



Linn County is losing two seasoned employees to retirement. Roadmaster Wayne Mink retired at the end of May after more than 25 years with the county, but is staying on board until his successor is found. Board of Commission-



ers Senior Administrative Assistant Marsha Meyer is going to retire at the end of June after 27 years of service with Linn County. Both say they have greatly enjoyed their careers and the people with whom they have worked.

## Thank you Wayne Mink and Marsha Meyer!

### Wayne is looking forward to traveling

By Alex Paul  
Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Wayne Mink worked for the Linn County Road Department for more than 25 years — the last five as Roadmaster — running a department with 68 fulltime employees and a \$51 million budget.

Although he officially retired at the end of May, he is working until his successor is found.

By any measure, it has been a rewarding career, but not one Mink ever dreamed of while growing up on a farm near Twin Falls, Idaho.

In fact, had the city not grown so much and surrounded the family farm, Mink, 67, likely would have spent a lot more time driving a tractor than working on bridges and roads. He had planned to grow beans, wheat and corn, just like his father.

But Mink isn't complaining and says his career has been fulfilling. At each step along the way, he has learned something new about how Linn County operates. That's especially true as Roadmas-

ter. "I have gotten to see more slices of the pie and how everything works together," Mink said. "I learned a lot talking with other department heads."

When it became clear he wasn't going to farm, Mink headed to college at the University of Idaho, studying computer engineering, but left after one year.

He started working in construction and became a "hod carrier" the person who provides materials to brick and block layers. He still enjoys sharing the tricks of the trade — including talking about tossing shovels filled with mortar over his head to bricklayers on scaffolding above him.

For a time, he helped build dairy barns out of block and then a drafting class at a local community college paved the way for a job with the Idaho Transportation Department.

The need for a new pickup saw Mink pick up a secondary job at night,

**WAYNE MINK ... See P. 12**

### Time with grandsons, traveling for Marsha

By Alex Paul  
Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Marsha Meyer has always had a knack for organizing things.

It is a talent that has been especially useful over the last 27 years in her work as an administrative assistant for the Linn County Board of Commissioners.

Meyer, 65, who will retire as Senior Administrative Assistant at the end of June, says that knowing someone will be able to locate historical documents from current board meetings 10, 20 or 30 years down the road is important to her. It is also important the documents are produced accurately, consistently and professionally.

"In high school, I was a member of the Future Business Leaders of Amer-

ica, so I've always been interested in how business should operate," Meyer said.

It helps that turnover in the Board of Commissioners office is minimal, Meyer said. In three decades, she has worked with only eight commissioners and two administrators, Ralph Wyatt and Darrin Lane.

Her first board consisted of commissioners Larry Johnson, Dave Schmidt and Catherine Skeins. She has since worked with Roger Nyquist, Cliff Wooten, Will Tucker, Sherrie Sprenger and the late John Lindsey.

Meyer's father was a minister and the family lived in Iowa, Missouri and Kansas before moving to Roseburg in 1975.

**MARSHA MEYER ... See P.9**



## Promoting the First-Time Youth Wage Grant Program

May 15, Courtney Leland, Linn County Commissioners Administrative Assistant, and Scott Schuler of KRKT radio talked about the First-Time Youth Wage Grant Program, which is beginning its 19<sup>th</sup> year.

Courtney and Scott then recorded a Public Service Announcement about the program that provides a \$3 per hour wage subsidy to small-businesses that hire young people ages 14 to 19 for their first summer jobs. Linn County supports the program with its share of Oregon Lottery revenues. Businesses can hire up to three young people and qualify for up to \$4,500.

In addition to KRKT, the message is also being aired on KGAL/KSHO and KFIR radio stations. Thank you to all.

To learn more, visit the green Youth Wage Grant tab on the left side of the Board of Commissioners page on Linn County's website: [www.linncountyor.gov/commissioners](http://www.linncountyor.gov/commissioners) or call 541-967-3825.





The Linn County Reporter is digitally published monthly by the Linn County Board of Commissioners.

**Would you like to receive the newsletter?**

Please send your email address to Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, [apaul@co.linn.or.us](mailto:apaul@co.linn.or.us) or call 541-967-3825.

## Linn County Board of Commissioners

**Roger  
Nyquist**



**Sherrie  
Sprenger**



**Will  
Tucker**



The Board of Commissioners meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays.

You can listen to the meetings by calling 541-704-3002 PIN 8442.

