

Linn County



REPORTER

What's happening in Linn County, Oregon December 2023

Showcasing Linn County at the AOC Conference

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

Linn County was well represented Thursday evening, Nov. 16, during the annual product tasting showcase at the annual Association of Oregon Counties Conference held at The

Graduate Hotel in downtown Eugene. Several hundred people attended the event that featured products from around the state including seafood, Indian fry bread, craft beers, peach cobbler, baked salmon, jerky, cheese and much more.

The Linn County tables were sponsored by Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker.

“The AOC Conference is a good opportunity for commissioners, department heads and others to get up-to-date on key issues that affect all of our counties and the product tasting event is a fun way for all of us to showcase

the many good products made in our home county,” Commissioner Sprenger said.

Tasty treats ranged from Indian fry bread, salmon and jam prepared by folks from Madras in Central Oregon to ice cream from Tillamook County and clam chowder and shrimp cocktails from Lin-

AOC EVENT ... See Page 4



Marsha Meyer talks about Mountain House foods.

Graduate Hotel in downtown Eugene.

Linn County staffers Marsha Meyer and Courtney Leland set up display tables with locally made products from Sweet Home Meat Market & Smokehouse, Moore Family Vineyards and Oregon Freeze Dry, as well as information from Radiator Supply House/Icebox Performance.



Courtney Leland, Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger and Marsha Meyer with a new banner depicting Linn County highlights that was unveiled at the annual Association of Oregon Counties conference on Nov. 16 in Eugene.

Record vendors for Christmas bazaar

ALBANY — A record number of vendors have filled the Willamette Event Hall at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center for the annual Town & Country Christmas Bazaar Friday to Sunday, Dec. 1-3.

Events Manager Rachel Lytle said there are 256 vendors, 20 more than last year.

The event has been held annually for more than 20 years.

Bazaar ... See P. 14



Vendors were putting the finishing touches on their booths when the doors opened at 10 a.m. Friday for the annual Town & Country Christmas Bazaar at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center. There is a record number of vendors participating — 256 — up 20 over last year. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission: \$2 for adults.

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

Linn County Board of Commissioners

**Roger
Nyquist**



**Sherrie
Sprengrer**



**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

Best in the West Triathlon moving to June dates

By Ethan Hoagland
Lebanon Local

SWEET HOME — The Best in the West Triathlon Festival will now be held in June, due to wildfires and the recurring Green Peter Reservoir drawdown, according to event organizers.

In a press release, organizers said wildfire smoke and water temperature will be too unpredictable in September.

The 12th annual festival last September drew just under 1,000 participants during what Race Director Blair Bronson called “some of the best weather” the festival has experienced.

A statement from Linn County Parks about the decision said in part, “Linn County Parks and Recreation is working with The Best in the West Triathlon to hold the triathlon on a weekend that is the least disruptive to other park users and that meets their needs for consistent water conditions

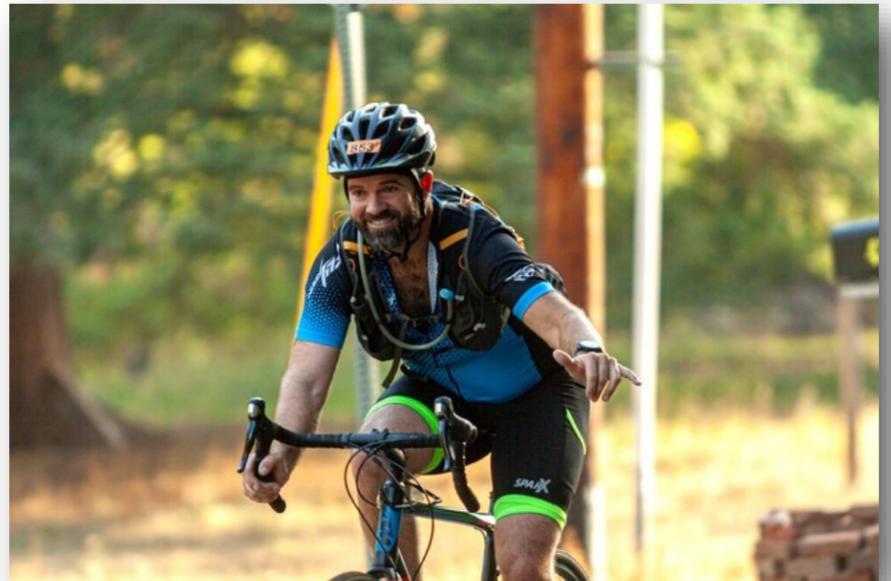


Photo courtesy Chris Chapman

(temperature and levels), less smoky air quality, and an overall more ideal date for the athletes.” The statement went on to say that June was the best choice to minimize any other impacts to the park, and that Linn County Parks

looks forward to helping Best in the West support the local economy. *(Editor’s Note: The event is held at Linn County’s Lewis Creek day use area on the north side of Foster Reservoir.)*

Drug take back nets 100 pounds

The Linn County Sheriff’s Office held a Drug Take Back event on October 28, and collected nearly 100 pounds of unused/unwanted/expired prescription medications.

