



Sharing Hands Sip and Support Raises Funds to Help Feed Local Families

BROWNSVILLE — Sharing Hands Food Bank brought community members together Saturday, Sept. 12, for its Sip and Support fundraising dinner to raise money for food purchases and local food assistance.

The event was held at the home and gardens of Melissa Haendel and John Campbell on Amelia Street. Guests gathered under a large covered outdoor area as light rain fell.

Organized by the Sharing Hands Board of Directors, the fundraiser comes as federal budget changes and funding constraints have placed additional financial pressure on the food bank, increasing its reliance on community donations.

Guests were served a six-course meal paired with wines from Hayworth Estate Wines and Five Fourteen Vineyards.

The evening also featured a silent auction, raffle, and live music from Michael Worthing and Craig Lunsford. Sharing Hands volunteers made up much of the serving and wait staff.

Proceeds will help Sharing Hands purchase food and continue assisting local households. For information about food assistance, volunteering, or supporting Sharing Hands, email sharinghands@peak.org or visit <https://sharinghands.org>.



At left are hosts Melissa Haendel and John Campbell. Clockwise from top right: Lauren Sinz, Jeff Brown, a friend of Sandy Saltzer, and Sandy Saltzer; Barbara Andersen, Cyndi Anderson, and Mandy Cole; the Purkersons; and Sherri and Jad Lemhouse with Jack and Sandy Sayer.

PHOTOS: SHARON K. BANKS

Community Garden Comes to Life in New Mural

By Lauren Sinz, Staff Writer

BROWNSVILLE — It is said that “art is the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.” If that is the case, the mural that Brownsville resident Melissa Selby created at the Brownsville Community Garden is the definition of art.

Commissioned by the Calapooya Food Alliance (CFA), Melissa submitted designs to the CFA board. In June of this year, Melissa began painting the chosen design on a fence at the back of the garden and completed it last week. The mural at the Community Garden has already received an enthusiastic response. Melissa’s favorite comment came from four-year-old Cordelia, who was in the garden with her grandmother, Kathleen Swayze. “She stopped and she looked at it and she threw her arms out and she exclaimed ‘It’s like this WHOLE ENTIRE GARDEN!’” The mural is indeed a beautiful expression of the Community Garden that will, when the garden fades with the fall and winter, still show the beauty of Brownsville’s garden.

The mural is based on the Native American Three Sisters farming tradition, an agricultural practice that involves planting corn, beans, and squash together. This intercropping technique not only maximizes space but also enhances soil fertility and crop yield through mutual support among the plants. Corn provides a structure for beans to climb, beans enrich the soil with nitrogen, and squash covers the ground to suppress weeds. Melissa added sunflowers to the

mural because so many were planted in the Community Garden. Because her husband, Fred, was a beekeeper, she also added tastefully placed bees, which are crucial to the health of any garden.

Come to Brownsville’s Community Garden (on Main St., across from the Dari Market) to appreciate the art created by Melissa Selby, which, as defined, is “primarily for their beauty or emotional power.” Perhaps the most joyful aspect of this mural is that the garden’s greenery will remain long after the garden itself has faded as the gray of winter emerges.



Brownsville artist Melissa Selby works on the garden mural, which she began painting in June and completed last week.



INSIDE

WILLAMETTE VALLEY SYMPHONY



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EAGLE SPORTS



COBRA SPORTS



LION SPORTS



PEAK PROMOTION



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

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

ALBANY

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

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.

Brownsville Gallery Nights
Friday, Oct. 2 • 5–8 p.m. • FREE
Jenna Stutsman Homes, 128 Spaulding Ave.
Jenna hosts her second quarterly gallery night, featuring work by local artists Donna Lee, Pam O’Brien Doan, and Adam Wagner. Artwork includes watercolors, scratchboard art, printmaking, oil and acrylic paintings, sculptures, and drawings. Stop by to browse or purchase artwork and meet the artists. Complimentary drinks and snacks will be provided. Free and open to the public.

Adult Prom with Mandy
Saturday, Oct. 3 • 8–11 p.m.
Brownsville Saloon, 419 N. Main St.
Dress up for Adult Prom with Mandy, featuring karaoke, dancing, and a photo backdrop. Masks are optional. Photos are \$5. Ages 21 and older.

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

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>

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!

‘Malheur Symphony’ Willamette Valley Symphony
Saturday, Sept. 26 • 7 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 27 • 4 p.m.
Ashbrook Independent School, 4045 SW Research Way
Willamette Valley Symphony presents “Malheur Symphony,” a multimedia performance inspired by Oregon’s Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, along with an environmental fair. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors 65 and older, and free for youth 17 and younger. Discount programs are available for adults accompanying youth and Oregon Trail SNAP cardholders.
<https://www.willamettevalleysymphony.org/buy-tickets>

Fall Family Fun Fest
Saturday, Oct. 3 • 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Bald Hill Farm, 6780 NW Oak Creek Dr.
Greenbelt Land Trust hosts a free day of outdoor activities for families, geared toward children through sixth grade. Activities include nature arts and crafts, apple cider pressing, pumpkin bowling, birding for kids, aquatic exploration, native wildflower seed balls, pollinator activities, and a stream table. Walks to a beaver dam will be offered at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Families may also sign up for Greenbelt’s Mighty Acorns Kids Club.
<https://greenbeltlandtrust.org/event/fall-family-fun-fest-2026/>

JEFFERSON

Zumba With Cheryl
Wednesday & Friday, Now–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

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.

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. 26 features an “Alice in Wonderland” theme; Oct. 3 is Adult Prom/Karaoke. Ages 21 and older.

LEBANON

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>

Modern Square Dance and Cha Cha Lessons
Sunday, Sept. 27 • Cha Cha 4–5:15 p.m.
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

Downtown Fall Market & Festival
Saturday, Oct. 3 • 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Downtown Lebanon
The largest event of the year! Over 100 businesses, vendors, and activities joining together for a day of community love; you won’t want to miss it! Vintage & upcycled vendors, locally made treasures, fresh-baked breads & treats, farm-fresh goods, fall & holiday, HP, Hot Topic & Halloween, themed booths and activities
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2020060915531895>

SHEDD

Thompson’s Mills Cider Pressing
Saturday, Oct. 10 • 11 a.m.–until apples run out (2 p.m.)
32655 Boston Mill Dr.
Press your own cider! Come early or stay late — the park is open dawn to dusk. Pack a picnic, explore the grounds, and take a guided tour of Oregon’s last remaining water-powered mill, built in 1858. Then, roll up your sleeves to help press fresh apples and sample the cider you helped make! Half-gallon jugs of cider are available for \$5. T-shirts, totes, dishtowels, mugs, and books are available for sale, cash or card.
<https://tmpsonline.org> • 541-654-2052

SWEET HOME

Sweet Home Harvest Festival & Pie Bake-Off
Saturday, Oct. 3 • 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Sankey Park, 847 14th Ave.
Celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Sweet Home Harvest Festival with food vendors, local artisans, children’s games, live music, and the annual Pie Bake-Off. The bake-off features youth, ages 17 and younger, and adult divisions. Pies must be nonperishable and require no refrigeration, and contestants may enter up to two pies. For bake-off information, email Angela Clegg at aclegg@sweethomeor.gov.
<https://www.sweethomeor.gov> • 541-818-8029

Willamette Valley Symphony Opens Season with 'Malheur Symphony'

CORVALLIS — The Willamette Valley Symphony will open its 2026–27 season Sept. 26–27 with “Malheur Symphony,” a multimedia performance inspired by Oregon’s Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.



KAY SCHEURER STEELE

A sunset over the Blitzen River at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The landscape, wildlife and history of the refuge inspired composer Chris Thomas’ multimedia “Malheur Symphony,” which incorporates recorded natural sounds and photography

The program features composer Chris Thomas’ “Malheur Symphony,” along with Weber’s “Freischütz Overture” and Dvořák’s “In Nature’s Realm.” Thomas will discuss the inspiration behind his work, which was commissioned in 2018 following the 2016 armed occupation of the Malheur refuge.

While developing the composition, Thomas visited the refuge and met with tribal representatives, conservationists, geologists, biologists, and birders. The performance incorporates bird calls and other recorded sounds, along with photographs by Kay Scheurer Steele and Terry Steele.

An environmental fair featuring organizations that promote environmental awareness and stewardship will begin one hour before each performance.

Performances are Saturday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 27, at 4 p.m. at Ashbrook Independent School, 4045 SW Research Way, Corvallis.

Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors 65 and older, and free for youth 17 and younger. Under the Youth Passport Program, one adult accompanying a youth may purchase a \$10 ticket at the door. Oregon Trail SNAP cardholders may purchase \$5 tickets at the door through the Arts for All program.

For tickets and information: <https://www.willamettevalleysymphony.org/buy-tickets>.

PHOTOS COURTESY WILLAMETTE VALLEY SYMPHONY



The Willamette Valley Symphony, led by Artistic Director and conductor Lance Inouye, opens its 2026–27 season Sept. 26–27 with “Malheur Symphony” at Ashbrook Independent School in Corvallis.

Help Us Choose This Year’s Halloween Coloring Contest House

It’s almost time for The Times’ annual Halloween Coloring Contest — but first, we need your help selecting this year’s featured location.

Last year, our coloring page featured Brownsville’s historic Moyer House, transformed into a Halloween scene with ghosts, pumpkins, bats, and plenty of cobwebs.

This year, we invite readers from across the Central Willamette Valley to help choose the inspiration for our 2026 coloring page.

Do you know a Victorian home that looks especially spooky in October? An old house, barn, historic building, or local landmark that would make the perfect Halloween scene? Maybe there’s a house in your community you’ve always thought of as the neighborhood “haunted house” — whether it actually has a ghost story or simply looks like it should.

We want to hear about it!

Send us the name or location of the house, building, or place you think should be featured, along with a photo if you have one. Tell us why you chose it — especially if there’s a story behind it.

Last year’s contest featured both adult and youth categories, with the top adult artist receiving a one-year print subscription and the youth winner receiving a \$25 gift card. Watch The Times for this year’s coloring page and complete contest details.

Send us your suggestion by October 1 to editor@thetimescww.org.



LAST YEAR’S COLORING CONTEST — Sloan Leach, 8, of Brownsville added plenty of Halloween spirit to the historic Moyer House for The Times’ 2025 Halloween Coloring Contest. This year, readers are being asked to help choose the house, building, or local landmark that will inspire the 2026 contest illustration. Illustration by Anne Clarke; coloring by Sloan Leach.



STAY CONNECTED!

Discover events or add your own to our community calendar:

<https://thetimescww.org/community-calendar>

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LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Approve More First-Time Youth Wage Grants

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist and Sherrie Sprenger approved five First-Time Youth Wage Grant applications at their Wednesday, September 9 meeting, bringing the total for 2026 to 14 participating businesses. Some 30 young people are benefiting from the program, which is in its 20th year.

Newly approved were Sweet Home Figaro’s Inc., David C. Malpass Warehouse, Koos Seed Company, Berkey’s Blueberries, and Pacific Bellwether dba Sweet Home Dairy Queen.

Linn County uses Video Lottery proceeds to provide a stipend of \$4 per hour up to a total of \$2,000 per youth employee for as many as three employees per small business. The program runs from May 1 through September 30.