**Call 541-967-3825**

# 2025 Linn County Parks and Visitors Guide offers a wealth of information

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Want to know just about anything about Linn County and U.S. Forest Service parks and recreation areas in the mid-valley?



**Stacey Whaley**  
Parks Director

You can pick up a free copy of the 56-page 2025 Linn County Parks and Visitors

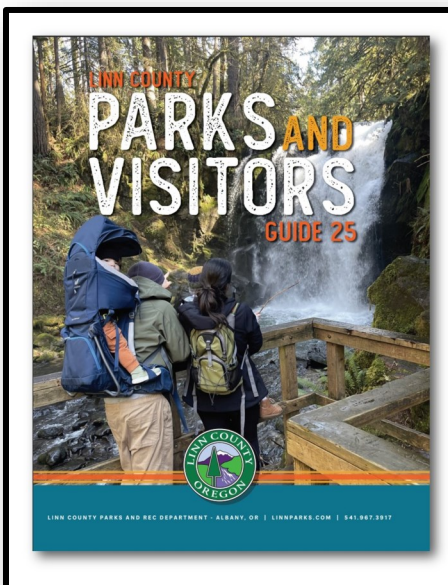
Guide at any of the locations listed below, or view it online at [www.linnparks.com](http://www.linnparks.com).

The annual glossy magazine filled with photographs and maps of campgrounds, was produced in cooperation with *The New Era* newspaper of Sweet Home, published by Scott and Miriam Swanson.

In this year's edition, Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Whaley tells about the numerous maintenance projects the parks team tackled over the winter months, including extensive work at Lewis Creek Park on Foster Reservoir and the new four-lane RV dump in Sweet Home.

This year's guide offers extensive information about each of the Linn County and U.S. Forest Service campgrounds, including amenities and maps created by the Linn County Geographic Information System (GIS) Department.

There is much more.



- Have you always wanted to try camping in a yurt? Linn County has several of them of varying sizes. You can learn more about this popular form of camping on pages 22 and 23.
- On page 24, "I'm Looking For" offers a quick reference guide. Which campgrounds are next to a river or next to a lake? Where are group sites? Which campgrounds include cabins?
- Enjoy hiking? Learn what's available locally on pages 15 to 19.
- If you have children, they will love taking part in the Junior Ranger Program, page 37.
- There's something going on year-round in Linn County, from the Scio Lamb and Wool Fair in May to numerous fun and colorful holiday events in December. Infor-

mation listed by month about many fun outings can be found on pages 42 to 44.

- There is also handy information on page 4 about Linn County expanding its digital payment options with electronic payment kiosks at several campgrounds and day use sites. Linn County Parks is no longer accepting checks, so be prepared to pay with a credit card or cash (first come, first serve).
- You can also learn on page 4 which facilities require a day-use pass. Day use areas at Sunnyside County Park, Lewis Creek County Park and Waterloo County Park now have electronic kiosks that accept digital payments. \$9 per vehicle per day. Or, frequent visitors may wish to buy a season pass for \$75.
- There is a \$9 parking fee at Clear Lake Resort and can be paid with a credit card at the entrance kiosk.
- U.S. Forest Service campgrounds that have electronic day use pass kiosks include Hoover, Cove Creek and Big Lake, while Coldwater Cove has an envelope and cash system in place.
- Did you know that the Parks and Recreation Department manages the Linn County Museum and Historic Moyer House in Brownsville? You can learn more about both, as well as other museums in Linn County on page 40.

To learn more about Linn County Parks, visit [www.linnparks.com](http://www.linnparks.com) or call 541-967-3917.

### Get your copy of the 2025 Linn County Parks and Visitors Guide at:

- The Linn County Parks and Recreation office, 3010 Ferry St. SW, Albany
- The Linn County Board of Commissioners office, second-floor of the courthouse
- U.S. Forest Service offices in Sweet Home, Detroit, McKenzie Ranger Districts
- Bi-Mart locations in Linn County
- Albany RV
- Albany Visitors Bureau
- Big 5 Sports and Sportsman's Warehouse in Albany
- Foster Lake Mall
- Sweet Home City Hall
- Chambers of Commerce in Albany, Lebanon, Brownsville and Sweet Home.

### Did you know?

- Linn County Parks began in 1961.
- The first county park was John Neal Memorial Park in Lyons.
- Including management of U.S. Forest Service campgrounds, Linn County staff manage 1,000 campsites a night in the summer.
- The Parks Department hires up to 60 seasonal employees each year.
- In addition to campgrounds and day use areas, Linn County Parks also operates the Linn County Museum and Historic Moyer House in Brownsville.
- Linn County Parks operates Clear Lake Resort (including a restaurant), a marina on Foster Reservoir, 14 yurts (and growing) and 20 cabins.