Thank you to everyone that came to one of several drop-off locations throughout the county.

Safely disposing of these prescribed medications, keeps them out of the wrong hands and helps keep our community safer.

Remember there is a permanent drop-off at the Sheriff’s Office at 1115 Jackson St. SE, Albany.

The LCSO will run another drug take back event in the spring. Stay tuned for more details.



Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest



C’mon, show us your holiday best!
(actually worst)

Take a photo wearing your
Ugly Christmas Sweater
on Monday, Dec. 18
and email it to Alex Paul

A committee of Ugly Sweater experts will select first,
second and third place winners.

There will be prizes — no new cars or boats — but prizes!

We will also put photos of every contest entrant
in the January Linn County Reporter.

Veterans Day 2023



Dee Baley-Hyder and Rob McKibben of Linn County Veterans Services.



There is always good food at the annual Optimist Club breakfast at West Albany High School. Sheriff Michele Duncan stopped by before riding with the Sheriff's Posse in the big parade.



Above: Linn County Clerk Marcie Richey and her staff braved the wet weather and walked the parade route, as did the Linn County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue crew, below.



SCHOOL VACCINES

AVOID SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS

DATES & LOCATIONS

LEBANON	ALBANY	SWEET HOME
December 18th	December 19th	December 20th
10am-7pm	10am-7pm	10am-7pm
Lebanon Clinic	Linn County Public Health	Sweet Home Clinic
1600 S Main St	315 4th Ave SW	799 Long St

VACCINES PROVIDED

- Tdap
- Polio
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)
- Flu
- Hep A
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Covid
- Hep B
- DTaP
- HiB

SCAN TO PRE REGISTER




AOC Conference ... From P. 1

“We had excellent response to our local products from Moore Family Vineyard, Sweet Home Meat Market and Oregon Freeze Dry,” Sprenger said. “This is an opportunity for all 36 counties to highlight local products and show other people what’s special about their county.”

Banners showcased photos from counties as well. Linn County had a new banner made that features photos of farming, the South Santiam River, a covered bridge, the reservoirs and more.

The Association of Oregon Counties has advocated for and educated county officials since 1906.

There were more than 20 educational sessions held during the conference attended by more than 500 people.

Session topics included how to protect your county from cyber-attacks, how to deal with the nation’s opioid crisis, how to optimize your county fair-grounds and land use law changes, among many others.



Linn County Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger with Angie and Ron Moore, owners of Moore Family Vineyard of Sweet Home.



Marsha Meyer prepares samples of Mountain House meals at the AOC Conference held in Eugene.



You never know who you will run into at the AOC Conference. Courtney Leland talks with Greg Hart, Emma Bagozzi and Michelle Markson of General Services.



Linn County Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger talks with Public Health Director Todd Noble.



Above: Madras area representatives cooked up delicious Indian fried bread with jam and salmon.



Left: Lincoln County's display featured a variety of seafood.



Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker assists someone interested in Linn County's tasty treats.

Salvation Army Angel Tree tags go quickly



Courtney Leland places Angel Tree tags on the Courthouse Christmas Tree Monday morning. General Services Manager Russ Williams was the first person to bring gifts back for a child, in just a few hours.

Courthouse Christmas Tree theme inspired by rose garden

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Treasurer Michelle Hawkins doesn't have an official name for this year's Courthouse Christmas Tree on the second-floor rotunda of the Linn County Courthouse. But it's easy to see what her favorite color is — rose.

"I probably have 100 rose bushes at home and this color is definitely my favorite," Hawkins said.

The display is stunning, like something one might see entering a grand hotel or a southern estate.

Hawkins is about to enter her 23rd year as county treasurer and her 28th year with the county. She has been decorating the Courthouse Christmas Tree for many years and enjoys the challenge, even though it takes at least 40 hours of work on her part (assisted by her husband Jeff) and consumes all four days of Thanksgiving holiday. While other folks are watching football, they are setting up the display.