Young people must be legal to work in the U.S. and be 14 to 19 years old.

At the April 14 board meeting, Administrative Assistant Amanda Giles said that over the past 10 years, some 168 businesses and 786 young people have taken advantage of this opportunity.

In 2025, employees worked 47,000 total hours, and Linn County provided \$28,145 in stipends.

In the past 10 years, 2018 saw the highest total payout of \$56,434, and in 2016, the payout was \$56,264.

Qualifying businesses must employ 35 or fewer employees, and the young people must be first-time employees who have not previously worked for the individual business. An employer can only hire three qualifying young people at any given time.

In other business the commissioners:

- Approved the purchase of a new paint striping truck by the Road Department from EZ Liner — Arrow for \$824,676. It will replace a 20-year-old unit. Roadmaster Amy Ramsdell said the new truck includes modern equipment that will help staff work in less-than-perfect weather.

- Approved the purchase of three 2027 Chevrolet Tahoe SUVs by the Sheriff’s Office for a total of \$179,442.12. They will replace vehicles that are being rotated out of the fleet due to high mileage.
- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Juvenile Department and Benton County. Linn County will provide four beds at the detention center for Benton County youth. The daily bed rate will be \$319.45 with a quarterly total of \$116,599. The rate is charged whether the beds are full or empty.
- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Parks Department and the Scio School District to allow Scio High School to use 5.44 acres on Thomas Creek owned by the Parks Department for educational purposes such as science classes and FFA and 4-H programs. Parks Director Stacey Whaley said the property has significant deed restrictions, due to a history of flooding, cannot be sold to a private party, and will not be developed into a park.
- Were informed the Planning & Building Department issued 65 land use permits in August, compared to 115 in August 2025. Some 316 total building permits were issued compared to 281 a year ago. Of 36 dwelling permits issued in August, two for single-family units, seven were manufactured homes, 16 were for alterations or additions, and seven were for accessory buildings. Code enforcement opened eight new cases and closed 16.
- Announced that a Management Staff meeting would be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 9 in the courthouse basement meeting room. 🌞

Commissioners Receive August Health Information

By Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer

ALBANY — Two of the 116 deaths in Linn County in August were of centenarians, Health Officer Dr. Adam Brady told Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist and Sherrie Sprenger at their September 15 meeting.

Dr. Brady said one person was 106 years old and the other was 105 years old.

According to information released by the Pew Research Center in 2024, there are more than 108,000 centenarians living in the United States, second only to Japan, home to more than 146,000 centenarians. The oldest person in Japan is a 114-year-old female. The oldest person living in the United States is 115 years old, and her birthday is on September 26.

Worldwide, there are an estimated 722,000 centenarians according to the United Nations, projected to grow to nearly four million by 2054.

The Pew Research Center projects the number of centenarians will quadruple over the next 30 years. In the United States, that would mean there would be about 422,000 centenarians by 2054.

In 1950, there were an estimated 2,300 centenarians in the United States. In 1990, that number had grown to an estimated 37,000.

According to the Pew Research Center, 77 percent of today’s centenarians are white women. Some 8 percent are Black, 7 percent are Asian, and 6 percent are Hispanic.

In other health information, Dr. Brady said there were 62 births in August, 31 boys and 31 girls.

There was one suicide, a 34-year-old male.

In other business the commissioners:

- Talked extensively about funds associated with Ballot Measure 110. The state distributes funds from its cannabis tax revenues for community-based addiction services. The commissioners asked Health Services Administrator Todd Noble to talk about how Linn County utilizes those funds, cautioning that one-time or short-term funding should not be used to fund long-term staffing.
- Announced there will be a South Willamette Valley Honor Flight send-off ceremony on the north side of the Linn County Courthouse at noon on Thursday, Sept. 17. 🌞

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Thompson's Mills Preserves Cider Traditions

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer & Columnist

The history of cider in America begins with the earliest colonists and extends to Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site in Shedd. The first apple seeds planted in the New World came from apples carried on the ships to feed the colonists and crew. Apples are hybrids, so they don't produce offspring with the same traits as the apple they came from. The first apple trees produced sour apples that no one would eat. No problem. Sour apples make great hard cider — a mildly alcoholic beverage that could be preserved in barrels and was safer to drink than the polluted stream water available to the colonists.

From the time of the American Revolution through the next 150 years, cider was the beverage of choice. Both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson described their daily cider intake and efforts to ensure a plentiful supply. When President George Washington encouraged westward expansion by offering land grants, he stipulated that emigrants plant at least 50 apple trees, thus ensuring the health of pioneer families as well as their commitment to the land.

We all know the story of Johnny Appleseed, and shame on Disney for portraying John Chapman as a simple-minded fool. In the early 1800s, he made his living by planting apple seeds on the frontier of the expanding country. He sold seedlings to emigrants who needed to plant at least 50 trees to "prove up" and take ownership of their land. Until he died in 1845 at age 71, he traveled between the Ohio frontier and the cider mills in Pennsylvania, where he gathered apple seeds. He lived a simple life but died a wealthy man, owning hundreds of acres of apple tree nurseries.

By the time immigrants settled our Willamette Valley, the 50-tree requirement had been lifted. Still, every farm planted an apple orchard and made cider. Thompson's Mills was built in 1858 and had an orchard of 20 or 30 trees. Often, several families would own a press together. Laying down a hogshead (66 gallons) or two of cider for the coming year was often a multi-family event and social occasion, with children gathering apples and teenagers demonstrating their prowess by turning the press.

The Thompson's Mills Preservation Society continues the tradition by inviting the public to come to the mill on pressing days to help grind and press the apples and taste the golden ambrosia flowing from the press. The apples are sweet varieties because few orchards are producing those tart "spitters" of old. It is something to see the look in children's eyes as they taste real, freshly pressed apple cider. Half-gallon jugs are available for a \$5 donation. Left to its own de-



Visitors gather at historic Thompson's Mills near Shedd for a cider pressing event. The mill, built in 1858, preserves a piece of the Willamette Valley's agricultural history.

PHOTOS: DONALD LYON

vices, the cider will ferment over a few weeks in the fridge to a very pleasant, zippy two to three percent alcohol.

Two more pressings are scheduled for October 10 and 24, from 11 a.m. until the apples run out. Bring the family and a picnic, and be part of history. Thompson's Mills is a State Heritage Site two miles east of Shedd. 🍷



Apples are washed and prepared for pressing during a cider-making event at Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site.



Young visitors help with the cider-making process at Thompson's Mills, where pressing days give families a hands-on look at a longtime Willamette Valley tradition.

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BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Celebrate Library Cards and the Freedom to Read

By Sherri Lemhouse, Brownsville Librarian

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, an annual celebration sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA). This year, Icelandic-Chinese composer, singer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist Laufey is serving as honorary chair, highlighting how, no matter your tastes, a library card hits all the right notes!



Magazines covering everything from Oregon travel and outdoor adventures to home, garden and lifestyle topics are among the many resources available to browse at the Brownsville Community Library.

There are plenty of ways to put your library card to use. Read a classic story, search for a new recipe, browse a magazine or discover something completely new. You can also carve out time for Stitchery Group, held Wednesdays from 1–3 p.m., or join Book Club on Oct. 21 from 7–8 p.m.

October also brings Banned Books Week, Oct. 4–10. Stop by the library to see our

display of books that have been challenged elsewhere around the nation — though not here at the Brownsville Community Library.

The American Library Association has named actor, author and activist George Takei honorary chair of Banned Books Week, joined by youth honorary chair Iris Mogul.

“Books are an essential foundation of democracy,” Takei said, noting that books help readers become both informed and empathetic. Drawing on his childhood incarceration with other Japanese Americans during World War II and his experiences growing up gay, Takei has spoken about the importance of having access to books that help people better understand themselves, others and history.

While you’re here, check out Takei’s book “They Called Us Enemy,” which recounts his childhood experiences during World War II. The book, along with many others, can be found in the Junior Reference section of the Brownsville Community Library. ☺

4-H Enrollment Opens Oct. 1

Area youth interested in joining 4-H can begin the enrollment and club placement process Oct. 1.

4-H offers a wide range of hands-on projects and activities, from livestock and horsemanship to cooking, photography, gardening, and other interests. Youth also have opportunities to develop skills, participate in fairs and events, and connect with other 4-H members.

Enrollment continues through Jan. 31. Families new to 4-H can complete the member interest form at <https://beav.es/xwD> to begin the club placement process.

Those interested in adding a club for a new project, email jody.hill@oregonstate.edu. ☺

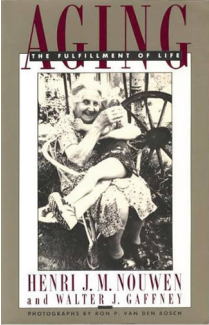
BOOKS TO CONSIDER

Aging — Fulfillment of Life for All Ages

By Nancy Diltz, Staff Writer and Columnist

Aging is not only a concern for the elderly. Everyone is aging, and the philosopher, author, Dutch Catholic priest, and theologian Henri Nouwen (1932–1996) has given us an insightful and inspiring look at the topic.

“Aging: The Fulfillment of Life,” by Henri Nouwen and Walter Gaffney, published in 1976, “shows us how to start fulfilling our lives by giving to others so that when we leave this world, we can be what we have given,” according to the Image Books cover. “Aging” was marketed as psychology but also encompasses theology, religion, Christianity, and self-improvement. This little 154-page book contains 85 photographs of life and nature that are inspiring to contemplate.



An example of his writing for you to consider: “Every time life asks us to give up a desire, to change our direction, or redefine our goals; every time we lose a friend, break a relationship, or start a new plan, we are invited to widen our perspectives and to touch, beneath the superficial waves of our daily wishes, the deeper currents of hope. Every time we are jolted by life, we are faced with the need to make new departures. But if this does not happen in the early years, how can we expect it to come about later?”

In this way, Nouwen speaks to the young and the old. The first line of the prologue says, “This is a book about aging. It is a book for all of us, since we all age and so fulfill the cycle of our lives.” Nouwen uses the image of an old wagon wheel to represent the full life cycle, the one we must live, emphasizing that living it is the source of our greatest joy.

Nouwen has written 39 books and hundreds of articles. This is the only collaboration with Walter Gaffney, featuring photographs by Ron P. van den Bosch. ☺

BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Story Time with Craft

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

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Death Cafe

Tuesday, Oct. 13 • 6:30 p.m. • Kirk Room

World Cultures & Travel: Lebanon, Syria & Jordan

Thursday, Oct. 15 • 7 p.m. • Kirk Room

The Page Turners Book Club

Wednesday, Oct. 21 • 7 p.m. • Kirk Room

ADULT GROUP GATHERINGS

Thread Wizards Stitchery Group

Wednesdays • 1–3 p.m. • History Room
Bring your project, have some fun — get things done!

The Page Turners Book Club

3rd Wednesdays, Sept. 16 • 7 p.m. • Kirk Room

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>

JEFFERSON LIBRARY CALENDAR

NeedleCraft Group

2nd and 4th Tuesdays • 3–5 p.m.

Storytime

Wednesdays • 11:30 a.m. • Ages 0–6

Green Bag Book Club 1st Thursdays • 10 a.m.

