



MH crisis outreach goes truly mobile

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

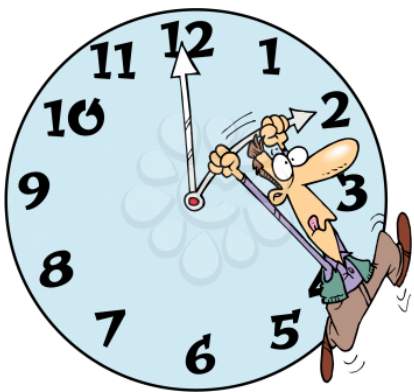
ALBANY — Linn County has provided mental health crisis assistance to rural areas for a long time.

But starting in March, the county's Mobile Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT) will be able to provide in-person services virtually anywhere in the county — from residential areas, to business parking lots to community parks — thanks to new E Transit van that has been "upfitted" into a mobile crisis clinic.

Mobile crisis van ... See P. 14



Linn County's new mobile crisis intervention van will soon be rolling out to assist people throughout all of the county.



Don't forget — Daylight Saving Time starts on Sunday, March 10. Set your clocks forward one hour!

Get your motor running ... !

10-year-old Brody Norton has racing in his blood

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — It will be another six years before 10-year-old Brody Norton can get a driver's license, but for the past five years, Brody has been behind the wheel of outlaw cage karts most weekends.

The son of Curtis and Lauren Norton of Albany was born with a need for speed and was piloting his grandfather's riding lawnmower when he was two years old. He got his first kart when he was four and started racing when he was five.

"His first time on a track, he was grinning and holding on for life," his dad said.

Curtis is the supervisor for the Albany District of the Linn County Road Department.

Brody has worked his way up in the go kart racing world, starting with five

horsepower engines with a top speed of about 30 miles per hour to factory built racing engines with top speeds of up to 70 miles per hour.

He races on indoor and outdoor tracks about one-tenth of a mile around. Races last about 20 laps, while qualifying rounds are about six laps on dirt.

"I race in Albany, Salem, Roseburg, Cottage Grove and in Red Bluff and Chico, California," the fifth-grader at Oak Elementary School said. The indoor season runs from November through February and he will now start outdoor racing.

"It's a lot of fun," Brody explained. "I go a lot faster now than when I started in Pee Wees."



Brody Norton 10, has been racing go karts since he was 5 years old. He is shown with his dad, Curtis Norton, of the Linn County Road Department.

Cage Karts ... See P. 7



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



Commissioners, Albany councilors hold joint work session



The Linn County Board of Commissioners and Albany City Council held a joint work session on Monday, Feb. 12 at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

It has been more than a decade since the two governing bodies have met jointly, although after the meeting, sentiments were that this should be an annual event.

Agenda items included an update on the East Albany Plan presented by Albany Community Development Director Matthew Ruetters, mental health response in both the city and county presented by County Public Health Director Todd Noble, the effects of homelessness presented by Police Chief Marcia Hamden and the county assessor's property tax revenue forecast presented by county Assessor and Tax Collector Andy Stevens. Commissioner Roger Nyquist also presented an update about the intermodal facility at Millersburg.

LCSSO plans spring citizen's academy


The Linn County Sheriff's Office will be offering a Spring Citizens Academy and we are now accepting applications. Our Citizens Academy offers a unique and detailed look into the dynamic operations of the Linn County Sheriff's Office. The Academy is open to any qualified and interested Linn County citizen.

Our Spring Academy will run from April 17 through June 12. Classes will be every Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. There will also be one Sunday "field trip" to the firearms range and Animal Control, with that date to be determined.

Citizen's Academy students are introduced to each of our divisions and specialty teams. They receive classroom instruction and hands-on training in areas such as patrol, detectives, corrections, firearms, defensive tactics, traffic enforcement, narcotics investigations, swift water rescue and dive recovery, prisoner transport, and search and rescue.

The atmosphere at the Citizens Academy is fun and informative. Classes are taught by our dedicated Sheriff's Office team members. The minimum age for attendees is 18, however, applications will be considered for those as young as 16, provided they attend and take part in Citizens Academy with their parent or guardian.