# Juvenile Dept. celebrates Cinco de Mayo

Probation officer Tencha Serna and Juvenile Department Director Torri Lynn were busy May 5, cooking for the annual Cinco de Mayo lunch at the Old Armory Building.



Tencha has worked for the Juvenile Department for 28 years. She always enjoyed the Christmas-time lunch prepared by former supervisor Bill Jordan and 12 years ago, she took over the festivities, tying them in with Cinco de mayo (Mexico’s victory over the French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862).

Tencha started decorating on Friday and then prepped food on Saturday and Sunday. She and Torri cooked about 250 tacos and about 14 pounds of hamburger.

Of course, there was plenty of rice, beans, shredded lettuce, cheese, hot and mild salsa and guacamole handmade by Tencha’s husband, Gus. It was served in a traditional molcajete bowl made of lava stone.



**Above:** Probation Officer Tencha Serna and Juvenile Department Director Torri Linn cook about 250 tacos every year for the Juvenile Department’s Cinco de Mayo lunch held at the Old Armory Building.



*Zak Spiegel of the Oregon Youth Authority and Beth Shook of the Juvenile Dept.*



*Mindi Case dishes up a plate of food. Gus and Tencha Serna are in the background.*





Retired Linn County Parks Director Brian Carroll cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the new four-lane RV dump station in Sweet Home on May 8. He was cheered on by current Parks Director Stacey Whaley and a crowd of supporters.

# Linn County Parks celebrates opening of new RV dump in SH

By Alex Paul  
Linn County Reporter

SWEET HOME — On a windy, but sunny afternoon May 8, a bright red ribbon was cut celebrating the opening of a new Parks and Recreation RV dump on 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue off Highway 20 in downtown Sweet Home.

Retired Parks Director Brian Carroll was invited by Parks Director Stacey Whaley to do the honors.

Carroll started working on the project that features four large lanes more than two years ago.

The new system utilizes SaniStar electronic controls on each dump station. The units work with credit cards only, no cash. Cost is \$10 per vehicle.

Whaley said the project is a “team effort over many years.”

“The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department contributed \$355,000 toward the \$900,000 cost of construction,” Whaley said. “This facility will benefit the entire community, including local campers and people who attend the Oregon Jamboree music festival, as well as visitors passing through.”

Other funding came from the Transient Lodging Tax and RV license fees.

The new facility is on 4.62 acres of a former mill site.

Attendees included Commissioners Will Tucker and Sherrie Sprenger; Sweet Home Mayor Susan Coleman and City Manager-Police Chief Jason Ogden; representatives of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; staff from Knife River, Linn County parks staff and repre-



Above: Linn County Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger welcomes guests to the ribbon cutting.

Right: A SaniStar electronic control unit. It accepts only credit cards, no cash. \$10 per vehicle.



sentatives from SaniStar.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in November 2024 and Knife River poured asphalt in February.

“I want to thank retired parks director Brian Carroll for thinking outside of the box, dreaming up this facility and then getting the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department grant to fund it,” Whaley said.

Whaley thanked numerous peo-

ple who made the project a reality, including Julian Fedorchuk and Mark Cowan of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Mayor Coleman and City Manager Ogden, the city’s Public Works staff; Commissioners Sherrie Sprenger, Will Tucker and Roger Nyquist for supporting the Parks Department, Knife River’s Chris Phillipson and Brian Reichert and SaniStar’s Eric Huffman and John Neal.

“Parks operations supervisor Tristan Davis did an excellent job overseeing this project and working

closely with Knife River,” Whaley said. “Dena Barawis did an amazing job tracking invoices, preparing financial reports and other technical requirements.”

Albany RV supplied two large camping trailers for the celebration.

The facility is available 24/7, year-round.

For more information about Linn County Parks, visit [www.linnparks.com](http://www.linnparks.com) or call 541-967-3917.



# New Beginnings plant sale was a colorful success

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — More than 75 hanging flower baskets were sold during the Juvenile Department's annual New Beginnings Garden plant and flower sale on May 7, according to Patrick Meehan, Juvenile Education Specialist — Horticulture.

The facility is at 4400 Lochner Road SE.

"It was a magnificent day," Meehan said. "We had lots of new customers, especially for the hanging baskets."