"Over the years, we have accumulated a lot of decorations, but I start buying new items in September and I already know what the upcoming theme is a year ahead," Hawkins said.

Hawkins said she has used rose and silver and rose and purple decorations in prior years, so she has a good supply of rose-colored decorations. In addition to the tree decorations, there are festive lanterns, Christmas stockings and smaller lighted tree branches.

Let's just say, she is well known at Hobby Lobby.

This year's tree features between 800 and 1,000 decorations. In fact, there are two trees because the first tree she and Jeff found was just a bit short. She had her heart set on an 8-foot tree, but they are getting hard to find.

They cut the Grand fir trees at West's Family Tree Farm near Lebanon.

And then she flocked the trees, waited for them to dry and laid decorations out to be added one layer at a time.

Hawkins said she has received numerous positive comments about this year's display and she is especially pleased to see people sit on the little wooden bench in the scene.

"I love it, it's my favorite," Hawkins said.

In addition to making people smile as they visit the Courthouse, the tree also holds the numerous Salvation Army Christmas Angel tags that help bring cheer and toys to many local families every year.



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




Public invited to Community Wildfire Protection meeting

SWEET HOME — The public is invited to learn more about the Community Wildfire Protection Plan at a meeting from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at the Sweet Home Fire Station 21, 1099 Long St.

Linn County Assistant Planner Kate Bentz said numerous groups including Linn County, local fire departments and districts, the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State University and Department of Land Conservation and Development and more, have been updating the 2007 wildfire plan and now want to hear from all members of the public.

The project's goal is to reduce wildland fire risk to Linn County communities and rural areas and protect the natural environment. Bentz said the "Linn County Wildfire Ready Night" event has three key components:

- Educate the public about what the Community Wildfire Protection Program is.
- Provide the public with information about how they protect their properties from wildfire.
- Receive feedback from the public about their priorities and concerns about wildfires.

"This is a multi-jurisdictional



Kate Bentz

effort," Bentz said. "This is happening all over Oregon. The push is on so that every county in the state has a plan to assess risks and to identify projects and areas for those projects." Bentz said pizza will be provided.

To learn more about the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, visit <https://www.linncountyor.gov/planningbuilding/page/community-wildfire-protection-plan> or call Bentz or County Planning Manager Alyssa Boles at 541-967-3816.



New Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital CEO Wendie Wunderwald and Samaritan Health Services COO Marty Cahill.

Samaritan names Chief Operating Officer, new hospital CEO for Lebanon

LEBANON — Marty Cahill, MBA, FACHE, CEO of Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital, has been named to the newly created position of Chief Operating Officer – Hospitals. In this role, Cahill will drive systemwide integration and alignment of operations across the five hospitals within the Samaritan Health Services system.

"Marty's experience leading two different Samaritan hospitals, his 15-year history within the organization and his vision for the future of Samaritan hospitals was compelling," said Doug Boysen, CEO of Samaritan Health Services. "I'm looking forward to working with Marty in this new way as we continue to chart our course forward."

At Samaritan, Cahill has served as CEO of Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital, Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital and shepherded the development of the Administrative Fellowship program and the Samaritan Health Sciences campus. During Cahill's health care career, he has twice served as Regent for the American College of Healthcare Executives, received the ACHE Distinguished Service Award and been recognized as Business Leader of the Year by the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce.

"It is an honor to be selected for this work — to help streamline our operations across the system and leverage the best practices of our individual hospitals — to make our system even stronger in support of our mission," said Cahill who began his new role on Nov. 20. "In this role, I'll be working with our hospital leadership to drive high reliability and quality care."



Marty Cahill, COO
 Samaritan Health Services

Wendie Wunderwald, RN, has been appointed as CEO for Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital. Wunderwald has more than 39 years of service at Samaritan Health Services, most recently as vice president of Patient Care Services at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital.

Under her leadership, the Lebanon hospital became the first critical access hospital in the U.S. to win the Beacon award from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. The hospital was also recognized by the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce as the Large Business of the Year in 2022.

"We have an incredible team of dedicated clinicians, caregivers and support staff here at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital," Wunderwald said. "It is an honor to be able to transition to this new role in Samaritan."



OSU Extension Service



We had a fantastic Saturday morning at our Sewing Learning Day! We had 17 youth come to learn the basics of sewing, and each member left with a project.



