her options. She said that reading Elisabeth Kübler-Ross's "On Death and Dying" in school affected her. In her career, she followed the open doors and, after experiences in intensive care, Pediatric ICU, and oncology, she found her joy in hospice.

When asked about myths surrounding death and dying, VanSandt assures readers that it is not depressing or negative. "Death gives life meaning." She said people are often their most authentic selves during this season. "One of the things I wish more people knew is what an honor it is," she said, regarding being present in someone's final moments. She encourages people not to avoid those experiences but to be present. What a person needs is your authentic self to help them live their fullest life to the end.

VanSandt refers to her clients as her teachers. She has observed families wishing they had done a few things earlier. They wish they had gotten their affairs in order so their family would not have to spend the final days worrying about wills, passwords, advance directives, and related matters. They wish they had forgiven and let things go so they could live and die without regrets. They wish they had started hospice care sooner.

A common misconception is that hospice is only for the last few days or weeks, but its benefits can last for up to two years. Hospice offers multidisciplinary care, including social work, physical therapy, medical equipment, chaplain services, and more. Hospice care is not about giving up; it is about living well until the end. Speak with your doctor for more information and resources.

VanSandt encourages readers to be present, not perfect. Showing up is what matters. Focus on life, not death. Her key takeaway is to live fully and be present in every moment.



JACQUIE HOEKSTRA
Retired hospice nurse Nan VanSandt poses outside Randy's Main Street Coffee in downtown Brownsville. VanSandt recently shared lessons from her years in hospice care, encouraging people to live fully, be present with loved ones, and embrace hospice as a way to live well until the end.

Sharing Hands Accepting Food Donations

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

Most-needed items include canned foods, pasta, cereal, bread, toiletries, laundry soap, and fresh garden produce. Donations of unopened, nonperishable food, fresh fruits and vegetables, and essential household items help support local individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

Please do not donate expired items. Monetary donations and volunteer opportunities are also available. More information is available at <https://sharinghands.org>.



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- ☐ Canned Fruit
- ☐ Jelly/Jam
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- ☐ Buns
- ☐ English Muffins
- ☐ Cereal
- ☐ Crackers
- ☐ Dry Pasta

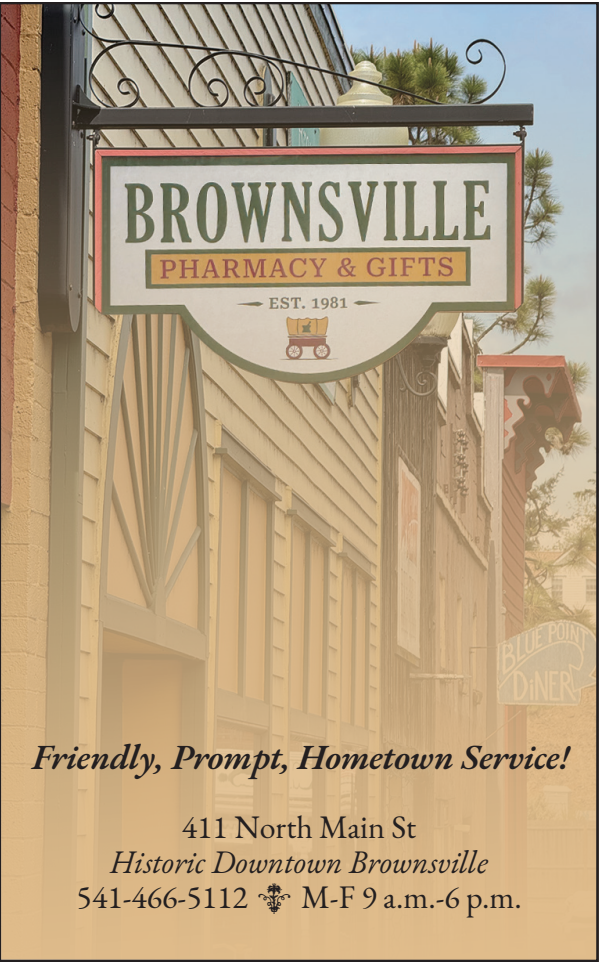
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- ☐ Cheese
- ☐ Kraft Mac & Cheese
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PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 13

