THE TIMES of the CENTRAL WILLAMETTE VALLEY

VOLUME 138, NO. 38 | FOUNDED IN 1889 • $3.00 | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

Back to School Brings Big Dreams Across the Central Willamette Valley

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

SHARON K. BANKS

Five-year-old Rowan Waugh is ready for his first day of kindergarten at Harrisburg Elementary.

Backpacks, new school supplies, and a mix of excitement and nerves marked the beginning of another school year in Harrisburg and Halsey.

At Harrisburg Elementary School, 5-year-old Rowan Waugh stood in line waiting to begin kindergarten, one of childhood's biggest milestones.

Rowan wiggled, giggled, and squirmed as he waited, carrying a large backpack filled with school supplies.

Fourth grader Ellee Woods was also happy to be back. Woods attended Harrisburg Elementary for kindergarten before being home schooled for first and second grades. She returned for third grade and is back again for fourth.

She enjoys math and science and hopes to sing, perhaps in a choir, while also finding a career that allows her to ride horses. Woods said she missed her friends while homeschooling and sometimes found it difficult to stay on track.

BACK continued on page 7

DONALD LYON

Kindergarten twins Chloe and Charlie Wall arrive for their first day of school at Central Linn Elementary. Charlie hopes to become a firefighter, while Chloe wants to be a doctor.

CENTRAL LINN FOOTBALL

Cobras Open Season with Convincing Win Over Sheridan

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

SHERIDAN — The Central Linn Cobras opened the 2026 football season in impressive fashion Sept. 4, defeating the Sheridan Spartans 32–6 on the road.

Central Linn controlled the game from the start, using a balanced offensive attack and strong defensive effort to secure the season-opening victory.

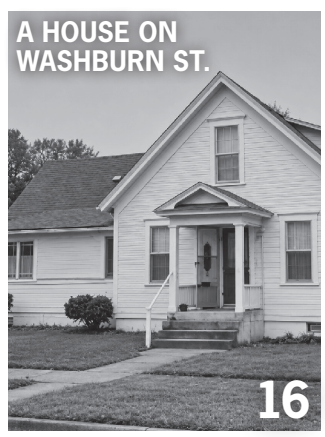
The Cobras put 32 points on the board while holding Sheridan to just six. The Spartans struggled to generate enough offense to keep pace with Central Linn throughout the night.

The victory gives the Cobras a 1–0 start and provides early momentum as they prepare for their home opener.

PHOTOS: MOOSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Central Linn quarterback Jacob Helms looks for an opening during the Cobras' 32–6 season-opening victory over Sheridan Sept. 4.

INSIDE



ISSN 3068-2290 13838

ONGOING EVENTS

Weekly Block Party Quilting Gathering
Tuesdays • 10:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Yankee Dutch Quilting, 140 Spaulding Ave., Brownsville

Bring your quilting project and enjoy a day of quilting, conversation, and community. All skill levels are welcome to drop in for fellowship, inspiration, and fun.

https://www.yankeedutchquilts.com • 541-466-3662

StrongPeople™ Classes
Tuesdays & Thursdays • 9–10 a.m. • FREE
OSU Extension Linn County
33630 McFarland Rd., Tangent

An evidence-based fitness program designed primarily for adults to improve strength, balance, mobility, and flexibility with progressive resistance training and balance exercises that use ankle weights, dumbbells, and bodyweight movements.

541-730-3541 • Tina.Dodge@oregonstate.edu

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

Open Mic Night
Wednesdays • 6–8 p.m.
Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994 Hwy 99E, Tangent

Got a guitar? Got a voice? Got jokes? Got poetry? Bring it ALL to the stage every Wednesday night.

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

Across from Dari Market — shop local vendors and learn more about the community market initiative through the Calapooia Food Alliance. Linn County Master Gardeners are on site with additional resources.

https://www.calapooiafoodalliance.org

Scio Saturday Market
Saturdays through Sept. 26 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Linn County Lamb & Wool Fairgrounds, 38999 NE 1st Ave.

Local produce, baked goods, crafts, food vendors, live music, and family-friendly entertainment.

https://www.sciosaturdaymarket.com

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

Community fundraiser supporting programs such as Quilts of Valor and local senior activities. All are invited to play and support the Post.

Karaoke with Mandy
Saturdays • 8 p.m.
Brownsville Saloon, 419 N Main St., Brownsville

Sept. 19 and Sept. 26 feature an "Alice in Wonderland" theme; Oct. 3 is Adult Prom/Karaoke. Ages 21 and older.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

ALBANY

Mid Valley Market: Vintage, Collectibles & Flea Market
Saturday, Sept. 19 • 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
Linn County Fair & Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road E

Discover a carefully curated collection of antiques, vintage treasures, and unique collectibles, alongside beautifully crafted and thoughtfully refurbished pieces that bring new life to the old. It's more than a market — it's an experience filled with nostalgia, creativity, and inspiration! Admission: cash at the door: VIP 8–9 a.m.: $10 per person; General Admission 9–2 p.m.: $5 per person, 12 and older.

fmeventsmanagement@gmail.com

International Talk Like a Pirate Day at the Historic Albany Carousel
Saturday, Sept. 19 • 11 a.m.–7 p.m.
Historic Albany Carousel, 503 1st Ave. W

Wear your best pirate gear for a mighty fine time! Dress like a pirate and get a free ride card! Pose for photos, engage in pirate activities, and enjoy a performance by the Hocus Pokie Dancers from noon to 4 p.m.

https://albanycarousel.com/event/international-talk-like-a-pirate-day-4

Linn-Benton Veterans Stand Down
Thursday, Sept. 24 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m. • FREE
Linn County Fair & Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road E

Veterans, family members, and caregivers can connect with local, state, and federal organizations offering assistance with veterans' benefits, health care, employment, housing, utilities, and other support services.

Worldwide Day of Play
Saturday, Sept. 26 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m. • FREE
Monteith Riverpark, 489 NW Water Ave.

Presented by Nickelodeon and the Association of Children's Museums, Worldwide Day of Play encourages kids to get up, get out, and play. Albany Regional Museum hosts games, crafts, and activities with a historical flair at the Monteith Riverpark shelter, including historic games, hopscotch, crafts, and more.

https://www.armuseum.com/events/2026/9/26/day-of-play

SafeHaven's Rescue Roundup
Saturday, Sept. 26 • 5–9 p.m.
Knife River Training Center, 35973 Kennel Rd.

SafeHaven Humane Society's largest fundraiser of the year features a BBQ dinner, live and silent auctions with hundreds of items, and a honky-tonk evening benefiting animals in SafeHaven's care. Proceeds help provide shelter, medical care, and adoption services. Tickets are available in advance and will be held at will call.

https://safehavenhumane.org/rescue-roundup/

BROWNSVILLE

Making a Trust
Thursday, Sept. 17 • 6 p.m.
Brownsville Community Library, 146 Spaulding Ave.

Attorney Danielle Myers presents an estate planning program on creating a trust as part of the library's "Lawyer in the Library" series.

https://www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org

Calapooia Food Alliance Garden Party
Friday, Sept. 18 • 5 p.m.
Brownsville Community Garden, 185 S Main St.

Celebrate another year of community abundance with live music, an open mic, and a produce sharing table. BYOB and bring a favorite dish to share, place settings, chairs for your party, and a bag for produce.

https://calapooiafoodalliance.org

American Legion Movie Night: 'Sahara'
Friday, Sept. 25 • 7 p.m.; doors open 6:30 p.m.
Travis Moothart American Legion Post 184
339 N. Main St.

The 1943 World War II classic "Sahara," starring Humphrey Bogart, returns movie nights to Post 184. Admission is $2. Popcorn, hot dogs, and soft drinks will be available.

CORVALLIS

53rd Annual Corvallis Fall Festival
Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 26 & 27 • 10 a.m.–5 p.m. • FREE
Central Park, 650 NW Monroe Ave.

Explore over 170 art booths and enjoy nonstop live music and entertainment on two stages, perfect for the whole family. Make sure to stay after the art booths close on Saturday for the Saturday Night Street Dance!

The Art Discovery Zone features interactive art activities and the Young Artist Marketplace, where emerging artists aged 8–18 will showcase their handmade creations.

Savor delicious offerings from local and regional food and beverage vendors at our food court, which also supports Benton County charity organizations.

Enjoy free admission and a free shuttle service. We look forward to seeing you there!

JEFFERSON

Zumba With Cheryl
Wednesday & Friday, Sept. 16–Nov. 20 • 7 p.m.
Jefferson Community Center, 107 N. Main St.

Beginner-friendly Zumba classes offer a judgment-free way to get moving, boost your mood and build strength. Fall term includes 18 classes, with no classes Sept. 25 or Oct. 30. Drop in for $7 per class or pay $90 for the full term.

Bunco Fundraiser
Saturday, Sept. 26 • 3–6 p.m.
Jefferson Community Center, 107 N. Main St.

Join the Friends of Jefferson Fire District for an afternoon of Bunco, raffle prizes, concessions, and more. Cost is $15 to play, with proceeds benefiting the Friends of Jefferson Fire District.

LEBANON

Modern Square Dance and Cha Cha Lessons
Sunday, Sept. 20 • Cha Cha 4–5:15
Square Dance 5:30–7:30 p.m.
First lesson free, then $6 per person, $15 per family
Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St.

The Lebanon Square Circles are starting a new square dance class and a new Cha Cha class with instructor/caller Shaun McKamey. You don't need a partner or experience. Kids are welcome.

http://www.lebanonsquarecirclers.com • 541-401-9780

TomatoFest
Saturday, Sept. 26 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m. • FREE
Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St.

Taste an estimated 50 varieties of homegrown tomatoes, along with homemade soups, salsa, jams, and other recipes. The free event also features local vendors, a seed swap, free homegrown produce while supplies last, food preservation information, growing tips, and Master Gardeners available to answer gardening questions.

https://www.facebook.com/events/1762679631645862

TANGENT

Tangent Harvest Festival
Saturday, Sept. 19 • 7 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tangent City Hall, 32166 Old Oak Drive

A full day of family activities, entertainment, food, and farm traditions. Most festival activities are free; Combine Demolition Derby admission is $10. Parking is $5.

7 a.m. — Hot air balloon launch at City Hall, weather permitting; pancake breakfast at Tangent Fire Hall, serving until 9:45 a.m.