Robotics 1st Saturdays • 10 a.m.–2 p.m. • Ages 10–18

Dungeons & Dragons/ Game Day

3rd Saturdays • noon–4p.m. • All ages and experiences

Early Childhood Literacy Activity Day

4th Saturdays • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Read-to-a-Dog with Shasta

4th Saturdays • 2–3 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>
<https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonOregonPublicLibrary>
info@jeffersonpubliclibrary.org

HARRISBURG LIBRARY CALENDAR

Tiny Tots Story Time

Wednesdays • 11 a.m. • Ages 0–3

Stories and activities for babies and toddlers.

Friday Storytime & Activity

Fridays • 10–11 a.m. • Ages 4 and up

Sept. 25: Fall Storytime and leaf rubbings

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.

Lego Club

Fridays • 3 p.m.

Build, create, and explore with Lego activities and earn Lego prizes.

September 25 challenge: Free Build

Library Hours: Closed Sun and Mon

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.

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

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.

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>

HALSEY CITY LIBRARY

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>

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HARRISBURG SCHOOL BOARD

Harrisburg Schools Report Stable Enrollment, Strong Start to Year

HARRISBURG — The Harrisburg School Board met Sept. 9. Board Chair Brett Cain called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members Stephanie Deckard and Lonnie Hutchens were present. They heard updates on enrollment, the start of the school year, student activities, district finances, and an upcoming seismic improvement project.

Superintendent Steve Woods reported that the district's enrollment is 849 students, just one below the 850 projected during the budget process. Woods said Harrisburg's enrollment remains relatively stable, while several other districts in the region are experiencing declines.

Administrators also reported a positive start to the 2026-27 school year, with students settling into routines and behavior concerns remaining low. At Harrisburg High School, the theme for the year is "You Belong," with monthly assemblies planned to strengthen the school community. Administrators reported only three discipline referrals since the beginning of school. About 32 students also participated in summer credit recovery.

The high school is translating school communications into Spanish and has planned a Sept. 11 assembly to mark the 25th anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks. The observance includes a flag ceremony featuring a student color guard.

Student leadership representative Genesis Kelson told the board that students are working to boost participation and school spirit at athletic events. A student section has been established at the football stadium, and leadership students are preparing for homecoming activities, assemblies, and spirit days.

Administrators also highlighted Eagle Mania, fall sports, an upcoming Jobathon, and professional development.

Business Manager Tammy Renfro told the board that current financial reports are still preliminary. The district has begun working with its auditor, and expenses are expected to increase as full payroll and other school-year costs are recorded. Renfro cautioned that ending fund balance figures remain subject to audit and reconciliation.

A significant portion of the meeting focused on the district's upcoming seismic upgrade project. Community member Jeremy Moritz questioned the district's proposed two-step contracting process, raising concerns about competition, costs, and opportunities for smaller or local contractors. Woods said the district is following HMK's recommendations, which assisted with the district's previous elementary seismic project. Under the process, contractors will first be evaluated on qualifications, including seismic experience and the ability to meet project requirements. Four qualified contractors will then be invited to submit competitive bids.

Board members discussed whether local contractors would still have an opportunity to participate. Woods said qualified local firms could compete and that the district would consider both experience and cost. The board ultimately approved the findings supporting the two-step alternative contracting process and authorized the district to move forward with the request for qualifications and invitation to bid.

Board members Johnny Herrera and Jeremy Lidbeck were absent from the meeting. ☼

HARRISBURG FOOTBALL

Eagles Cruise Past Creswell, 40-0

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

HARRISBURG — The Harrisburg Eagles continued their strong start to the 2026 football season Friday night, shutting out Creswell 40-0 on Sept. 11 behind a dominant rushing attack and a defense that kept the Bulldogs off the scoreboard.

Harrisburg controlled the game from the opening quarter, taking a 7-0 lead before adding two more touchdowns in the second quarter to carry a 21-0 advantage into halftime.

The Eagles continued to pull away after the break, scoring 13 points in the third quarter and six more in the fourth to complete the 40-point victory.

Braxton Henager led Harrisburg's ground attack, carrying the ball 29 times for 135 yards and three touchdowns.

Quarterback Chase Herrera contributed both on the ground and through the air. Herrera rushed five times for 57 yards and a touchdown while completing 3 of 5 passes for 40 yards and two touchdowns. He also provided one of the game's biggest plays with an 84-yard kickoff return.

Parker Jordan caught one pass for 23 yards and a touchdown, while Owen Hay hauled in a 13-yard touchdown reception. Kason DeHerrera added a 5-yard reception.

While the offense consistently found ways to move the football, Harrisburg's defense turned in an equally impressive performance, holding Creswell scoreless for all four quarters.

The victory improved Harrisburg to 2-0 on the season and marked the Eagles' second convincing win to open the 2026 campaign. Harrisburg opened the season Sept. 4 with a 20-6 road victory over North Valley. ☼



DAWN MARIE BARTH

Harrisburg's Titus Cain (#13) leaps to pressure a Creswell kick as Josh Woollett (#51) closes in.



DAWN MARIE BARTH

Harrisburg's Braxton Henager (#7) breaks away from the Creswell defense. Henager rushed for 135 yards and three touchdowns in the Eagles' 40-0 win.

HARRISBURG VOLLEYBALL

Eagles Battle Through Tough Week

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

HARRISBURG — 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 with a 3-1 loss to Sweet Home.

The Eagles returned to the court Thursday 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. ☼



EMMA SNIDER

Harrisburg freshman Maddison Reynolds serves during the Eagle Mania junior varsity volleyball match.

Eagle Mania Celebrates Harrisburg School Spirit

By Emma Snider, Junior Staff Writer



EMMA SNIDER

Harrisburg students pack the new student section to cheer on the Eagles during the Eagle Mania football game against Creswell.

HARRISBURG — Eagle Mania celebrates our Harrisburg High School varsity football team's first home game. This year, we played the Creswell Bulldogs and won 40-0.

Eagle Mania also marks the start of a new football season and school year. It is a great opportunity for new students and freshmen to see and understand how we celebrate at Harrisburg High School.



EMMA SNIDER

Harrisburg High School teacher Jamie Tatum emerges soaked after taking a turn in the Eagle Mania dunk tank.

At Eagle Mania, we do many things. This year, our cheerleaders and volleyball players handled face painting, and our cross-country team ran a bounce-house obstacle course. We also had a dunk tank where students could dunk their very own Harrisburg High School teacher, Jamie Tatum.

Because Eagle Mania fell on Sept. 11 this year, we observed a moment of silence to remember the civilians and first responders who lost their lives 25 years ago. Harrisburg Eagle cheerleaders carried the flags onto the field while the high school band, led by Gus Gyde, played the national anthem.

New this year, we added a student section in the bleachers. Harrisburg students came together and filled the stands, singing different chants and cheering on our varsity football players.

That school spirit has carried over to volleyball season, too.

We want to recognize not only our football seniors but also our wonderful volleyball seniors. So far this year, our volleyball team has faced challenges but continue to stand tall and play hard.



EMMA SNIDER

Brooklyn Huddleston, Sophie Egbert, Dylan Hayworth, and Lynda Seehafer, members of the Harrisburg varsity volleyball team, gather courtside during volleyball action.

During varsity volleyball games, our football players stand in the student section and cheer on the volleyball team, making the games even more enjoyable and exciting. We have also started adding themes to sports nights, giving students another way to get involved and show their Eagle spirit.

It is the little things we do as Harrisburg Eagles that help us become an even closer family and make our school a better place. ☀

CENTRAL LINN SCHOOL BOARD

Board Addresses CTE Financing, Enrollment Growth and Water Leak

HALSEY — During its Sept. 14 meeting, the Central Linn School District Board addressed financing for its career and technical education building, enrollment growth, academic initiatives, and a long-standing water leak.

The district's financial report highlighted tight cash flow in the early months of the school year, when revenue is limited before property tax collections arrive in November. Monthly check runs have ranged from about \$100,000 to \$200,000.

A negotiated agreement allowing the district to pay the CTE contractor 25 percent is expected to help bridge the gap until additional revenue arrives.

The board approved a resolution designating Celeste Van Cleave as the district representative for Rural Utilities Service grant reporting requirements and authorized \$750,000 in financing for interior construction of the CTE building.

Board members also discussed the construction contract and whether additional time was needed for review. Superintendent Dr. Rob Hess raised concerns about the short review period under district policy. A special Zoom meeting was scheduled for Wednesday at 1 p.m. to continue the discussion of the project.

Enrollment in grades 7-12 has increased to 261 students, up from 234 last year. The district also hired five new teachers.

At the elementary level, administrators reported strong attendance during the opening days of school. Of 192 students enrolled on the first day, 187 attended. By the second day, 204 of 208 enrolled students were present. The district has set a goal to improve attendance by 5 percent.

Academic improvement, particularly in mathematics, remains a focus. Officials reported improved math scores following the implementation of a new curriculum and the receipt of federal targeted assistance funding for mathematics instruction.

District leaders also reported a projected 90 percent graduation rate and said that approximately 50 percent of eighth-grade students passed state assessments, meeting a state target several years ahead of schedule.

Goals for the school year include implementing the Wayfinder program, strengthening community connections, and transitioning from MAP assessments to the Oregon Statewide Assessment System's interim assessments.

The district also received approximately \$113,000 to \$115,000 from the Oregon Department of Education to revitalize its construction program.

A long-standing water leak also drew considerable discussion. District officials said the leak has existed for about 15 years and is estimated to lose roughly 10,000 gallons of water per day, costing approximately \$900 to \$1,000 per month.

One option is to install a new water tap rather than replace approximately half a mile of existing pipe. Board members questioned who should be responsible for the expense and whether the proposal is the most economical solution. The board agreed to investigate the leak further before determining how to proceed.

The district also continues to seek a replacement for the vacant Zone 3 board position. The board agreed to advertise the opening district-wide for 20 days through the newspaper, the district website, ParentSquare, and social media.

Other discussions included emergency preparedness, employee time and attendance tracking, facility naming policies, and the development of a Wall of Fame or Hall of Fame program.

Board members also received updates on facility work, including repairs to the high school's hot water system and renovations to the team room, and discussed holding a board retreat Nov. 7. ☀



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CENTRAL LINN GIRLS SOCCER

Runyon Scores Six as Central Linn Blanks Sweet Home

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

CENTRAL LINN — Avery Runyon turned in a remarkable performance Sept. 10, scoring all six of Central Linn’s goals on six shots as the Cobras rolled to a 6–0 victory over Sweet Home.

Runyon found the net every time she took a shot, providing all of the scoring in the shutout win.

The victory capped a strong week for Central Linn, which opened with a 1–1 draw against Sisters on Sept. 8. The Cobras battled throughout that match to earn a point against one of the teams near the top of the league standings.

Two days later, Central Linn took control against Sweet Home. While Runyon powered the offense, the Cobras’ defense kept Sweet Home off the scoreboard to complete the shutout.

The win continued Central Linn’s strong early-season start and kept the Cobras firmly in the race near the top of the league standings.

Central Linn entered the following week tied with Sisters, Pleasant Hill and Creswell in a tightly contested battle for first place.