For more information and to apply, please visit <https://www.linnsheriff.org/volunteer.../citizens-academy/>



COMMUNITY EDUCATION NIGHT

Fentanyl Awareness

Keeping Your Family Safe

March 7th
5:30pm-7:00pm

There is a significant risk for today's generation because of fentanyl. Parents, guardians, educators, and anyone responsible for children must rely on drug prevention education to safeguard our children and teens from this growing threat.




Join us on March 7th at 5:30pm to hear from the Benton County Sheriff's Office about the rising threat and what you can do to help combat it.

Free Childcare Provided

Free Dinner Provided

Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis
1112 Circle BLVD, Corvallis

PRESENTED BY

Memorial March 9 in Rickreall for Lisa Robinson-Overstreet

Editor's Note: Linn County Juvenile Director Torri Linn worked with Lisa Robinson for 27 years. We asked him to comment on her life and recent passing."

Lisa Robinson, 7-6-1967 to 12-13-2023

Lisa started her career with Linn County on August 1, 1994 as a juvenile probation officer.

She came to Linn County after working as a juvenile probation officer in Polk County and for the State of Oregon at Hillcrest correctional facility.

Lisa began work under then Director Tom Johnson, supervising youth who were at high risk of being removed from their homes. In those days Linn County contracted for one detention bed with the Marion County Juvenile Department.

Staff were at times required to transport youth to Marion County during the middle of the night when being picked up by law enforcement. Occasionally a police agency would let the department borrow a police cruiser for the transport. There may have been lights and sirens at times.

Lisa spent hours in the car with co-workers moving youth all around the state to various treatment facilities or detention centers if they could be talked into giving up a bed for a Linn County youth. Linn County opened the 20-bed Linn Benton Juvenile Detention Center in 1997 and Lisa helped along with others to establish how the operations of the Detention Center were going to take place. As a probation officer traveling around the state she saw how other detention centers operated and had a good idea of what worked and what didn't in relation to the needs of Linn County.

Lisa had a memory that was impeccable, remembering small details about people, conversations and often even what someone was wearing that a normal person would not recall. She kept meticulous notes and often referred back to them when questions came up days, months and even years later.

She also worked under Director Steven Dye, during his six-year tenure.

Lisa had a strong commitment to her family from the very beginning. Under Director Tom Johnson Lisa interviewed and was offered the Probation Supervisor position, but ended up declining it because she was pregnant with her first son Cameron. She wanted to be able to fully focus on being a mother and tackle the new and unexpected changes in life this would bring.

She supported her husband Troy through career changes and various back issues over the many years of their marriage. Most recently Lisa was very focused on both Cameron and Carson completing their college education with little to no debt.

Lisa was the ultimate representative and champion for Linn County. She took great pride in working for Linn County and represented the Juvenile Department and county at various meetings and workgroups on the county and state level. She set an example for others in her professional and personal behavior and believed everyone should be treated fairly.

The department did a promotion during our employee training and recognition meeting last summer which was themed



Lisa Robinson-Overstreet, 7-6-1967 to 12-13-2023

DALLAS — Lisa Overstreet (Robinson) a resident of Dallas, Oregon passed away on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at the Salem Hospital.

Lisa was born on July 6, 1967 in Dallas, Oregon, the daughter of Tom and Gwen Robinson. Lisa attended elementary and junior high schools in Dallas and graduated from Dallas High School in 1985.

Lisa attended Chemeketa Community College and then Western Oregon State College graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Corrections with a minor in sociology. Lisa completed a practicum at the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center and an internship at Hillcrest School of Oregon in 1987. She was hired part-time as a registrar working in the school office and as a Correctional Counselor while completing the requirements of her degree in 1990.

Lisa was hired by the Polk County Juvenile Department where she worked for four years as a Juvenile Counselor I before starting work at Linn County Juvenile Department in August of 1994 as a Juvenile Counselor II and then promoted to Probation Supervisor in 2007 where she has been able to provide guidance and leadership for the department.

Lisa married Troy Overstreet, her high school sweetheart, on April 21, 1997. Lisa worked for more than 29 years in Linn County and served youth and families for just over 33 years total during her career. The impacts Lisa made with youth, families and other professionals across the state stretch far and wide. Lisa enjoyed camping in Baker City, Lincoln City and Beverly Beach with her family.

She is survived by her husband, Troy; sons, Cameron and Carson; mother, Gwen, and stepfather Steve Villwock; and brothers Mike and Andy. She was preceded in death by her father, Tom Robinson in 2014.