10 a.m. — Harvest Festival Parade

11 a.m.–5 p.m. — Harvest Festival activities

11:30 a.m. — Combine Demolition Derby & Power Pulls gates open; beer gardens open

Noon — Power Pulls begin in Glaser Field, featuring tractors, lawnmowers, pickup trucks, quads, and side-by-sides

1:30 p.m. — Pie Eating Contest by Kids Village; limited spots available

3 p.m. — Quilt of Valor presentation on stage

5 p.m. — Combine Demolition Derby in Glaser Field, with 10 combines planned to compete

6 p.m. — Harvest Festival closes; after-party at the Dixie Saloon

Parking: All festival parking is at Glaser Field. Parking is $5 per vehicle, with proceeds benefiting the WAHS Trap Club. No street parking is allowed on Old Oak Drive or adjacent roads. During parade street closures from 9–11 a.m., access parking via Seven Mile Lane to Tangent Drive and Tangent Loop.

Free trolley: Albany's historic trolley will make a continuous loop through Tangent, with stops throughout town and at Tangent Elementary School.

https://tangenttogether.org

Hub City Crows – Tangent Harvest Festival After Party
Saturday, Sept. 19 • 7–10 p.m.
Dixie Creek Saloon, 32994, Hwy 99E

All Tangent Harvest Festival volunteers get 10% off.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 184

Sand, Tanks, and Bogey: A Silver Screen Classic

By an ordinary seaman

BROWNSVILLE — Hold onto your popcorn buckets, folks: after a long, dry summer hiatus, movie nights are officially returning to the Post 184 American Legion Hall! 1st Vice Commander Sharon Banks has been working her magic behind the curtain, and to kick off our grand autumn revival, she is pulling out all the stops with the 1943 WWII action film "Sahara," a cinematic masterpiece of epic proportions.

Humphrey Bogart stars in the 1943 World War II film "Sahara," which will be shown Friday, Sept. 25, at American Legion Post 184. Columbia Pictures promotional poster

This wartime classic stars Humphrey Bogart as Master Sergeant Joe Gunn, driving a clunky M3 Lee tank nicknamed "Lulubelle" across North Africa. Along the way, Gunn gathers a ragtag group of Allied soldiers, including a Sudanese corporal and an Italian prisoner, all trying to defend a dwindling desert well against an entire dehydrated German battalion. It is pure tactical drama, psychological bluffing, and classic Hollywood heroism. The Italian prisoner is played by J. Carrol Naish in an Oscar-nominated performance that gives the movie its heart.

Now, if staying hydrated in a Willamette Valley August seems hard, desert tank warfare is another matter entirely. Military strategists compared it to war at sea, with steel ships maneuvering across a featureless ocean of sand. Tank crews relied on sun compasses and naval sextants to avoid being swallowed by shifting dunes. Water was scarce and tightly rationed. Men drank first, then poured whatever remained into the radiator to keep old "Lulubelle" from becoming a 30-ton skillet.

Behind the scenes, the production was almost as colorful as a Linn County town hall meeting. They filmed in Yuma, Arizona, hauling in 2,000 tons of loose sand to make Arizona look like Libya. Bogart reportedly set up a late-night bar in his hotel room for his castmates, which led to a few tense, bleary-eyed mornings with the director. On screen, that weary, battle-tested camaraderie is as real as it gets.

Look, we all know how autumn works around here. In a few weeks, the skies will turn the color of wet slate, the patio furniture will be put away, and we'll all spend six months staring at the rain, wondering why we complained about the dry, hot sun.

Consider this an official reprieve. "Sahara" will be shown Friday, Sept. 25, at 7 p.m. at Travis Moothart American Legion Post 184. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and admission is $2. Popcorn, hot dogs, and soft drinks will be available.

So, pick up the truck keys near the door, round up the kids, and wander on down to the Legion Hall where friendly faces will welcome you. Snag an ice-cold bottle of water before you sit down in our brand-new comfortable chairs and let Bogey and Lulubelle do all the sweating in the torrid desert heat.

Veterans Stand Down Connects Veterans with Resources

ALBANY — Veterans and their families can connect with benefits, health care, housing assistance, and other resources during the Linn-Benton Veterans Stand Down on Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

Albany Mayor Alex Johnson II, a Navy veteran, talks with Kelly Sautel (left) and Christine Rhea of Samaritan Health Services Evergreen Hospice during the Linn-Benton Veterans Stand Down last year at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

Hosted by the Mid-Willamette Valley Veterans Network, the event brings local, state, and federal organizations together in one location to help veterans learn about available services.

Resources are expected to include assistance with VA, disability, and Social Security benefits; employment; housing and utilities; medical and dental care; substance use treatment; and other veteran and community programs.

"Many veterans are unaware of the full range of benefits and programs available to them," said Kyle Hatch, Samaritan Health Services' veterans representative. "This event brings numerous providers together in one location, making it easier for veterans and their families to access resources and get their questions answered."

The free event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Family members and caregivers are also encouraged to attend.

Pratum Cooperative Joins National Agricultural Distribution Group

Pratum Cooperative, which operates an agronomy location in Harrisburg and another nearby in Millersburg, has joined Aligned Ag Distributors as an owner.

Aligned Ag Distributors is a national crop-input distribution company owned by independent agricultural retailers and cooperatives. The arrangement is expected to strengthen Pratum's access to agricultural products while allowing the cooperative to maintain its independence and local decision-making.

"In our geography, our customers have a unique crop mix, and we need to be able to make decisions that fit their operations, so staying independent and being able to adapt to shifting market conditions is really important to us," said Doug Kuenzi, Pratum Cooperative agronomy division manager.

Founded in 1946, Pratum operates agronomy, energy, and seed businesses. Its agronomy division serves more than 30 crops, including grass and other specialty seed crops, hazelnuts, and berries in the Willamette Valley.

Pratum's Harrisburg agronomy location is at 420 Territorial St. The cooperative also operates an agronomy location at 3653 NE Steelhead Run Drive in Millersburg.

Kuenzi said that joining Aligned Ag will help Pratum maintain consistent access to the products growers need while preserving its local focus.

Aligned Ag is in its 11th year and reports approximately $500 million in crop-protection product sales.

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Alyrica to Bring High-Speed Internet to 1,205 Local Locations

Brownsville-raised founder Kevin Sullivan once struggled to get internet at his own rural home

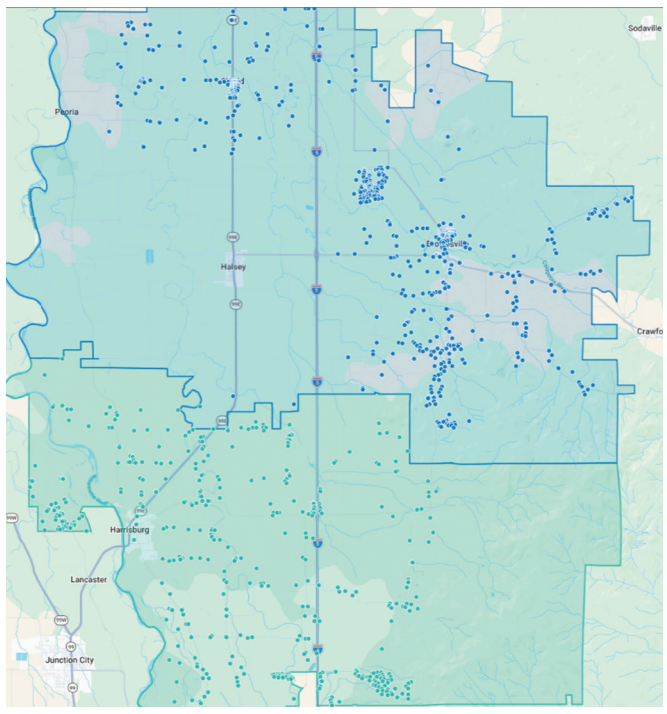
By Mikayle Stole, Editor & Publisher

More than 1,200 locations in the Central Linn and Harrisburg areas are expected to gain high-speed internet access through an $8.16 million expansion by Alyrica Networks — a company whose roots trace back to a Brownsville teenager trying to connect his own rural home.

The Oregon Broadband Office awarded Alyrica $6,067,142 through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. Alyrica will contribute an additional $2,096,859 to the project.

For Alyrica founder and CEO Kevin Sullivan, the project brings the company's mission closer to home.

Sullivan grew up on five acres on Northernwood Drive, off Gap Road near Brownsville, where his family kept cows, horses and a pony — but no dial-up internet service.



Alyrica's BEAD service map shows locations slated for expanded high-speed internet access in the Central Linn and Harrisburg areas.

As teenagers in the late 1990s, Sullivan and his older brother, Joe, were so determined to get connected that they offered to dig a five-mile line to their home. When that didn't work, Sullivan set up dial-up service with help from a neighbor in Halsey.

That experience helped shape Alyrica. After moving to Philomath and again encountering inadequate internet service, Sullivan began connecting his neighbors. By 2002, about 80 people were using the service, and Alyrica was incorporated.

The Harrisburg project will include approximately 39 miles of new fiber and an expanded wireless network spanning both existing and new sites. Central Linn will use a combination of fiber and wireless equipment on existing towers.

Service speeds will range from 400 megabits to 1 gigabit per second, depending on location. Alyrica says this means households will have enough capacity for multiple people to stream, work, attend school, and use connected devices simultaneously, with no usage caps.

The work is part of a four-year program, though Alyrica hopes to finish sooner. Permitting and environmental reviews will help determine where construction will begin. The expansion has already led to two additional hires, with subcontractors also expected.

Residents are able to use Alyrica's online location finder https://www.alyrica.net/bead-times to check service availability at their address. Households outside the grant-funded locations may also be able to connect.

For Sullivan, the project returns to the problem he encountered as a teenager on Northernwood Drive — getting reliable internet to rural homes that are difficult to serve.

This time, his company will be building connections at more than 1,200 locations across the Central Linn and Harrisburg areas.

Brownsville Fitness Center Marks 35 Years

BROWNSVILLE — For 35 years, Brownsville Fitness Center has offered residents a place to exercise, take a class and, perhaps just as importantly, connect with one another.

The fitness center celebrated its 35th anniversary this month, and Michael Worthing, husband of longtime owner Max Worthing, shared some of the history behind the local business.

Its story actually begins in the early 1980s, when Ace and Joanie Nelson helped move the museum to its current location. The couple purchased the museum's former building on Spaulding Avenue and decided Brownsville needed a gym.

Within a few years, Max was teaching several LBCC Extension fitness classes there and helping to run the facility between owners. The classes were popular, but by 1991, gym membership had dwindled, and the third owners were ready to move on.

Michael believed Max could make it work.

"I convinced a highly reluctant Max that if we took it over, she could make the business go," he recalled.

