

Linn County



REPORTER

What's happening in Linn County, Oregon

November 2023

County offers to buy Wheelhouse office complex

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — At their Tuesday morning meeting, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker approved a conditional purchase and sale agreement for the Wheelhouse office building at 421 NE Water Ave. in Albany.

The sale price is approximately \$6.25 million.

Commissioner Tucker participated telephonically.

Linn County Administrative Officer Darrin Lane said Tuesday's agreement will begin the county's due diligence phase of the project. If no issues are found, the subject will come back before

the commissioners for final approval and finalizing the purchase. "We can get this building for one-third to one-fifth

QUOTABLE

"It would cost us at least three times the purchase price to build a similar structure."

Commissioner Roger Nyquist

the cost of a courthouse addition," Lane said. "It will yield a significant amount of space."

The Wheelhouse is owned by Ohanamula LLC, whose principals are Dave and Janet Johnson of Corvallis.

Construction of the approximately 25,000-square-foot office building began in 2008. The building cost \$7 million to build and opened in 2010. It has housed a variety of businesses and for a time, also rented out space for special events.

The complex includes 84 on-site parking spaces and the building was designed



Linn County has begun the due diligence process associated with the purchase of the Wheelhouse office complex at 421 NE Water Ave. in Albany.

with energy efficiency in mind. It is fully ADA compliant. The facility was built on the site of the former Buzzsaw Restaurant, next to the Willamette River.

"This acquisition, if ultimately successful, represents a substantial value to the taxpayers of Linn County," Board Chairman Roger Nyquist said. "It would cost us at least three times the purchase price to build a similar structure. I hope that this property is a key

component in the solution to our ongoing court security challenges, while we attempt to give the best service possible to the general public."

Commissioners Sprenger and Tucker both agreed.

"I didn't realize until I became a commissioner, how cramped we are in the courthouse," Commissioner Sprenger said. "The District Attorney's Office is stuffed and we didn't have space for

our HR (Human Resources) Department. I'm not advocating which departments should move and we need to be careful about that conversation. Purchasing this building is much cheaper than adding onto the courthouse. This is a great idea." Commissioner Tucker called the project "a very smart investment. It makes sense for the citizens of Linn County and the

Wheelhouse ... See P. 2



Marcie Richey is the new Linn County Clerk and has spent 30 years working in the Clerk's Office.

Marie Richey to guide Linn County Clerk's Office

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Marcie Richey was perfectly happy serving as Chief Deputy Clerk, but when long-time Clerk Steve Druckenmiller died in September, she found herself filling the shoes of her mentor.

"I never had aspirations about taking over this position," Richey said. "The good thing is that Steve was always pushing me, supporting me to try new things, to grow and get out of my box."

Richey was sworn in as the County Clerk on Oct. 3 by District Court Judge Rachel Kittson-MaQatish. She was appointed by the Linn County Board of Commissioners to serve until the end of 2024. She has since filed to run for the office on the November 2024 ballot.

Marcie Richey ... See P. 2



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

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Please send your email address to Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 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 and at the same time on Wednesday if needed.

You can listen to the meetings by calling 541-704-3003 PIN 8442.

Call 541-967-3825

The Wheelhouse purchase ... From P. 1

for the citizens of Linn County and the state courts.”

The purchase will free up space in the courthouse, although it is too soon to know which offices or departments may move. It will also solve an issue the commissioners have worked on for several years, providing increased security measures — such as metal detectors — especially for the third-floor Linn County District Courtrooms, while keeping other areas as barrier free to the general public as possible.

The commissioners had researched building a new addition that would provide space for the District Attorney’s Office and secure access to the courts, but that project is estimated to cost about \$30 million. The State of Oregon would provide up to \$15 million, but only for a new courthouse, not an addition.

Linn County will use ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for the building’s purchase and any remodeling to meet county needs.



Construction of the Wheelhouse office complex on Water Avenue began in 2008 and the building opened in 2010.

New Linn County Clerk ... From P. 1

A native of Placerville, California, and 1978 Placerville High School graduate, Richey moved to Linn County in 1992, when her former husband took a job with the county. A year later, she was hired as an Office Specialist II in the Clerk’s Office.

“In those days, I was hired to work with the Board of Property Appeals,” Richey said. “Back then, we had up to 1,000 cases per year. That was before Measure 5 was passed. Now, there are maybe 30 cases per year.”

In 1994, Richey was promoted to Election Clerk and in 1999, she was named Chief Deputy Clerk.

It’s work she has enjoyed.

“No two days are alike,” Richey said. “I like the daily variety and I guess I like the adrenaline rush of constant change.”

She also likes the fact the Clerk’s Office is involved from start to finish with every election.

“I like handling several projects at the same time,” Richey said.

Richey said a recent state law allows ballots to be counted based on post-mark stamp.

“We used to get maybe 500 late ballots, now we may receive up to 2,000,” Richey said. “With a presidential election, we will likely receive even more.”

Richey credits Druckenmiller and the office staff of 10 with creating a vote-by-mail checks and balances system that she says is second-to-none.

“We know where every ballot is at any time once it comes into our office,”



New Linn County Clerk Marcie Richey is sworn into office by District Court Judge Rachel Kittson-MaQatish. Photo by Courtney Leland

Richey said. “In a recent election, we verified every single ballot and we sent out about 35,000.”

Richey said she will continue Druckenmiller’s “open door” policy.

“We will continue to hold open, fair and accurate elections,” she added.

Richey says the Clerk’s Office staff is top notch.

“We have a great crew,” she said. “They are friendly, helpful and always

willing to help me get through this. We really are one big team.”

Richey does not anticipate any major changes for now.

“It has worked for 30 years, why change things?” she said.

Richey lives near Sodaville and enjoys traveling and gardening. She recently went on a cruise to the Bahamas.

She has three grown children and six grandchildren ranging in age from nine to 19. Four of the grandkids live locally.

“This whole experience has been very humbling,” Richey said. “I look forward to serving the people of Linn County.”

QUOTABLE

“No two days are alike. I like the daily variety and I guess I like the adrenaline rush of constant change.”

— Marcie Richey

Linn County parks assists with soil judging contest



FFA members take their turn in one of three contest pits dug at Waterloo County Park during the annual soil judging contest sponsored by the Linn Soil & Water Conservation District.



Grayson Tenbusch, Central Linn FFA.



Jayden Keene, Lebanon FFA.



Zoe Fair, Lebanon FFA.

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

WATERLOO — It's too bad "soggy" wasn't one of criteria that several hundred FFA members from throughout the mid-valley could use to describe soils at Waterloo County Campground on Oct. 11.

The FFA members were competing in the annual soil judging contest sponsored by the Linn Soil & Water Conservation District. District Administrator Debbie Paul said she and soils technician Kevin Seifert appreciate holding the contest at one of the Linn County parks, because they include amenities such as vault toilets, potable water, picnic shelters and county staff like Tristan Davis, who digs a practice pit and three judging pits.

Each contestant is looking for information about type of soil, colors, depth, consistence, clay percentage, shape, structure and presence of metals.

"The State Soils Judging contest is to be held in Dallas Oregon at 8 a.m. on October 16" District Technician Kevin Seifert said. "The teams will meet at the Polk County Fairgrounds, then head to an undisclosed location 10 minutes away for the actual contest."

Contestants came from Harrisburg, Pleasant Hill, Lebanon, Sweet Home, Scio, Mohawk, Creswell

This year's individual and team winners are:

Advanced Teams: 1st – Lebanon; 2nd – Central Linn; 3rd -Harrisburg.

Novice Teams: 1st-Central Linn; 2nd – Sweet Home; 3rd – Mohawk.