With little separating the league leaders, each upcoming match carries added importance as the season progresses.

The Cobras traveled to La Pine on Tuesday, Sept. 15, before returning home to face Pleasant Hill in another key league matchup.

The Pleasant Hill match gives Central Linn an opportunity to gain ground against one of the teams competing alongside the Cobras near the top of the standings.

Results from those matches will appear in next week’s issue. 🌀



Central Linn’s Avery Runyon scored all six goals on six shots in the Cobras’ 6–0 shutout victory over Sweet Home on Sept. 10.

CENTRAL LINN FOOTBALL

Colton Defeats Central Linn, 57-15

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

COLTON — Central Linn suffered its first loss of the 2026 football season Friday, falling to Colton 57–15 on Sept. 11.

The Cobras entered the matchup with momentum after opening the season with a 32–6 victory over Sheridan. Against Colton, however, Central Linn struggled to contain an offense that consistently found the end zone.

Central Linn scored 15 points in the contest but was unable to keep pace as Colton pulled away for the nonleague victory.

The loss drops Central Linn to 1–1 on the season, while Colton improves to 2–0. The Cobras will look to regroup and build on lessons from the early-season matchup as they continue their 2026 schedule. 🌀

CENTRAL LINN VOLLEYBALL

Cobras Split First Two League Contests

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

HALSEY — The Central Linn volleyball team opened league play during the week of Sept. 8–12, splitting its first two conference matches.

The Cobras got off to a strong start with a convincing 3–0 victory over Gervais. Central Linn controlled the match from the outset, earning a straight-set sweep in its league opener.

Central Linn then faced Toledo in its second league contest and battled through a competitive five-set match before falling 3–2.

Despite the loss, the Cobras stayed within reach throughout the match and pushed Toledo to the final set before coming up short.

The split gave Central Linn a 1–1 record in league play to begin the season.

With one victory and one closely contested loss in their first two league matches, the Cobras will look to build on their early performances as they continue through the 2026 schedule. 🌀



Cobras celebrate a point during league play. The Cobras opened their conference schedule with a 3–0 win over Gervais before battling Toledo in a five-set loss.

Local Runners Battle Mud, Creek Crossings at Stayton Invitational

By Tony Koontz, Sports Editor

STAYTON — Runners from Harrisburg, Central Linn, and Jefferson battled one of the season’s more demanding courses Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Stayton Invitational, where creek crossings, muddy trails and steep terrain tested athletes from middle school through varsity competition.

Harrisburg junior Miley Richardson led the local varsity girls, finishing second overall in 21 minutes, 36.10 seconds. Central Linn junior Anya Griffith followed in third among 56 runners in 21:43. Griffith placed fourth at the same meet last year.



Central Linn junior Anya Griffith gets off to a strong start in the varsity girls race at the Stayton Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 12. Griffith finished third among 56 runners in 21 minutes, 43 seconds.

Harrisburg junior Adelyn Grassman finished 15th in 23:50.82, while sophomore Tenley Wilkinson was 17th in 24:38.70.

Central Linn senior Ashley Greeno, competing in her first cross-country season, placed 28th in 25:46. Freshman Rita Wahl finished 53rd in 30:55.

In the boys varsity race, Harrisburg placed two runners in the top 10. Senior Aiden Koroush finished sixth in 18:05.47, and junior Joel Yarber was eighth in 18:08.55.

Central Linn senior Ethan Denison led the Cobras, placing 18th among 73 runners in 19:46. Jefferson senior Alejandro Alvarez Gonzalez led the Lions with a 37th-place finish in 21:17.59, followed by junior Angel Vasquez in 39th at 21:24.32.

Central Linn junior DJ Diaz finished 46th in 21:39, while Jefferson junior Ryan Morris placed 52nd in 22:06.01. Central Linn freshman Wyatt Cooley finished 71st in 26:10.

Central Linn also had runners in the junior varsity and middle school races. Junior Ruby Nielson placed 21st in the high school junior varsity race in 19:00.

In the middle school girls race, seventh-grader Alexandra Brady placed 61st in 21:09, and seventh-grader Aurora Wooten finished 73rd in 25:46.

Eighth-grader Jase Marcoulier led the Central Linn middle school boys, placing 18th among 92 runners in 13:59. Matthew Carter was 71st in 17:58, fifth-grader Eddie Cunningham placed 78th in 18:38, and seventh-grader James Cunningham finished 80th in 19:23.

The Stayton course is known for creek crossings, slick embankments and heavy mud. By the varsity races, footing had become especially difficult. Griffith took a fall on the muddy course, while Denison chose to walk one slippery embankment rather than risk falling. Some middle school runners also encountered bees during the race.

Central Linn’s high school runners next compete at the Silver Falls Oktoberfest Invitational, another challenging course featuring a significant uphill climb. The middle school runners will rejoin the high school team at Lane Community College for the Northwest Classic. 🌀



Dayton Lager competes for Harrisburg during the Stayton Invitational on Sept. 12, where runners faced a demanding course of steep terrain, mud, and creek crossings.



Adelyn Grassman splashes through a creek crossing during the Stayton Invitational. The Harrisburg junior finished 15th among 56 varsity girls in 23:50.82.

JEFFERSON FOOTBALL

Lions Fall to Illinois Valley in Nonleague Football Matchup

JEFFERSON — Jefferson showed offensive improvement Friday, Sept. 11, but the Lions were unable to keep pace with Illinois Valley in a 52–16 nonleague loss at Jefferson High School.

The Lions, coming off a 48–14 season-opening loss to Monroe, found success on the ground and through the air against Illinois Valley.

Sylus Simmons scored on a 4-yard run and finished with 64 yards on 15 carries. Quarterback Colton Furlong connected with Creu Trefethen for Jefferson’s other touchdown, a 15-yard scoring pass.

Furlong finished with 71 passing yards and one touchdown.

Adrian Hernandez helped lead the Lions’ rushing attack with 55 yards on just five carries, averaging 11 yards per attempt. He also caught a 22-yard pass. Tanner Jones added 42 yards on four carries.

Trefethen finished with 15 receiving yards and a touchdown, while Jacob Thompson recorded 19 receiving yards and Caleb Cooper added 15.

Illinois Valley’s offense proved difficult to slow, however, as the Cougars scored 52 points and pulled away for the victory.

The loss dropped Jefferson to 0–2 in nonleague play to open the 2026 season.

Despite the difficult start, the Lions have shown signs of offensive production, particularly in their running game. Jefferson will look to build on those positives while improving defensively



Adrian Hernandez carries the ball for Jefferson during the Lions’ Sept. 11 matchup against Illinois Valley. Hernandez rushed for 55 yards on five carries and added a 22-yard reception.

as the team continues through its early-season schedule.

The Lions will now turn their attention to their next matchup and an opportunity to earn their first victory of the season. ☼

JEFFERSON BOYS SOCCER

Lions Battle Through Two-Game Week

JEFFERSON — The Jefferson Lions boys soccer team endured a challenging road stretch, falling to Salem Academy before rebounding with a high-scoring draw against Kennedy.

Jefferson traveled to Salem Academy on Monday, Sept. 7, where the Lions fell 7–1. Salem Academy’s offense proved difficult to contain, while Jefferson worked to create scoring opportunities throughout the match.

Max Scovell scored Jefferson’s lone goal in the loss.

The Lions responded two days later with a much stronger offensive performance against Kennedy.

Jefferson traveled to Mount Angel on Wednesday, Sept. 9, and battled the Trojans to a 4–4 draw in a back-and-forth nonleague contest.

Ari Larson, Hunter Furlong, Scovell and Angel Vasquez each scored for Jefferson as the Lions matched Kennedy goal for goal.

The eight-goal contest marked a significant improvement from Jefferson’s previous meeting with Kennedy. The Trojans edged the Lions 2–1 on Aug. 31, but Jefferson found considerably more offensive success in the rematch.

Neither team was able to gain a decisive ad-



Jefferson’s Caden Vickery battles for possession during the Lions’ Sept. 7 loss to Salem Academy.

vantage Wednesday, with the Lions and Trojans finishing even at four goals apiece.

The draw provided Jefferson with a positive result following the difficult loss to Salem Academy and demonstrated the Lions’ ability to respond with a stronger offensive performance.

Jefferson has shown flashes of scoring strength early in the season as the Lions continue building momentum through their 2026 campaign. ☼

JEFFERSON GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Lions Continue Early-Season Battle

JEFFERSON — The Jefferson Lions girls volleyball team continued its early-season schedule Sept. 10, falling to Neah-Kah-Nie in three sets in a nonleague matchup.

Neah-Kah-Nie entered the contest unbeaten and continued its strong start with a 3–0 victory over Jefferson. The Pirates had already posted wins over Warrenton, Knappa, Yamhill-Carlton,

Riverdale, and Sheridan before traveling to Jefferson.

The Lions entered the match still searching for their first victory of the season. Jefferson competes in the 3A PacWest Conference under head coach Chrissi Hardie, with Julie Grizzel serving as assistant coach.

Jefferson’s varsity roster includes Ari Cortez,

JEFFERSON SCHOOL BOARD

Board Reviews Enrollment, Track Project

JEFFERSON —During its Sept. 17 meeting, the Jefferson School District 14J Board reviewed declining enrollment, district programs, and potential plans for the high school track and athletic facilities.

The meeting opened with the swearing-in of student board representative K. Leon.

The board adopted three Oregon School Boards Association policies addressing federal immigration enforcement on district property. The policies set procedures for responding to enforcement activity and for notifying students, families, and staff. They will undergo further review by the district’s policy committee.

Superintendent Dawn Moorefield presented the district’s annual Integrated Programs report, which covered the Student Investment Account, High School Success, and Early Literacy programs.

The district reported progress in student social-emotional well-being and graduation efforts through specialized classrooms, instructional support, alternative education, career and technical education, dual-credit courses, and other programs. Challenges include implementing a districtwide Multi-Tiered System of Supports and addressing chronic absenteeism.

Enrollment stands at 616 students, down from 655 last year and below the 632 students used to develop the budget. Jefferson Elementary has 246 students, Jefferson Middle School has 155, and Jefferson High School has 215.

Financial reports showed an ending fund balance of nearly \$1.2 million. District officials are also exploring options regarding an expiring PERS pension bond.

Administrator reports highlighted middle school athletics, robotics, choir, and an eighth-grade shop class offered in partnership with the high school. High school updates included drama, accreditation preparations, summer school, and student activities.

The board also introduced Evan Podrabsky as the district’s new technology director.

City Council liaison Bob announced his retirement from the council, effective Dec. 31, after nine years of service.

The board tentatively scheduled an Oct. 20 work session to discuss the potential high school track-and-field project and broader district capital needs. ☼

Craig Weiler
Estimator



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TAKING ROOT

Plant Flowering Bulbs
Now for Early Bloom

By Donald Lyon, Staff Writer and Columnist

Is 2027 the year you are going to welcome spring with colorful displays of tulips, hyacinths, crocuses, irises, and other bulbs? September and October are the right months to put this plan into action. A bonus of a bulb garden is that, with just a little maintenance, bulbs will bloom again for many years. Bulbs also divide and create more plants — another bonus. Bulbs are naturally drought-tolerant because they are dormant in summer and do not require watering. Right now, most shops that sell gardening supplies will encourage you in this endeavor with bountiful displays of bulbs as you enter. Here are a few tips to get you started.