They first rented the facility, then bought and upgraded it. Michael credits its success to Max's "infectious energy and uncanny ability to run a tight yet welcoming ship."

Over the years, the fitness center has become more than a place to work out.

"Now it's a gathering place where folks from all walks of life exercise, work out, and discover they have more in common than just a gym membership, yoga, or a fitness class," Michael wrote.

Max continues to lead two classes each week, and Jessica teaches yoga.

Michael also expressed thanks to those who have supported the fitness center over its 35 years.

"We wouldn't have come this far without you," he wrote. "Peace, health, and happiness!"

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LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Address a Variety of Agenda Items

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger, and Will Tucker made quick work of a varied agenda of items at their September 1 meeting.

The commissioners approved a change order with North Santiam Paving Company for the North River Drive Improvement Project. It adds two bid items for locating an existing waterline and replacing about 2,000 feet of waterline. The additional cost is $69,875.87, and the completion deadline is extended about one week to October 6, 2026.

Approved an engineering and related services contract with Haley & Aldrich Inc. for the Murder Creek (Nygren Road) Bridge Project. This is a Local Agency Certification Program project, and funds have been awarded under the ODOT Local Bridge Program to be reimbursed at 89.73 percent. The contract is for $52,271,94.

Accepted a temporary construction easement along Bowers Drive for the Muddy Creek (Bowers Drive) Bridge project. Grantors are Lloyd C. and Carole J. Davis, Trustees. Easement cost is $750.

Rescinded a previous resolution and authorized the purchase of a larger generator and two transfer switches for the Willamette Health Center Campus through a cooperative agreement between Sourcewell and Linn County. The change is being made after it was learned the system needs to handle a higher electrical load at the facilities in the event of a power outage. The amount is $82,300.

Established a new job classification for a Health Services Operations Manager within the Health Administration. Duties will include contract and procurement management; billing configuration and deployment management; oversight of fee schedules and rate setting following state and federal requirements; data analysis and reporting; and departmental goal planning, performance monitoring, and operational oversight.

Approved amending Linn County Personnel Policy 20, which will allow the County Administrative Officer, rather than the Board of Commissioners, to approve extended sick leave without pay for up to 90 days for qualifying employees.

Held an Executive Session but did not take any action concerning issues discussed in that session after returning to the regular meeting.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Muddy Creek Solar Proposal Advances as Local Opposition Focuses on Farmland

Local opposition focuses on farmland as Oregon reviews a revised 150 megawatt proposal

By Zane Goodwin, Guest Contributor

Three years after residents crowded Brownsville City Hall to question Muddy Creek Energy Park, the proposed solar project south of town is advancing through Oregon's siting process. Brownsville councilors support Friends of Gap Road, Linn County officials have objected to the location, and the developer has revised the proposal.

Muddy Creek Energy Park LLC, a Hanwha Renewables subsidiary, submitted a preliminary Application for Site Certificate to the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) on May 19. The proposal calls for about 150 megawatts of solar generation and up to 150 megawatts of battery storage within a 1,590-acre boundary on Exclusive Farm Use land about eight miles south of Brownsville. The developer says the site is suitable due to its proximity to transmission and substation infrastructure.

ODOE expects its completeness review to continue through the fourth quarter of 2026. The project remains unapproved.

The applicant classifies all 1,590 acres as high-value farmland and arable land. Because the project exceeds Oregon's limits on the amount of high-value farmland a photovoltaic facility may use, occupy, or cover, Muddy Creek is seeking an exception to Statewide Planning Goal 3, Oregon's agricultural land protection goal, for up to 835 acres. About 827 acres would fall within fenced solar array areas; the 1,590-acre figure represents the overall project boundary, not the acreage covered by panels.

Friends of Gap Road has made farmland preservation central to its opposition and has raised concerns about wetlands, wildlife, water, and fire protection. Group member Troy Jones told Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) that the organization does not oppose solar energy in general, asking, "What's wrong with the farmland that we have?"

Brownsville's City Council later voted unanimously in support of the group. Linn County planning staff submitted technical comments to ODOE, while Commissioners Roger Nyquist and Sherrie Sprenger have publicly opposed the proposal.

Harrisburg has not taken the same formal position. City staff recommended neutrality because the project lies outside the city limits, although some councilors expressed support for Friends of Gap Road.

The developer and participating landowners say agriculture could continue through agrivoltaics, including farming between panel rows and sheep grazing. Harrisburg-area farmer John Langdon told OPB he expects to continue farming if the project is built.

The application states that about 873 acres would be disturbed during construction, with roughly 732 acres expected to return to agricultural use and 141 acres occupied by photovoltaic infrastructure.

An economic study commissioned for the project estimates $387.1 million in construction costs, about $73.7 million in Linn County spending, and the equivalent of 520 jobs. The project was scaled back from a 2023 proposal for roughly 199 megawatts.

Once ODOE declares the application complete, the agency will issue public notice, hold another informational meeting, and release a Draft Proposed Order. A formal hearing and comment period would then follow before the case moves toward a decision by the Energy Facility Siting Council.

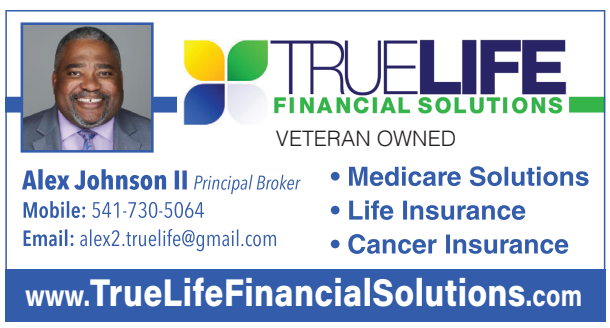

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TABLE TALK

A Warm Welcome and a Really Good Burger at Tommy's Welcome Inn

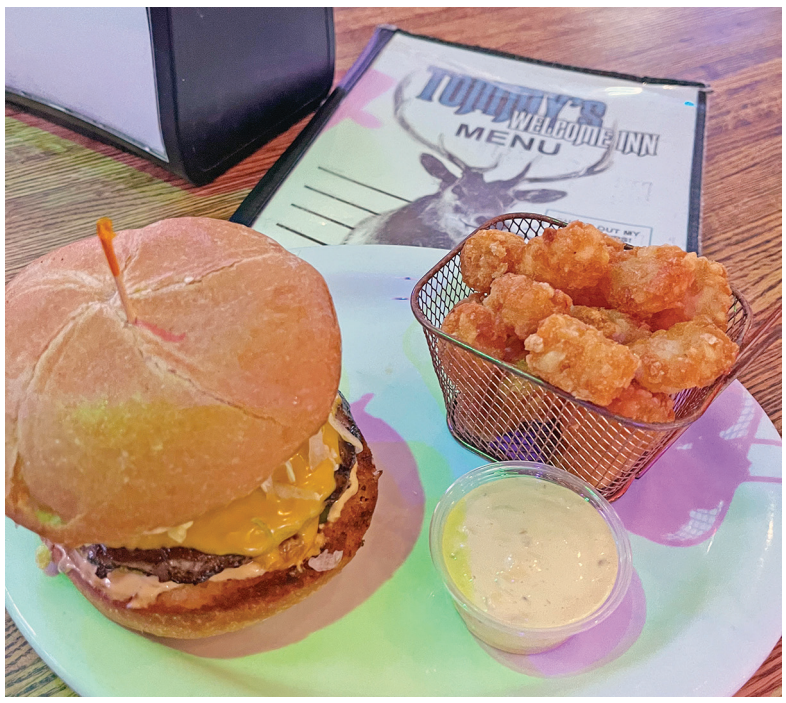
By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

JEFFERSON — Sometimes a restaurant review starts with an impressive menu, a fancy dining room, or a specialty dish you can't find anywhere else. Other times, it starts with someone simply saying, "Welcome. What's your name?"

That was my introduction to Tommy's Welcome Inn at 142 S. Main St. in Jefferson. I stopped in for lunch recently and was immediately greeted by Karen, the waitress and bartender. She introduced herself, asked for my name, and seemed genuinely happy to have me there. It was a small gesture, but it made a big impression.

Tommy's Welcome Inn, 142 S. Main St. in Jefferson, offers burgers, flatbread pizzas, sandwiches, wraps, salads, and a distinctly local bar-and-grill atmosphere.

Tommy's is a casual bar and grill with a distinctly local feel. The restaurant was clean, bright and lively when I arrived, with video poker machines along the walls providing the familiar sounds of bells, lights, and the occasional cheer from someone trying their luck. A jukebox and Oregon Lottery gaming are also part of the Tommy's experience.



A cheeseburger and crispy tater tots make for a hearty lunch at Tommy's Welcome Inn in Jefferson. Staff writer Jeff Brown gave the burger high marks during a recent visit.

I settled in and ordered a cheeseburger with tater tots. The food arrived quickly, hot, and, quite honestly, much better than I expected for what can sometimes be an ordinary menu item.

This was no skimpy burger. It came with a large beef patty, melted cheese, lettuce, onion, tomato, ketchup, and mustard, all piled onto a fresh bun. The tater tots were hot and crisp, clearly fresh from the fryer.

But the food was only half of what made the visit enjoyable. I watched Karen interact with customers throughout my lunch. She knew many of the people coming through the door, checked on those already seated, and seemed to genuinely enjoy her job. She even told me she likes giving hugs. I happen to like hugs, too, so we got along just fine.

Then there is Bety — yes, Bety with one "t" — who made that burger. She can cook. After eating more than a few cheeseburgers over the years, I don't hand out the "best burger" title lightly, but this one is definitely going on my list.

Tommy's menu goes well beyond burgers, with flatbread pizzas, sandwiches, wraps and salads among the options. The restaurant describes itself as a place to grab a drink, enjoy a meal or call in an order to go.

If you are looking for a relaxed, distinctly local restaurant and bar experience, Tommy's Welcome Inn is worth the drive to Jefferson. I certainly plan to return — and next time, that flatbread pizza might be calling my name.

Sometimes a good restaurant is about the food. Sometimes it's about the people. At Tommy's, I found both.

PHOTOS: JEFF BROWN

Tomato Tasting Day Offers a Taste Beyond the 'Perfect' Red Globe

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist

LEBANON — Looks took a back seat to flavor during Tomato Day at the Lebanon Downtown Farmers Market, where shoppers had a chance to taste their way beyond the so-called perfect red globes found in supermarkets.