Advanced Individuals: 1st – Brook Glaser, Central Linn; 2nd – Taryn Cornell, Lebanon; 3rd – Devon Keene, Lebanon; 4th – Kendra Glaser, Central Linn; 5th – Jayden Keene, Lebanon; 6th – Tryston Majors, Lebanon; 7th – Teagan Cornell, Lebanon; 8th – Hunter Jacobsen, Lebanon; 9th – Zoe Fair, Lebanon; 10th -Karleen Jacobsen, Lebanon.

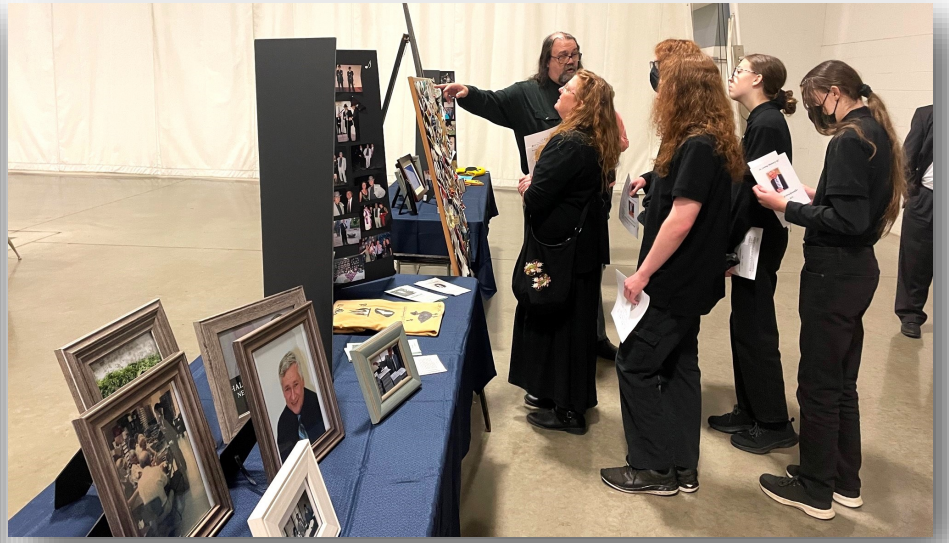
Novice individuals: 1st – Maddie Durringer, Central Linn; 2nd – Trenton Satterlee, Central Linn; 3rd – Angus Smith, Central Linn; 4th - Grant Wahl, Central Linn; 5th Arlyn Birkholz, Scio; 6th Tayler Carr, Sweet Home; 7th Mia Fiorito, Central Linn; 8th Annabell Bingham, Mohawk; 9th Ania Bremner, Central Linn; 10th – Eden Browning, Central Linn.



Henry Scheffel, Harrisburg FFA.



The Lebanon FFA team went on to take second place at the state contest and will now compete at the national contest. Photo courtesy Mellissa Miley-Barnard



Left: Steve Druckenmiller's grandsons perform Amazing Grace during a memorial for the long time Linn County Clerk Sunday at the Fair & Expo Center. Above: Memorabilia from Druckenmiller's office.

Community remembers Linn County Clerk Steve Druckenmiller

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Linn County Commissioner Roger Nyquist called Clerk Steve Druckenmiller his “best friend in the Courthouse”

for 23 years, leading a long list of coworkers, elected leaders and family members who praised the former Linn County Clerk at a memorial Sunday, Oct. 29 at the Fair & Expo Center.



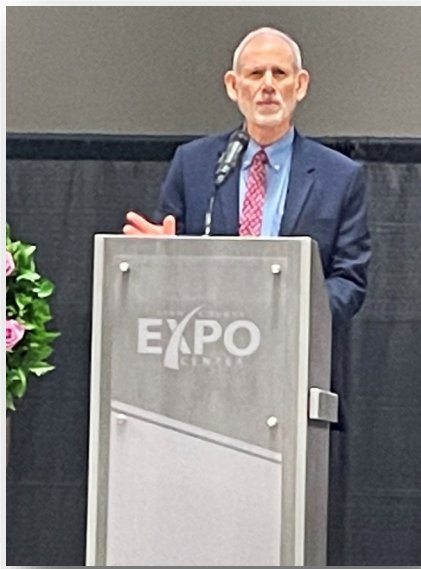
The Blues Brothers

Druckenmiller, 73, died Sept. 24, after a six-month battle with cancer. He devoted more than 40 years to the citizens of Linn County, first in the Assessor's Office, as an interim county commissioner and then 37 years as the county's historian, heading up the Clerk's Office.

“He was an extraordinary man who had an extraordinary career,” Nyquist said. Marcie Richey worked alongside Druckenmiller for 30 years and said he was devoted to Linn County, his staff and his family. “He was a historical powerhouse of knowledge,” Richey said.

Richie said that when a polarizing issue arose within the Courthouse, people on both sides would come to Druckenmiller for advice.

“He was like Switzerland. His door was always open to employees, elected officials and citizens of Linn County,” she said. Druckenmiller offered mutual respect to all, was passionate about life — always speaking from the heart — had compassion



Above: Former Secretary of State Phil Kiesling. Right: Albany City Councilor Marilyn Smith.

for everyone, was a mentor to her and his entire staff, and most of all, he made people laugh, Richie said.

Former Secretary of State Phil Kiesling said he became friends with Druckenmiller when the two were hashing out Oregon's early foray into vote-by-mail in the early 1990s.

“Steve was first and foremost dedicated to Democracy,” Kiesling said. “He believed strongly that Democracy is participatory.”

Thirty years later, Kiesling said that in 2022, Oregon had the highest voter turnout rate in the country.

Former state elections director Steve Trout said Druckenmiller was someone who spoke softly but carried a big stick.

He was the type of man others went to for wise counsel and he always wanted to “make things better” for voters.

“He always had the best interest of Linn County voters in mind,” Trout



said. He called Druckenmiller a true public servant who always wanted to do what was right.”

Another former elections director, John Lindback said Druckenmiller “was an influencer, what he said always mattered.”

Former Lincoln County Clerk Dana Jenkins recounted how he and Druckenmiller put together a skit based on the comedy act of John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd known as the “Blues Brothers”. They performed it at a statewide conference and their act was so popular, they were asked to perform at other events as well.

Former Linn County Sheriff Bruce Riley, whose father Del Riley was the father of vote-by-mail in Oregon and Druckenmiller's friend and mentor, called him “kind, funny, honorable, wise and intelligent.”

“He was a true servant of the people and never forgot who his bosses

were,” Riley said.

Druckenmiller's daughter Jenny Druckenmiller, offered insights about her father away from work as a man who provided sage advice, loved to sing and play baseball.

Family friend Rachael Morris said Druckenmiller was “the most influential person” in her life.

Pastor Michael Skaggs talked about Druckenmiller's deep faith in God and of his dedication of helping others, whether that was locally or on mission trips.

Prior to Sunday's memorial, Druckenmiller lay in state on the second floor of the Linn County Courthouse.

Druckenmiller was born in California, but grew up on the East Coast. He earned a bachelor's degree in government and a law degree from Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts. His first job in the courthouse was with the state courts, then Assessor's Office before moving into the Clerk's Office in 1979. He also served as an interim County Commissioner.



Above: Steve Druckenmiller lay in state Friday evening and Saturday at the Courthouse prior to his memorial service Sunday afternoon at the Fair & Expo Center. Right: Photos of Druckenmiller over the years.





We salute our Linn County staff members who are veterans!