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Step Into History at the Harrisburg Area Museum

By Daniel R. Murphy, Staff Writer and Columnist

The Harrisburg Area Museum is not just one building — it is a complex of six buildings filled with historical exhibits. It is one of the largest museum complexes of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. The complex is dedicated to recognizing the area's farming history and culture.

The museum was founded in 1993, when the historic 1867 James McCarney house was moved to Heritage Park, marking the beginning of the complex. That same year, construction began on the Farm Building to house Bob Nixon's collection of antique farming implements.

The museum house and farm building opened to the public in 1997. The picnic pavilion and



The Harrisburg Area Museum campus includes the one-room schoolhouse, Shedd Family Chapel, and the historic James McCarney House, along with several other buildings preserving the community's history.

Witmer building were completed in 1999. The Starns building and the Shedd Family Chapel were added in 2000. The Morse family building was added in 2006.

The Witmer building houses a collection of scale models of historic buildings, including those constructed by Harrisburg master model maker Bruce Witmer (1921–1999). The collection includes local buildings, barns, towers, Oregon Forts Yamhill and Clatsop, Crater Lake Lodge, and Witmer's interpretation of Noah's Ark.

The picnic pavilion is a large structure with 40-foot-long tables suitable for large gatherings. The tables were milled from a single tree and donated by the Hull-Oakes Lumber Company. The pavilion is available for weddings, receptions, reunions, potlucks, craft shows, and corporate meetings. Contact the museum at 541-995-4844 for more information.

Future plans call for the construction of a full-sized windmill and a one-room schoolhouse.

The collections are impressive, with a large number of antique tractors, ancient vintage combines, and other farm machinery on display. The grounds are expansive, so visitors should plan to spend an afternoon exploring everything the museum has to offer.

The museum is located at 490 Smith St. in Harrisburg. Spring and summer hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. During December and January, the museum is open Saturdays only.

For more information, call 541-995-4844, or visit <https://www.harrisburgareamuseum.org>. Guided docent tours are available by appointment. The museum operates on donations, which are always welcome. ☼

THE LONG GRAY BRAID

The Line of Demarcation

By Annie Swensen, Columnist and Copy Editor

As a child raised in the 1950s, my married life took on a very traditional division of labor in managing a household. I made sure my family had clean clothes that fit and full stomachs... they didn't choke on the dust or stick to the floor, and could see the flowers through clean glass. I was Santa, the Easter Bunny, birthday party organizer, designer of costumes, and interior decorator. My husband was the maintainer of the buildings, fixer of the toilet, leaks and broken stuff, the carpenter, lawn mower, fence builder, and auto mechanic.

All in all, it was an arrangement that worked for many years. The synchronicity continued when the nest emptied, and we moved to the country. Now there were new maintenance requirements — barns, a well pump filter, more grass, gravel and bark dust, and additional equipment, like a riding lawnmower — that all fell on his side of the line of demarcation.

Then one day, years later, I found myself alone on a beautiful three acres in a half-finished house. For a while, I allowed Marie Calendar to cook for me. Three days passed before I had a load of laundry, and it was a quick fold. I stopped cleaning in rooms I seldom entered. A vacation?

No — June arrived and the Spring begged the grass to grow mid-shin high in five different lawn areas. I gazed into the shed at the riding lawn mower wondering how to start it. The push mower was resting nearby, so I pulled the cord, but nothing happened.

I called a friend. "How do I start my lawn mower?"

He instructed me, "Push the bubble five times and pull the cord."

"What bubble... oh... this..." I yanked, and the mower remained dormant.

"Does it have gas?" he patiently coached.

I looked around the handle. "Where is the gas gauge?"