"Ride for the Brand". The meaning of this term is that the employee had signed on to the mission, goals and aims of the employer.

The "brand" is more than just a sign of ownership, but it means you are committed to your team and a dedicated team player. You give your promise to protect the

brand as if it were your own, everyday no matter how tired, or if you may disagree with the strategic direction, because that is what you agreed to do. It is the promise you have made and the code you live by.

Lisa did this in every aspect, she was a champion for youth and families and a champion for department staff in supporting their growth and success.

Lisa became a Supervising Probation Officer in 2007 under her third director, Torri Lynn, and managed the Probation Unit from 2007 until her passing. She managed the youth population at the detention center by helping manage youth coming into and leaving the center.

Lisa called detention every morning to

see if any new youth had been detained and started work on her commute from her home in Dallas to Albany. She oversaw court hearings to make sure that the court had everything they needed in order to conduct a smooth hearing.

She had to jump in at times, when a youth was being unruly or help place them into custody if they were being taken to detention by order of the court.

She was willing to laugh at herself, as knowledgeable as she was about juvenile justice issues she could also be naïve about certain topics that the probation officers were having to deal with. She was always willing to be educated.

Lisa worked as a community partner assisting other agencies whenever possible to make sure that youth and families received the services they needed. Those conversations were not always rainbows and lollipops and Lisa never backed down or avoided a difficult conversation. She approached those situations with the intent to find a solution that was in the best interest of youth.

In the end, working through difficult conversations made the department's relationships with other community organizations stronger. Lisa developed a huge network of people and many connections within Linn County and around the state. Lisa cared for

people in general and especially for youth and families she was serving.

Her opening to a conversation was almost always "How's it going"? It was not just a frivolous way to start a conversation, but came from her heart. She was constantly checking in with department staff to see how they were doing and how she might be of help to them. She often sent texts of encourage, support or sympathy to staff in all departments and other county staff that she knew, often telling people to look at the beautiful full moon. She was a motherly figure within the department.

Lisa loved sports and supported everyone in the department's children as they played at different levels. Her two sons Cameron and Carson participated in sports throughout their childhood and high school. Lisa was not a quiet spectator, she could be heard around the field or gym positively supporting her children or other children she was there to watch. She also supported players from the other team if they were playing well or making a good play.

She would tell funny stories about her son playing basketball against Lebanon High School and sitting next to Commissioner Will Tucker at the games and being nervous about her loud cheering and what he might think.

Lisa also loved football, watching or attending games at all levels. She was proud of winning a number of Fantasy Football leagues she was involved in against the "boys". Her trash talking will be missed by those league members.

Lisa will be missed greatly, not because of the work she did, but because of the way she touched the people around her. Her goal was to make everyone better and make everyone's experience better whether at work or personally. There is so much more to Lisa than can be put into a few paragraphs for a life that was well lived and ended too soon.

Other staff members added:

- I am going to miss her as I enjoyed working with her over the years. She was a wealth of knowledge and displayed passion, and dedication with her work, towards her colleagues and to the youths and families she served.
- Twenty-six years working together I'm not sure how to put it down in words. As most everyone that has worked with Lisa she was here when I got here. She is more family than a coworker. She has been a mentor, a peer, a supervisor and an endearing friend through each transition.
- She would put others before herself but expected more out of herself than others at the same time. She didn't have to be the best at what she did and was willing to laugh with others at her own attempts. She enjoyed helping others and was often a first to offer support or assistance with anyone she had contact with.
- She was always willing to offer words of encouragement, or writing a positive note of encouragement or acknowledgement with that extra flair of a star or smiley face, remembering a former client's phone number years later, attempting to collect the name of every person she knew on a Coca-Cola bottle to give to them, collecting star dollars for her sons, sending a text to "Look at the moon!"
- She set the example for me in so many different ways. Being a professional, a Juvenile Probation Officer, a peer, a parent, a family member, a friend.

Gold Star Families memorial to be added at Timber Linn

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — There are an estimated 1.7 million Gold Star Families — they have lost a son or daughter in service to our country — in the United States.

Linn County Veterans Memorial Association LCVMA has long involved Gold Star Mothers into their Memorial Day and Veterans Day services.

“We feel it is fitting to create a permanent remembrance in honor of all family members who have lost a family member in service to this country,” Nygren said.