Terry Beckett

Linn County Mental Health
U.S. Air Force
1982-1986
Rank: Sergeant
--



Christopher Bonn

Chief Cartographer
Assessment & Taxation Office
U.S. Navy, 1980-1984
Army National Guard, 1986-1990
Air Force Reserve, 1990-2007
Army National Guard, 2007-2008
Rank: Sergeant 1st Class (E-7 SFC)
--

Mike Brant

Road Dept. Fleet Maintenance
US Navy Seabee
Construction Mechanic CM2 (E5)
1987-1993
--



Judy Burke

Administrative Assistant Health Administration
U.S. Army
1983-1986
Rank: Specialist 4
--

Mike Chiaffino

Road Department
US Navy
1995-1999
Operations Specialist
Petty Officer 3rd Class
--

Steven Church

Senior Patrol Deputy
Linn County Sheriff's Office
U.S. Army Military Police
1988-1990
--



Jace Cook

Deputy District Attorney

Rank – 1st Lieutenant

December 2020- Present, Oregon
Army National Guard
Judge Advocate General (JAG) Officer
--

Drew Crockett

Juvenile Work Program Officer 2
U.S. Army
1993-1997
Rank: Specialist
--



David Crockett

Mental Health Specialist
13B Canon Crew
U.S. Army
1987-1992
Rank: E4
With photo
--

Ron Daniels

Linn County Sheriff's Office
U.S. Army infantry
1976-1980
Rank: Corporal
--

Keely Driggs

Linn County Alcohol and Drug

U.S. Army

1980-1984
Oregon Army National Guard
2014-2018
--

Kyle Geraci

Linn County Sheriff's Office
U.S. Marine Corps
2014-2018
Rank: Sergeant
--



Rich Gilbert

Road Dept. Bridge Crew
U.S. Army Specialist 4
1983-1989
--

Kiersten Glaeser

Mobile Crisis Responder
U.S. Coast Guard
1990-1995; reserves until 1998
Rank: Petty Officer 3rd Class
--

Kevin Hamilton

Road Department
U.S. Navy
1989-1992
Rank: Petty Officer 2nd Class
--

**Veteran's Day
Parade
11 a.m. Saturday
November 11**



Thank You Veterans

We salute our Linn County staff members who are veterans!



Rob Kennedy

Road Dept. Bridge Crew
U.S. Army Specialist 4
1995-2001



Darrin Lane

Linn County Administrative Officer

U.S. Army
1983-2018

Rank: Sergeant First Class

Dan Leard

Road Department (Engineering)

U.S. Army

(Artillery Repairman - Vulcan)

1985-1988

Rank: Specialist

Oregon Army National Guards

(Combat Engineer-Light)

1991-1993

Rank: Specialist

Samuel Macklin

LCSO Deputy

U.S. Air Force

2012-2016

Rank: Senior Airman

--

Robert McKibben

Veteran Services Officer

U.S. Navy

1987-1991

Rank: E-3

--

Conor McCahill

Deputy District Attorney

U.S. Air Force 2011-2015/National
Guard 2015-2019

Rank – E-6/Technical Sergeant

Emergency Management Specialist

--

Nichole Piland

Tax and Assessment Department

U.S. Navy and Oregon National Guard

1994-1999

Rank: E-3

--

Deputy Jon Raymond

Linn County Sheriff's Office

U.S. Coast Guard

1991-1995

Rank: Third Class Petty Officer

--

Thomas Reasons

LCSO Corrections Deputy

Oregon Army National Guard

1995-2021

Rank: Master Sergeant Retired

--

Eric Rice

Veterans Services

Office Specialist/Event Coordinator

U.S. Air Force

2014-2018

Rank: E-4

--

Daniel Smith

Alcohol and Drug

U.S. Army

1983-1998

--

Rebekah Soriano

Juvenile Crime Victims' Advocate

United States Marine Corps

2001-2005

Rank: E-4

--

Killian Spicer

Detention Worker II (Linn-
Benton Juvenile)

Oregon Army National Guard

2011-2017

Rank: E-4

--

Brett Tetzlaff

Linn County Parks

U.S. Marine Corps

1989-1992

Rank: Lance Corporal

--

Geoff Thoma

Mental Health Specialist

U.S. Army

2003-2016

Rank: Sergeant/E-5

--

Michael Thomas

Developmental Disability Services
Supervisor

US Army

1983-1986

Rank: E-4

--



Will Tucker

Linn County Commissioner

U.S. Navy & Navy Reserve

1971-1976

Rank: AW-4



Phillip Van Leuven

Deputy County Attorney

Army National Guard

1999-2022

Rank: Captain

--

Jack Wagner

ITS – Application Systems Analyst

U.S. Navy

1990-1995

Rank: FT2(SS) E-5 Fire

Control Technician

Submarine Warfare Specialist

--

--

Kathy Wynhausen

IT Database Administrator

U.S. Air Force

Senior Airman

1989 – 1993

Army National Guard

1994 – 1995





OSU Extension Service



OSU Small Farms program connects farmer to farmer

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

TANGENT — About 135,000 people of all ages call Linn County home and the population of the United

States is about 325 million.

Fewer than 2% of them live on farms.

So how can farmers relate to each other and the other 98% of Americans who have no idea how many gallons of diesel fuel their tractors or combines consume per acre — at nearly \$5 per gallon — how much a ton of fertilizer costs or how a war thousands of miles away from a Linn County farm can affect crop prices.

Connecting local farmers — sharing their unique stories and farm programs — is one of Teagan Moran's goals as the OSU Extension Service Small Farms coordinator in Linn and Benton counties.

"Farmer-to-farmer exchange is so important," Moran said.

"There is knowledge, support and learning. The Extension Service is the convener, the connection."

Moran is proud that her podcast, "For the Love of Farming" is entering its second season.

The first season featured 12 podcasts representing a broad swath of local ag folks from someone who sustains their family on a few acres to a mid-size valley farm.

Moran keeps the process simple. She sits with someone, turns on her telephone's audio recorder system and they talk.

"It's so much more personal, like sitting at a table and just talking," Moran said. "It's important we learn how they are taking care of themselves, both physically and mentally."

For the farm community, the podcasts offer an intimate way to participate without being in a room filled with people they don't know.

"They can listen while they are in a tractor or combine or doing their chores," Moran said.

Each podcast lasts about one hour.

Examples of interviews: Sarah and Andrew from Adaptive Seeds (a local diversified seed farm and company), Kait Crowley of PK Pastures (a livestock

farm), and Beth Hoinacki of Goodfoot Farm (a diversified market and CSA farm).

The next episode of the new season will feature a man from Sunwaves Farms, a military veteran who has found farming provides an ongoing sense of service and peace.



Teagan Moran

What she has learned is that although many farm situations are similar from farm to farm, each farm operation is unique in some way — whether how the farmer came to be involved in agriculture to what their long-term goals are.

"There is power in one farmer listening to another farmer," Moran said. "It's interesting to learn what gets people to think about issues like mental health. Some people are born into the farming communities, others makes friends easily with farmers, while others just don't have access to other farmers."

Moran said she would welcome a visit with a large-scale farm operator. In addition to the podcast, the Small Farms Program also has seen success through its "Farmer Network" programs.

"We have regional, military/veterans, women and agri-tourism focused groups," Moran said. "Basically, where do you feel welcome?" Moran said the program features everything from face-to-face meetings and information sharing to visiting farms.

"We want to encourage curiosity and questions," Moran said. "We have gotten comments such as 'just knowing there is support' is helpful. It's the same kind of comments we get about the podcasts."

Moran said she promotes podcast releases on social media and via the OSU Extension newsletter and Growing magazine.

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Moran said she promotes podcast releases on social media and via the OSU Extension newsletter and Growing magazine.

"Initially, interviews came with people with whom we already had relationships," Moran said.

Now, people reach out with ideas and suggests potential interviewees.

"It is showing the beautiful fabric of what farming can look like in our area," Moran said. "There is power in storytelling. We want to learn what

guides farmers every day. What are the factors that affect their decision-making?"

If interested in joining one of the farmer networks in the region, feel free to reach out to Teagan.moran@oregonstate.edu or 541-713-5011. You can find the "For the Love of Farming" Podcast at: <https://beav.es/T49>

What farmers are saying ...