Organized by the Santiam Food Alliance (SFA), the Sept. 3 event featured tomatoes selected from family farms selling produce at the market. Shoppers could sample different varieties, decide which they liked best, then buy directly from the vendors.

Four-year-old William Griner samples a tomato during Tomato Day at the Lebanon Downtown Farmers Market.

This reporter tried the Black Krim and enjoyed its texture and its characteristic smoky, sweet, slightly salty flavor. Four-year-old William Griner was coaxed into tasting a Sungold cherry tomato, known for its intense tropical sweetness. He declined to comment but ate two of them.

The Santiam Food Alliance also offered canning and drying tips, along with tomato bruschetta prepared by SFA member Renato Stanko — toasted rustic bread rubbed with garlic and topped with chopped tomatoes, olive oil, and basil.

The Santiam Food Alliance has been around "forever," agreed Betty Goergen and Linda Ziedrich, two of the organization's founders.

Beyond the tomato tasting, the market offered an impressive variety of produce — and fresh-baked scones that were hard to ignore.

For those who didn't get their fill of tomatoes, another opportunity is coming later this month. TomatoFest 2026 will be held Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St. The free event is expected to feature more than 50 varieties of homegrown tomatoes for tasting, along with homemade soups, salsa, jams, and other recipes. Visitors can also shop local vendors, swap seeds, pick up free homegrown produce while supplies last, learn about growing and preserving food, and bring their garden questions to the Master Gardeners.

The Lebanon Downtown Farmers Market continues Thursdays from 2–6 p.m. through October at Park and Oak streets in Lebanon.

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BACK *continued from cover*

Third grader Annie Cheffel has attended Harrisburg Elementary since kindergarten and said math is among her favorite subjects.

Second grader Everly McGowan also returned to familiar surroundings. Her father teaches third grade at the school, and she has attended Harrisburg Elementary since kindergarten.

McGowan enjoys arts and crafts, sports and learning about animals. Her favorites include koalas, pandas, dolphins, bunnies, chickens, and foxes.

One of her favorite back-to-school traditions, however, is much simpler — sliding across the freshly waxed hallway floors.

In Halsey, students were beginning the year with dreams of their own.

Seven-year-old Macie Michaud is starting second grade and already has a career in mind. She loves science and wants to become a "tornado catcher" when she grows up.

Second grader McKenna Glidewell is equally certain about her future. She wants to become a firefighter.

Her brothers, fifth grader Carson Glidewell and fourth grader Carter Glidewell, are not as sure yet what their futures may hold.

Five-year-old twins Charlie and Chloe Wall began kindergarten together. Both were excited and a little nervous.

Charlie wants to become a firefighter, while Chloe hopes to become a doctor.

Trenton Holden said he likes to learn, have fun, and "do everything right." He is also preparing to play tackle football on Saturday.

Trenton Holden heads back to school in Halsey, ready to learn, have fun, and play tackle football.

From left, Carson, McKenna, and Carter Glidewell head back to Central Linn Elementary. McKenna, a second grader, already has her sights set on becoming a firefighter.

Seven-year-old Macie Michaud starts second grade in Halsey with a big goal for the future — she wants to become a "tornado catcher."

His 5-year-old sister, Audrey, is beginning kindergarten this year.

Charlie Ann Reynolds is also starting kindergarten, joining a new group of students beginning their school journey.

For students across Harrisburg and Halsey, the first days of school brought new teachers, familiar friends and plenty of possibilities.

Some already know exactly what they want to be. Others are still discovering what the future might hold.

For now, their journeys begin in the same place — with a classroom, a backpack, and the start of a new school year.

Fourth grader Ellee Woods returns to Harrisburg Elementary, where she enjoys math and science and is happy to be back with friends.

Second grader Everly McGowan is ready for another year at Harrisburg Elementary. She enjoys arts and crafts, sports, and learning about animals.

PHOTOS: SHARON K. BANKS

CENTRAL LINN GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Cobras Split Opening Volleyball Matches

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

The Central Linn Cobras opened the 2026 volleyball season with a 1–1 record after two competitive matches.

Central Linn fell to Vernonia 3–0 on Saturday, Aug. 29, in its season opener, but the Cobras bounced back in a big way, defeating Gervais 3–2 on Tuesday, Sept. 1, in a hard-fought five-set match.

The victory gives Central Linn some early momentum as the Cobras continue to build chemistry and improve.

CENTRAL LINN GIRLS SOCCER

Cobras Cruise Past Sutherlin in 5–0 Victory

By Tony Koontz, Sport Editor

The Central Linn Cobras girls soccer team bounced back in a big way Thursday, Sept. 3, earning a convincing 5–0 victory over Sutherlin.

After opening the 2026 season with a 6–2 loss to Riverdale on Tuesday, Sept. 1, Central Linn came into the matchup determined to turn things around. The Cobras responded with an impressive performance on both sides of the ball.

Central Linn's offense controlled the game, finding the back of the net five times while keeping consistent pressure on the Sutherlin defense. The Cobras' passing, movement, and ability to create scoring opportunities helped them build a comfortable lead.

While the offense provided plenty of firepower, Central Linn's defense was equally impressive. The Cobras held Sutherlin scoreless throughout the contest, recording a shutout and showing a strong defensive response after the season-opening loss.

The victory gives Central Linn its first win of the young season and provides the Cobras with valuable momentum moving forward.

With confidence growing and improvements showing from their first two contests, the Cobras will look to carry the energy from the 5–0 victory into their next match as they continue their 2026 campaign.

Central Linn Boys Join Lebanon Soccer Team

LEBANON — Four Central Linn High School students are competing in boys soccer this fall through a cooperative arrangement with Lebanon High School after Central Linn did not have enough players to field its own team.

Representing Central Linn are sophomore Kurry Travis and senior exchange student Jannis Hauer of Germany, who play junior varsity; senior Aren Schneiter, a varsity player and team captain; and sophomore goalkeeper Matthew Torres-Klein, who plays both JV and varsity.

The arrangement gives Central Linn athletes the opportunity to continue developing and competing while adding players to Lebanon's program.

The cooperative program also has a Central Linn connection on the coaching staff. Assistant coach Hans Schneiter previously coached Central Linn's boys soccer team for eight years. Tyler Grove serves as head coach of the Lebanon-Central Linn team.

While the partnership provides a solution for this season, supporters hope that more Central Linn students will play boys soccer next year, potentially allowing the school to rebuild its own program.

For now, the cooperative arrangement keeps Central Linn athletes on the field and gives players from both schools the opportunity to compete.

From left, Central Linn soccer players Kurry Travis, Jannis Hauer, Aren Schneiter and Matthew Torres-Klein are competing with Lebanon this season.

HARRISBURG FOOTBALL

Eagles Open Season With 20–6 Victory Over North Valley

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

GRANTS PASS — The Harrisburg Eagles opened the 2026 football season on a winning note Friday night, Sept. 4, traveling to Grants Pass and defeating the North Valley Knights 20–6 in a nonleague matchup.

Harrisburg, ranked No. 6 in the Oregon School Activities Association's Class 3A rankings entering the season, relied on a strong defensive performance to secure the road victory and improve to 1–0.

Harrisburg's Parker Jordan (4) pursues a North Valley ball carrier during the Eagles' 20–6 season-opening victory Friday, Sept. 4, in Grants Pass.

The Eagles made the trip south to Mel Ingram Field to face a North Valley team coming off a 2025 season in which the Knights advanced to the OSAA Class 3A playoffs.

Harrisburg's defense set the tone, limiting North Valley to just six points and keeping the Knights from gaining momentum throughout the contest.

The Eagles' offense did its part, putting 20 points on the board while the defense preserved the advantage.

The 14-point victory gives Harrisburg an early boost as the Eagles begin the season with high expectations.

Harrisburg's Braxton Henager (7) lowers his shoulder and battles through North Valley defenders for extra yardage.

HARRISBURG CROSS COUNTRY

Eagles Open Season at The Opener

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

MONMOUTH — Harrisburg opened its 2026 cross-country season Aug. 28 at The Opener in Monmouth, with four runners representing the Eagles.

Colton Gutoski led Harrisburg with an 11th-place finish. Mason Lightly placed 18th, Carson Riportella finished 19th, and Wade Riportella took 23rd.

The meet gave the Eagles their first opportunity to compete this season and provided an early benchmark as they prepare for the remainder of the fall schedule.

Harrisburg junior Miley Richardson competes at The Opener on Aug. 28 in Monmouth. Richardson went on to win the girls varsity 5,000-meter race at the Darrel Deedon Invite on Sept. 1.

Harrisburg Runners Shine at Darrel Deedon Invite

TURNER — Harrisburg cross country runners turned in an impressive early-season showing at the Darrel Deedon Invite on Tuesday, Sept. 1, at Cascade High School, highlighted by individual victories in both the boys and girls varsity races.

Junior Miley Richardson led the way for the Harrisburg girls, winning the varsity 5,000-meter race in 21 minutes, 16.69 seconds. Her performance was one of the fastest girls 5K times recorded in Oregon during the opening week of the high school cross country season.

The Harrisburg boys were equally impressive.

Senior Aiden Koroush captured the boys varsity title with a time of 17:13.76, while teammate Joel Yarber, a junior, finished close behind in second place at 17:35.51. The one-two finish gave Harrisburg two of the four fastest boys 5K performances in Oregon during the opening week of competition.

The strong performances provided an encouraging early indication for the Harrisburg/Monroe cross country program, which competes in the Class 3A/2A/1A Special District 2 this season. The team is coached by Jennifer Riportella, with assistant coaches Kristen Lang and Nate Koroush.

Harrisburg's Joel Yarber, front, and Aiden Koroush compete in the boys varsity 5K at the Darrel Deedon Invite. Koroush finished first and Yarber second, giving Harrisburg a one-two finish.

The Darrel Deedon Invite brought runners from numerous schools to Cascade High School for both high school and middle school competition. The meet featured approximately 16 teams and did not use official team scoring, putting the emphasis on individual performances and early-season progress.

Host Cascade also had several strong performances. Parker Hunt and Joel Gjesdal finished 10th and 11th, respectively, in the boys varsity 5K, while Makaylee Lung and Sadie Holbert placed sixth and seventh in the girls varsity race. Cascade's Blake Baker won the 3K race, followed by teammate Evan Gilmore in second.

For Harrisburg, however, the headline belonged to Richardson, Koroush and Yarber. Winning both varsity races — along with taking the top two places in the boys event — gives the Eagles a promising foundation as they move deeper into the fall season.