Meehan reminds people who purchased the hanging baskets that they need to be fertilized and watered.

"We appreciate everyone who ordered through our website," Meehan said. "We still have some 4-inch plants and a few hanging baskets."

Meehan encourages people to browse the native plants such as Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine and red cedar trees.

"We also have shrubs like Oregon grape, mock orange and twinberry that are nice for landscaping and don't get real tall," Meehan said.

Meehan said students also plant flowers around the compound grounds for their beauty, but also to learn about pest and disease control issues.

Meehan said people can still order plants at <https://new-beginnings-garden.myshopify.com/>.

They can also arrange for a time to pick up the plants.



Multnomah Education Service District employee Lori McGowan talks with Patrick Meehan about some of the flower offerings at the New Beginnings Garden plant sale.

New Beginnings Garden highlights in the past year:

- Youth started more than 10,000 native seedling tubes/pots and will have many new offerings come next season, especially wildlife forage!
- Growing 750-plus vine maple seedlings for our friends at Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, which donated some native seeds to us. Seeds included viola adunca which is grown for the endangered silverspot butterfly.
- We are also growing milkweed for the monarch butterfly, hoping to donate to IAE for repurpose to support low numbers of the monarch butterfly in the wild.
- Purple camas seeds were brought to us from the reservation. We are growing out approximately 1,000 camas plants to donate to our friends, more details to come.
- 100-plus hanging baskets and 750-plus bedding plants started and maintained by youth. Many new varieties this year that we propagated via cuttings from single plants from prior years.
- Students make and take succulent planter. When students are in the horticulture class, they are allowed to make their own succulent planter with up to seven plants from all the options we have propagated.
- The main vegetable garden is in the works. Raised beds around the facility are growing produce as we speak for youth to enjoy in a cooking adventure or just fresh



Patrick Meehan

while outside working.

- 20 greens centerpieces were made by youth and sold to Linn County Sheriff, and delivered to Knife River for the LCSO annual awards banquet. Also, 17 wreaths were made by youth and sold to Linn County Parks to hang on parks cabins.



Oregon Youth Authority employee Zak Spiegel picked out some colorful hanging flower baskets.



Debbie Hernandez, Juvenile Department Office Specialist 3, sets up a flower display during the New Beginnings Garden plant sale.

**Call the Linn County Board of Commissioners at 541-967-3825.**





**Above:** Sawyer Watkins, 7, dressed as a newsboy for the Brownsville Times, directs visitors on how they can subscribe to the new community newspaper.

**Left:** Lisa Keith, acting as dancer-choreographer Isadora Duncan, answers questions from journalist, portrayed by Jeff Jones, at the Moyer House.

Courtesy The New Era newspaper

Photos by Chelly Bouferrache

## Brownsville's "Carriage Me Back to 1909" raises money for Historical Museum & Moyer House



Two historical reenactors prepare for a skit in the Moyer House, one of several vignettes playing throughout town for the Carriage Me Back event.



Jeff Smith, owner of Janky Bird boutique, takes part in Carriage Me Back Days.



Volunteers for a revived Brownsville Times newspaper solicit donations and subscriptions.



Larry Chafin of Sweet Home, guides a fully-loaded Chafin Farms carriage up to the Moyer House.



Tom Marquette, owner and driver of a Belgian mule team, prepares for a few more rides.

**Call the Linn County Board of Commissioners at 541-967-3825.**





# OSU Extension Service



## Through the Garden Gate – Albany Garden Tour June 14

Combine equal parts vision and inspiration with a triple measure of perspiration and perseverance and you have the ingredients for the six gardens that are featured on the June 14th “Through the Garden Gate” Albany Garden tour!

We look for gardens of all sizes and styles. Our goal is to feature beautiful and inspirational gardens lovingly tended by dedicated gardeners. Each year for the past 24 years, the Linn County Master Gardeners have been blessed to find enthusiastic local gardeners who are willing to share their gardens with the public.

This year is no exception with a variety of gardens on display.

The tour, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 14, features both large and small gardens, gardens with extensive hardscaping, sweeping lawns, Mediterranean plantings, cutting gardens, a dove cote and berry vines, ferns and sun loving plants.

There will be something to inspire everyone. Bring a notebook and your camera. Linn County Master Gardeners, a program of the Oregon State University Extension Service, are dedicated volunteers that donate thousands of hours of service to the gardening community in Linn County.