November's Cloverbud Explorers was the build a boat challenge! Participants were challenged to design, engineer, and build a boat that could support "cargo"! The youth were so creative with their boats, and we saw some very strong boats!

Linn County 4-H Holiday Craft Day

Join Linn County 4-H for a Holiday Craft Day! Create fun holiday crafts, and spread holiday cheer! Open to all Linn County 4-H Members

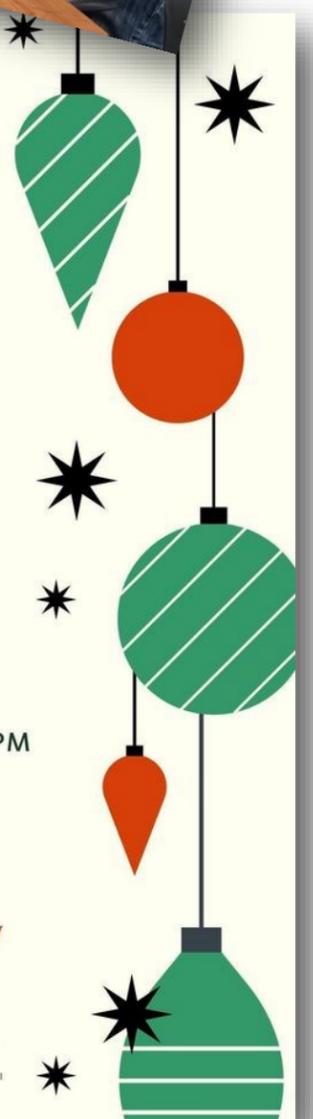
Register Online at beav.es/5cr
\$10 fee due at the door. Cash only

DECEMBER 9, 2023 FROM 10AM-12PM
AT THE LINN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE (33630 MCFARLAND RD, TANGENT, OR 97322)



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Linn County

Oregon State University Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familial/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, genetic information, veteran's status, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)



Commissioners ask judge to modify his order

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker unanimously agreed Nov. 21 that the county should take legal action to modify U.S. District Court Judge Marco Hernandez's order that has led to a significant drawdown of the water level in Green Peter Reservoir.



Thousands of kokanee and other fish died due to the extreme water level drawdown at Green Peter Reservoir northeast of Sweet Home.

That action has resulted in increased turbidity — suspended materials (silt) — in water in the Santiam River.

The board's action follows a Monday evening meeting at Sweet Home City Hall at which an overflow crowd voiced displeasure with actions taken by the Army Corps of Engineers in response to the judge's order.

That ruling is based on a lawsuit brought by the Northwest Environmental Defense Center, WildEarth Guardians and the Native Fish Society, seeking improved survival rates for endangered fish species.

The goal of lowering the water level below the normal winter pool water level, is

to allow young fish to migrate into the river without passing through power turbines.

The water level in the summer is about 1,010 feet. Average this time of year is 920 and Tuesday, the water level was 781 feet. Officials said the water level will begin going up again on Dec. 16.

Commissioners Nyquist and Sprenger attended the Sweet Home meeting.

Nyquist said the issue reminds him of the Northern Spotted Owl battles of 30 years ago.

He said the community of Sweet Home has been "stunned" by not only the water level reduction in Green Peter Reservoir, but the mud-like "turbidity" in the river.

Sweet Home has a relatively new water plant — about 10 years old — and has won several awards for the city's quality water. City staff said that despite the increased turbidity, they have been able to produce drinking water that is well within the Department of Environmental Quality's safety parameters. However, that has not come without a cost. Staff have to clean the water plant's three sand filters more often and this will decrease their useful lifespans.

Commissioner Tucker said the Corps of Engineers staff are following the judge's order and other Willamette Valley project dams at Lookout Point, Cougar and Fall Creek are undergoing similar drawdowns.

In addition to the water quality issues, the drawdowns may be associated with private wells drying up, Tucker noted.

"We live on the Santiam River and I am concerned that a gravel bar where fish spawn may now be so covered in mud that it will affect them, unless that mud is flushed away," Tucker said.

Commissioner Sprenger said she is "ticked off" about the situation, especially since rural communities were encouraged by the government after the Northern Spotted Owl era to "reinvent themselves" and that meant tourism around area reservoirs.

She said the situation is an example of "the colliding of two worlds, the rural-urban divide."

Chairman Nyquist said he believes the federal judge needs more balanced information about what is happening at the ground level.

"This is a reasonable and responsible thing for us to do," Nyquist said. "We need to acquire legal counsel to present facts, a more balanced set of facts and ask the judge to modify his order."