Now, the Association wants to honor them permanently with their own memorial alongside others at the Linn County Veterans Memorial at Timber Linn Memorial Park, 900 Price Road SE.

Association President Robin Nygren asked the Linn County Board of Commissioners for moral support of the project at the board’s February 20 meeting. She walked away with a pledge of \$1,000 from Board Chairman Roger Nyquist on behalf of his Lake Shore Lanes bowling alley.

“We appreciate all donations, whether they are \$10 or up,” Nygren said after the meeting. “We want as many people as possible to participate in this effort.”

The plan is to unveil the memorial at this year’s Memorial Day ceremony on May 27, Nygren said.

The concept is to have an engraved granite

stone atop a brick memorial. The granite plaque will include a gold star and a folded American flag, both in color.

The plaque reads:

Nygren said the project has an estimated cost of about \$10,000.

“On all of our projects, labor is volunteer or donated,” Nygren said. “The cost is for materials.”

Nygren said the idea to develop this memorial started around 2012 and has been brewing since.

Nygren said Gold Star Moms has grown into Gold Star Families, recognizing that all family members are affected by the loss of a loved one.

“This is an opportunity to remember those from our community who have sacrificed so much,” Nygren said. “To not honor them would be a complete tragedy.”

The Linn County Veterans Memorial Association is working with OM Stone of Hillsboro.

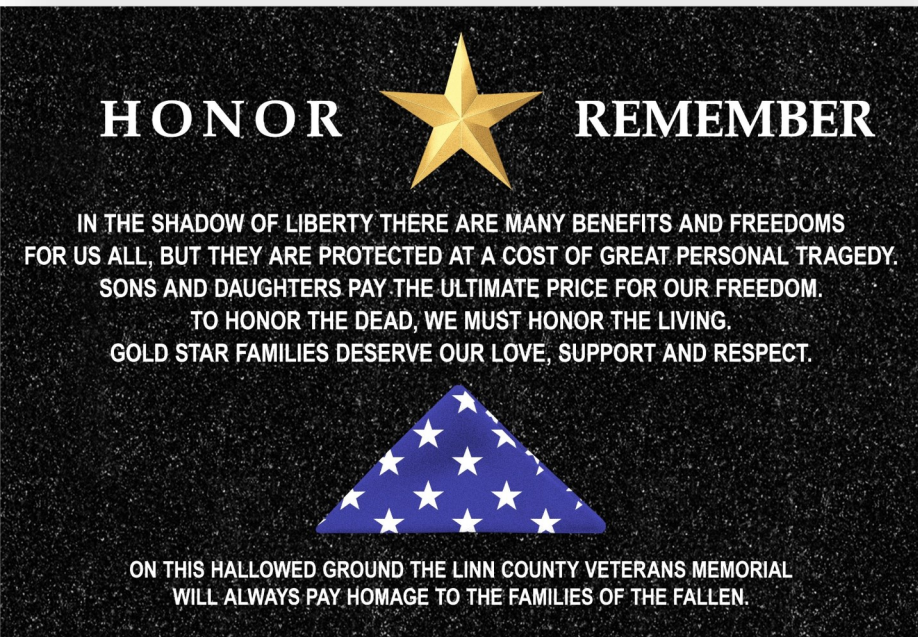
The memorial will be opposite the information kiosk at Timber Linn Memorial Park.

“There is a bench and trees nearby, so there will be a place where people can sit and reflect,” Nygren said.

Donations of any denomination can be sent to the Linn County Veterans Memorial Association, Box 2739, Albany, OR 97321.



Robin Nygren holds a graphic of what planned Gold Star Mothers Memorial will look like at Timber Linn Memorial Park.



Thanks for reading the Linn County Reporter.
Please send story ideas to editor Alex Paul at apaul@co.linn.or.us.



We’re offering Oregon medical baseline customers a rebate of up to \$4,000 on the purchase of a portable power station to help prepare for potential outages.*

Program eligibility

To be eligible for the program, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- The applicant must have an active Pacific Power account number as either a customer or tenant of a customer.
- Be enrolled in Pacific Power’s Medical Baseline Program.
- The purchased product should be on the [Qualified Products List](#).
- Purchased your backup power supply on or after January 1, 2023.
- Proof of purchase, in the form of a legible and dated receipt identifying the product, must be provided as a photographed image in the application portal.