"The farm tours I have been able to participate in have been inspiring and informative. Getting a chance to socialize with folks you might not otherwise cross trails with after tours is like frosting on the cake, makes me realize how otherwise isolated I can be. The email list is like having an all things farm/garden/business reference at your fingertips...the wealth of experience and generosity in sharing knowledge is more than supportive."

"The Willamette Women's Farmer Network has been an invaluable resource for information. In addition, I'm not able to get off the farm much, so knowing there are women farmers out there in my region makes me feel not so alone in this traditionally male endeavor. The farm visits I have been able to attend have been enjoyable and educational events. The hands-on visit is helpful to get a better understanding of the various enterprises that farmers engage in locally and their successes and challenges in doing so."

"It's great to have a community of people who have similar interests, objectives, and challenges where we can learn and solve problems together. That it is a community of women gives us a special kind of kinship and understanding. It has been immensely helpful to me and my farming venture."

"It's great to have a community of people who have similar interests, objectives, and challenges where we can learn and solve problems together. That it is a community of women gives us a special kind of kinship and understanding. It has been immensely helpful to me and my farming venture."

Farmer networks ...

The League of Women Farmers, Southern Oregon

The League of Women Farmers was the first of OSU's Women Farmer Networks. It began in October of 2007 and since then they have hosted welding classes, pruning workshops, and seed exchanges- always accompanied by a delicious potluck. Follow them on facebook.

Contact: Call the Southern Oregon Small Farms Program at 541-776-7371 ext. 208 or email Maud Powell.

Central Oregon Women's Farm Network

Follow the on Facebook

Willamette Women's Farm Network (WWFN)

Mid-to-southern Willamette Valley

The WWFN started in November 2008. They keep in touch through an e-mail list-serv and gather together for hands-on learning, farm walks, knowledge sharing, and socializing.

Follow them on Facebook.

For more information, contact the coordinator, Teagan Moran, 541-713-5011

Women in Agriculture (Waggies)

Northern Willamette Valley/ Portland Metro Area

Waggies meets throughout the year for farm tours and potlucks offered at member farms in the north Willamette region. Additional education, skill building, and networking events and support are offered. We communicate through Facebook and an email listserv.



Linn County property tax statements mailed October 19

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Linn County residents will begin receiving their property tax statements this week, according to Assessor and Tax Collector Andy Stevens.

Stevens said some 62,000 statements will be mailed on Oct. 19. If you do not receive your tax statement by Nov. 1, please call the Assessment and Taxation office at 541-967-3808.

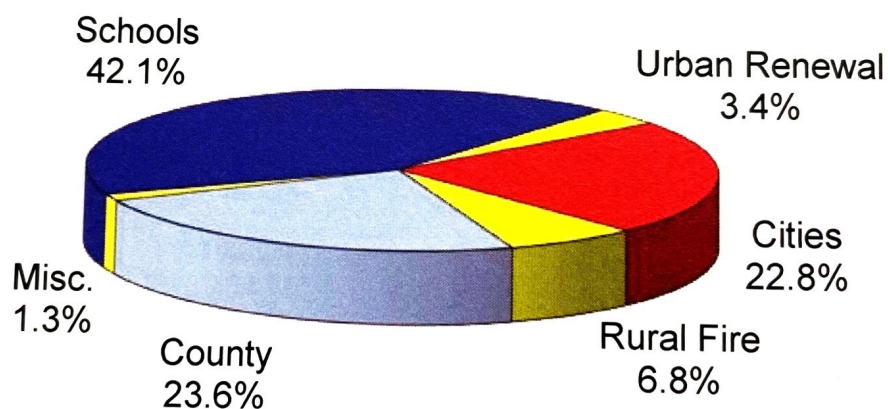
Stevens reminds people that property taxes are based on January 2023 values, so they are about one year behind current day's value. And, he added, taxes are levied on the Assessed Value of a property.

Stevens said the Real Market Value of all property in Linn County is about \$27 billion (up \$2 billion) and the Assessed Value is about \$13 billion (up about \$600 million).

Schools receive more than 42% of Linn County taxes, the county receives 23%, cities 22%, rural fire districts almost 7%, urban renewal 3.5% and miscellaneous 1.3%.

Taxable values by city are: Albany, \$4.2 billion; Brownsville, \$154 million; Gates, \$5.3 million; Halsey, \$71 million; Harrisburg, \$282 million; Idanha, \$5 million; Lebanon, \$1.5 billion; Lyons, \$111 million; Mill City, \$95 million;

DISTRIBUTION of TAX DOLLARS



Millersburg, \$730 million; Scio, \$63.8 million; Sodaville, \$20.8 million; Sweet Home, \$606 million.

The total estimated tax revenue is \$221,932,527. Real property, \$203,027,353; personal property, \$6,503,549; manufactured structures, \$9,546,334.

"People may think property values should be down because they are looking at today's slow down in the market, but these values are as of January

1, 2023," Stevens said.

Stevens says the Assessor's Office acts like "historians" when it comes to property values.

Pay your taxes in full by Nov. 15 and receive a 3% discount.

There are two payment drop boxes, including one at the west entrance of the Courthouse.

Information flyers will be included with tax statements and disabled veterans or spouses are reminded they

can apply for exemptions.

You can look up your individual tax information at <https://www.linncountyor.gov/assessor/page/account-detail>.

Taxes can be paid on-line at <https://www.linncountyor.gov/assessor/page/online-tax-payments>.

The site also features videos that explain the property tax system at <https://www.linncountyor.gov/assessor/page/property-tax-informational-videos>.

Property Tax Payment Schedule

To avoid interest charges and receive any applicable discount choose one of the following payment schedules:

Full Payment: Receive a three percent (3%) discount on the current year, if paid in full by November 15. We accept postmark.

Two-thirds Payment: Receive a two percent (2%) discount on the current year, if the first two-thirds payments are made by Nov 15. Pay the final one-third balance by May 15.

One-third Payment: No discount allowed. Pay one-third by November 15. Pay a second one-third payment by February 15. Pay the final one-third balance by May 15.

Reminder notices are not sent for February or May payments.

Interest is charged on any past due in-

Here are some winter safe driving tips

Driving at night is more difficult because visibility is reduced. However, low visibility conditions often occur during the day, caused by heavy snowfall, downpours, thick fog and blowing dust or smoke.

Tips for driving in low visibility:

- **Slow down.** Every year, "driving too fast for conditions" shows up in the top five most common reasons for crashes.
- **Use your low beams.** High beams will disperse in thick fog or snow, making visibility worse for you and other drivers.
- **Turn on your rear fog lamps,** if your vehicle is equipped. They greatly aid visibility for drivers approaching from the rear.
- If you suddenly encounter a severe loss of visibility, pull off the pavement as far as possible. Stop, turn off your lights, set the emergency brake and take your foot off the brake to be sure the taillights are not illuminated. Turn on your emergency flashers.
- If you can't pull off the roadway, slow down, turn on your low beam headlights and sound the horn occasionally. Use the white fog line or roadside reflectors if necessary to help guide you. **Never stop in the travel lanes.**

Use Headlights in Winter

Turn on your low-beam headlights during the daytime in the winter months to make your vehicle more visible to other drivers, people on bikes and pedestrians. When natural light is low — at dawn or dusk or when it's raining, cloudy or snowing — you can improve your vehicle's visibility significantly. Remember to keep your car headlights clean. Get in the habit of wiping off your lights at the gas station. That way you're ready for low-visibility conditions.

Tests conducted by the Society of Automotive Engineers determined that with

headlights off, drivers can see oncoming cars when they are an average of 2,074 feet away. With headlights on, that distance more than doubles to an average of 4,720 feet.