Sweet Home City Manager Kelcey Young attended Tuesday's board meeting and said "this is a devastating time for us."

She added that families are worried about what their children are drinking and small businesses are seeing a loss of income because people aren't using the reservoirs for recreation.

The commissioners agreed time is of the essence in this matter and instructed staff to take immediate action.



Commissioner Roger Nyquist addresses a large group of people who attended an information meeting at Sweet Home City Hall on Nov. 20.



The water level at Green Peter Reservoir has not been this low since the reservoir was filled in the 1960s.



Festival of Trees Dec. 1-2 in Historic Downtown Brownsville

BROWNSVILLE — The Moyer House Museum is again hosting four beautifully decorated trees for the Brownsville Women’s Study Club’s annual Festival of Trees fundraiser the first weekend in December.

The Study Club has organized this popular event since taking it over from the Brownsville Chamber in 2015. Held in conjunction with the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce’s Home for the Holidays festivities that take place the first Friday and Saturday of December it is always a lively event. The beautifully festooned trees are placed in locations all over downtown Brownsville for visitors to bid on in a silent auction.

This year the Festival of Trees event will be held on Friday and Saturday, December 1 and 2. Twenty-six trees decorated by “tree artists” will be placed in the Moyer House Museum and 17 other participating businesses around downtown. The tree artists are individuals or organizations willing to put their time and talents into transforming the trees into works of art for the good of the community, and often at great expense to themselves.

This year’s trees are Nordmann firs grown by Glen Walker of Lebanon. The trees will be 5 to 6 feet tall and a variety resistant to shedding needles as the tree dries staying green for weeks. Would you like to take one of these fully decorated trees home? Or maybe you know of a family, church or nursing home that would be thrilled to have a festooned fir tree delivered to them by you, a generous donor.

Over the two days, folks bid on their favorite trees and high bidders can take their fully ornamented tree home. Bidding starts at 10 a.m. on Friday and ends at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

This fun event has proven to be a solid fundraiser for the Study Club, an organization started in 1910 to establish the town’s first library.

Proceeds support the library, the Moyer House and other community organizations.

This year proceeds will be donated to the Brownsville Sharing Hands to assist in funding the expansion of their Food Bank and to the Brownsville Library for purchasing new books and tapes.

The 2022 beneficiaries of funds raised, in addition to the Library, were Sharing Hands and the Brownsville Volunteer Fire Dept.

Host sites include, in addition to the Moyer House Museum, Pioneer Market Antiques, The Stitching Parlor, Randy’s Main Street Coffee and many more, all in walking distance throughout downtown Brownsville.

This is a great time to visit historic Brownsville in all its holiday splendor, and plan to stay for the tree lighting and caroling on Friday evening.

For more information about the event, contact Festival of Trees coordinator, Cyndi Anderson at 541-570-1055 or email thebrownsville-house@gmail.com.



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November 2023

LINN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

LAW LIBRARY NEWS

LINN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY NEWS BULLETIN

I have added a page to the Linn County Law Library website specifically for attorneys. This new page/link offers current OSB CLE materials including handbooks and audio files. New CLE’s purchased last month include:

- A Starry Night: Mental Health and Substance Use
- Basic Trust Administration
- Advising Organizations in Crisis
- Closing the Probate Estate
- BOLI Civil Rights Process Overview
- 2022 Business Law Update
- 23rd Annual Oregon Tax Institute
- Basic Estate Planning: Basic Probate Administration

Oregon State Bar

<https://www.linncountyor.gov/lawlibrary/page/oregon-state-bar-cles-online>

About: Oregon County Council of Law Libraries

Organized in 1975 the Oregon Council of County Law Libraries (OCCLL) is a cooperative association of county law libraries. The Oregon County Council of Law Libraries will be meeting in Eugene, OR in December 2023. Meeting minutes can be accessed through the law library in early December.

NEW OR REVISED LIBRARY RESOURCES:

- Administering Oregon Estates 2023
- AOE 2023 Revision
- Family Law in Oregon 2023
- Oregon Probate and UTC Code with Commentary 2023

Linn County Law Library
304 Broadalbin Street SW
Albany, OR 97321
Contact: 541-924-6902 or aboedigheimer@co.linn.or.us
Hours: Mondays through Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm



LCSO accepting adult SAR applications

The Linn County Sheriff’s Office is accepting applications for volunteer Adult Search and Rescue (SAR) Technicians to join our team.