Harrisburg/Monroe returned to competition at the Stayton XC Invitational on Sept. 12. The schedule continues with the Silver Falls Oktoberfest Invitational on Sept. 16 and the Prefontaine Memorial Run on Sept. 19.

HARRISBURG VOLLEYBALL

Eagles Battle Through Tough Week

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

The Harrisburg Eagles volleyball team faced a demanding week of competition, taking on Sweet Home, Corbett, and Santiam Christian between Sept. 1 and Sept. 5.

Harrisburg opened the week Tuesday, Sept. 8, with a 3–1 loss to Sweet Home.

The Eagles returned to the court Thursday, Sept. 10 and turned in one of their strongest efforts of the week against Corbett. Harrisburg pushed the Cardinals to five sets before falling 3–2 in a closely contested match.

Later Thursday, the Eagles faced Santiam Christian and were swept 3–0. Santiam Christian won the sets 25–16, 25–8 and 25–17.

The week left Harrisburg with a 1–5 overall record, but the five-set battle against Corbett showed the Eagles are capable of competing in tight matches as the season progresses.

Harrisburg will look to build on that effort as the team continues preparing for league play.

JEFFERSON BOYS SOCCER

Lions Return With 5–0 Win Over Amity

JEFFERSON — Jefferson High School boys soccer earned a 5–0 victory over Amity on Thursday, Sept. 3, marking an important milestone for a program that had not been able to field a full Jefferson team since 2019.

Hunter Furlong led the Lions with two goals, while Ari Larson, Jace Daniel and Angel Vasquez each scored once.

Jefferson controlled the match on both ends of the field, generating consistent offensive pressure while keeping Amity off the scoreboard.

The shutout provided an encouraging start for the returning program as Jefferson works to rebuild participation and establish momentum for the season ahead.

EDDIE VASQUEZ MARTINEZ

Jefferson attacks against Amity during the Lions' 5–0 victory. Jefferson returned to the field with a full boys' soccer team this season for the first time since 2019.

JEFFERSON GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Lions Battle Kennedy

JEFFERSON — The Jefferson High School girls volleyball team continued its early-season schedule Thursday, Sept. 3, with a 3–1 loss to Kennedy.

The Lions took one set from the Trojans, moving to 0–2 on the season.

Jefferson's varsity roster includes Ari Cortez, Cassidy Floyd, Ameliya Vanderzander, Scarlett Koslow, Luella Campbell, Kayley Yzaguirre, Bellamie Harroun, Brianda Soto, and Melissa Espino Garcia.

Bellamie Harroun reaches high to play the ball at the net during Jefferson's match against Kennedy.

Melissa Espino Garcia reacts with a smile between points as the Lions battle Kennedy.

PHOTOS: MCKINLEY WARREN

JEFFERSON FOOTBALL

Lions Fall to Monroe in Season Opener

MONROE — The Jefferson Lions opened the 2026 football season with a 48–14 loss to the Monroe Dragons on Friday, Sept. 4.

Jefferson traveled to Monroe for the nonleague matchup but was unable to keep pace with the Dragons, who built an advantage and maintained control through the remainder of the game.

Despite the loss, Jefferson had several productive individual performances on offense.

Senior Adrian Hernandez led the Lions on the ground with 69 rushing yards on nine carries and scored a touchdown. Sophomore Tyson Grizzel-Ortiz added 55 rushing yards.

Junior Tanner Jones contributed both rushing and receiving yards, finishing with 50 receiving yards and a touchdown while adding 39 yards on the ground.

Sophomore Colton Furlong handled passing duties for Jefferson and connected with Jones for a touchdown.

The season opener gave the Lions an opportunity to evaluate their offense and defense against live competition as they begin the 2026 campaign.

Jefferson will look to regroup and build on the positive moments from the opener as the Lions prepare for their next contest.

JEFFERSON SOCCER

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TYPE / NOTES
Wed., Sept. 16	5 p.m.	Willamette Valley Christian/ Livingstone Adventist Academy	Away	Non-League
Fri., Sept. 25	6 p.m.	Riverdale	Away	Non-League
Thurs., Oct. 1	4:15 p.m.	Gervais	Away	League
Tues., Oct. 6	6:15 p.m.	Blanchet Catholic	Away	League
Thurs., Oct. 8	**4:30 p.m.**	**Yamhill-Carlton**	**Home**	**League**
Mon., Oct. 19	**Noon**	**Dayton**	**Home**	**League**

SHARON K. BANKS

JEFFERSON CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Wed, Sept. 16	4 p.m.	Silver Falls Oktoberfest Invite	Silver Falls State Park
Wed, Sept. 23	**3:30 p.m.**	**Jefferson Invite**	**Home**
Fri, Sept. 25	3:30 p.m.	Champs Invite	Cheadle Lake Park, Lebanon

SHARON K. BANKS

From left, Alejandro Alvarez Gonzolez, Aiden Amos, Angel Vasquez and Ryan Morris. Not pictured are Jayce Stuart, Xochitl Hansen and Cheyenne Alford.

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

BROWNSVILLE

Brownsville Assembly of God 313 Washburn St
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. · Services 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Classes Wed. 7 p.m. all ages · 541-466-5030

Brownsville Christian Church 117 N Main St
541-466-3273 · https://brownsvillechristianchurch.com
Sunday Services and Children's Church 11 a.m.
Adult classes 10 a.m.

Brownsville Community Church 198 Washburn St
541-936-9131 · https://hislifeinbrownsville.com

First Baptist Church of Brownsville 27910 7 Mile Ln
541-642-3000 · https://www.fbcbrownsvilleoregon.org
Sunday Services and Nursery 9 and 10:45 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church 104 W Blakely Ave
541-367-2530 · holytrinitybrownsvilleor@gmail.com
Weekday Mass Wed. Noon · Sunday Service 11:30 a.m.

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

Brownsville Mennonite 34795 OR-228 · 541-466-5622

CRAWFORDSVILLE

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://harvestrbc.org
Sunday School 9 a.m. · Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Fellowship Meal noon

Spirit of the Valley United Methodist Church
611 W 3rd St · 541-369-2322
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
360-880-4734 · Sunday Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service 10 a.m. · Sunday School 11 a.m.

HARRISBURG

Calvary Chapel Tri-County 255 Smith St
541-995-8221 · https://cctricounty.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

LONG GRAY BRAID MUSINGS

Cloudy with a Chance of Photos

By Annie Swensen, Columnist and Copy Editor

Heavy with thousands of pictures, I dragged the huge lidded tote to the middle of the floor and plopped down beside it, wondering how this happened. I could blame George Eastman's Kodak camera, which by 1900 made parents responsible for capturing the historical record of their family in images.

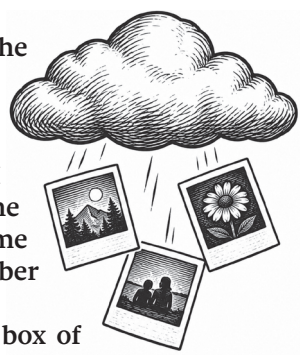
By the time I was a teen, cameras had become more compact with a built-in flash at the top, and later, pre-wound film cartridges became the norm. Several years later, disposable cameras came on the scene. With 24 exposures, the camera often sat in a closet for months while we waited for the next worthy event to "use up" the film.

Once the last shot was taken, it could take more months before we got around to bringing it to a "picture place" to have it "developed." Five days later we'd pick up an envelope of printed photos. Some we didn't remember taking. As we showed them off to family and friends, many faces turned red with embarrassment. But when the next pictures were developed and became the new stars of the showing, the earlier pictures dragged their shame into the box. The tote got bigger and bigger over the years.

I sat cross-legged on the floor with loose pictures strewn around me, some in little piles and others tossed in the general direction of a stack, in an attempt to sort them. I pulled out a handful and lifted them gently, gazing at each and remembering. Giggles of delight and more reminiscent "awww"s greeted many of them. Occasionally there was a "who the heck is this?" Overwhelmed, I glanced around the floor and realized there were at least 40 years of photos that never made it into a frame or an album. I also noticed there were no current pictures.

Since around 2010, the only camera I've owned has been in my cell phone. There is no "I'm out of film," no waiting for months to see what it looks like. The shot is instantly visible and saved. If it is terrible, I delete it, and within seconds a new pic is taken. But phones need updating every few years, and at first, the pictures didn't transfer to the new phone. I have three old phones with their cords tucked back on a shelf in hopes of retrieving hostages.

But in 2017 it changed. Where are my photos now?



There is a Cloud in the sky full of our pictures — everyone's. It stores the pictures by date... forever. And I'll bet if I scroll through my phone gallery, I'll get to some I don't even remember taking.

Is the Cloud the new box of old photos? Convenient, yes... but not as much fun.

And forty years from now, where's the box, and who has the key?

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LINN-BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Area Students Named to LBCC Summer Honor Roll

ALBANY — Twenty area students have been named to Linn-Benton Community College's honor roll for summer term 2026.

To qualify, students earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher while completing at least 12 graded credits during the term, which ran from June through August. Pass/no pass and incomplete credits were not included in the calculation.

Jefferson: Joselin Barron, Dustin Pryor, and Haylie Sullivan.

Junction City: Dawson Corley

Lebanon: Aiden Abbott, Dallas Akers, Sara Joyce, Taylor Knauss, Laci Mitchell, Dominique Ortega, Helen Rounsavell, Maya Seumalo, Christy Spier, Ethan Stumbough, and Emma Walker.

Scio: Bis Geneser.

Sweet Home: PJ Castro, Joy Clark, Jamie Hermans, McKenzie Paslay, Audrey Sturgeon, and Jasmine Vanderford.

Tangent: Amy Samples.

Linn-Benton Community College serves students throughout Linn and Benton counties from its Albany campus and other locations.

CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

Laura Irene Daniel

Saturday, Sept. 19, at 1 p.m. at the Brownsville Assembly of God, 313 Washburn St., Brownsville.

Darryl 'Buster' Roth

Sunday, Sept. 20, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pavilion in Pioneer Park, Brownsville. Colorful Hawaiian attire is encouraged.

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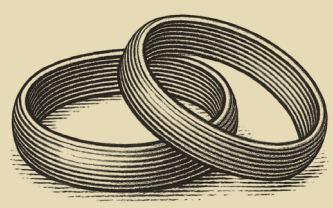

CRITTER CHRONICLES

What Do You Think of When You Hear the Word 'Mink'

By Jodi Gurtov, Staff Writer

JODI GURTOV

Okay, I'll go first.