He softly chuckled, "You have to remove the cap and look in the tank."

I located a cap and, of course, it was man-tightened. After ten minutes of banging and twisting, I was able to say, "Yes, it has gas."

I followed multiple instructions including how to stand, pull, and hold up on the handlebar, without success. My friend advised, "Check the carburetor."

"What's a carburetor? What does it look like? What does it do? And where is it?"

His final reply — "I can't help you" — and my phone went dark.

Fine! I never had a need to learn the foreign language of mechanics, but I'm sure I can mow better than he cooks.

So, I moved to a house with one yard. I purchased an electric lawn mower... press the button, pull up a handlebar... it starts... I push.

And I'll never have to know what a carburetor looks like or what it does. I'm staying on my side of the line. ☼



Rows of antique tractors, combines, and a massive steam engine highlight the Harrisburg Area Museum's extensive agricultural collection, celebrating the farming heritage of the Willamette Valley.



The restored dining room inside the 1867 James McCarney House offers visitors a glimpse into daily family life in early Harrisburg.



The museum's one-room schoolhouse recreates a rural classroom, complete with vintage desks, chalkboard lessons, and period furnishings.

PHOTOS: BARBARA ANDERSEN

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MY HEARING CENTERS



High Octane Fun at Tangent Festival

By Eva Wada, Assistant Editor

The Tangent Harvest Festival returns Saturday, September 19, 2026. Now in its fourth year of revival, the beloved community celebration is expected to draw 2,500 attendees to Tangent.

General festival admission is free. The day features live music from Adam Scramstad, Shatterproof, and Barn Shakers, alongside the Tangent Fire Department's pancake breakfast, the community parade, the kids' village, an artisan fair, and a dozen food trucks. Samaritan Health Services will also return with its Mobile Medical Clinic, offering free basic healthcare and sports physicals to attendees.



COURTESY: ADAM SCRAMSTAD

SHARON K. BANKS



For high-octane excitement, the ticketed Combine Demolition Derby & Power Pulls enters its second year with expanded pull classes, including pickup trucks and ATVs alongside tractors and lawn tractors. Derby-Pull tickets are \$10 for ages 10 and up, \$5 for ages 5–9, and free for children 4 and under.



COURTESY: SHATTERPROOF

MARCY HERMENS



“This festival is about who we are as a community — neighbors coming together to celebrate our agricultural heritage,” said Marcy Hermens, Director of Combine Demolition Derby & Power Pulls. Organized by the nonprofit Tangent Together, the festival is made possible through local sponsors and volunteers.

To purchase Derby tickets or learn more, visit <https://tangenttogether.org> or follow Tangent Together on Facebook for updates. ☼

Power Pulls Expand at 2026 Tangent Harvest Festival

New ATV and Pickup Truck Classes Join the Action September 19

By Marcy Hermens, Tangent Correspondent

The 2026 Tangent Harvest Festival is turning up the horsepower. Building on a successful debut last year, the festival's Power Pulls competition is back, bringing new muscle. For the first time, ATV and pickup truck classes will join the pull lineup, giving more competitors a chance to test what they've got and giving spectators more reasons to cheer.

The Power Pulls join the fan-favorite Combine Demolition Derby in the festival's ticketed action arena. Together, the two events offer something rare in the Willamette Valley: wide-open, pedal-to-the-metal rural entertainment people keep talking about long after the dust settles.

Competitors who want to get in on the action can register at <http://tangenttogether.org>. Entry is \$20 per pull and includes two pit passes — tickets that get you and a crew member into the event and down into the pit area, where the real energy lives. With new pickup truck and ATV (including both quads and side-by-sides) classes joining the existing lineup, there is truly a class for everyone. If you've been waiting for an excuse to see what your machine can do, this is the year.