Are you a leader? Are you willing to work with the youth on our team and lead them in rescue missions, recovery missions, evidence searches and training scenarios? Do you have a passion to serve in Linn County? We want you!

What special skills do you have that have prepared you for joining our SAR Team and the Linn County Sheriff’s Office family.

This is a new opportunity being offered with Linn County SAR. If this sparks your interest, please visit <https://www.linnsheriff.org/.../sar-tech-volunteer.../> for all the complete details.

There are specific date requirements and we will stop accepting applications when we reach 25 applications received.



Thanksgiving at the Juvenile Detention Center

Youth at the Linn County Juvenile Detention Center not only celebrated Thanksgiving with a traditional turkey dinner, they also learned how to prepare and cook the meal thanks to staff members Amanda Freitag and Natalie Wright. The duo showed the youth how to brine a turkey using orange slices, rosemary, sea salt, sage, thyme, peppercorns and vegetable broth. After the festive meal, everyone made holiday centerpieces out of a variety of tree branches, flowers and other plants. "They had a great time! We all did," Wright said.



Winter safe driving tips from the Linn County Sheriff's Office

Thanksgiving is over and winter weather will be here before you know it! Some of the county in the higher elevations and the passes have already seen snow since as early as October this year!

With the help of the Oregon Department of Transportation, we wanted to share some tips that we hope help you and yours stay safe on the roads this season.

- Check road conditions on your route

before you go at www.tripcheck.com or by dialing 511. Plan your trip accordingly.

- Allow extra time to get where you're going.
- Allow extra stopping distance. There is less traction on slick, snowy or icy roads.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding or sliding.

- Carry chains and know how to use them. It's a good idea to practice putting them on home before heading out.
- 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, ice and moisture in general

often lingers longer.

- Turn on your headlights to increase your visibility.
- If you feel tired or if road conditions get rough, don't be afraid to stop for the night.

These are just a few things to keep in mind while you are travelling this winter, for more information, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/pages/winter-driving.aspx>.

HOSTED BY THE ALBANY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Improve Your Community Connections With Us

Services

- SNACKS PROVIDED
- Housing Support
- Laundry and Hygiene
- Harm Reduction Support
- Treatment options for Mental Health and Substance Use
- Disability and Health Benefits
- Peer Support Services
- and more...

Resource Event

Join us for an opportunity to learn more about local resources and how they can meet your needs.

Monday December 4th, 11:45am-1pm
Station 11: 611 Lyon St. SE, Albany, OR 97321



Good —and free — ideas for 2024

1. Compliment three people every day.
2. Watch a sunrise at least once a year.
3. Be the first to say, "Hello".
4. Live beneath your means.
5. Treat everyone like you would want to be treated.
6. Never give up on anybody. Miracles happen.
7. Never deprive someone of hope. It may be all they have.
8. Forget the Joneses.
9. Pray not for things, but for wisdom and courage.
10. Be tough-minded, but tender hearted.
11. Be kinder than necessary.
12. Don't forget a person's greatest emotional need is be feel appreciated.
13. Keep your promises.
14. Learn to show cheerfulness, even when you don't feel like it.
15. Remember that overnight success usually takes about 15 years.
16. Leave everything better than you found it.
17. Remember that winners do what losers don't want to do.
18. When you arrive at your job in the morning, let the first thing you say brighten everyone's day.
19. Don't rain on other people's parades.
20. Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.

Team effort making Porter St. property clean-up a reality

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

LEBANON — The Linn County Road Department, the Planning & Building Department, the Planning & Building Department, County Attorney and Lebanon City Attorney have worked cooperatively



Wayne Mink
Roadmaster

for several weeks to clean up a derelict property on Porter Street in Lebanon.

The property has drawn the ire of neighbors for its

mounds of junk including motor homes, cars, trailers and even pianos, perhaps as many as 40 to 50 of them — including an old Steinway.

The property's owner died in 2019 and he had no children. The property has been the site of numerous fires after the owner died.

Linn County has worked cooperatively with Lebanon City Attorney Tre' Kennedy on the clean-up project. Kennedy has worked with the apparent heir on developing the clean-up plan.

Linn County Roadmaster Wayne Mink said seven 30-yard Dumpsters of trash have been removed and hauled away by Republic Services — Albany-Lebanon Sanitation as of Nov. 29.

More will be done once ash from the burned home is analyzed to determine if there is asbestos, Sulphur or heavy metals content.