If you think that you may qualify for our medical baseline customer program, please go to www.PacificPower.net/Medical or call customer service at: 1-888-221-7070 to learn more. You can expect the rebate check to arrive in the mail 6-8 weeks from the time of the rebate application submission.

* Only one portable power station is eligible for the rebate program per Pacific Power meter. The rebate amount cannot exceed the purchase price of the product or include shipping costs. Rebate funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis until depleted.

Access the medical certificate in English or Spanish by visiting: PacificPower.net/Medical

Please complete the certificate online, or mail or fax a completed certificate to Pacific Power at:

Attention: Medical Certificates
PO Box 400
Portland, Oregon 97207-0400

Fax Number:
Attention: Medical Certificates
1-877-283-7697



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Officer Manager Melissa Robinson



Operations Manager Jon Brady.

Fair & Expo Center adds Melissa Robinson and Jon Brady

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Linn County Fair & Expo has added two new staff members, Operations Manager Jon Brady and Office Manager Melissa Robinson. Robinson, 46, is no stranger to the Linn County work family, having spent 20 years as an Office Specialist with the Juvenile Department.

A 1995 Lebanon High School graduate, Robinson attended business school in Salem and worked for the Education Service District before coming to the Juvenile Department. She said her move to the Fair & Expo Center was an opportunity for job growth. “I love the people I worked with at the Juvenile Department,” she said.

She now is busy with event scheduling, working with numerous clients, monitoring insurance and managing the many food truck contracts. “We probably work with 30 food trucks,” Robinson said, “plus we have a caterer’s list.” Robinson said she was a bit surprised by how many events are held every week.

School in 2008 and enlisted in the Marine Corps, where he served six years, primarily in administration in North Carolina. After leaving the Marine Corps he spent five years working for a private contractor with Homeland Security within federal buildings in Kansas City, Missouri. Upon returning to Oregon, he enlisted in the Air National Guard based in Portland. He spent six months training as an air frame mechanic in Pensacola, Florida. Brady worked as the North Cascades District business manager with the Oregon Department of Forestry before landing the Fair & Expo position. “I do a little bit of everything, from setting up and taking down for events to maintenance and working with many clients,” Brady said. “It’s very interesting and I enjoy it every day.” Brady is rearing four children, Kina, 14, Savannah, 12, Freyja, 8, and Bash, 4. “I enjoy doing things with the kids, we are exploring the coast a lot lately,” he said. He also enjoys working out and target shooting at the local gun range.

Robinson has a grown daughter, Makayla, 25, and two grandsons, Julian, 3, and Trey, six months. She enjoys working out, paddle boarding, being with family, hiking and going out to eat. “This is a great new opportunity to learn new things,” Robinson said. “It’s much different here than at the Juvenile Department. It’s an amazing team. I am grateful for the opportunity and happy to be here.” Brady, 34, lived in Toledo, upriver from Newport until he was 10, when his family moved to Albany. He graduated from South Albany High

Julia Fox joins Linn County Planning & Building Dept.

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Julia Fox’s new job with the Linn County Planning & Building Department has her focused on the future, but she also has a keen interest on the past, with a degree in history from Oregon State University. A Houston, Texas native, Fox started her new job as an associate planner on Feb. 5, but had actually worked for Linn County for about six months, as a park ranger at Clear Lake Resort. “It was tranquil, quiet,” Fox said of Clear Lake in the late fall and winter months. Lots of snow and “really bad wi-fi” she added with a laugh. Fox said she learned of the Planning & Building job through her friend Kate Bentz, a staff member. Fox moved to Oregon in 2015, after her mother transferred to Corvallis for her job with HP. She completed a bachelor’s degree in history, then volunteered with AmeriCorps in Redding, California. She worked with a Youth Build School, where teens not only complete their basic education requirements, but also learn how to work with their hands-on construction projects. After her year program, Fox returned to Oregon, but this time, she completed a Master’s Degree in Public Administration at the University of Oregon. “I am especially interested in museums and museum management, but that is a very narrow field,” she said. “I am interested in public service in general and the Public Administration program fits well.” Fox spent a year as a RARE (Resource Assistance for Rural Environments) volun-



Julia Fox

teer with the community of Halsey. “I worked in community planning and helped develop a parks master plan and an emergency master plan,” Fox said. She spent six months with Linn County Parks, before landing with the Planning & Building Department. When she isn’t working, Fox enjoys hiking and a newfound hobby — cross country skiing — learned while working at Clear Lake Resort. Her long-term goal is to continue working in public service. “I like planning for the future,” Fox said. “We hope to get the Historic Resource Commission going again so we can plan for the future while preserving the past.”