For those who prefer to watch from the stands, tickets for the combined Power Pulls and Combine Demolition Derby are \$10 for ages 10 and up, \$5 for ages 5 through 9, and free for children 4 and under. Tickets can be purchased on the Tangent Harvest Festival website, with proceeds benefiting the Tangent Together Scholarship Fund.

The Tangent Harvest Festival remains free and open to all, with live music, a kids' village, harvest games, an artisan fair, and more spread across the grounds at Tangent Elementary School and Tangent City Hall.

The ticketed action events run alongside the main festival, giving families the flexibility to enjoy as much or as little of the excitement as they choose.

The festival is organized by Tangent Together, the nonprofit behind the event's revival since 2022. For more information, visit <https://tangenttogether.org> or email tangentharvestfestival@gmail.com. ☼



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SHERIFF'S REPORT JUNE 28-

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

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

The following is a list of abbreviations that may appear in our log reports: LCSO (Linn County Sheriff's Office); OSP (Oregon State Police); APS (Adult Protective Services); DHS (Department of Human Services); LCCC (Linn County Circuit Court); 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

Wed., July 1, 10:45 a.m. — Deputy responded to a report of fraud in the 36400 block of Hwy 228. Caller reported that \$640 in checks mailed to them were missing and were cashed. Report taken.

5:26 p.m. — Deputy investigated a reported theft in the 1000 block of Pine St., but was unable to identify the offender. While on scene, Tyson House, 18, of Brownsville, was cited in lieu of arrest for a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant. Report taken.

7:09 p.m. — A stranger showed up on the caller's property, claiming they had been told they could take firewood in the 37800 block of Mountain Home Dr. Deputy contacted the stranger at their address and trespassed them from the caller's property at the caller's request.

Fri., July 3, 10:32 a.m. — Deputies took a burglary report regarding missing flags from a business in the 300 block of N Main St., with a total loss of \$180. Report taken.

4:33 p.m. — Samuel Fowler, 22, of Eugene, was cited for speeding 55 in a 35-mph zone in the 600 block of N Main St.

Sat., July 4, 6:59 p.m. — Deputy provided additional patrol in Pioneer Park during the Fourth of July

celebration and fireworks.

11:06 p.m. — Deputies responded to a fight in progress in Pioneer Park. Upon arrival, no parties were still at the location. No way to identify the parties with no witnesses.

CRABTREE

Fri., July 3, 9:21 a.m. — Deputies responded to a welfare check request regarding an 81-year-old female in the 37100 block of Crabtree Dr. and found her alive and well. While on scene, deputies contacted Kelly Rydz, 51, of Crabtree, who was cited in lieu of custody for an active Albany Municipal Court warrant. Report taken.

HALSEY

Sun., June 28, 8:07 p.m. Deputies responded to a two-vehicle crash in which both drivers sustained minor injuries in the 29300 block of American Dr. Brandon Figueroa, 25, of Portland, was cited for failing to obey a traffic control device. Report taken.

Wed., July 1, 4:47 p.m. — Deputy assisted OSP with a non-injury crash at Hwy 99E and Hwy 228.

7:09 p.m. — Deputy checked on people in a vehicle partially blocking a driveway in the 29200 block of Pine Grove Dr. Joseph Bagg, 42, of Lebanon, was arrested and cited in lieu of custody for an outstanding Albany Municipal Court warrant.

Thu., July 2, 4:38 p.m. — Sharon Fitz, 69, of Gresham, was cited for failing to stop at a stop sign in the 31900 block of Hwy 228.

Fri., July 3, 6:42 p.m. — Deputy documented the caller's statements regarding an ongoing family dispute in the 800 block of W 5th St.

Sat., July 4, 10:33 p.m. — Caller reported illegal fireworks in the 300 block of W 4th St. Deputy was unable to locate the source.

11:35 p.m. — Caller again reported illegal fireworks in the 300 block of W 4th St. and expressed frustration. Deputy again was unable to locate them.

HARRISBURG

Sun., June 28, 2:05 a.m. — Brandon Ferrell, 29, of Harrisburg, was cited for driving while suspended, failing to install and use an ignition interlock device, and driving uninsured.