The size of the bulb correlates with the size of the flower. Big bulbs yield big flowers. Look for healthy bulbs with no soft spots or mold. Bulbs prefer full sun and well-drained soil. Plant bulbs in odd-numbered groups—three, five, seven, etc. — with the same colors planted together. Don't delay. Planting now ensures bulbs will be well rooted before the ground freezes. Plant bulbs at a depth of four to five times the bulb's height. Add bone meal and a balanced (10–10–10) fertilizer to the area you excavated before planting. Give the newly planted area a good watering, then add about three inches of mulch to keep bulbs from freezing.

One of the major deterrents to planting more bulbs for this gardener is doing a thorough job of weeding beforehand. Now that we've had some rain to soften the soil, weeding is almost a joy. Did I say that?

Hot tip! Subscribe to OSU Extension's "Growing" magazine. It comes out every two months and features an extensive Gardening Calendar with maintenance chores and planting or propagation suggestions. Inspiration for Taking Root often comes from this publication. Contact Laurie Gibson at 541-248-1088 to request your free subscription. This month, read about planting a fig tree now.

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



GREENBELT LAND TRUST

Preparing Courtney Creek for
a Changing Forest

Greenbelt is taking steps now to prepare a Brownsville-area forest for the expected arrival of emerald ash borer.

By Mikayle Stole, Editor and Publisher

BROWNSVILLE — Just outside Brownsville, 65 acres of Oregon ash form the largest contiguous ash forest managed by Greenbelt Land Trust.

The forest remains standing and healthy, but Greenbelt is preparing for a future in which many of those trees may be gone.

Emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle that kills ash trees, is expected to continue spreading through the Willamette Valley. Rather than wait for it to reach Courtney Creek, Greenbelt plans to diversify the forest so it can continue functioning as ash trees disappear.

"If we do nothing, we expect 100 percent of the ash to die, and the weedy plants already at Courtney Creek will take advantage of the increased resources and take over," Andy Neill, Habitat Biologist for Greenbelt Land Trust, said.

Those invasive species include Himalayan blackberry, reed canarygrass, and English hawthorn. As dead ash fall, controlling those plants would become increasingly difficult.

Greenbelt will treat about 38 acres at Courtney Creek in the first phase of an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board-funded project that extends through 2031. Another 19 acres will be treated at Bald Hill Farm near Corvallis.

The remaining 27 acres at Courtney Creek are expected to be addressed later using lessons learned from the first phase.

The project could also help shape how similar work is handled elsewhere. Greenbelt is working with the Oregon Department of Forestry, which Neill said is using the project as something of a "guinea pig" as it develops guidance for projects expected to become more common as emerald ash borer spreads.

At Courtney Creek, some young ash will be removed to expand wet prairie habitat, while mature ash stands will be thinned and underplanted with other native trees. Invasive plants will also be removed.

Work could begin this fall.

Over the next 10 to 20 years, Greenbelt hopes the result will be expanded wet prairie filled with native wildflowers, grasses, sedges, and rushes, along with a more diverse forest containing Oregon white oak, willows, white alder, black cottonwood, and ponderosa pine.

By then, remaining ash may be showing signs of emerald ash borer, including dead limbs and standing dead trees. But the trees and shrubs being established now should be growing toward maturity, continuing to provide wildlife habitat and shade Courtney Creek for aquatic species.

The ash at Courtney Creek are still standing. For Greenbelt, that's precisely why the time to prepare is now. ☼



Oregon ash surrounds Courtney Creek near Brownsville, where Greenbelt Land Trust plans to treat 38 acres of ash-dominated forest to prepare for the expected arrival of emerald ash borer. The project will diversify the forest with other native trees and shrubs while protecting creek and wildlife habitat.



Camas lilies bloom at Courtney Creek near Brownsville in an area where Oregon ash was previously thinned to maintain wet prairie habitat. Greenbelt Land Trust plans additional thinning and restoration work as it prepares the property for the expected arrival of emerald ash borer.

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The Long Way Up: Reflections on My 10th Promotion in the U.S. Navy

By Travis Weger, Central Linn High School, class of 2001

About three miles into our hike up Pikes Peak, I started wondering why I hadn't picked somewhere with an elevator for my promotion ceremony.

We covered seven miles and 4,500 feet of elevation gain from the trailhead to the 14,115-foot summit, where retired Capt. David Russell was waiting to administer my oath as I became a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy.

Years earlier, when I made E-6, my boss, a Navy captain from the SEAL community, refused to let me hold an office promotion. Instead, he took me to a parachute jump simulator, barked commands as I shuffled toward the door, then slapped on my rank after I landed.

"You're never going to forget this one," he said.

He was right. That experience changed how I thought about military milestones. When promotion number 10 arrived, I wanted to remember exactly where I was, who was with me, and what it took to get there.

My path began at Central Linn High School, where I took every video and storytelling class I could. At 16, my friends and I won the "Joy of Pepsi" video contest, and our commercial aired on MTV, HBO, and VH1. That experience convinced me that storytelling could become a career.

Then I got lost on the way to class and somehow ended up in the Navy.

I enlisted as an E-1 undesignated seaman, became a boatswain's mate, deployed repeatedly, and spent thousands of hours operating small boats. That led to a decade of expeditionary assignments and eventually becoming a chief petty officer.

But storytelling never left me. After transferring to the Navy Reserve to finish college, I began volunteering with public affairs units. I applied to commission as a public affairs officer, one of the Navy's smallest and most competitive officer communities.

Six months later, I learned I was one of four people nationwide selected that year.

By the final mile up Pikes Peak, the elevation was catching up with me. My wife, Sharnay, had hiked every step beside me. Our sons, Anders and Grayson, were waiting at the summit with family and friends who had driven to the top.



Friends and family join newly promoted Lt. Cmdr. Travis Weger, center, following his promotion ceremony atop Pikes Peak near Colorado Springs, Colorado.



Lt. Cmdr. Travis Weger, left, takes the oath of office from retired Capt. David Russell during Weger's promotion ceremony at the summit of Pikes Peak near Colorado Springs, Colorado. Pikes Peak, also called America's Mountain, inspired the line "purple mountain majesties" for the song America the Beautiful.

In front of the "America the Beautiful" sign, Russell administered the oath, and retired Chief Petty Officer Allister Healey, my sponsor from years earlier when I became a chief, rendered my first salute as a lieutenant commander.

For a few seconds, 23 years collapsed into one moment: from junior sailor to chief, to officer, to lieutenant commander, standing on the peak of America's Mountain with my family around me.

Even now, I am writing this from abroad, thousands of miles away, while on military orders. Distance from home has a funny way of bringing back memories.

There was never a day when I decided I would do this for 20 or 30 years. You make the next rank, take the next assignment, and deploy again. Then one day you look back down the mountain and realize how far you've traveled. Not because you knew exactly where you were going, you just kept moving because you knew you weren't quite done yet. ☺

PHOTOS COURTESY TRAVIS WEGER



Travis Weger and his wife, Sharnay Brown, stand atop Pikes Peak after hiking more than seven miles to the 14,115-foot summit for Weger's promotion ceremony.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Local News Doesn't Just Happen

By Mikayle Stole, Editor and Publisher

I've been thinking a lot about newspapers lately. That may sound strange coming from someone who spends most of her waking hours producing one, but the past couple of months have brought one reminder after another of how fragile local journalism has become. In July, Penny Rosenberg abruptly left her position as editor of the Lee Enterprises-owned Albany Democrat-Herald and Corvallis Gazette-Times. In August, independently owned The Chronicle printed its final edition after 117 years of covering Lane County communities. Days later, the nonprofit Highway 58 Herald announced it, too, would close for financial reasons.

And now Chris Pietsch is leaving Eugene's Register-Guard after 38 years at the newspaper. Pietsch described his departure on Facebook as a "forced retirement," but what struck me about his post wasn't his account of losing his job. Instead, he named the reporters, photographers, and editors still working at The Register-Guard and asked the community to support them. He also highlighted an uncomfortable contradiction: People lament the decline of newspapers while sometimes acknowledging they haven't subscribed to one in years. "Connect the dots people," he wrote.

It would be easy to blame what is happening solely on large newspaper companies. The Register-Guard is owned by Gannett, while the Democrat-Herald and Gazette-Times are owned by Lee Enterprises. But that doesn't explain The Chronicle or Highway 58 Herald. One was independently owned, and the other was a nonprofit. Both are gone. Meanwhile, Eugene Weekly offers a different example. After an embezzlement crisis nearly shut it down in 2023, readers, advertisers, and supporters rallied to help bring it back. Different ownership models. Different circumstances. The same fundamental question: How do we keep local journalism alive?

It's a question I understand much better since we brought The Times back last year. The Times is a nonprofit, and I am its only paid employee. I coordinate our writers and copy editors, review and edit every story, and handle all layout and production. I design our ads and marketing materials, manage the website and social media, and maintain our subscriber list with Sharon Banks, who also handles subscription billing. But I don't do it alone. Our volunteer writers, photographers, and copy editors fill these pages. Jeff Brown manages advertising, Don Lyon oversees Brownsville distribution, and Sharon delivers papers each week to post offices and retail outlets throughout our coverage area. Our newspaper is printed at Eagle Web Press in Salem, and even the newsprint is shipped here from Washington.

Before this newspaper reaches your kitchen table, someone has to report, photograph, and edit the stories. Someone has to sell and design the advertising, lay out every page, print the paper, and deliver it. And someone has to pay for all of that. Advertising matters. Subscriptions matter. Donations matter. Volunteers matter. When a local news organization disappears, there is one fewer person sitting through the city council meeting, one fewer photographer on the sidelines, and one fewer reporter asking questions. Eventually, stories stop being told.

Local news doesn't just happen. Someone has to show up. ☺

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.crawfordsvilleecc.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://harvestrbcb.org>
Sunday School 9 a.m. • Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Fellowship Meal noon

Spirit of the Valley United Methodist Church
611 W 3rd St • 541-369-2322
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

OBITUARY

Susan Louise Bunce
October 7, 1952– September 11, 2026

Susan Louise Bunce, 73, of New Plymouth, Idaho, passed away on Friday, September 11, after an 18-month battle with cancer.

A celebration of Susan’s life will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 27, at Sunnyside Farm, 1526 Sunnyside Rd., Weiser, ID.

Susan was born on October 7, 1952, in Lebanon, Oregon. She often reminded us that she was born in the local library because the Lebanon hospital was closed for construction. She grew up in Brownsville, Oregon, with her parents, Richard and Doris Voight, and her five siblings: four sisters — Nancy, Linda, Janie, and Joanie — and one brother, Jim. After graduating from Central Linn High School in 1970, she attended Linfield University in McMinnville, Oregon, for one year to study design.

Susan married Edward Bunce of Halsey, Oregon, on July 13, 1973. They remained married for more than 30 years.

During the early years of her marriage, Susan cared for and raised their four children: Tracy, Kristie, Toby, and Tim. She sewed many of their clothes when they were young and later entered all four in a fashion show wearing coordinated sailor-themed outfits.