March 8-9, 2024 | 9am - 5pm
Linn County Expo Center - Albany, Oregon

- Learn about making Bamboo Rods and the Bugs we imitate to catch fish
- All-Day Tyer & Casting Demonstrations, Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Classes
- 50 Exhibitors with Banquet & Live Auction Friday Night

www.nwexpo.com

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Expo 2024 Show Fly
RED FOX SQUIRREL-HAIR NYMPH
by Dave Whitlock



OSU Extension Service



OSU Extension statewide seed giveaway returns for fifth year

CORVALLIS, Ore. – The Grow This! Oregon Garden Challenge, Oregon State University Extension’s statewide seed giveaway, has returned for a fifth year in 2024 featuring a continued partnership with the Oregon Bee Project.

Individuals and households, schools and groups can sign up to receive an individual/household seed kit, group kit or seed-starting teacher classroom kit through the mail.

The seed-starting classroom kits include a reusable grocery tote, stickers, foil pans, seed markers, a spray bottle and a peat pot for each child.

The challenge is spearheaded by Food Hero, a statewide initiative of the Oregon Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) program that was developed by OSU Extension in English and Spanish. This year’s goal is to mail seed kits to 3,600 individuals or households and enough classroom kits to reach over 40,000 classroom students and their teachers, said Lauren Tobey, Food Hero coordinator.

The seed giveaway has been growing since it started in 2020. In 2023, an estimated 122,500 Oregonians participated in the Grow This! Oregon Garden Challenge – an increase of 31% over the previous year. About 1,350 classroom kits were distributed to 419 schools, reaching 40,500 students. The program distributed 6,500 individual/household seed kits.

Of the returning participants from the 2023 challenge, 83% said they planted seeds and 92% reported an increase in using their garden harvest in a meal.

“We want to grow food together and share gardening tips and experiences to learn together,” Tobey said. “Food Hero’s bottom-line goal is to increase fruit and vegetable intake and access among all Oregonians.”

Throughout summer and fall, participants will receive a monthly Grow



This! Oregon Garden Challenge email with gardening information, harvest recipes and storage tips. Challenge information will also be available in English and Spanish on the Food Hero gardening page.

The individual/household kits will include a seed for a flower and seeds for vegetables that can be made into a salad plus a pollinator friendly seed packet. As they have been in the past, the seeds were donated to Extension by Bi-Mart Stores Inc. The kits also include a bookmark with a link with guidance on how to plant the seeds, either in the ground or in a container.

The Grow This! Garden Challenge originated with a donation in 2019 of 800 seed packets from Bi-Mart. Mandy Hatfield, Extension nutrition educator for Douglas County, said the original intent was to provide seeds for school gardens across the state. In 2020, Bi-Mart donated more packets, precipitating the need to further expand the program.

Since it launched in 2008, Food Hero has been used in communities and schools across Oregon, building children’s cooking skills through sharing the recipes and sampling new foods.

Food Hero recipes are tested according to criteria, such as overall flavor, color and texture. The meals are low-cost and feature easy to find ingredients, easy to follow instructions and minimal preparation time. Recipes and cooking tips are also shared through a Food Hero monthly publication in Spanish and English.



Thank you, Abby!

Abby Johnson has resigned after five years with OSU Extension, half of that time in Linn County. Abby plans to spend more time raising her daughter Brynn and working on her small business.

Abby said she has enjoyed working the county fairs, the High Desert Leadership Retreats, seeing the Teen Ambassador Team grow, team building at all levels, state fair activities and working with Cloverbuds, experiencing 4-H programs for the first time.

She plans to continue with 4H as a volunteer.



Linn County 4-H March Important Dates

March 5

Cloverbud Explorers, 4:00 or 5:30 pm

March 10

Ambassador Meeting, 3:30 pm

March 12

Record Book Workshop, 6:00 pm

March 14

Record Book Workshop, 6:00 pm

Food Prep Workshop, 6:00 pm

March 19

Small Animal Advisory, 6:00 pm

Livestock Advisory, 7:00 pm

March 21

Static Advisory, 6:00 pm



HORSE CLINIC

DATE CHANGES

MARCH 1

Open Ride

MARCH 19

TBA

APRIL 16

TBA

APRIL 23

TBA

APRIL 30

TBA



Brody Norton's mother, Lauren, reacts with shock as he rolls his kart in front of her in a race.