7:36 a.m. — Deputy observed a juvenile riding a mini motorcycle in Eagle Park. The juvenile was is-

sued a warning for operating an unsafe vehicle and for violating equipment rules. A guardian responded to pick up the juvenile and the mini motorcycle.

4:31 p.m. — Three juveniles were warned for riding prohibited electric motorcycles on a public roadway in the 100 block of N 3rd St.

Mon., June 29, 9:39 a.m. — Deputies came upon a hay truck that lost a few bales onto the roadway shoulder after negotiating a turn on a decline in the 24500 block of Powerline Rd. No one was injured, and no property was damaged. The driver was advised on better load-securement options for the future.

9:49 a.m. — Stephan Chatterton, 30, of Springfield, was cited for driving without insurance in the 500 block of Territorial St.

12:48 p.m. — Cody Morton, 35, of Eugene, was stopped for expired registration and cited for driving while suspended in the 100 block of N 1st St. Morton also received a written warning for expired registration.

Tue., June 30, 10:29 a.m. — Deputy took a report of a protection order violation in the 500 block of S 6th St. During the investigation, it was determined that the suspect is out of the county. A Probable Cause affidavit was submitted for an arrest warrant. Report taken.

2:46 p.m. — Sue Manuel, 73, of Harrisburg, was cited for failing to stop at a stop sign in the 500 block of LaSalle St.

11:52 p.m. — Deputy responded to a welfare check request regarding a subject who was not responding while in a porta potty at the skate park in the 500 block of Smith St. The subject was woken from a three-hour nap and was fine. The subject requested a ride to Junction City, and the deputy provided it.

Wed., July 1, 1:19 a.m. — Daniel Green, 48, of Cheshire, was cited for driving while suspended and uninsured in the 25800 block of Rowland Rd. Green's vehicle was nuisance-towed.

4:23 p.m. — Deputy spoke with a resident about a missing cat. The resident believed someone had found the cat but said the finder would not allow the resident to see it for identification. After contacting the finder, the deputy confirmed it was not

the same cat. Non-criminal.

11:33 p.m. — Aaron Kilday, 42, of Cottage Grove, was cited for driving without a license in the 200 block of 3rd St.

Thu., July 2, 6:53 a.m. — Gym neighbors in the 100 block of Smith St complained about loud early-morning music from Chaos Strength and Conditioning. Moving forward, citations will be issued to the business.

11:48 a.m. — Deputy assisted Harrisburg Fire at a car fire in the 300 block of N 3rd St.

2:44 p.m. — Deputies responded to an unconscious male on the sidewalk in the 500 block of Territorial St. The male was highly intoxicated and evaluated by medics before being picked up by a neighbor.

Fri., July 3, 11:18 p.m. — Caller reported a fireworks complaint in the 300 block of N 6th St. Deputies asked residents to stop setting off fireworks and playing loud music.

JEFFERSON

Sat., July 4, 9:44 p.m. — Deputies responded to a fireworks complaint near Densmore Rd and Kelly Rd.

SCIO

Mon., June 29, 9:49 a.m. — Report of a scam caller stealing bank account information and making unauthorized transfers in the 38500 block of Hwy 226. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Tue., June 30, 12:20 p.m. — Deputy contacted the owner, Jerry Williams, about his loose goats in the 40700 block of Larwood Dr. Williams collected the goats and returned them.

Wed., July 1, 1:03 a.m. — Deputy observed people at a business in the 38700 block of N Main St. after hours. The people were new business owners stocking up for their grand opening. The deputy collected their contact information for the file.

4:00 a.m. — Caller reported a domestic disturbance over the proper cooking time for frozen burritos in the 40400 block of Oupor Dr. No crimes; parties were separated for the evening.

2:34 p.m. — Deputy responded to a report of trespassing in the 39100 block of Shelburn Dr. An adult male was warned for trespassing and advised to move along.