I see a glamorous, svelte woman in stiletto heels, her hair twisted into a sleek coif, gracefully navigating paparazzi cameras in a frenzy of nonstop shutter action. The mink coat she flaunts is the ultimate sign of prosperity. If you're a baby boomer, like me, your mother probably dreamed of owning one. I know mine did, and there's no denying Mom deserved to be pampered. But she settled for a vaguely ermine-colored wig instead, probably hoping for a matching coat that never came. Sigh.

And then there is my sister, a fashionista on a budget, who decided that faux furs, if carefully chosen, were a reasonable facsimile of the real thing. At the very least, it showed her uptown aspirations. She eventually "got" the pointed messages that the foxlike stole wrapped around her shoulders was not going to be well received in our hometown, Portland, a bastion of PETA supporters and REI aficionados.

But all this chatter about fur coats is anecdotal and largely irrelevant to the unlucky, very-much-alive mink who ran afoul of our cats last weekend. I should mention that our three marauding felines are atypical in that they have been known to descend, gangland style, on all manner of prey. In any case, our unwitting mink, being semi-aquatic, had likely been enjoying a languorous midday float among fuzzy cattails and gently bobbing lily pads when all hell broke loose.

Cut to what remained of a surprisingly intact specimen after it was unceremoniously dumped into the utility sink in our garage. That is where I found the unfortunate mink, curled nose to tail in a tight, protective ring. It had been placed just so, its rigid little body circling the drain, in a manner of speaking. Unseen paws had clearly been hard at work.

Now, many a woodsy observer would declare that our mink, a bold and murderous predator, met its demise in keeping with the laws of nature. In essence, kill or be killed. That's the way of it, they'd say, with arms folded resolutely over puffed-out chests. I have no desire to argue nature's vagaries, and I am still sad and slightly unsettled by the violent demise of such a beautiful creature.

In an effort to eulogize, or perhaps just apologize for the reprehensible behavior of our trio of cats, I leave you, dear reader, with an anonymous, untitled poem about mink, inspired by poet Mary Oliver.

A low-slung runner through the winter white,
Jointless as heat, a ribbon made of night,
It traces edges where the water sings
And snaps the frost upon its velvet wings.

With amber eye and hunger sharp and lean
It cuts the snowbank like a dark machine,
A sudden pillar rising from the stone,
Then gone — leaving gleaming cold alone.

RIP, friend mink.

SAFEHAVEN'S PET OF THE MONTH

Meet Capone!

PHOTO COURTESY: SAFEHAVEN

Capone's journey to finding a family has already been a long one. He arrived at SafeHaven Humane Society on May 18, after traveling from Texas with the rescue partner Dog Rescue R Us. His brother, Bugsy, was by his side and soon found his family. Capone has been patiently waiting for his own happily ever after ever since.

A true gentle giant and a favorite among SafeHaven volunteers, Capone loves exploring, meeting people and children, and going for walks. He is wonderful on a leash, and those who spend time with him agree: Capone is simply one of the nicest boys around.

His journey hasn't been without challenges. SafeHaven's Animal Care and Medical teams noticed Capone was limping on his left hind leg. When the limp worsened, it became clear he needed more than rest. On Aug. 20, Capone underwent TPLO surgery to give his leg the stability and comfort he needs to get back to exploring and enjoying life.

Now, after his long journey and surgery to get him back on four healthy paws, Capone is more than ready to trade shelter life for soft beds, new adventures, and, most importantly, around-the-clock love. SafeHaven believes he has waited long enough. Capone is ready to go home.

As part of SafeHaven Humane Society's "12 Months of Love" campaign, adoption fees are waived for all animals on the second Saturday of each month. The next adoption day with waived fees is Oct. 10.

To learn more about Capone or other animals awaiting homes, visit SafeHaven Humane Society in Tangent daily from noon to 5 p.m. View adoptable pets at https://safehavenhumane.org or call 541-928-2789.

OREGON NICE

A weekly smile from Dean B. Kaner

Cats sit on a computer keyboard to keep a close eye on the mouse.

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Oregon Clears Updated COVID-19 Vaccines for Pharmacy Access

Oregonians seeking an updated COVID-19 vaccine will once again be able to receive one at pharmacies and other vaccine providers under a new statewide standing order issued Sept. 4 by the Oregon Health Authority.

The order allows providers to administer updated COVID-19 vaccines for the 2026–27 respiratory virus season and makes the vaccines available to anyone who chooses to receive them.

OHA particularly recommends vaccination for people at higher risk of severe illness, including adults 65 and older, people with underlying medical conditions, pregnant individuals, health care workers, people living in congregate settings, children younger than 2, and previously unvaccinated children.

The order aligns with recommendations from the West Coast Health Alliance, a partnership among Oregon, Washington, California, and Hawaii.

The standing order clears the way for pharmacies and other providers to administer the updated vaccine, but it does not mean every provider currently has doses available.

At the time of publication, neither Brownsville Pharmacy & Gifts nor Harrisburg Pharmacy had the updated COVID-19 vaccine available.

Robert Curtis, owner of Harrisburg Pharmacy, said the announcement essentially authorizes pharmacies to administer the updated COVID-19 vaccine; it does not mean every pharmacy has received it.

Residents should call their pharmacy or health care provider to check availability before making a trip. People can also call 211 or search for vaccination locations by ZIP code through https://www.211info.org.

LOCAL PHARMACIES

Brownsville Pharmacy & Gifts
411 N. Main St., Brownsville
541-466-5112
COVID-19 vaccine not currently available. Flu shots are available. Call the pharmacy for updated vaccine availability.

Harrisburg Pharmacy
230 N. Third St., Suite 106, Harrisburg
541-995-9711
COVID-19 vaccine not currently available. Flu vaccine has been ordered. Call the pharmacy for updated vaccine availability.

Oregon Warns Consumers About Payment App Scams

SALEM — Oregon financial regulators are warning consumers about scams involving payment apps such as Venmo, Cash App, Zelle, and PayPal.

The Oregon Division of Financial Regulation (DFR) said one scam begins when a stranger unexpectedly sends money through a payment app, then claims it was sent by mistake and asks for it back.

The original payment may have been made using stolen financial information and could later be reversed. If the recipient sends the money back as a separate transaction, they could lose that money.

DFR advises consumers not to return unexpected payments themselves. Instead, contact customer support through the payment app's official app or website.

Scammers also may pose as customer service representatives and claim an account has been compromised. Consumers should never provide passwords or verification codes to someone who contacts them unexpectedly or follow links in unsolicited messages.

Fraudsters also create fake accounts impersonating friends, relatives, co-workers, employers, landlords, or others. Before sending money, DFR recommends contacting the person independently using contact information you already have.

Oregonians who believe they have been targeted by a financial scam can contact DFR consumer advocates at 1-888-877-4894 or dfr.financialserviceshelp@dcbs.oregon.gov.

FRAUD FIGHTERS: PROTECTING OUR SENIORS

What To Do If You Have Been Scammed or Think Someone Has

By Danielle M. Myers, Esq.

One of the hardest parts of dealing with modern scams is realizing you may already have shared information or sent money to someone who was not who they claimed to be. It can feel embarrassing, frightening, or overwhelming. Some people stay quiet because they fear being judged. Others hope the situation will resolve on its own. But silence only helps the scammer. If you believe you have been scammed or think someone you care about is at risk, there are steps you can take right away to limit the damage.

The first step is simple. Stop all contact with the scammer. Hang up the phone, delete the email, and ignore further messages. Scammers often try to keep you talking because the longer the conversation, the more likely they are to obtain additional information or persuade you to send more money.

Next, call your bank or credit union immediately. Use the number on the back of your debit card or on an official statement. Explain what happened and ask them to check your accounts for any unusual activity. Your financial institution may be able to freeze your account, cancel a compromised card, or stop a suspicious transaction. The sooner you call, the more options they have to help.

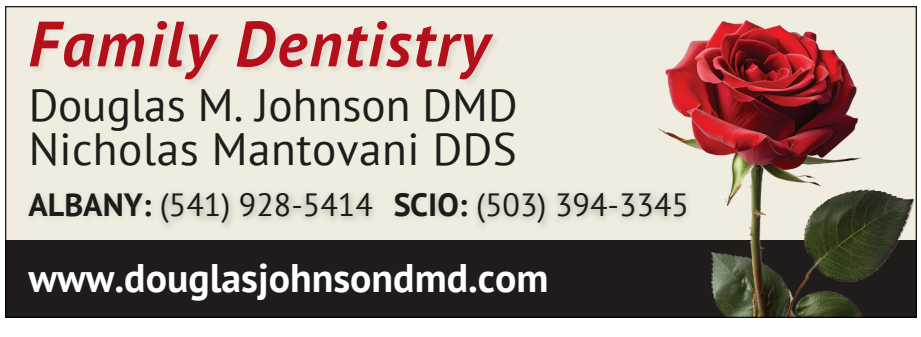
If you shared personal information, such as your Social Security number, Medicare number, or date of birth, report the incident to the appropriate agencies. The Social Security Administration and Medicare offer fraud reporting lines that can add notes to your file and monitor for unusual activity. If you sent money to a scammer, especially via wire transfer or gift cards, contact local law enforcement and file a report. While recovery is not always possible, documenting the incident helps protect others.

It is also wise to tell someone you trust. A friend, family member, neighbor, or caregiver can offer support and help you think through next steps. Many scams succeed by isolating victims. Sharing what happened prevents scammers from maintaining control through fear or secrecy. There is no shame in speaking up. Scammers target thoughtful, trusting people, not careless ones.

Finally, keep a record of what occurred. Save emails, write down dates, and note the phone numbers that called you. This information can help your bank, law enforcement, and consumer protection agencies understand what happened and help you recognize similar attempts in the future.

Our Central Willamette Valley communities look out for one another. When one of us speaks up, others learn. When we share information, we help our neighbors avoid the same trap. If you've had an experience with a scammer you'd like to share, email me at danielle@dmmyerslaw.com. We will consider featuring it in a future article.

Until next time, stay steady, reach out if anything feels off, and trust that acting early is the best way to protect yourself and those around you.



Linn County Sheriff Duncan Graduates from FBI Leadership Program

ALBANY — Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan recently graduated from Session 83 of the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, a two-week leadership program for executives at mid-sized law enforcement agencies.

The program, known as LEEDS, was established by the FBI in 1981 for chief executive officers of full-service law enforcement agencies with 50 to 499 sworn officers. It brings together law enforcement executives from across the United States and around the world.

Duncan attended the program in Virginia, where participants studied topics such as the psychology of leadership, emotional intelligence, officer wellness, critical incident response, organizational image and public trust, and the development of healthy law enforcement cultures.