In 1985, Susan fulfilled a dream by opening her own interior design shop, Basic Design and Draperies, in downtown New Plymouth. She had an exceptional talent for design, working with fabric, and creating beautiful custom draperies and bedspreads. After her children were grown and she scaled back the business, she closed the storefront but continued serving many longtime clients and their families from her home office.

Susan loved her home and the New Plymouth community, where she lived for more than 48 years. She enjoyed hosting her book club, attending church, and taking part in as many family gatherings and children’s sporting events as possible.

Susan is survived by her children, Tracy Bunce-Johnson, Kristie Bunce-Wilson, Toby Bunce, and Tim Bunce; her grandchildren, Jessica Rimestad, Nicole Morin, Bailey Johnson, Aaron Johnson, Abbianne Wilson, Marcus Wilson, Peyton Wilson, Tyler Bunce, Hannah Trappett, Garrett Bunce, and Blake Bunce; and four great-grandchildren. ☼



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MOUNTAINTOP REFLECTIONS

Surrender to Satisfaction:
Kingdom-first Principles

By Jacquie Hoekstra, Columnist and Staff Writer

Joshua and Israel learned at Jericho how obedience brought walls down and delivered victory. At Ai, they learned the importance of complete obedience and how one person’s sin can affect the whole assembly. They learned the value of seeking God first in all things and being consecrated to Him. They were certainly getting the hang of walking with God as they pursued the Promised Land, yet the Gibeonites would teach them another valuable lesson. (Joshua 6-8)

The men of Gibeon came to them as though they had come from a far-away country and sought a treaty. Joshua and Israel believed them because “they did not ask counsel of the Lord” (Joshua 9:14b NKJV). According to Moses’ Law, they were not to make treaties with the peoples of the land. They made the treaty with the Gibeonites, then discovered their mistake. (Joshua 9)

These men assumed their own understanding could keep them from being fooled. It is a human condition called pride. We submit to God in so many things and ways and experience victories. Then our flesh rises, we become self-reliant, and the lie enters. We believe our maturity in Christ invokes God’s blessings, forgetting intimacy, surrender, and obedience. (Matthew 6:33)

The Book of Revelation, written by the Apostle John, records Jesus speaking to seven churches. To the Laodicean church, he said, “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of my mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing,’ and don’t know that you are the wretched one, miserable, poor, blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:15-17 WEB).

No matter how long we walk with Jesus. No matter how many victories and miracles we experience, or how often we experience His wonderful presence with us. We must never forget our desperate need for Him. We are not worthy of the grace and mercy we have been given, and we can never earn our position in Christ. Our best and reasonable response is to become a living sacrifice, surrendered servant. (Romans 12:1)

We are not called to appointments because we are special or more suited than others. He positions us to mold us into His image. He is the author and finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) We must walk by faith, not by assumption. Faith relies on God; assumption relies on our own understanding, ability, and experience. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

The good news is God continues to teach us lessons because He is kind and faithful. He understands human frailty, and He knows we are transforming into Christlikeness. We must be humble, admit when we fail, and remain teachable. Remember, we all stand on equal ground at the foot of the cross with equal access and possibilities. Remember, “seek first God’s Kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33 WEB). ☼

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AMERICAN LEGION POST 184

Dry Docks to Coffee Shops

By an ordinary seaman

Snuggled up warm in my rack on a damp Oregon morning, listening to steady rain beat against the window glass, my mind took an unprompted detour. Out of nowhere, a memory popped up of my younger self walking the midwatch alongside a drydock at the Boston Navy Yard, officially known as the Charlestown Navy Yard. A bitter wind and a light snow were chilling my bones, and the Captain's earnest hope was that my pacing would keep returning New Year's revelers from pitching sideways into the 500-foot-long, 30-foot-deep abyss of Dry Dock 1.

Now, I'm just an old salt with a penchant for lingering over old thoughts, but you have to wonder where all those sprawling industrial giants went. In my Navy days, I got to walk three of the great ones: Charlestown with its shivering watches, the massive Bayonne Supply Depot guarding the mouth of New York Harbor, and the storied Philadelphia Navy Yard, the famous site of the classic Army-Navy game.



STEEL GIANTS: The destroyer escorts USS Vandivier (left) and USS Wagner (right) near completion at the Boston Navy Yard in 1955. Today, these historic dry docks host national park tourists rather than active naval construction. Photo Credit: Boston National Historical Park, BOSTS 14588-1601

If you visit those places today, you won't hear the deafening roar of American steel being hammered into ocean-going giants. Charlestown is a lovely national park where tourists stroll past historic brick buildings. Bayonne turned into a bustling cruise terminal and logistics hub. Philadelphia has transformed its old machine shops into corporate headquarters for retail clothing and biomedical labs.

It seems, as a nation, we simply packed up our rivet guns, walked away from commercial shipbuilding, and handed over 90 percent of the world's market to overseas yards. Today, the U.S. produces less than 0.1 percent of global commercial ships. We turned our industrial muscle into luxury apartments and urban business parks.

Call me a crusty traditionalist, but back in 1890, Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan wrote his world-famous book, "The Influence of Sea Power Upon History." His basic point was simple: a nation's strength and prosperity are tied directly to its capacity to build, maintain, and sail ships upon the high seas.

Walking away from that manufacturing power feels a bit like a farm town deciding to sell off all its tractors and hope someone else harvests the crops. We might enjoy the quiet, but when a storm brews on the horizon, you suddenly realize how nice it was to know how to build your own fleet. ☼

Blue Notes Join Linn County in 9/11 Remembrance

ALBANY — Central Linn's Blue Notes helped Linn County commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks during a Patriot Day ceremony Sept. 11 at the Linn County Courthouse.

The Central Linn choir performed the national anthem as part of a remembrance that honored those killed in the attacks, survivors, and first responders.



Central Linn Blue Notes perform the national anthem during Linn County's Patriot Day commemoration Sept. 11 at the Linn County Courthouse in Albany. The ceremony marked the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.



Memorial wreaths rest beneath an American flag suspended from a fire department ladder during Linn County's Sept. 11 Patriot Day commemoration in Albany.

PHOTOS: ALEX PAUL

The ceremony began at 8:46 a.m., the time the first hijacked plane struck the World Trade Center's North Tower 25 years earlier.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Color Guard presented the colors, and the Willamette Valley Pipes & Drums performed "The Fallen" as memorial wreaths were laid.

The wreaths represented the 351 firefighters and emergency medical personnel, 69 police officers, 55 military personnel, and 2,499 civilians who died, along with survivors.

Guest speakers included Lt. Cassie Sousa of the Oregon State Police Albany Area Command and Albany Fire Chief Chris LaBelle.

The ceremony concluded with "Amazing Grace" performed by the Willamette Valley Pipes & Drums, final honors sounded by a fire engine, a rifle salute by Linn County veterans, and taps.

An American flag suspended high above the courthouse area from a fire department ladder provided a backdrop as the community gathered to remember the lives lost and sacrifices made on Sept. 11. ☼

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OREGON NICE

A weekly smile from Dean B. Kaner

The cucumber was mad because it was in a pickle.

Pure Energy Builds Award-Winning Solar Business in Albany

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

ALBANY — Pure Energy began in Jefferson in February 2021 and has since grown into an award-winning solar installation company serving homeowners across the Willamette Valley.

The company has completed more than 1,100 solar projects and continues to receive recognition for its work.

Pure Energy was named a Best of 2026 Business by Benchmark and has received multiple honors in the Best of the Willamette Valley awards. The company earned a Gold Award in 2024 and Silver Awards in 2025 and 2026.

The recognition comes as the solar industry continues to adapt to changes in incentives, costs, and consumer demand.

Miles Henderson said one of the most significant recent changes has been the loss of the federal solar tax credit, which has affected sales across the industry.

“We definitely have seen some change in the sales department due to the loss of the federal tax credit,” Henderson said. “However, this affected more national companies than local businesses.”

Despite changes to federal incentives, Pure Energy says solar remains an attractive investment for many Oregon homeowners.

An abundance of solar panels on the market has helped keep equipment prices relatively stable, while increased incentives from Energy Trust of Oregon have helped offset some of the loss of federal support.

According to Pure Energy, those factors enable many homeowners to achieve an estimated six-

to seven-year return on their solar investment.

For homeowners concerned about rising utility costs, solar can also help reduce long-term electricity expenses and lessen the impact of future rate increases.

Pure Energy’s three consecutive Best of the Willamette Valley honors, including one gold and two silver awards, reflect the reputation the company has built with customers throughout the region.

As the solar industry continues to evolve, Pure Energy plans to remain focused on helping homeowners determine whether solar makes financial sense for their properties and to continue growing its presence in Albany. ☼

PHOTOS COURTESY PURE ENERGY GROUP



Pure Energy's new Albany facility takes shape as the solar installation company expands its presence in the Willamette Valley.



Exterior lights illuminate Pure Energy's new Albany facility as construction nears completion.

Stutsman Earns Hybrid Real Estate Sales Awards

Local Realtor recognized for 2025 sales performance

Local real estate agent Jenna Stutsman was recently recognized by Hybrid Real Estate for her 2025 sales performance, earning both a President's Club award and Gold-level recognition.

The awards are based on annual sales volume. Stutsman said the recognition was especially meaningful because 2025 brought significant challenges in her personal life, yet she continued working with buyers and sellers.

For roughly half the year, Stutsman underwent IVF treatments, which involved frequent appointments and procedures. During the second half of the year, she was pregnant.

Despite those demands — and a slower real estate market — Stutsman said she sold more homes in 2025 than in any prior year of her career.

“It’s not often I feel proud of myself,” Stutsman wrote in announcing the awards. “I am my worst critic, and I tend to dwell on the imperfections.”

However, this time she said she is allowing herself to celebrate the accomplishment.

Stutsman also credited her clients and community referrals for helping her reach the milestone.

“I am so grateful for your trust in me,” she wrote. “Thank you for referring your friends and family to me. It’s an honor, and I will never take it for granted.” ☼



Jenna Stutsman, right, receives recognition at Hybrid Real Estate's 2025 awards celebration. Stutsman earned a Presidents Club award and Gold-level recognition for her sales performance.

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NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

After the Smoke Cleared

By Jeff Brown, Staff Writer and Columnist

Last week, Mark learned how quickly a power outage can render the technology we depend on less useful. This week, our final fictional story for National Preparedness Month looks beyond the emergency itself — to one simple task that can make recovery much easier.

Preparing for an emergency usually means planning for what happens before or during an evacuation. But for many families, what happens afterward can be just as challenging, especially when important records are missing.

David discovered this after returning home from an evacuation. He isn't a real person, but his experience mirrors situations insurance agents encounter every year. His home had survived, and he was grateful. As he began checking for damage, his insurance company asked a question he hadn't expected: "Do you have photographs or an inventory of your belongings?"

David assumed he could remember everything he owned until he tried. Large items were easy enough, but the contents of closets, kitchen cabinets, the garage, and the workshop quickly became harder to recall. Tools collected over many years, small appliances, electronics, family keepsakes, and other valuables blended together in his memory.

He realized that documenting his belongings after an emergency was far more difficult than doing it beforehand.