Cage kart racer ... From P. 1

Brody said he has developed several good friendships through the sport. He said there will be three or four karts in qualifying rounds and six to eight karts in actual heats. On a good night, he will race three or four times.

Any money earned in placings goes to pay for parts, Brody and his dad both said laughing.

Depending on track conditions, it's easy to go through a set of rear tires in one night. They cost \$100 each.

His dad said a good outlaw kart with a full cage and wing (it creates a down force and better tire contact), can cost \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Since the Road Department staff work four-day schedules, Curtis has three-day weekends to take Brody racing. Lauren Norton works from home. The family has applied to enroll Brody in the Baker Academy an on-line school, which has a four-day schedule.

Weekends are definitely a family affair, as they load up their race trailer with living quarters and head off for races near and far.

Although he has rolled his kart a few times — the family has a photo of his mother in shock watching him roll — he has never been hurt while racing. He has, however, broken two fingers in other life activities, both times requiring casts that allowed him to grip his go kart's steering wheel successfully.

Brody said his dad handles wrenching on his karts and they enjoy spending time together. Racing in his blood comes naturally, as several family members have competed in various forms of racing over the years.

Brody has his eye on moving up in the racing world and likely out of karts and into stock

car racing. He can drive a low horsepower stock car competitively in just two years.

Do Brody's parents worry about his safety?

"There is always that chance that Brody could get hurt yes," his dad said. "We make sure Brody has great safety equipment — fire suit, full containment seat and neck restraint, five-point harness and a helmet that properly fits."

Curtis added, "As a parent it, can get very nerve wracking at times. I guess in the end you just pray that you have taken all the precautions and leave it in God's hands."

In addition to racing, Brody enjoys playing soccer, crabbing and fishing at the coast and riding quads on the dunes. And if actual racing isn't enough, he also enjoys dirt track racing video games.

"Last summer he started selling campfire wood to help support his racing so that takes up a lot of his free time," Curtis said. "Believe it or not he sold wood all winter long."

Brody's hobby is definitely a family commitment.

"Everything we do seems to get planned around Brody's race schedule," Curtis said. "You definitely have to budget your money and sponsors are a huge help. Some of our closest friends we have met through the racing community. It is fun watching our kids battle it out on the track and yet play together before and after each raced. They even talk smack to each other. It's just a giant family."





Linn County Sheriff's Office award recipients

The Linn County Sheriff's Office recently announced staff awards for the past year. Recipients included (not in order in photo):

Top Shooter Award: Deputy Caleb Scanlan

Volunteers

SAR Tech of the Year: Chris Kinkade

SAR Cadre Volunteer of the Year: Madeleine Goins

Posse Volunteer of the Year: Larry Chafin

Lifesaving Award: Patrol Deputies Jenna Sukle, Barrett Dowding; Corrections Lieutenant Dustin Burgess, Corrections Sergeant Dawson Griffith, Corrections Deputies John Frost, Charles Kachel, Thomas Reasons, Amber Erickson-Lovik.

Joint Service Commendation: Communications Supervisors Kristin Prouty, Amanda Catullo, Nathan McIntyre, Deanna McKay; Dispatchers Tina Hannon, Chelsea Peaslee, Brittany Kleiven, Skylar King; Communications Manager Sarah Shelton.

Distinguished Service Award: Patrol Sergeant Colin Pyle, Corrections Deputy Amber Erickson-Lovik

Division Employees of the Year:

Support Services: Human Resources Clerk Shannon Heyerly

Dispatch: Communications Supervisor Kristin Prouty

Corrections: Sergeant Tyler Plagman

Corrections Program: Transportation Aide Dawn Salveggio

Patrol: Deputy Evan Cyrus

Detectives: Tracy White

Medal of Valor: Deputies Jacob Randall, Derek Klein, Dillon Spangler, Marion Kaftanchikov

Office-wide Supervisor of the Year: Sergeant Dusty Frenzel

Office-wide Employee of the Year: Jacob Randall



Polar Plunge for Special Olympics

Saturday, members of your Linn County Sheriff's Office took part in the annual Polar Plunge. The plunge took place in the Willamette River in Corvallis. Proceeds from the plunge go to the Special Olympics of Oregon!