Tips for Driving in Pacific Northwest Fog

When you are driving in fog, slow down to adjust to the reduced visibility. In the most severe situations, a *Dense Fog Advisory* will be issued if visibility is reduced to less than one-quarter mile. Follow these safety tips when driving in Fog:

- **Slow down** and disengage your cruise control.
- **Use your low beams;** high beams will reflect back thick fog, making visibility worse for you and other drivers.
- **Keep the view clear.** Avoid fogged windows by regularly using the defroster and windshield wipers. The air conditioning setting will help keep moisture from building up inside.
- **Increase following distance** to ensure enough time to stop safely.
- Use the right edge of the road, white fog line or roadside reflectors as a guide. Do not change lanes or pass other vehicles unless necessary. If you pull off the road, pull over as far as possible, turn off your headlights and turn on your hazard lights. Driving in the snow requires a certain set of driving skills that some Oregon residents rarely get to use. Here are some things to keep in mind: Check road conditions on your route before you go at [TripCheck](#) or by dialing 511. Plan your trip accordingly.
- **Allow extra time to get where you're going.** Travel is going to be slow.
- Allow extra stopping distance. There is less traction on slick, snowy roads.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding or sliding. If the wheels lock up, ease off

the brakes.

- Carry chains and know how to use them.
- Make sure your vehicle is in top operating conditions, with clean headlights, good brakes, working windshield wipers and good tires.
- Slow down when approaching off-ramps, bridges and shady spots where

the snow often lingers longer.

- Turn on your headlights to increase your visibility.
- Be prepared for delays. **Make sure you have water, blankets, a full tank of gas...** and plenty of patience! If you feel tired or if road conditions get rough, don't be afraid to stop for the night.

Little steps. Big opportunities.

Get the resources you need to grow your child care business.

Child care matters—and not just for parents. When families can't access care, the whole community suffers.

Did you know? There's a major shortage of regulated child care providers in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties.

At Growing Care, we want to fix this. We're here to help you start or grow a successful family child care business of your own.

Available support includes:

- Training to make your business succeed.
- Education opportunities to help you grow.
- Up to \$15,000 in grant money to get you started.

Wherever you are in your business journey, Growing Care is here with powerful resources to help you flourish. Contact us, and we'll connect you with the right opportunities for your situation.



Is a child care business right for you? Get a free guide at GrowingCare.org

Helping child care providers flourish.
growing care

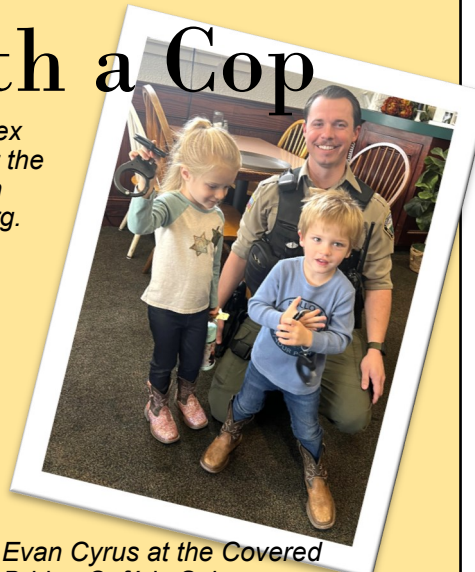


Sheriff Michelle Duncan visited Hazella Bake Shop in Lebanon.

Coffee With a Cop



LEFT: Alex Wilson at the 99 Grill in Harrisburg.



Evan Cyrus at the Covered Bridge Café in Scio



Beckie McBride at the Shedd Market.



Captain Jeff Schrader at The Brim Coffee Co in Albany.

Willamette to begin road repair in Detroit Ranger District

Road reconstruction, tree removal to reduce risk and restore access

Detroit, Ore. – Oct. 13, 2023 — The Willamette National Forest will begin much-needed road reconstruction projects this month to remove hazards and repair portions of the transit system damaged in recent years by wildfires. The multi-phase emergency response project in the Detroit Ranger District will extend into 2024 and will repair sections of Forest Service Road (FR) 46, French Creek Road (FR 2223) and Whitewater Road (FR 2243), among others.

The 2020 Beachie Creek and Lionshead fires burned approximately 40% of the Detroit Ranger District and left nearly 200 miles of fire-damaged roads in need of major repairs. The first phase of the disaster-recovery project will include road work along 36 miles of the Detroit Ranger District transit system. FR 46, part of the West Cascades National Scenic Byway, will have periodic delays later this fall. The Forest Service will provide public notice of any delay or closure on FR 46 two weeks in advance. The French Creek and Whitewater repair projects will be in an existing closure area.

Disaster response crews and heavy equipment operators will work to reduce the risks of hazardous fuels, as well as overhead and up-slope hazards that have fallen across roadways or remain standing along important travel routes. The extensive roads project will include risk-mitigation of fire-damaged trees, roadside fuel reduction, and essential maintenance and road reconstruction so that access to and through the fire-burned areas can be safely restored.

Forest Service crews also continue to mitigate safety hazards at fire-impacted recreational sites and trails as the Detroit Ranger District brings in advanced tree fallers from other Forest Service units to help remove dead and damaged trees in recreational areas.

“We understand that people are eager to visit their favorite places,” said Detroit District Ranger Michelle King. “These major improvement projects will help us provide workers and visitors with safe access to our forest roads and recreation sites into the future.”

Areas that will remain closed this year include McCoy Road (FR 2233), Boulder Road (FR 2231), South Breitenbush Road (FR 4685), and Opal Creek (FR 2209 and FR 2207).

Visitors are encouraged to Know Before You Go and exercise caution on nearby roadways that may have heavy truck and equipment traffic. To check the status of a location before entering the Forest, please visit Willamette National Forest - Alerts & Notices ([usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov))

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter@WillametteNF for more updates.

Volume 1, Issue 1
October 2023

LINN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

LAW LIBRARY NEWS

LINN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY NEWS BULLETIN

Access OSB BarBooks in the Linn County Law Library.

Did you know that you can access OSB BarBooks online at the Linn County Law Library? We have a computer terminal available for library users.

AVAILABLE LEGAL DATABASES

- CaseText
- FastCase
- LexisNexis
- PACER

Additional online resources available through the State of Oregon Law Library.

Grants and Project Funding

The Linn County Law Library has two to three projects that it is working on including:

- Linn County, Oregon Eviction Prevention Program Support
- Digitization of Information in the law library
- Document Delivery Services



Photo Caption

DOCUMENT DELIVERY

Need a citation, case law, legislative history or something else? Let the librarian know via email or phone and get the information you need when you need it. Contact 541-924-6902 or email me at: aboedigheimer@co.linn.or.us

NEW OR REVISED RESOURCES:

- West's OR Digest 2d Vols. 29A–30B
- Oregon State Bar CLE'S
- ORCP Annotated 2023

Linn County Law Library
304 Broadalbin Street SW
Albany, OR 97321
Contact: 541-924-6902 or aboedigheimer@co.linn.or.us

Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Green Peter water level drawdown results in dead fish

By Sarah Brown

Lebanon Local

SWEET HOME — Thousands of dead juvenile fish started showing up below Green Peter Dam this weekend, causing concern among recreationists who saw the carcasses floating downstream and gathering in clumps along shorelines.

Reed Fischer, STEP biologist with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said the fish were Kokanee salmon that, according to a pathology report, died as a result of barotrauma. Known as decompression sickness or “the bends” in humans, barotrauma is a deadly experience that happens from a rapid change in depth and oversaturation of gas in the blood. Recreationists set out for a day on the river at Sunnyside Park on Oct. 8. Photo by Sarah Brown

“It looks like that’s what happened to these fish here,” Fischer said. “They had an oversaturation of nitrogen and other blood gasses, and that causes barotrauma, or gas bubble disease. It puts bubbles in their bloodstream and their body cavity.” The barotrauma was caused by a deep drawdown of Green Peter dam, which is a new action by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stemming from a lawsuit to protect Chinook salmon, a species that is listed by the Endangered Species Act.