Funds raised through this event help cover the cost of educational events, printed materials, projects and outreach. The \$20 ticket has garden addresses, descriptions and driving directions. Tickets are available at [linnmastergardeners.com](http://linnmastergardeners.com). Sales outlets this year are the Albany Visitors Association and Garland Nursery. Tickets will also be on sale the day of the event at the Albany Visitors Association, 122 SW Ferry St, in downtown Albany.

**Lebanon Garden Tour:** There will be a first-ever garden tour in Lebanon on Saturday, June 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m..

For more information about the Lebanon tour, go to [linnmastergardeners.com](http://linnmastergardeners.com).

This will be a walking tour starting at Ralston Park.

Join groups to visit five or more wonderful gardens nearby. Tickets are available online at [linnmastergardeners.com](http://linnmastergardeners.com) and on the day of the tour for \$20 each. Check the website for Lebanon area ticket outlets.



Lynda Cook tends her apple trees.



A rose trellis in Diane Engels' garden in Albany.



Saturday  
6/21/25  
10am - 4pm



### It's a must see - Lebanon's Garden Gems

Tour a range of garden styles - from wedding-worthy to edible food bonanza - plus a rainwater-irrigated landscape and one yard with five different gardens.

Park at the historic Ralston Park Rose Garden, and enjoy this scenic walking tour.

**Tickets are \$20**

Photo Credit: Jean Chaplin

For more details visit: [www.LinnMasterGardeners.com](http://www.LinnMasterGardeners.com)



In support of  
**Oregon State University**  
Extension Service  
Master Gardener™





## Through the Garden Gate

### 24th Annual Albany Garden Tour

See six Beautiful Local Gardens  
abundant with ideas and  
inspiration

**Saturday, June 14**  
10am - 4pm

**\$20**

Tickets available at Albany Visitor's Center, Garland's  
Nursery & [LinnMasterGardeners.com](http://LinnMasterGardeners.com)



In support of



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**Call the Linn County Board of Commissioners at 541-967-3825.**



# 2025 Linn County Fair Main Stage acts reserved seating tickets are on sale now!



*Starting at just \$20!*



- Thursday, July 17: Uncle Kracker
- Friday, July 18: Phil Vassar
- Saturday, July 19: Hunter Hayes



Reserve your seats today at:

[www.linncountyfair.com](http://www.linncountyfair.com)

## LBCC and OSU enhance degree partnership

ALBANY, Ore. – Linn-Benton Community College and Oregon State University have announced a groundbreaking enhancement to their Degree Partnership Program that creates a seamless educational pathway for LBCC students to advance their academic journey.

Unique among OSU's partnerships with community colleges, the agreement establishes an automatic admissions process for qualified LBCC students to OSU. Under this enhanced partnership, LBCC students who meet OSU's minimum transfer requirements but have not yet applied to the Degree Partnership Program will be automatically admitted to OSU, without application fees or additional paperwork.

"This partnership represents our ongoing commitment to removing barriers to education," said Dr. Lisa Avery, President of Linn-Benton Community College. "By creating this direct pathway to OSU, we're empowering students to achieve their educational goals with fewer obstacles."

The automatic admission feature particularly benefits Associate of Science students at LBCC,

providing them with a cost-free, streamlined transition to OSU's four-year programs.

"This agreement automatically opens a door to all OSU can offer to complement the excellent educational opportunities here at LBCC," said Dr. Jayathi Murthy, President of Oregon State University. "This ambitious direct-admit program between LBCC and OSU is the result of a deep commitment to student success."

The agreement builds upon the colleges' established partnership, which allows students to be enrolled at both institutions simultaneously, take courses at either campus, and access services from both schools. The new automatic admission process eliminates a significant step in the transfer journey, making the path to a bachelor's degree more accessible.

Students will receive guidance from dedicated advisors at both institutions to navigate their academic path and maximize the benefits of this enhanced partnership.

For more information about the LBCC-OSU Degree Partnership Program, visit [linnbenton.edu/dpp](http://linnbenton.edu/dpp) or contact the LBCC DPP Office at [dpp@linnbenton.edu](mailto:dpp@linnbenton.edu).

## Parades - Contests - Entertainment - Tickets

**GET ALL YOUR  
FESTIVAL INFO  
ON OUR WEBSITE**

**[LebanonStrawberryFest.com](http://LebanonStrawberryFest.com)**



**June 5 - 8, 2025**



**Call the Linn County Board of Commissioners at 541-967-3825.**





Marsha Meyer, left, with Bekkie Snyder, former Senior Administrative Assistant at Snyder's retirement party in 2013.