For Duncan, one of the most valuable aspects of the experience was building relationships with other law enforcement executives.

"Even since leaving the training, we have kept in touch and bounce ideas and advice off of each other," Duncan said. "With such a diverse group from across the world, if I ever have a technology I am looking at or a problem I have not dealt with before, I have a new group of people to get advice from."

One experience that stood out was a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., followed by a discussion of ethical leadership and the role of local German police during the Holocaust.

The discussion examined how some police officers went from protecting members of their communities to participating in Nazi persecution, while others resisted orders and continued to protect Jewish residents.

"It was a humbling reminder that we, as community leaders, especially in the role law enforcement plays, need to stay true to our principles and do the right thing, despite any political noise or pressure from others," Duncan said.

She said that learning alongside law enforcement leaders from different parts of the world also highlighted the many challenges agencies

FBI Unit Chief Corey Hudson, left, presents Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan with her certificate after she graduated from Session 83 of the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar. Photo courtesy of Linn County Sheriff's Office

share despite cultural and geographic differences.

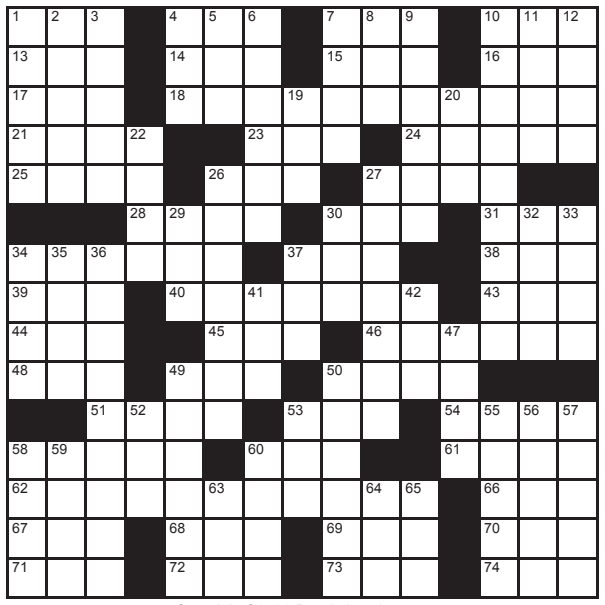
"We all have similar challenges when it comes to societal changes and expectations of law enforcement, staffing, budgets, etc.," Duncan said. "We also all have the same devotion to making our communities safe and are all dedicated to becoming better leaders."

Duncan said she expects both the training and the professional relationships formed through LEEDS to benefit the Linn County Sheriff's Office.

"I believe leadership is a continued evolution and a commitment to training and improving should be a priority for every leader," she said.

Duncan began her law enforcement career in 1996 as a corrections officer at the Oregon State Penitentiary and joined the Linn County Sheriff's Office the following year. She advanced through the agency's ranks, serving as a detective, patrol sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and undersheriff before becoming Linn County's 41st sheriff in 2022.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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ACROSS

1 Mouth piece
4 Stout relative
7 Hot springs
10 Understood
13 Citrus drink
14 Kipling novel
15 Fond du ___
16 North Yorkshire river
17 Ocean
18 Teenagers
21 Cummerbund
23 Small amount
24 Surrealist Max
25 Bread spread
26 Church bench
27 Agile
28 God of war
30 Lease
31 Blubber
34 Magical drink
37 Golf peg
38 Honest one
39 Mouse relative
40 Change places, like a bird
43 Hoodwink
44 College major
45 Mode
46 Caught, like a fish
48 Articulate
49 Lulu
50 Nuisance
51 Web journal
53 Dejected
54 Very, in Versailles
58 Parting word
60 In favor of
61 Pledge
62 Ice cream flavor
66 Chinese tea
67 Bran source
68 Modern (Prefix)
69 Long, long time
70 Moray, e.g.
71 Bag thickness
72 Sparkler
73 Animal house
74 Sp. girl (Abbr.)

DOWN

1 Riata
2 Perfect
3 Porridge ingredient
4 Alias inits.
5 Cover
6 Plays a role
7 Winter toy
8 ___ de deux
9 Consent
10 Burlap bag
11 Crumbs
12 Dry run
19 Bar topic
20 Go astray
22 Chicanery
26 Peruke
27 Churned
29 Border
30 Pasture
32 Slender reed
33 Curve
34 Historic periods
35 Zhivago's love
36 Minuscule
37 Attempt
41 Hiatus
42 Dawn deity
47 Director Preminger
49 Modeling
50 Separated
52 Auction unit
53 Old French coin
55 Speed contests
56 Early anesthetic
57 Fissile rock
58 Above
59 Twofold
60 Gift tag word
63 Charge
64 Foot part
65 Lodge

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HSUAQS ___ __ __ __ __ __
ROTCART ___ __ __ __ __ __ __

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PUZZLE Solutions on page 15

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SHERIFF'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 4–10

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

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

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

BROWNSVILLE

Fri., Sept 4, 4:58 a.m. — John Hutchings, 32, of Albany, was cited for driving while suspended and speeding in the 38000 block of Hwy 228.

5:16 a.m. — Daniel Coats, 54, of Sweet Home, was cited for speeding in the 37800 block of Hwy 228.

12:14 p.m. — Deputy took a missing person's report in the 1100 block of Ash St. for a 36-year-old Brownsville resident. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Sat., Sept. 5, 10:00 a.m. — Deputy conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of N Main St. and learned the driver was a registered sex offender not in compliance. Joshua Rethwill, 48, of Eugene, was arrested and transported to the Linn County Jail for failing to register as a sex offender. Report taken.

Sun., Sept. 6, 11:04 a.m. — Deputies conducted a suspect follow-up in the 1100 block of Linn Way. Shelley Bessey, 64, of Harrisburg, was arrested for burglary, theft, and criminal mischief and transported to the Linn County Jail. Report taken.

2:39 p.m. — Deputy took a report of mail theft in the 100 block of E Cooley Ave. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

6:16 p.m. — Deputy responded to a suspicious situation in the 400 block of N Main St. involving a verbal argument between partners. Information documented.

Mon., Sept. 7, 8:12 a.m. — A male transient was contacted at Pioneer Park for violating park rules.

11:33 a.m. — Caller reported that a motorcycle was stolen in the 100 block of W Bishop Way, with an estimated value of $3,000. Report taken.

Wed., Sept. 9, 11:55 a.m. — David Sanders, 54, of Albany, was cited for driving while suspended and uninsured in the 200 block of S Main St.

HOLLEY

Sat., Sept. 5, 11:47 a.m. — Deputy received reports of a possible aggressive dog running along the highway and on people's property in the 40900 block of Hwy 228. The dog returned to its property, where the owner secured it. The owner was cited for dog as a public nuisance. Report taken.

Tue., Sept. 8, 7:00 a.m. — Deputy spent time with the kids at Holley Elementary on the first day of school.

HALSEY

Tue., Sept. 8, 7:24 a.m. — Deputies welcomed students back to Central Linn High and Junior High Schools.

Wed., Sept. 9, 9:12 a.m. — Deputies investigated a report of an online scam in the 000 block of W 1st St.

Thu., Sept. 10, 3:32 p.m. — Catriona Beck, 24, of Albany, was cited for speeding 70 mph in the Central Linn High School school zone in the 31900 block of Hwy 228 near Blue Heron St.

HARRISBURG

Fri., Sept. 4, 11:04 a.m. — Deputies responded to a report of a single-vehicle, injury-related motorcycle crash in which the motorcycle left the roadway in the 30800 block of Priceboro Dr. The rider sustained injuries and was transported to the hospital. Non-criminal. Report taken.

2:14 p.m. — Caller in the 800 block of N 7th St. had questions about people riding dirt bikes, ATVs, and Go-Karts on the road. Deputy spoke with the caller and asked them to call back when it is actively occurring.

11:49 p.m. — A two-vehicle motor vehicle crash occurred in the 700 block of S 2nd St., involving a passenger vehicle and a loaded chip truck. The driver of the passenger vehicle, a 17-year-old juvenile from Monroe, was transported to RiverBend Hospital and will be referred to the Juvenile Department for DUII. Report taken.

11:57 p.m. — Caller reported a lost German Shepherd with its leash and collar still on when it ran off in the 32700 block of Belts Dr.

Sat., Sept. 5, 1:48 a.m. — Ashlee Hurst, 42, of Junction City, was arrested for Unlawful Entry into a Motor Vehicle and Theft II. Hurst was transported and lodged in the Linn County Jail. Report taken.

12:00 p.m. — Deputy responded to a report of a cold burglary in the 300 block of N 7th Pl. and conducted an investigation. Christopher Brakebill, 58, of Harrisburg, was arrested for burglary and theft and transported to the Linn County Jail. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Sun., Sept. 6, 3:10 a.m. — Caller reported a runaway dog in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr. Deputy collected information about the dog and notified animal control.

9:49 a.m. — Deputy conducted an internal investigation into crimes against children in the 100 block of Smith St. The deputy was contacted by an adult male, and an online sex offense was committed. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

7:37 p.m. — Deputy conducted a death investigation in the 32900 block of Diamond Hill Dr. Report taken.

8:26 p.m. — Deputies responded to a road-rage incident in which one of the involved vehicles crashed into a ditch on Coburg Rd. near Stroda Dr. No one was injured. Investigation ongoing. At 11:15 p.m., the vehicle was towed as a hazard because its rear bumper extended into the lane of travel. Report taken.

Mon., Sept. 7, 2:58 p.m. — Deputies responded to a report of phone harassment between two former lovers in the 800 block of Sommerville Loop.

9:17 p.m. — Michael Apodoca, 52, of Junction City, was cited for driving while suspended in the 100 block of 3rd St., near Moore St.

Tue., Sept. 8, 6:05 p.m. — Deputy responded to a complaint about a scam attempt in the 900 block of Greenway Dr., where the victim recognized it as a scam before providing any information.

Wed., Sept. 9, 2:21 p.m. — Deputy responded to a report of found property in the 100 block of Smith St. The deputy attempted to contact the owner but was unable to locate him. The wallet was entered into evidence for safekeeping. Report taken.

10:43 p.m. — Deputies responded to a DHS report of an incident involving a child and their resource parent in the 20900 block of Curtis Rd. No crimes occurred. Deputy documented the incident.