A 2021 injunction issued by Federal Judge Marco Hernandez requires Green Peter be drawn down to some 142 feet below minimum conservation pool by fall in an attempt to help the juvenile Chinook pass through the regulating outlet

(RO). The RO is situated low on the dam. To do that, the Corps started drawing down water in late summer, and Fischer said the Kokanee were probably near the RO this weekend, which is why they are now getting pulled through and being affected by the pressure changes.

“This would be a total dissolved gas issue, for sure,” he said. “When the water spills from the dam at a great height, it mixes in a lot of gasses on its way down, so it creates this super bubbly, oversaturated water on the bottom; it’s rough on fish.”

Fischer joined a team on Friday to study the fish and concluded an estimated 4,500 carcasses were observed that day. They also studied the water and found it to be normal and as expected at 58 to 62 degrees.

Dead fish gather in a clump near the boat ramp at Sunnyside Park on Oct. 8. Photo by Sarah Brown

“A certain number of fish deaths are to be expected whenever you change the water level,” he said. “But 4,500, just visually it’s a lot of fish. It looks bad. It’s very sad.”

By the time the targeted species, Chinook salmon, reaches the RO, they will not be as affected by barotrauma because the head pressure will be less, said Greg Taylor, supervisory fisheries biologist for the



Dead fish clustered near Sunnyside County Park after suffering from barotrauma — the bends — after passing through Green Peter Dam and experiencing significant water level changes.

USACE Willamette Project.

“We’re trying to create a scenario where there will be good passage conditions for Chinook,” Taylor said. “In getting there, because the

Kokanee are where they are in the water column, unfortunately they (the Kokanee) are being pulled in right now.”

According to Taylor, Chinook were placed in Green Peter in the early years

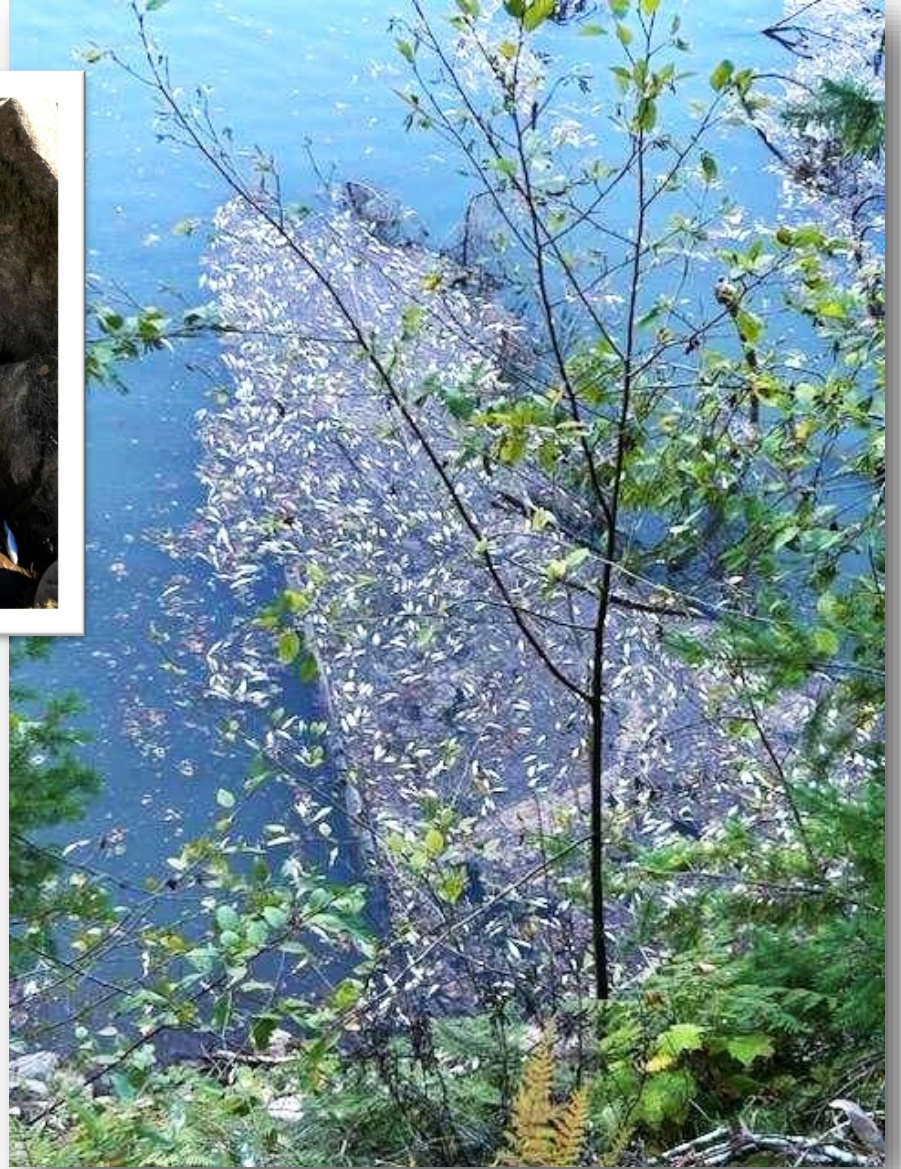
of the dam, which was built in the mid-1960s, but the designed downstream fish passage didn’t work, so it was “mothballed.” As a result, there were basically more hatchery Chinook produced in mitigation. That is, until last year.

“Just last fall, Chinook were put up there to spawn, so that’s the group of fish that’s in the reservoir available to pass right now from the previous fall spawning,” he said. “But this is a different scenario with the Endangered Species Act in trying to reestablish some of these populations above the dams.”

The injunction ultimately required the Corps to assist Chinook passage downstream through the regulating outlet.

“If there was a safe passage route closer (to the top of the dam), we wouldn’t need to do the drawdown,” Taylor said. “The depth of the drawdown is driven entirely by the depth of that potentially safer route through the regulating outlet. If the regulating outlet was much shallower, that’s where we’d be targeting; but, unfortunately, the regulating outlet is quite deep, and that’s what’s driving the depth of that drawdown.”

For more information visit:



bit.ly/46q1CJh

Researchers at Environmental Assessment Services have been studying the number of fish passing through spillways, powerhouse outlets and regulatory outlets at the Green Peter head and tailrace since March 2022 by using rotary screw traps.

“We’re doing work that’s part of that injunction order,” said Dillon Alegre of the EAS. “We’re just doing downstream volitional fish passage monitoring, specifically for spring Chinook salmon. We’re there to see how the juveniles are doing coming out of Green Peter reservoir through the dam.”

More information and results of the studies can be found at <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/Injunction/>.

Agencies involved in the operation wanted to remind dog owners to be

vigilant about keeping their dogs away from dead salmon. Salmon carcasses may harbor bacteria in their blood called *Neorickettsia helminthoeca* that can make dogs very sick. Without treatment, salmon poisoning is often fatal. Symptoms include severe vomiting and diarrhea. With treatment, most dogs will survive. If a dog is seen eating a dead salmon, or even around one, take them to the veterinarian right away. Don’t wait for the dog to get sick, as prophylactic treatments can prevent a more serious illness. The sooner a dog gets treated, the less likely they will get sick and need expensive treatments. The City of Sweet Home announced on its Facebook page that, despite the alarming number of dead fish, the city drinking water is still safe. The city’s water supply is drawn at the Foster dam. The statement read, “We are constantly testing the water at our treatment facility and have noticed no change in turbidity or quality. Sweet Home’s drinking water is still safe to

QUOTABLE

“It looks like that’s what happened to these fish here. They had an oversaturation of nitrogen and other blood gasses, and that causes barotrauma, or gas bubble disease. It puts bubbles in their bloodstream and their body cavity.”