The following weekend, David spent less than two hours walking through his home with his cellphone, photographing each room, valuable possessions, and serial numbers where appropriate. He saved copies of the images in cloud storage and on a flash drive kept away from the house, along with digital copies of important documents.

It wasn't a complicated project, but it gave him confidence that he would have the information close at hand if he ever needed to file an insurance claim.

Preparedness doesn't end when an evacuation order is lifted. Recovery from an emergency often depends on records created long before a disaster strikes. Consider taking a little time to photograph your home, organize important documents, and create a simple household inventory. It's one of the easiest preparedness projects you can complete — and one you hope you never need to use.

National Preparedness Month may be coming to a close, but preparedness isn't something we do only once a year. A few small steps today can save hours of frustration — and perhaps much more — if tomorrow doesn't go as planned. 🌀

Oregon Lifeline Offers Discounts on Phone, Internet Service

Oregonians who qualify for certain public assistance programs may be able to save on their monthly phone or internet bills through Oregon Lifeline.

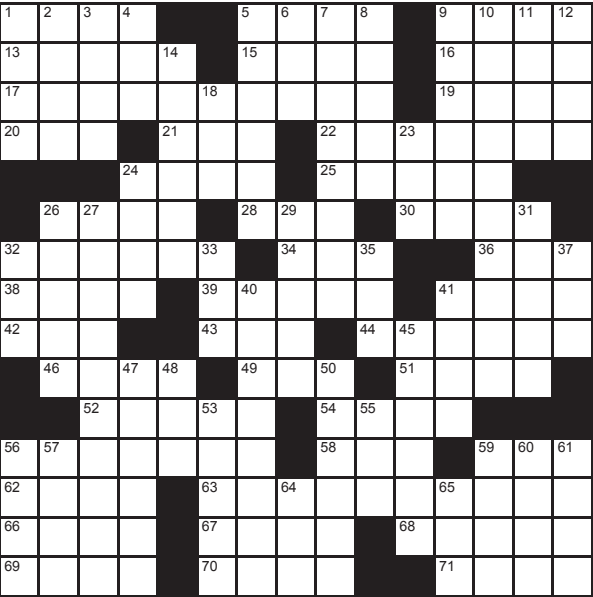
The federal and state program provides qualifying low-income households with discounts of up to \$20.25 per month on phone service or up to \$24.25 per month on high-speed internet service through participating providers. Free wireless voice minutes and data are also available through Access Wireless where coverage is available.

Residents of federally recognized Tribal lands may qualify for an additional \$25 monthly discount.

Eligibility includes participation in certain public assistance programs, such as Medicaid or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as SNAP. The Lifeline benefit is limited to one per household and may be used for either discounted or free service.

To learn more, check eligibility, find participating providers, or apply, visit online at <https://lifeline.oregon.gov>. Assistance is also available by calling Oregon Lifeline weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 800-848-4442. 🌀

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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- ACROSS**

 - 1 Coral ridge
 - 5 Faction
 - 9 Bullets, e.g.
 - 13 Before
 - 15 Balm ingredient
 - 16 Utah national park
 - 17 Profit or loss, e.g.
 - 19 Land measure
 - 20 Compass point
 - 21 Is no longer
 - 22 Prowler
 - 24 Carotene beginner
 - 25 Trio
 - 26 Biz VIP (Abbr.)
 - 28 Lady's man
 - 30 Hall of Fame's Willie
 - 32 Weather conditions
 - 34 Bubble source
 - 36 Away's partner
 - 38 Garish
 - 39 British ____
 - 41 Supreme Court count
 - 42 Commercials
 - 43 "The Matrix" hero
 - 44 Shells out
 - 46 Ancient colonnade
- DOWN**

 - 49 Extinct flightless bird
 - 51 Possesses
 - 52 Ouzo flavoring
 - 54 Civil wrong
 - 56 Gas clouds in space
 - 58 Pillbox, e.g.
 - 59 Health resort
 - 62 God of love
 - 63 Vocalizations
 - 66 Chill
 - 67 Advertising sign
 - 68 Minimal
 - 69 Little ones
 - 70 Field of study
 - 71 Venezuela copper center
- 12 Humdinger
 - 14 Most inferior
 - 18 "Welcome" site
 - 23 Branch
 - 24 Curve
 - 26 Moves along
 - 27 Stevedore
 - 29 Ice house
 - 31 ____ of time
 - 32 Okeechobee's state (Abbr.)
 - 33 Go astray
 - 35 Editor's pile, for short
 - 37 ____ gestae
 - 40 Academic term
 - 41 Colorful salamander
 - 45 Entrance
 - 47 Burdens
 - 48 Suffer
 - 50 Acropolis figure
 - 53 Hot spot
 - 55 Propel, in a way
 - 56 Orderly
 - 57 Hence
 - 59 Stigma
 - 60 Baja bread
 - 61 Nick and Nora's pooch
 - 64 Foot part
 - 65 School org.

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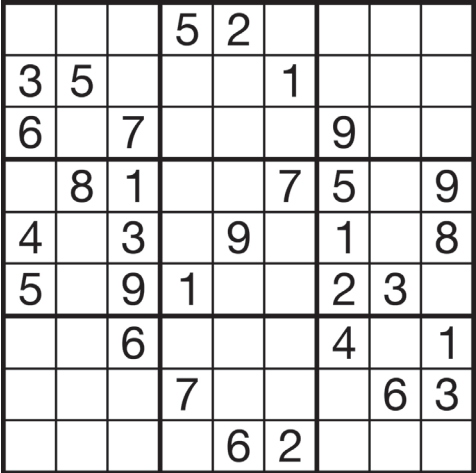
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- FAEL
- LYILCH
- Boxed letters jumble:

PUZZLE Solutions on page 19

SHERIFF'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 11-18

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. 11, 9:57 a.m. — Deputies spoke with a concerned resident about a person taking photos of neighboring houses in the 800 block of Stonebrook St.

8:48 p.m. — Deputy took a report of possible child neglect in the 500 block of Kay Ave. ODHS was contacted. Report taken.

Sat., Sept. 12, 10:03 a.m. — Caller reported a suicidal subject in the 100 block of Galbraith St. A female was transported to Lebanon Community Hospital for a mental health evaluation. Report taken.

Sun., Sept. 13, 5:16 p.m. — Deputy responded to an intoxicated male in the parking lot of Dari Market on Main St. Friends and family members arrived to assist the male in returning home.

Tue., Sept. 15, 8:12 p.m. — Deputy responded to a motor vehicle crash with unknown injuries in the 27900 block of Seven Mile Ln. Deputy found that a car had missed a driveway at a slow speed and pulled into a ditch. No injuries or property damage. Information logged.

9:44 p.m. — Deputy contacted males sleeping at Pioneer Park. They were warned about a municipal violation and moved along. Non-criminal.

Wed., Sept. 16, 3:04 p.m.

— Charas Blanco, 53, of Sweet Home, was arrested on outstanding warrants in the 36200 block of Courtney Creek Dr. Report taken.

Thu., Sept. 17, 3:42 p.m. — Daniel Mast, 38, of Brownsville, was cited for speeding in the 35000 block of Forry Dr., near Brownsville Rd.

4:41 p.m. — Deputy documented information regarding a trespass in the 400 block of N Main St.

9:53 p.m. — Adolfo Duarte Jr., 46, of Brownsville, was cited for speeding 72 in a 55-mph zone, driving uninsured, and driving while suspended in the 200 block of W Bishop Way.

Fri., Sept. 18, 1:13 a.m. — Caylia McDaniel, 31, of Sweet Home, was cited for speeding, driving while suspended, and failing to carry proof of insurance in the 700 block of W Bishop Way.

4:21 a.m. — Deputies responded to a single-vehicle, injury-related crash in the 34200 block of Harrison Rd., near Manning Rd. The driver was transported to Lebanon Community Hospital with minor injuries.

10:02 p.m. — Deputy checked the 100 block of W Cooley Ave for a suspicious vehicle repeatedly driving through the area. The vehicle had left before the deputy's arrival. Information logged.

BRUSH CREEK

Tue., Sept. 15, 10:25 a.m. — Deputy transported a stray dog found in the 25700 block of Brush Creek Rd. to Linn County Animal Control.

Wed., Sept. 16, 11:25 a.m. — Deputy assisted BLM law enforcement in a criminal mischief/theft investigation in the 23000 block of Brush Creek Rd.

CRAWFORDSVILLE/HOLLEY

Fri., Sept. 11, 7:55 p.m. — A deputy checked on a person observed sitting in the dark in the 40300 block of Crawfordsville Dr.

Mon., Sept. 14, 5:07 a.m. — Autumn Dziedzic, 28, of Sweet Home, was cited for speeding in the 38300 block of Hwy 228.

CRABTREE

Sun., Sept. 13, 7:23 p.m. — Gerzahn Gaspar, 40, of Albany, was cited for speeding 81 in a 55-mph zone in the 37200 block of Hwy 226 near Crabtree Dr.

Tue., Sept. 15, 5:18 p.m. — Deputy came upon a crash in the 37100 block of

Hwy 226. OSP took over the investigation.

DRAPERVILLE

Sat., Sept. 12, 9:21 a.m. — Lorie Hamm, 50, of Albany, was arrested for Assault II, contempt of court, and unlawful possession of methamphetamine in the 400 block of Scravel Hill Rd. Report taken.

10:02 a.m. — William Hamm, 43, of Albany, was cited on a warrant in the 400 block of Scravel Hill Rd. Report taken.

Wed., Sept. 16, 8:06 p.m. — Aaron Keith Windish, 29, of Albany, was cited for speeding 71 in a 45-mph zone in the 37000 block of Scravel Hill Rd.

FAIRVIEW

Fri., Sept. 11, 12:44 p.m. — Cole Kingsberry, 34, of Lebanon, was cited for speeding 94 in a 55-mph zone in the 34900 block of Spicer Dr.

6:39 p.m. — Deputy documented information regarding a civil dispute between parents in the 35100 block of Goltra Rd. Non-criminal.

Sat., Sept. 12, 8:47 a.m. — Cody Williams, 26, of Lebanon, was cited for speeding 130 in a 55-mph zone in the 34900 block of Spicer Dr.

2:33 p.m. — Brooklyn Olivia Taylor, 21, of Lebanon, was arrested for driving while suspended, at a misdemeanor level, in the 33800 block of Goltra Rd. Taylor was also lodged at the Linn County Jail. Report taken.

HALSEY

Fri., Sept. 11, 8:29 a.m. — Kyle Fischer, 34, of Harrisburg, was cited for driving uninsured in the 000 block of W 2nd St. and American Dr.

5:21 p.m. — Deputies attended the City of Halsey BBQ and Movie Night at Halsey Memorial Park.

Sat., Sept. 12, 3:46 p.m. — Blake Schwab, 49, of Eugene, was cited for speeding 21-30 mph over the posted limit and for failing to use an ignition interlock device in the 25400 block of Hwy 99E.

Sun., Sept. 13, 1:18 p.m. — Devon Wright, 33, of Junction City, was cited for driving uninsured, failing to install an ignition interlock device, and driving while suspended in the 32400 block of Hwy 228.