"Once we receive that information back from a lab, we will create an on-line profile of materials information," Mink said. "That information will be given to Republic Services and it will be included with every load of material hauled away from here."

Mink said his staff has had an excavator and operator on-site a couple days of week since mid-October.

Nov. 30, several junk cars were removed and hauled away for dismantling. Travel trailers will go next.

"There is a process to removing vehicles," Mink said. "We have to post them and there is a waiting period depending on the value of the vehicles. We also had the Sheriff's Office run VIN (Vehicle Identification Numbers) to determine if any of the vehicles were stolen."

Mink said once the vehicles and trailers are removed, his team will focus on clearing the burn-damaged house, garage and shop.

"We have removed a Steinway piano that is more than 120 years old," Mink said. "It was removed by Northwest Piano Services of Salem and will be kept in a climate-controlled environment for up to two years to dry out. Then, a group of volunteers plan to restore it."

Mink estimates the clean-up will cost about \$60,000.

County nuisance abatement officer Carol Gordon said that at this point, this is not a tax foreclosure property, so the county would need to purchase the property from the proper heirs.

"The cost of clean-up will be a lien on the property," Gordon said.



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



Rescue is something to be thankful for on Thanksgiving

Linn County crew helps find mushroom hunter

Courtesy Benton County Sheriff's Office

PHILOMATH — There was a heartwarming turn of events on Thanksgiving Day, when Benton County Sheriff's Office search and rescue teams successfully located a missing man looking for mushrooms off Botkin Road, west of Philomath.

The 77-year-old man from Corvallis, had been reported missing by a family member at approximately 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22.

The search operation, which involved the Benton County Sheriff's Office Marys Peak Search and Rescue, Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit and Region 3 K9 Search & Rescue were called out to search for the hiker Wednesday night.

Search efforts continued on Thanksgiving Day with additional assistance from the Linn County Sheriff's Office, Lane County Sheriff's Office, Polk County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Searchers located the missing man about 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 23, down a steep drainage near a creek. The man was in a weakened state after a recent back

surgery and unable to hear the rescuers due to the absence of his hearing aids. Since temperatures dropped, the man said he tried to stay moving throughout the night to stay warm. Unfortunately, he did not have a whistle or other essential gear with him and was wearing wool socks with cros.

The man was rescued approximately a mile and a half from his vehicle and immediately airlifted to Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis for further medical assessment and care.

"Thank you to all who helped on this mission," Benton County Sheriff Jef Van Arsdall said. "Many volunteers sacrificed time away from family and friends on Thanksgiving Day to ensure this search had a positive outcome. We know you don't do it for recognition but want the community to know what amazing resources our Office has, to keep the community safe."

In light of this incident, the Benton County Sheriff's Office would like to emphasize the importance of being prepared. To assist hikers in ensuring their safety, they would like to highlight ten essential items recommended by the American Hiking Society. To learn more about these essential items, please visit <https://americanhiking.org/resources/10essentials/>

Christmas Tree permits available from U.S. Forest Service

SPRINGFIELD — It's the time of year to visit the Willamette National Forest and find the perfect Christmas tree and ornament for your celebrations.

Christmas tree permits are available online at Recreation.gov, in person from local vendors, or from one of the Willamette offices. Permits allow the holder to cut one tree in designated areas; each household can purchase up to five permits. Permits are \$5 each; online purchases have an additional \$2.50 service fee. For downloadable maps of tree-cutting areas and a list of local vendors selling tree permits, visit <https://bit.ly/WNFtree>.

Fourth-grade students can receive a free tree permit by getting their Every Kid Outdoors pass and entering the voucher or pass number when prompted on Recreation.gov or by visiting a Forest office.

While hunting for a Christmas tree, be sure to search for ornaments. The Willamette Valley Visitors Association will launch its sixth annual ornament hunt from Nov. 17 until Dec. 31. In partnership with Cascade Volunteers, 200 locally crafted wooden ornaments will be hidden along non-wilderness trails on the

Willamette's Detroit, Sweet Home, McKenzie River, and Middle Fork Ranger Districts and in the Umpqua National Forest's Cottage Grove Ranger District.

The hunt encourages local communities and travelers to connect with public lands and increase outdoor recreation activities. The tradition was born in 2018 when the Willamette National Forest provided the Capitol Christmas Tree in Washington D.C. For more information on the ornament hunt contest and a list of participating trails, visit <https://willamettevalley.org/>

ornament.