— Reed Fischer, ODFW

Remember ...

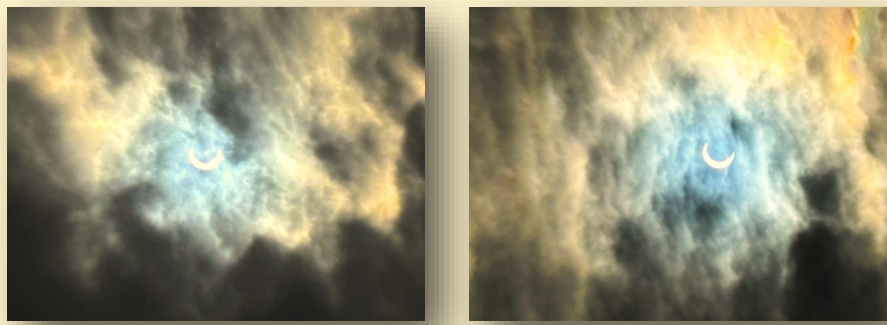
Daylight Saving Time ends at
2 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 6

Set your clocks back one hour
when you go to bed Nov. 5.



Hunting for the eclipse

Linn County Juvenile Director Torri Lynn was hunting for deer in Hell's Canyon in eastern Oregon the morning of Oct. 14 when he shot these photos of the solar eclipse. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the earth and the sun, partially obscuring the image of the sun for early viewing. The next solar eclipse will be April 8, 2024.



Do you have a story idea for the Linn County Reporter?
Please contact editor Alex Paul, 541-967-3825 or email apaul@co.linn.or.us.

Veterans Day week events

Albany

Oct 20 - Nov 4, 2023
Time: 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm

She Kills Monsters

Albany Civic Theater
Discounts for Active Military and Veterans.
Visit <https://albanycivic.org/shows/she-kills-monsters/> for more info and to purchase tickets.

November 4, 2023

Time: 5:30-11 p.m.
All Services Stars and Stripes Ball / Hosted by Link Up Vets
Knife River Events Center, 35973 Kennel Rd SE

Nov 4-12, 2023

Time: Heritage Mall Hours
Wall of Honor
Heritage Mall

November 5, 2023

Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Albany Gun Show
Linn County Fair & Expo Center, Willamette Hall

Nov 7 - 13, 2023

Veterans' Uniforms on Display
Downtown Albany
Tuesday-Monday, November 7-13, 2023. Displays include 18 uniforms from various branches of the military from the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam to current campaigns. Uniform displays are provided in partnership with VFW 661-Uniform Display Museum.

November 10, 2023

Veteran of the Year-Distinguished Veterans Dinner
Social Hour: 6-7 p.m.
Dinner Time: 7-9 p.m.
Linn County Fair & Expo Center

November 11, 2023

Optimist Pancake Breakfast
Time: 6:30-9:30 a.m.
West Albany High School

November 11, 2023

Continental Breakfast
Time: 7-9 a.m.
American Legion Post 10, 1215 Pacific Blvd SE
Free for all Veterans, Military, and their families.

November 11, 2023

Eagles Pancake Breakfast
Time: 7-10 a.m.
Eagles Lodge, 127 Broadalbin Street

November 11, 2023

Memorial Service
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Timber Linn Veterans Memorial

November 11, 2023

Time: 11 a.m.
Linn County Oregon Veterans Day Parade
Downtown Albany

November 11, 2023

Time: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Luncheon
American Legion Post 10, 1215 Pacific Blvd SE
Free for all Veterans, Military, and their families.

November 11, 2023

Time: 5:30 p.m.
Veterans Day Tribute Concert / Hosted by Willamette Valley Concert Band
Lebanon High School
Free admittance

November 13, 2023

Time: 5-7 p.m.
Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser / Hosted by Boy Scout Troop 7350
Lebanon Legion Post 51
\$10 per plate / \$8 for Veterans

LINN COUNTY WILDFIRE READY NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
5:30 PM – 7:30PM

PIZZA PROVIDED!

SWEET HOME FIRE STATION 21
1099 LONG ST
SWEET HOME, OR 97386

We invite all Linn County residents to attend!

RSVP: <http://bit.ly/linncwpp>

Hear about the 2023 Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Learn how to to protect your home

Tell us your priorities & concerns about wildfire preparedness & response

QUESTIONS? CONTACT KBENTZ@CO.LINN.OR.US

Linn County
Juvenile
Department's
4th ANNUAL
QUILT RAFFLE

This stunning quilt measures 78" w x 92" h and was handmade with rich fabrics in an autumn theme, and quilted in a leaf & acorn pattern.



Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased from November 1st - December 8th at the Linn County Juvenile Department during normal business hours.

Drawing will be held Wednesday, December 13th @ 11:30am

Sponsors:
Rhonda Nicholas & 'Finally Together' Quilt Shop in Lebanon, Oregon

All proceeds are used to purchase and build food baskets for Juvenile Department youth & families for Christmas.

Lorelle Sherman is new Extension Service forester

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

TANGENT — OSU Extension Service forester Lorelle Sherman brings a varied background of disciplines to her new role, but one thing that has never changed is her love of the outdoors.

Sherman grew up in Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania, a borough of about 34 people. "I've always enjoyed being outside," Sherman said. "Ohiopyle is a big white-water area."

It's also where she developed a love of foraging for mushrooms, which has transcended to her time in Oregon as well. She is a registered guide and takes people on outings for a variety of mushrooms and other edibles. She enjoys canning mushrooms and dehydrating them. Fittingly, her company's name is "Lorelle's Morel".

Sherman earned a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Vermont in 2012 and in 2014, moved to Bandon on the Oregon coast as a wildlife biologist

with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

"I have always loved birds and at Bandon, I worked at the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, studying bird populations."

She spent two years in Bandon and then earned a master's degree in Forest Ecosystems and Society from Oregon State in 2019.

"I primarily focused on the forest understory, taking a holistic approach," she said.

After graduation, Sherman landed a job as a post graduate fellow with the U.S. Forest Service and worked at the Pringle Falls Experimental Station near LaPine.

"We did a lot of work with thinning and fuel reduction projects," she said.

Sherman started her new job with OSU Extension in September and says she has been busy meeting people and listening.

She will work in Linn, Benton and Polk counties.

"I am hearing people's concerns," she said. "A big goal for me is connecting private landowners with the research data that is available. I want to build a network that links landowners, the Oregon Department of Forestry and researchers."

She is also excited to be able to work on educational programs through her new job.

Away from the office, Sherman enjoys foraging for mushrooms, hiking and fishing.

"Anything outside," she said.

Although her main office is in Corvallis, Sherman said she regularly spends time in the Linn County office.

"I want to hear from people," she said.

Contact her at 541-713-5016 or email Lorelle.sherman@oregonstate.edu.



Lorelle Sherman
Extension Service Forester

Governor Kotek Visits Linn County on One Oregon Listening Tour

Governor stops in Albany, Tangent, Shedd, Sweet Home and Lebanon

Salem, OR — On Thursday, Governor Tina Kotek visited Linn County to mark the 34th stop of her One Oregon Listening Tour, traveling to meet with Oregonians in Albany, Tangent, Shedd, Sweet Home and Lebanon.

"I saw many examples during my time in Linn County of incredible community spirit," Governor Kotek said. "When it comes to housing, economic development, support for our veterans, and other essential issues, the folks here roll up their sleeves and work together to tackle big problems. I came away really encouraged about the positive direction of local partnerships."