Thu., July 2, 9:20 a.m. — Deputy responded to an

overdose/suicide attempt in the 43100 block of Hwy 226. The individual voluntarily left with medics for further evaluation at a local hospital. Report taken.

Fri., July 3, 12:08 p.m. — Heather Robles, 56, of Lebanon, was cited for failing to stop at a stop sign in the 37500 block of Hwy 226.

Sat., July 4, 12:23 a.m. — Deputy responded to a missing person report in the 38700 block of West Scio Rd. A juvenile did not return home. With assistance from the Salem PD, the juvenile was located sleeping at a friend's house.

1:45 p.m. — Deputies assisted another agency with a non-injury, single-vehicle fire in the 40600 block of Rodgers Mountain Loop. The incident was non-criminal.

3:11 p.m. — Caller reported a traffic complaint involving an ATV in the 38600 block of Dogwood St. The driver was contacted at his residence and warned for the offense.

4:11 p.m. — Brayden McBride, 20, of Mill City, was cited for speeding 75 in a 55-mph zone in the 42100 block of Hwy 226.

6:35 p.m. — Owen Rupert, 18, of Mill City, was cited for speeding 88 in a 55-mph zone in the 41900 block of Hwy 226.

9:43 p.m. — Deputies responded to a fireworks complaint in the 38900 block of Hamilton Way.

SHEDD

Sun., June 28, 7:30 p.m. — Deputies responded to a report of an intoxicated driver in the 31500 block of Peoria Rd. Deputies located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop and DUII investigation. William Turner, 18, of Sheridan, was arrested for DUII, reckless driving, and drug offenses, including possession of LSD and MDMA. Turner was transported to LCJ. Report taken.

Thu., July 2, 3:34 p.m. — Lauren Beeghly, 36, of Brownsville, was cited for speeding in the 30900 block of Hwy 99E.

Sat., July 4, 9:47 p.m. — Deputies responded to a minor single-vehicle crash in the 35400 block of Ede Rd. Report taken.

TANGENT

Fri., July 3, 11:51 a.m. — Philip Dearing, 47, of Salem, was arrested in the 32200 block of Old Hwy 34 for Trespass II. ☼

Blue Pool Drowning Claims Life of Kansas Visitor

LINN COUNTY — A 21-year-old Kansas man drowned Friday evening, June 26, at Tamolitch Falls, commonly known as Blue Pool, the Linn County Sheriff's Office said.

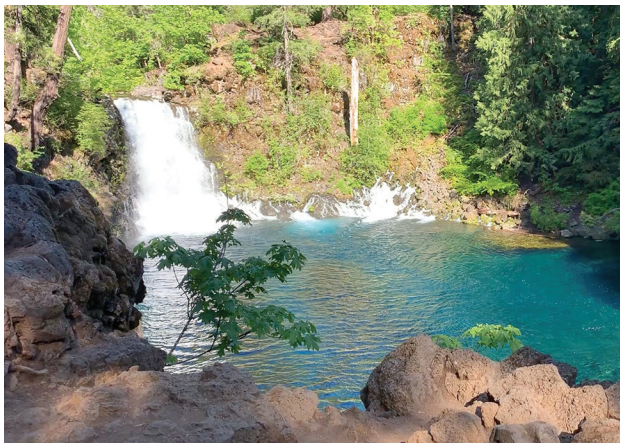
Dispatchers received a 911 call at 8:47 p.m. reporting that a man had jumped into the water and could not get out.

The victim, identified as Kenny Truong, was visiting the area with friends. Witnesses told investigators that he struggled while swimming toward shore before disappearing beneath the surface. Bystanders and first responders attempted to rescue him, but he did not survive.

The Linn County Sheriff's Office, the Lane County Sheriff's Office, and Upper McKenzie Rural Fire responded to the incident.