Tue., Sept. 15, 11:52 a.m. — Deputies contacted a male and a female and trespassed them from the property in

the 33100 block of Hwy 228.

Wed., Sept. 16, 1:06 p.m. — Deputies conducted a welfare check in the 100 block of W E St. Domestic investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Thu., Sept. 17, 12:09 p.m. — Deputy received a report that a juvenile made a threat of harm to others in the 32400 block of Hwy 228. The juvenile was taken to the hospital under a police officer's mental health hold. Report taken.

Fri., Sept. 18, 7:16 p.m. — Deputy responded to a non-injury related crash and found a driver had crashed into a parked vehicle at Central Linn High School. Non-criminal. Report taken.

HARRISBURG

Fri., Sept. 11, 1:40 p.m. — Deputies investigated a reported juvenile assault in the 800 block of Sommerville Loop. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

6:11 p.m. — Deputies attended Eagle Mania and the football game at Harrisburg High School.

6:39 p.m. — Deputy conducted a traffic stop and cited Summer Hawkins, 44, of Eugene, for using a cell phone while driving in the 700 block of LaSalle St.

Sat., Sept. 12, 12:19 a.m. — Deputy took a report of a backpack containing a stolen firearm in the 200 block of Smith St. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

7:40 p.m. — Alysha Postle, 32, of Harrisburg, was cited for driving while suspended in the 500 block of Territorial St.

Tue., Sept. 15, 1:31 a.m. — Deputy arrested James Edward Walters, 55, of Eugene, for luring a minor, online sexual corruption of a child in the first degree, and attempted delivery of fentanyl in the 400 block of LaSalle St. Walters was transported to and lodged in the Linn County Jail.

4:41 p.m. — Craig Holcomb, 51, of Albany, was cited for driving while suspended in the 300 block of N 3rd St.

Wed., Sept. 16, 9:04 a.m. — Gavin Lensink, 29, of Springfield, was cited for failing to stop at a stop sign in the 800 block of S 6th St.

Thu., Sept. 17, 1:24 p.m. — Deputy responded to a fight between Harrisburg High School students in the 400 block of S. 9th St.

Fri., Sept. 18, 3:03 p.m. — Mario Borre, 78, of

Harrisburg, was cited for driving while suspended in the 200 block of N 3rd St.

3:24 p.m. — Deputy responded to a motor vehicle crash in the 300 block of N 3rd St. with minor injuries. Report taken.

JEFFERSON

Thu., Sept. 17, 4:25 p.m. — Deputy assisted OSP at a crash in the 39100 block of Hwy 99E.

PEORIA/OAKVILLE

Sat., Sept. 12, 10:56 p.m. — Deputies responded to a non-injury motor vehicle collision in which a vehicle had driven into a ditch in the 29100 block of Peoria Rd. No property damage was reported.

Wed., Sept. 16, 7:38 a.m. — Gary Powell, 60, of Eugene, was cited for speeding in the 28300 block of Peoria Rd.

Thu., Sept. 17, 5:53 a.m. — Francisco Robles, 32, of Monmouth, was cited for speeding in the 30500 block of Peoria Rd. near Brattain Dr.

SCIO

Fri., Sept. 11, 10:03 a.m. — Deputy responded to a fraud call in the 40900 block of Hwy 226. The victim was defrauded of approximately \$2,550 through a phone scam. Report taken.

12:56 p.m. — Citizens became victims of an elaborate scam in the 38600 block of SW Elderberry St., losing a substantial amount of money. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

5:16 p.m. — A deputy took a trespass report involving a male on an ex's property in the 40500 block of Hwy 226. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Sat., Sept. 12, 3:12 p.m. — Caller reported that suspects were attempting to damage their driveway with a vehicle in the 40400 block of Oupor Dr. Report taken.

Sun., Sept. 13, 7:03 p.m. — Deputy assisted OSP with a vehicle that suspiciously ended up in the river in the 42800 block of Hwy 226 near Jordan Rd.

Tue., Sept. 15, 7:30 a.m. — Deputy responded to verbal threats at Scio Middle School. The deputy interviewed multiple students, investigated the threat, and determined there was no immediate threat to the school. The verbal threat occurred approximately two weeks earlier and had gone unreported. A report was taken and will be forward-

SHERIFF'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 11-18

ed to the Linn County Juvenile Department for review.

Wed., Sept. 16, 8:15 a.m. — Nick Louis Begrin, 46, of Sweet Home, was contacted and arrested for Criminal Mistreatment I in the 40000 block of Fish Hatchery Dr., near Richardson Gap Rd. Report taken.

11:57 a.m. — Deputy responded to a report of online fraud in the 38100 block of Franklin Butte Rd. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Thu., Sept. 17, 3:29 p.m. — Devin Nelson Manasco, 36, of Aumsville, was cited for driving while suspended and uninsured in the 38700 block of N Main St.

Fri., Sept. 18, 2:56 p.m. — A semi-truck and trailer went into a ditch in the 37900 block of Hwy 226. The truck was removed from the ditch upon deputies' arrival. Information was documented.

SHEDD

Wed., Sept. 16, 12:43 p.m. — Deputy arrested Erin Hoover, 42, of Albany, for a probation violation in the 32700 block of Boston Mill Dr. Hoover was lodged at the Linn County Jail. Report taken.

TANGENT

Sun., Sept. 13, 7:43 p.m. — Domonic Rodriguez, 21, of Tangent, was arrested for Assault IV Domestic in the 31800 block of Forsythia Ln. Rodriguez was lodged at the Linn County Jail. Report taken.

Tue., Sept. 15, 7:46 a.m. — Deputy assisted OSP at a motor vehicle crash in the 32200 block of Hwy 99E near Driver Rd.

Fri., Sept. 18, 4:14 p.m. — Deputy took a report of ongoing truck meets in the 32100 block of Hooska Ave. Caller states they are damaging property and leaving trash and would like them spoken to. ☼

Driver Injured After Vehicle Leaves Highway 228, Strikes Tree at Wheeler Farm

BROWNSVILLE — A driver was injured Saturday morning, Sept. 19, after his vehicle left Highway 228 near Brownsville, knocked down a row of fence posts, and struck a large magnolia tree at Wheeler Farm.

Denton Gruzensky, the property owner's son, photographed the aftermath of the crash and said the driver told him he had fallen asleep at the wheel.

The vehicle left the highway, entered the Wheeler Farm property, knocked down fence posts, and scattered debris across the yard before striking the old-growth magnolia tree.

The Wheeler family said the stretch of Highway 228 near the property has been the site of repeated crashes. A blind curve approaching from the east has seen crashes about every six months, according to the family.

Saturday's crash involved a vehicle approaching from the opposite direction.

The collision caused significant damage to the fence line and the magnolia tree. Photos taken by Gruzensky show the vehicle's path across the property and fence posts scattered throughout the yard.

The driver's statement that he fell asleep at the



A pickup rests against a large magnolia tree at Wheeler Farm after leaving Highway 228 near Brownsville on Saturday, Sept. 19. The crash damaged the tree and knocked down fence posts as the vehicle crossed the property.

wheel was relayed directly to Gruzensky. An official law enforcement determination of the cause of the crash was not immediately available. ☼

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The Central Linn School Board is accepting applications to fill a recent vacancy on the school board.

A person eligible to serve on the Board must be a qualified voter of the district and a resident within the district for the last year. Applications may be found on the district's website at <https://www.centrallinn.k12.or.us/district/board> or at the district office, 32433 Hwy 228, Halsey. Candidates will be interviewed by the Board during a public school board meeting. For first consideration please apply by Oct. 4, 2026.

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The Times accepts legal notices and public notices for publication.

Rates are \$14 per column inch (columns shown in this issue are 2 columns wide).

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THE TIMES

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PUZZLE KEY

Puzzles on page 17

REEF	SECT	AMMO	8	9	4	5	2	6	3	1	7
UNTIL	ALOE	ZION	3	5	2	9	7	1	6	8	4
BOTTOM	LINE	ACRE	6	1	7	4	8	3	9	5	2
ESE	WAS	STALKER	2	8	1	6	3	7	5	4	9
BETA	THREE		4	6	3	2	9	5	1	7	8
PRES	SIR	MAYS	5	7	9	1	4	8	2	3	6
FRONTS	GUM	FAR	7	3	6	8	5	9	4	2	1
LOUD	ISLES	NINE	9	2	5	7	1	4	8	6	3
ADS	NEO	SPENDS	1	4	8	3	6	2	7	9	5
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A HOUSE ON WASHBURN STREET

175 Years of Brownsville History

Part 5 of 5: The House in Living Memory

By Sharon K. Banks, Staff Writer and Columnist

BROWNSVILLE — Over the past four installments, this series has traced the house at 189 Washburn St. through pioneer families, ministers, teachers, sheriffs, storekeepers, and generations of Brownsville residents. This week, the story concludes as the house moves from recorded history into living memory.

Rex Don Ottinger and Edna Lauree “Laurie” Jenkins Ottinger owned the home and often lived there. Rex was born Jan. 1, 1911, in Idaho, and Laurie was born Jan. 17, 1906, in Tennessee. They married Nov. 16, 1934, in San Antonio, Texas. Rex died in Linn County in 1975, and Laurie died in Buna, Texas, in 1995.

On April 11, 1972, the Ottingers sold the house to Glen P. "Doug" Lankford for \$7,500.

Doug Lankford was born Jan. 7, 1919, in Clay City, Indiana. His wife, Flora Ellen Bolman Lankford, was born Feb. 29, 1920, in Champaign, Illinois. Doug added Flora to the deed in 1985. He died April 15, 1992, in Brownsville, and Flora continued to live in the house until her death on May 27, 2003.

The Lankford years remain part of neighborhood memory. Becky Lankford grew up in the house and later lived across the street with her



Misty Triplett, left, with Andrew Hunt and Elizabeth Lytle. The three moved into the Washburn Street house in November 2015 and purchased it in February 2016. Triplett died at the home on June 16, 2018.

husband, Bill Milligan, at 179 Washburn St.

After Flora's death, James L. Henderson and Darlene M. Hobson purchased the property from her estate on Oct. 6, 2003, for \$100,100. Henderson lived in California, and Hobson in Oregon. During their ownership, the house was rented to various tenants.

A new chapter began in 2015, when Misty Triplett, Andrew Hunt, and Elizabeth Lytle first saw the house in April. After complications in the sale process, they placed bids in April and again in August. They moved into the house in November 2015 and closed on the property in February 2016, purchasing it for \$183,500.



The house at 189 Washburn St. in 2014, when it was owned by James L. Henderson and Darlene M. Hobson and used as a rental property.

Today, 189 Washburn St. stands as more than an old Brownsville home. It is a witness to donation land claims and to pioneer families, ministers, teachers, sheriffs, widows, renters, children, and caretakers.



The home at 189 Washburn St. in 2024. Misty Triplett, Andrew Hunt, and Elizabeth Lytle first saw the house in 2015, moved in that November, and purchased it in February 2016.

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A photograph of the Carlson Hardware & Lumber Yard building. It is a two-story brick structure with white trim. The second story features a large arched window with a decorative frame and a balcony with a white railing. The first story has large display windows and a sign that reads "CARLSON'S". The building is surrounded by a parking lot with some vehicles and landscaping.