Be mindful of safety and your surroundings when searching for trees or ornaments. Cutting trees in some areas of the Forest is prohibited. Tree hunters should remain outside of closed areas and check maps prior to heading out to search for a tree. Forest roads are not maintained for winter driving. Be sure to bring traction devices, a shovel, extra food, drinking water, winter clothing, blankets, a flashlight, and a first aid kit. Don't forget to let someone know where you are going, get an early start, and leave the woods before dark.

County to complete purchase of Wheelhouse

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Having completed the due diligence process, Linn County will officially purchase the office complex at 421 Water Ave NE for about \$6.25 million.

County Administrator Darrin Lane said inspections of the 25,000 square foot property turned up no major issues that would foul the transaction previously approved by the Board of Commissioners.

“We hope this purchase will help us resolve the long-standing issue of increasing security for certain departments in the courthouse, while allowing us to provide our other customers with outstanding service without heightened security measures,” Chairman Roger Nyquist said. Nyquist said this is also “the best financial” path to meeting various needs of departments and office houses in the courthouse.

The Board of Commissioners has examined several options in recent years, from building a new, separate Justice Center that would house Circuit Court offices and courtrooms, to a second addition to the courthouse.

Projected costs were up to \$30 million.

At the earlier meeting, Lane said, “We can get this building for one-third to one-fifth the cost of a courthouse addition. 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 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.



Board Chairman Nyquist also noted at that meeting, “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.

At this point, the county will now deal with a few businesses that have leased space in the building and also determine which county departments or offices will move.



Talk to your kids about marijuana

Did you know?

Regular marijuana use has been linked to depression, anxiety, and suicide in teens.

Be a trusted resource for your teen. Know the facts and start the conversation about the risks associated with marijuana and other drug use. Learn more at linntogether.org.

Talk to your child about the risks of using marijuana.

Marijuana Risks

- **Addiction:** People can and do become addicted to marijuana. Approximately 1 in 10 people who use marijuana will become addicted. When they start before age 18, the rate of addiction rises to 1 in 6.
- **Brain health:** Marijuana can cause permanent IQ loss of as much as 8 points when people start using it at a young age. These IQ points do not come back, even after quitting marijuana.
- **Mental health:** Studies link marijuana use to depression, anxiety, suicide planning, and psychotic episodes. It is not known, however, if marijuana use is the cause of these conditions.
- **Athletic Performance:** Research shows that marijuana affects timing, movement, and coordination, which can harm athletic performance.
- **Daily life:** Using marijuana can affect performance and how well youth do in life. Research shows that people who use marijuana are more likely to have relationship problems, poor educational outcomes, lower career achievement, and reduced life satisfaction.

Adapted from SAMHSA.gov

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.

Past Winners have been from the Sweet Home School District, Linn County Juvenile, and the Oregon Youth Authority.
This year it could be your turn!




Tickets available for purchase at the Juvenile Department or the Treasurer's Office.

Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased through December 12th

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.

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

Town & Country Bazaar ... From P. 1

“We have so many great booths,” Lytle said. “Not everything is Christmas oriented.”

Fair & Expo Director Kris Barnes said there are food trucks set up in the courtyard, cotton candy, coffee and much more.

“We have from 8,000 to 10,000 people each year,” Barnes said.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday,

Dec. 1 and 2 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3. Christmas Storyland is also up and running, Barnes added.

Admission is \$2 for adults, children 12 and under get in free and parking is free.

“Senior citizens who wear a Santa beard will get in free,” Barnes said.

Proceeds benefit the Linn County Fair.



Tangent building repairs completed

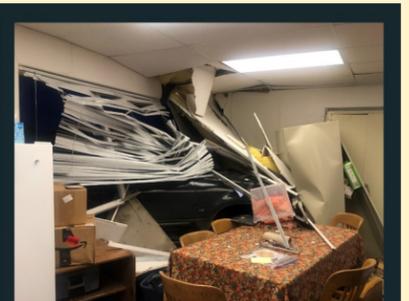
Early on the morning of January 13, a vehicle swerved off Highway 34, went down an embankment and slammed through a wall at a building in Tangent that is owned by Linn County.

The building houses Linn County Sheriff’s Office emergency services and substation staff and the Oregon State University Extension Service—Linn County staff.

No one was injured in the accident, although LCSO deputies were in the substation on the opposite end of the building.

The office has been repaired and as noted by the photos, looks pretty spiffy.

Also added for additional safety were concrete Jersey barriers along the south side of the building next to the highway.



January 13, 2023 - November 28, 2023