Sheriff's officials are reminding visitors that Blue Pool, while known for its striking beauty, can be extremely dangerous. Water temperatures average about 37 degrees, cold enough to cause immediate cold-water shock, and the surrounding cliffs range from 10 to 60 feet high. The remote location also has little to no cell service, and emergency transport to a hospital can take hours.

Authorities encourage visitors to understand the risks before entering the water, to stay with companions, and to call 911 immediately if an emergency occurs. ☼



Wildfire Preparedness Starts Before the Smoke

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

What is the single most important thing residents can do right now to prepare for wildfire season?

Many residents overlook the importance of an evacuation plan. When a wildfire or other disaster threatens your area, it's often too late to decide what to take or which route to take. Planning ahead helps you identify essential items, choose evacuation routes, and decide where you'll go before an emergency. Having a plan reduces stress, saves valuable time, and helps you make better decisions when every minute counts.

What are the most common mistakes you see homeowners make when it comes to wildfire preparedness?

Oregon's beautiful greenery provides privacy and enhances the landscape, yet many homeowners and renters underestimate the importance of maintaining their vegetation with wildfire safety in mind.

Creating and maintaining defensible space around a property is one of the most effective ways to reduce wildfire risk. Property owners should focus on three key zones:

- Structure Ignition Zone (0–30 feet):** Reduce the risk of embers igniting the home or nearby vegetation.
- Fire Break Zone (30–100 feet):** Slows the spread of wildfire and reduces flame intensity as fire approaches the home.
- Reduce Fuel Zone (100–200 feet):** Remove vegetation and other fuels that can contribute to wildfire growth and spread.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal provides guidance and resources for creating defensible space on its website at <https://www.oregon.gov/osfm/wildfire/pages/defensiblespace.aspx>. Residents can also contact their local fire department or fire district for recommendations tailored to their community.

Are there any specific concerns this fire season that residents should be aware of?

Oregon experienced another warmer, drier winter, with below-average snowpack in many areas. These conditions can dry vegetation earlier in the season and increase the risk of wildfire.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to avoid burning during fire season whenever possible. If a permitted fire is necessary, it should never be left unattended and must be completely extinguished before leaving the area. A fire is not out until it is cold to the touch.

Once a wildfire becomes established, it can spread rapidly, behave unpredictably, and be extremely difficult for firefighters to contain. Taking simple precautions can help prevent human-caused fires and protect our communities, natural resources, and firefighters. ☼

Bat in Benton County Tests Positive for Rabies

BENTON COUNTY — Health officials are reminding residents to avoid direct contact with bats after the first 2026 rabid bat was confirmed in Benton County.

The bat was found on a Benton County property, where it may have had contact with domestic animals. It tested positive for rabies on June 17.

While most bats do not carry rabies, they are Oregon's primary wildlife source of the virus. Rabies is preventable if treated promptly after exposure, but it is almost always fatal once symptoms develop.

The Willamette Valley is home to about a dozen of Oregon's 15 native bat species, including Little Brown Bats, Big Brown Bats, Silver-Haired Bats, Townsend's Big-Eared Bats, Hoary Bats, and several species of myotis. All are insect-eating mammals that help control mosquitoes, moths, beetles, and other pests, making them an important part of the local ecosystem.



Benton County health officials are reminding residents to avoid direct contact with bats after the county's first rabies-positive bat of 2026 was confirmed.

Residents are advised to:

- Never handle a bat with bare hands.
- Avoid all direct contact with bats whenever possible.
- If a bat must be moved, use sturdy gloves and a tool, such as a shovel.
- Keep dogs and cats current on rabies vaccinations.
- Contact Benton County Environmental Health at 541-766-6835 within 24 hours if a person or pet is bitten, scratched, or has direct contact with a bat. If it can be done safely, officials ask that the bat be captured for testing.

Health officials also remind the public that merely seeing a bat or being near bat droppings does not spread rabies. However, any bat that appears sick, injured, unusually aggressive, or unafraid of people should be avoided and reported. ☼

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