## Marsha Meyer to retire ... From P. 1

She graduated from Roseburg High School in 1978 and attended the Merritt Davis College of Business in Eugene.

In 1979 she was hired by Associated Oregon Loggers, then based in Springfield.

"I managed their radio communications program and worked with the executive director," Meyer said. "I also worked on the annual convention, which would have 400 to 500 people."

After SAIF took over AOL, Meyer continued working there until 1997, when layoffs occurred.

She learned about the Linn County job opening and a new career came quickly.

"I interviewed on Monday, got the job on Wednesday and started on Friday," Meyer said.

She was hired from a field of more than 100 applicants.

Meyer hasn't regretted the move, although she was a bit concerned when she saw that office staff was still using electric typewriters instead of computers.

"I had been using computers for a long time," Meyer said. "Fortunately, they began installing computers on my first day. I taught people how to use Outlook, Microsoft Word and more."

Meyer said that for several years, a typewriter was kept on an office shelf "just in case."

Bekkie Snyder was the administrative supervisor until 2013. When Snyder retired, Meyer was promoted to the position. The two remain friends and enjoy having lunch together regularly.

Meyer said she feels blessed to work with good people, both the commissioners and fellow staff members.

"I really like my job," Meyer said. "There hasn't been a day when I woke up and didn't want to come to work — other than on a bad weather day. It was a hard choice to retire, but I am going to help our son with his business and spend time

with our two grandchildren."

Meyer says she has focused on streamlining office work, with the goal of always trying to improve operations.

"We have kept up with technology and streamlined so many things," Meyer said. "Budget hearings used to take two weeks and now they are done in three or four days. We used to have two board meetings per week and now we have one that often takes less than 30 minutes."

### Quotable

*"It's been fun. I've wondered about other jobs, but nothing ever appealed to me. I've enjoyed making this job my own and always trying to improve things."*

— Marsha Meyer

The 30-day, \$1 billion breach of contract lawsuit between Linn County and the Oregon Department of Forestry in Linn County Circuit Court about five years ago was very interesting, Meyer said.

"The attorneys for the county set up a 'war room' in the Board Room and watching them work was amazing," Meyer said. "It was very interesting."

Another thing Meyer has enjoyed about her job is that, "Every day is different. I have built a good rapport with department heads and elected officials. They have come to rely on me for information and direction about how to present something to the board."

Meyer also likes that the Commissioners office tends to be the place where the public comes to ask questions — everything from dropping off lost and found items, to where to pay their taxes, or how to get a building permit.

Meyer and her husband, Monty, met on a blind date set up by her brother and sister-in-law. They married in 1990 and have two grown sons, Cameron and Colin and his wife Emily.



Meyer with former Commissioner Larry Johnson.



Marsha Meyer, left, with Bev Mitchell, former Commissioners Administrative Assistant, center, and Bekkie Snyder.

They have two grandsons, Pearce, 2, and Bennett, 3 months. (Pearce is Meyer's maiden name.)

Fortunately, all live in Albany, so they get to spend a lot of time together.

Monty is retired, but operates an Internet radio site and Take12radio recovery podcast as a ministry. The couple enjoy attending The Shift church in Albany.

Although she is going to retire, Meyer has agreed to work part-time for a year, updating county job classifications.

She and Monty have trips planned to Yosemite, California, and to attend a niece's high school graduation and family reunion in Texas.

"It's been fun," Meyer said of her career. "I've wondered about other jobs, but nothing ever appealed to me. I've enjoyed making this job my own and always trying to improve things."

"It has been an honor to work with Marsha the last 25 years," Board Chairman Roger Nyquist said. "She was outstanding every day. We were lucky to have her as part of our team."

Nyquist added, "After that many years, it's more than just the work. You get to really know someone and Marsha is a quality person, through and through."

Commissioner Will Tucker called it a "privilege" to work with Marsha for many years.

"Marsha's depth of experience and knowledge comes out often," Tucker said. "We have worked together for 16-plus years, but I also served on county committees before that and she would contact me for those meetings as well."

Tucker said he has "grown to love and respect" Meyer.

"It is going to be a very different place without her," Tucker said.

Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger concurred with Tucker's comment.

"I love working with Marsha," Sprenger said. "She is so committed to serving the citizens of Linn County. I have often relied upon her wise counsel and I will miss her very much."