After starting her day with breakfast in Albany at BakerzDozen, a local Black-owned bakery, Governor Kotek met with local leaders at City Hall to discuss the need to build more housing and the barriers preventing faster housing production. Governor Kotek has established a goal of building 36,000 new homes per year, and her top priority for the upcoming 2024 legislative session will be housing production.

After visiting the Albany Historic Carousel & Museum with Mayor Alex Johnson II, she drove to Tangent to greet city leaders at their historic City Hall. The City of Tangent is celebrating its 50th birthday, and Governor Kotek added a signed note and official Governor's pen to the time capsule the city created, which will be opened in 2073 when Tangent turns 100 years old.

Following a lunch meeting in Tangent, Governor Kotek traveled to Shedd to tour Pugh Seed Farm. The farm grows grass seed, white radish seed, white clover, turnip seed, wheat, meadowfoam, and hazelnuts. Linn County is known as "The Grass Seed Capital of the World."

The Governor next visited Sweet Home to tour The Family Assistance and Resource Center, the first low-barrier shelter



in East Linn County and the only low-barrier shelter operating in Linn County. This was followed by a roundtable discussion at the facility with shelter operators and local leaders, focusing on the need for increased access to shelter services for youth and families experiencing homelessness, as well as the growing community support for the shelter.

Governor Kotek then traveled to Lebanon to visit the Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home, which opened in 2014 as the state's second veterans' home. The home offers space for 154 residents needing long-term care. Following a tour of the facility, she discussed ways to enhance services for veterans including

Above: Gov. Tina Kotek met with mid-valley farmer Denver Pugh during her listening tour visit to Linn County on Oct. 26.

Right: Gov. Kotek also visited Sweet Home's Family Assistance and Resource Center.



behavioral health in long-term care settings.

The day concluded with a dinner conversation in Lebanon with local leaders.



Sweet Home welcomes new Urgent Care, pharmacy

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

SWEET HOME — Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital CEO Marty Cahill

called the new Urgent Care in Sweet Home a “21st century building” that was built “on schedule and on budget.” Cahill’s comments were made during a ribbon cutting for the new clinic on Friday, Oct. 27.

Cahill praised the community for raising \$3 million toward the project and thanked a committee headed up by Milt Moran and Miriam Swanson for their dedication to the effort.

The 17,500 square foot building is adjacent to Wiley Creek assisted living on the east side of Sweet Home. In addition to

“Samaritan’s mission is ‘building healthier communities together,’ and we want to ensure that quality health care is available and convenient, close to where people live,” Doug Boysen, president and CEO of Samaritan Health Services noted in written comments. “The opening of this building and the services offered reinforce our commitment to increasing access to health care across



the region that we serve.”

The complex features 18 family medicine examination rooms, seven urgent care examination rooms, a laboratory, a drive-through pharmacy and a helipad. The building replaces the current clinic, which originally was the Langmack Hospital, built in 1946. That facility will be remodeled for physical therapy.

The project began with surveys conducted by students at WesternU, the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific Northwest. Their work looked at what the community of Sweet Home believe are health care needs.

In addition to Sweet Home residents, the new Urgent Care will provide vital services for people employed in the local timber industry, drivers Highway 20 in the Cascades, recreationists in the mountains and at Linn County parks. Dr. Juliette Asuncion, family physician at Sweet Home Family Medicine and Samaritan’s primary care medical director for Lebanon, Sweet Home and Brownsville, talked about how important the new facility is to staff and their ability to provide quality health care in the community.



Above left: Bob and Betty Adams look at the Sweet Home Urgent Care donor wall.

Above: Building fund co-chairman Milt Moran addresses the crowd. **Right:** Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker.



Judge Jessica Meyer to have dual judicial role

ALBANY — Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist and Sherrie Sprenger approved an agreement with the city of Albany Oct. 24, that supports county Justice of the Peace Jessica Meyer also serving as Albany’s Municipal Court judge.

Commissioner Will Tucker was not present.

Commissioner Sprenger said she strongly supports this agreement, calling it a “great partnership” and an “opportunity for Linn County and Albany to do something together.”

Judge Meyer is a partner in the Morley

Thomas Law firm in Lebanon.



Judge Meyer

She was Linn County Justice of the Peace pro tempore from 2012 to 2018 and has been Justice of the Peace since 2018. She also prosecuted cases for the city of Lebanon.

Judge Meyer has a degree in horticulture and business management from Brigham Young University. She earned her Doctor of Juris Prudence degree from the Willamette University School of Law in 2005 and joined what was then the Morley, Thomas and McHill Law firm

in 2006. She became a partner in 2011.

While at Willamette, she served as an editor of Willamette Law Online and was a member of the Willamette Law Review.

Judge Meyer will succeed Municipal Court Judge Forrest Reid.

The Linn County Justice Court and the Albany Municipal Court have similar responsibilities. The Justice Court has jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes and other offenses committed in Linn County such as traffic, boating, wildlife and other county offenses.

In addition to county issues, the Justice

Court handles similar issues for the cities of Brownsville, Halsey, Lyons, Millersburg, Sodaville, Tangent and Waterloo.

The Albany Municipal Court has jurisdiction over misdemeanors committed within the city limits of Albany.

Away from work, Judge Meyer serves on the boards of the Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation and the Oregon Justice of the Peace Association.

According to her law firm website, Judge Meyer enjoys, “running, skiing and spending time with her busy family.”



Spooktacular Snapshots



Julie Ganta from the Clerk's Office and Michelle Valenzuela and Michelle Hawkins from the Treasurer's Office.



Accountant Bill "the Wizard" Palmer and Dina Dysinger of payroll.



Above: Josh Leahy with his son, Thomas, 11 months.



Left: Jail RN Kelly Branham and right, Veterans Services Director Dee Baley-Hyder.



Thing 1-Lillian Rhoads and Thing 2-Dorothy White in the Clerk's Office.

Two expecting Public Health, Maternity Case Management Nurses dressed as avocados — Liza Walker and Farrah Westberg.



Assessor's Office staffers Alaire Bryan left and Natalie Bauer.



Nate Mattson, owner of the Mad Platter Café was dressed appropriately as the pizza delivery man from Toy Story fame.



The Public Health office was all dressed up for the holiday.





The IT crew really got into the "spirit" of Halloween. Left to right: Kevin Eastman, Vicki Slover, Kathy Wynhausen, Brian Olsen (his suit actually lights up and pings), Karen Guilford and Lily Daudert.



Sawyer Guilford, 2 1/2 and his brother "Spidey" Weston Guilford, 5, grandsons of interim IT Director Karen Guilford.



A couple deer in East Linn County: Mandi Funk, WIC Nutrition Educator & Leah Brunson, BS, IBCLC - WIC Supervisor.



The Printing Department's Emily Mendenhall and daughter Hannah.

Boo Spooktacular Snapshots



Planning & Building folks: Suzanne Hunt, Lexi Mitchell, Alyssa Boles, Shawn Fowler and Jaci Cumpiano.



Linn County Mental Health Child Outpatient Services: Llama Brandi Mendenhall, Crazy Cat Lady Erin Nye, Cheshire Cat Amanda Lillie and Scooby Doo Christoph Littrell.



Public Health-WIC team: Left to right: Juana Lopez- Gonzalez (WIC nutrition educator), Brandy Tarr (WIC nutrition educator), Nadir Pinto (WIC lactation consultant), Serena Stearns-Garland (WIC dietitian), Mayra Vega (WIC bilingual health aide), Leah Brunson (WIC supervisor), Anita De Anda (health promotions supervisor).



Left: Having some fun at the Linn County Sheriff's Office.

Right: The good folks at the Alcohol & Drug Department. Kneeling left to right: Shannon Snair, Sandy Sabedra, Hannah McCallister. Standing left to right: Justin Thomas, Rose Reader, Jamie Huebner, Amber Lobato, Dana Frenchko, Sarah Solus.