Thu., Sept. 10, 6:10 a.m. — Deputy conducted an investigation into internet crimes against children in the 100 block of Smith St. The deputy was contacted by an adult male, and an online sex offense was committed. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

JEFFERSON

Fri., Sept. 4, 6:15 p.m. — Deputy responded to a non-injury crash in the 36100 block of Jefferson Scio Dr. The drivers involved exchanged information. Report taken.

Tue., Sept. 8, 12:35 p.m. — Deputies responded to a suicide attempt in which an individual reportedly tied an electrical cord around her neck and lost consciousness in the 38800 block of Scravel Hill Rd. Report taken.

3:05 p.m. — Deputy blocked traffic to help a farmer safely cross Greens Bridge with large equipment.

PEORIA/OAKVILLE

Sun., Sept. 6, 3:45 p.m. — Deputy responded to assist medics with a suicidal subject in the 31500 block of Oakville Rd. Upon arrival, assistance was no longer needed. Non-criminal.

Mon., Sept. 7, 2:29 p.m. — Deputies responded to a report of a burglary in the 29700 block of Main St. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

8:05 p.m. — Deputies responded to a kayaker stranded in the river near the 30000 block of Peoria Rd. She was located, found safe, and checked out by EMS.

Wed., Sept. 9, 12:41 p.m. — Deputy took a report regarding damage to a door at a residence in the 29600 block of Main St. Report taken.

SHEDD

Tue., Sept. 8, 9:26 p.m. — A 16-year-old juvenile from Harrisburg was cited for speeding in the 29100 block of Hwy 99E near Davidson Dr.

Wed., Sept. 9, 1:28 p.m. — Juan Morales-Loyo, 25, of Albany, was cited for speeding 82 in a 55-mph zone in the 30900 block of Boston Mill Dr., near Seven Mile Ln.

TANGENT

Fri., Sept. 4, 11:40 a.m. — Skyler McCollaum, 37, of Tangent, was arrested for violating a release agreement in the 33000 block of Hwy 99E. Report taken.

Mon., Sept. 7, 12:04 p.m. — Bart Preston, 59, of Albany, was taken into custody on a warrant for Theft II in the 33100 block of Tangent Dr. Report taken.

Thu., Sept. 10, 3:12 p.m. — Deputy assisted OSP in conducting a high-risk stop of a homicide suspect from Portland on I-5. The suspect was taken into custody.

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NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

When the Battery Ran Out

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

Last week, Susan learned that emergency supplies don't help much if you can't find them when you need them. This week, another fictional story highlights a different preparedness problem: how much we depend on our cellphones — and what happens when the battery dies.

Modern technology has made emergency information easier to access than ever. Weather alerts arrive instantly, maps provide alternate routes, and our phones hold everything from insurance information to family contacts. But National Preparedness Month is a reminder that technology is only useful as long as it has power.

Mark relied on his cellphone for nearly everything. Banking information, emergency contacts, directions, passwords, photographs, and insurance documents all lived on one device. When a powerful storm caused a widespread power outage, he wasn't especially concerned. He assumed the electricity would return before his phone's battery ran out.

Hours passed, but the battery level kept dropping. Cell towers became overloaded as more people tried to reach family and friends, making service increasingly unreliable. His portable battery pack sat in a desk drawer, where it had been for months. Unfortunately, it hadn't been charged either.

As the evening wore on, Mark realized how much his daily life depended on a device that was quickly running out of power. He couldn't easily retrieve important information, contact family members, or access documents he assumed would always be available. A neighbor with a generator eventually recharged his phone, but the experience prompted him to make several simple changes.

Today, Mark keeps a charged battery pack in his go bag, a charging cable in his vehicle, printed copies of important phone numbers, and paper copies of insurance information stored in a safe place. None of those items cost much, but together they provide peace of mind if the power goes out again.

Technology remains one of the best tools in an emergency, but it shouldn't be the only plan. National Preparedness Month offers a good opportunity to ask one simple question: If your phone stopped working tonight, what information would you wish you had already printed or backed up?

A little preparation today can make tomorrow's stressful situation much easier to manage.

Next week: Our final story follows David as he learns that recovery after an emergency can be just as important as preparation before one.

Halsey Man Arrested After Armed Barricade in Monroe

MONROE — A 42-year-old Halsey man was taken into custody Wednesday morning after an armed barricade incident in Monroe prompted evacuations, a shelter-in-place notification, and school lockouts.

Benton County Sheriff's Office deputies responded at about 7:30 a.m. Sept. 9 to the 700 block of Commercial Street after a resident reported that James Nathan Brown had fired a gun inside a home and barricaded himself inside with the caller, according to the sheriff's office.

The family member escaped unharmed. Nearby residents were evacuated, and Monroe Elementary and Monroe High schools were placed in lockout status as deputies attempted to communicate with Brown.

Brown eventually exited the home but did not comply with deputies' directions, according to the sheriff's office. Deputies used less-lethal devices to take him into custody at about 11 a.m.

Brown was transported to Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis for evaluation of minor injuries.

He was taken into custody on Linn and Lane County felony warrants and faces Benton County charges of second-degree criminal mischief, menacing, second-degree disorderly conduct, and recklessly endangering another person.

The school lockouts and neighborhood evacuations were lifted at about 11:15 a.m.

THE TIMES of the CENTRAL WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Periodical postage paid at Brownsville, OR (USPS 0680-000). Published every Wednesday by The Times of the Central Willamette Valley, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to
The Times
PO Box 278
Brownsville OR 97327

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

PRINT & DIGITAL	yearly $99	monthly $10
DIGITAL ONLY	yearly $39	monthly $5

Monthly subscriptions must be paid by credit card.

Editor/Publisher:
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Advertising Deadline:
Wednesday at 5 p.m. (for the following issue)
Article Submission Deadline:
Wednesday at noon (for the following issue)

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PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 13

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

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A HOUSE ON WASHBURN STREET

175 Years of Brownsville History
Part 4 of 5: Sheriffs, Bridges, and New Owners

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

BROWNSVILLE — Last week, Part 3 followed the White family's long connection to the house at 189 Washburn St., ending with the death of Rose White in 1916. The house then passed to her brother, Robert Luther White, beginning another chapter in its history.

Born Jan. 24, 1865, on the White family donation land claim south of Brownsville, Robert was the youngest of Luther and Martha White's 11 children. By the time he took ownership of the Washburn Street house in 1917, he was the last surviving sibling.

Robert was a farmer and carpenter, but he also held one of Linn County's more colorful public offices. He served as Linn County sheriff in 1904 and 1905. Family stories describe prisoners escaping from a makeshift jail at the farm, sometimes by cutting bars, leaving dummies in their beds, or slipping through a trap door that was never locked.

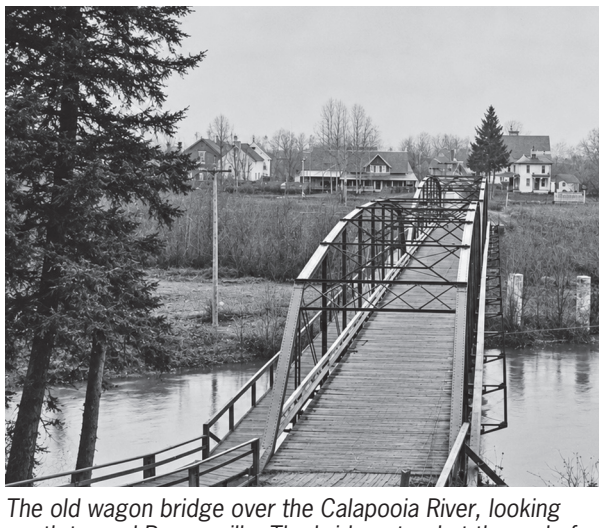
Robert married Alice H. Hay on Sept. 12, 1888. He secured full ownership of the Washburn Street house after settling with family members, including relatives connected to Silas White, who operated a hardware store at the end of Main Street in Brownsville.

By the 1930s, the house had become home to Clayton Othello Howell and Gladys Anna Swank Howell. Clayton, known as C.O., was born in Brownsville in 1876. Gladys was born Feb. 29, 1880, also in Brownsville. They married Oct. 15, 1902.

The Howells bought the house between 1930 and 1938 and lived there until 1949. During their time there, the Brownsville bridge still stood at the end of the street, and Washburn Street remained closely connected to the older South Brownsville business and travel routes.

Gladys likely died at the house in 1948. After her death, C.O. sold the property.

In 1949, Carrie E. Madison bought the house.



The old wagon bridge over the Calapooia River, looking south toward Brownsville. The bridge stood at the end of Washburn Street during the years C.O. and Gladys Howell lived at 189 Washburn St.

* * * *

Mrs. Ida Hansen, accompanied by Mrs. Rena McHargue of Roseburg, spent the week end last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Howell northwest of Brownsville, and enjoyed a program at the Ash Swale Community Hall Friday evening.

* * * *

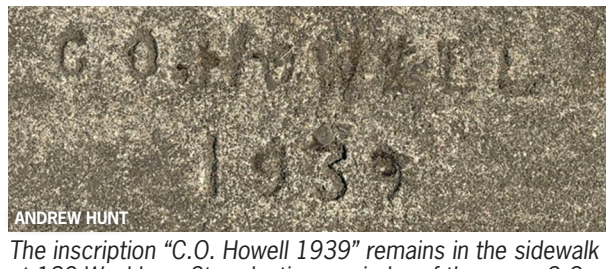
From the archives: A Dec. 26, 1935, newspaper item notes that Mrs. Ida Hansen and Mrs. Rena McHargue visited Mr. and Mrs. C.O. Howell at their home northwest of Brownsville. The Howells lived at 189 Washburn St. during this period.

She owned it briefly, until 1951. Madison was known for buying and selling property in Linn County, especially in Albany, during the 1940s and 1950s.

The next residents were Edgar and Anita Fuhrman Babcock, who lived there from 1951 to 1953. Edgar was born in Minnesota in 1905, and Anita was born in Goldendale, Washington, in 1910. They married in 1927 and lived in the Washburn Street house for about two years.

The house then entered another period of changing ownership, but its story continued to reflect Brownsville's quiet, steady evolution.

Coming next: From the Lankfords to today, a house still telling its story.



ANDREW HUNT

The inscription "C.O. Howell 1939" remains in the sidewalk at 189 Washburn St., a lasting reminder of the years C.O. and Gladys Howell lived in the home.

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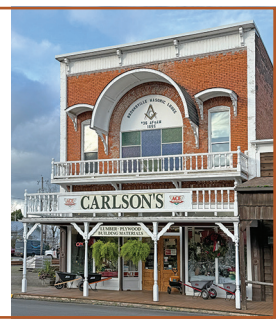

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