County Administrative Officer Darrin Lane said, "Marsha will be sincerely missed. She runs the Board of Commissioners office like clockwork. Her attention to detail and adherence to procedures has greatly improved processes and communication over the years."

Lane added, "Most importantly, she truly cares about Linn County and providing excellent service to both citizens and staff."



## Linn County partners with State Fire Marshal, SmokeFree Oregon for “Put It Out. All The Way. Every Time.”

The Oregon State Fire Marshal, in partnership with SmokeFree Oregon, is launching the 2025 Smoking Fire Prevention Campaign, “Put it Out. All the Way. Every time.”

The campaign will run during the high-risk summer months (July to September) to educate the public and reduce smoking-related fire incidents.

This year’s campaign kits include tobacco cessation resources, data on fire incidents and fatalities from 2019-2023, bilingual prevention information for smoking and home oxygen use, campaign posters and rack cards, and coasters, stickers and window clings for public distribution.

Campaign kits can be ordered from the Oregon State Fire Marshal’s office and additional resources are available through the Linn County Tobacco Prevention and Education program.

To partner with the Linn County tobacco program, contact Dani Crabtree, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator, at [danicrabtree@linncountyhealth.org](mailto:danicrabtree@linncountyhealth.org) or 541-243-3956.



## Great way to start the show season

Kenadee Wills, 12, granddaughter of Planning & Building Director Steve Wills, had an excellent weekend May 17-18 at the Scio Lamb and Wool Fair.

Her lamb, Sunny, took first place in the market division and Kenadee — shown holding Sunny — earned champion novice showmanship honors.

To top it all off, this was Kenadee’s first time in the show



## LBCC Foundation's "Give Day" raises over \$38,000 for students

ALBANY – The Linn-Benton Community College Foundation announced more than \$38,000 in contributions received in a single 24-hour period on May 14 during the Foundation’s sixth annual “Give Day”. The event, entitled “LBCC Gives Hope” raised money to help LBCC students with emergency expenses on top of their tuition.

“This remarkable show of support will translate directly into keeping students in classrooms rather than having to choose between education and essential needs,” said Steven Broncheau, Executive Director of the LBCC Foundation. “Each donation represents more than dollars – it’s a vote of confidence in our students and their potential to transform their lives through education.”

More than 90 community members, both inside and outside the college, made donations. There was 100% participation from the Foundation Board, LBCC Foundation Staff, and the LBCC Executive Team.

Gifts are still being accepted, and every gift counts. To contribute, visit [give-day.linnbenton.edu](http://give-day.linnbenton.edu).



## Cloverbud Explorers learn about bugs

4-H Cloverbud Explorers explored entomology (the study of bugs) as part of their Natural Science day. Many rocks were overturned searching for critters and even a baby salamander was found. The 4-H Cloverbud program is for youth ages 5 to 8 and introduces them to healthy lifestyles, arts, studying plants and animals, technology and more.







Vernon Mills and Cameron Villalvazo of General Services handled the grilling chores for a big BBQ on May 14 at the 7th Avenue Medical Building, now the county's WIC office.



No one had to go away hungry ... there was plenty of good food.

# Celebrating the 7th Avenue Medical Building opening



Cameron Villalvazo grillin' and chillin'.

Rain clouds disappeared and the sun came out the morning of Wednesday, May 14 as Linn County Public Health celebrated the grand opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Medical Building's Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children office. The program takes up about half of the 11,000-square-foot building. The other half of the building will house a new mental health Crisis Stabilization Center. Remodeling of that area will begin soon. In addition to WIC, the new offices include Maternal Child Health Nurses, immunizations and the Communicable Disease Program. Vernon Mills and Cameron Villalvazo handled grill work, cooking up trays of hot dogs and hamburgers to go with tables filled with salads, fruit, cookies, cupcakes and chips. There was no reason to go away hungry.





## Roadmaster retires ... From P. 1

working as a doorman (bouncer) at a local nightclub. Remember the hod carrier's job? Mink weighed 250 pounds and was in top shape by this time.

It was there that Mink learned a valuable lesson about working with people that he still uses today.

"If you learn people's names, talk to them and show them respect, they will respect you," Mink said.

1989-1990 was a banner year for Mink.

He quit his transportation department job because he had hit "the glass ceiling", joined the Air Force and got married to Zouri.

The couple moved to Oregon in June 1990. Their goal was to pick a location near a four-year college. Zouri chose Albany, Oregon, because she enjoys the Pacific Northwest.

It was while taking classes at Linn-Benton Community College that Mink met another aspiring engineer named Darrin Lane.

The two men were both older-than-average students, married and had children. They bonded instantly and remain friends today.

"By then, we had a purpose, we had more focus, a desire to do well," Mink said of those early years.

Both men completed their engineering degrees at Oregon State.

Lane began working for the Linn County Road Department in the summer of 1994 and came on board fulltime in 1995 after graduating from OSU.

Mink said that he worked for an electrical engineering firm after his 1995 graduation, but in 1999, Lane told him about an opening in the Road Department's engineering division. He got the job and has never looked back.

His Linn County career began as an Engineering Associate I, advancing to Engineering Associate II, Civil Engineer, Bridge Operations Manager and Operations Manager. He became Roadmaster in 2020, when Lane be-

came the county's Administrative Officer, succeeding Ralph Wyatt.

Mink said one of his key memories was reconstruction of the Fayetteville Bridge near Shedd in 2012.

Mink was the Bridge Supervisor at the time, and the 288-foot-long bridge over Muddy Creek had been closed for several months, after its

wooden support pilings were found to be deteriorated.

The bridge had been weight-limited to 14,000 pounds and that caused farmers to use alternate routes, which was not popular.

Mink and his bridge team replaced the rotted wooden pilings with steel pilings and reused the concrete decking, which saved the county several million dollars.

The Minks have five children and four grandchildren.

They have lived in North

Albany since 1990. In their early years in the mid-valley, Mink was a member of the Air Force Reserve and trained in Portland. He worked on the aircraft arresting barriers (the tail hook cable system) and as a power production specialist.

Mink's official retirement was the end of May, but he is staying on board until his successor is found.

"Linn County has been a great place to work," Mink said in his resignation letter to the Board of Commissioners.

He plans to build a shop to house the woodworking and metal tools that are now in his garage.

The Minks have a new truck and camping trailer and hope to find many new places to use their e-bikes and kayaks.

"We plan to stay active," Mink said.

The Minks are also members of



*Mink shows a highway curb design he created while working at the Department of Transportation in Idaho.*



*Mink is proud of the county's creative rebuilding of the Fayetteville Bridge that was vital to handling farm traffic and saved the county millions of dollars. He was the county's Bridge Supervisor at that time.*

the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Albany.

Mink has high praise for the Road Department staff.

"We have great personnel," Mink said. "We hire good people and we retain good people. They make the whole department function so efficiently."

Mink said he has seen his role as making "sure our people are funded and have the training and equipment to take it from there."

Mink said he is "grateful" to have worked for Linn County.

"It's not a right to work here, it's a privilege," Mink said. "I have loved doing the work."

County Administrative Officer Darrin Lane called Mink, "A man of integrity and honesty."

Lane said he has known Mink since the early 1990s when they attended LBCC and then OSU at the same time.

"I was excited when Wayne applied for a position with the Road Department in 1999," Lane said. "He has had a stellar career and he has mentored dozens of people."

Lane credited Mink with "elevating the bridge crew and developing a number of procedures that have improved both efficiency and safety. He is also well-liked and respected by his employees. He will be missed."

Road Department Operations Manager Kevin Hamilton said he has known Mink for 23 years.

"I have worked with Wayne in the Linn County Road Depart-

ment's Engineering Division, and for him as he has led the department as Linn County's Roadmaster. I have always known Wayne to be patient, thorough, and conscientious. He has been a model of responsibility and professional dedication," Hamilton said. "Through the course of his career, Wayne has been responsible for managing many projects that have improved the public transportation infrastructure in Linn County. These include multiple street/road reconstruction projects, and many bridge repair and reconstruction projects. Maybe foremost among those projects was the reconstruction of the substructure for the Fayetteville Bridge."

Hamilton added, "In addition to his engineering accomplishments, Wayne has benefitted me and many others with his tutelage and his thoughtful insights. Throughout his career Wayne has promoted training and education. This has served not only Linn County, where he has served his community so well, but also throughout the community of Oregon's public agencies. Wayne has been a leader with statewide training and consultation."

County Engineer Daineal Malone said she understands Mink's decision to retire, but added that he will be missed.

"While working with Wayne over the last 17 1/2 years, he has remained committed to personally providing me with mentorship and encouragement to succeed," Malone said. "He has consistently prioritized the development of new staff, sharing his knowledge generously, and encouraging an environment of learning and growth."

### Quotable

*"We have great personnel, We hire good people and we retain good people. They make the whole department function so efficiently."*

— Wayne Mink