By participating in today's plunge, we helped provide 5,000+ Special Olympics Oregon athletes access to sports, activities, and community. We were joined by many other groups and Law Enforcement Agencies from around the area.

If you would like to help support the Special Olympics of Oregon visit <https://buff.ly/3wlJkvX>.



Coming soon: Linn County Budget Hearings, March 29-April 2

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

Linn County gets funds to battle homelessness

ALBANY — Some \$26.4 million dollars has been authorized to be distributed across 26 rural counties that comprise the Oregon Balance of State Continuum of Care, a HUD designated group of housing and homeless service providers across the state, including Linn County.

The funding came from House Bill 5019, which the legislature approved in response to the need for additional funds to address homelessness throughout rural Oregon, most of which was not included in Governor Tina Kotek's Executive Order 02-23.

The Executive Order, which took effect in January 2023, declared a homeless state of emergency and authorized emergency funding for Oregon counties that had experienced an increase in unsheltered homelessness of 50% or more between 2017 and 2022. The metric used to measure the increase was the federal Point in Time Count, a manual count of the unhoused that takes place annually in every county across the country.

Due to logistical challenges in getting an accurate count in rural regions compared to metropolitan areas, most rural counties in Oregon — including Linn County — were excluded from the emergency funds.

Determined to access resources to address local needs, Linn County sought and received a waiver to get the additional funding by proving it met the metric requirements. A multi-agency coordination (MAC) group across Linn County was quickly formed, composed of stakeholders including service providers, shelter operators, street outreach workers, first responders, and representatives from city and county government, with the goal of crafting a plan to address the local crisis and increase the amount of shelter beds available in the county.

While the project proposals the county submitted in the plan exceeded the available funding, the MAC group believed it was vital to demonstrate to the state the scope of services that would be needed to begin to make a significant impact on Linn County's homelessness crisis. The original award was over \$1.9 million, Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), offered additional funding for being a waiver community, bringing the total award to \$2,906,746.

The funding extends to June 30, 2025, and is designated for new shelter bed creation, street outreach, and rapid re-housing assistance to help those who are unsheltered get back into safe, permanent housing.

The outlined goals from the MAC group for Linn County are to create 106 new shelter beds and rapidly re-house 41 unsheltered individuals and families by the end of June 2025.

Community Services Consortium (CSC), the designated Community Action Agency serving Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties, was established as the grantee for this funding. However, several local partners of CSC will also receive funding, and OHCS selected Faith, Hope, and Charity Inc. to receive Shelter Addendum funding as part of the award. Additionally, the MAC group awarded funds to other organizations through a request for proposal (RFP) process. Those awards are as follows:

Faith, Hope, and Charity Inc. \$953,240
To create and operate 30 new shelter beds and provide peer support services.

City of Sweet Home \$449,093
To create 34 new shelter beds for families and provide outreach and case manage-



Green Peter Reservoir drawdown update

Several mid-valley officials, including Commissioners Sherrie Sprenger, left side, and Will Tucker, right side, of photo, attended a Green Peter Reservoir drawdown update meeting sponsored by Rep. Jami Cate on Friday, Feb. 16 at the Lebanon Public Library. Guest speakers included staff from the Army Corps of Engineers. Topics included how water turbidity caused by the quick release of water affected area water systems and fish morbidity. Corps staff talked about how siltation works and how future drawdowns may look and be implemented.



ment services.
C.H.A.N.C.E. \$292,566
To create and support 42 additional shelter beds at Second CHANCE Shelter, including staffing, supplies, and equipment.
Crossroads Communities \$136,500
To support street outreach and rapid re-housing services to the unsheltered in East Linn County
Creating Housing Coalition \$129,500
To support street outreach and rapid re-housing services to the unsheltered in Albany and West Linn County. CSC will provide \$407,140 through its rapid re-housing program, assisting with security deposits, rental subsidies and other support services as needed by those who are successfully re-housed by the partner agencies listed above. Additionally, \$50,000 will be utilized for collecting and reporting project data and outcomes to track progress. The remainder of the funding will be used for administrative costs to enable all the outlined goals and services to take place.
"I've been involved with local housing and homeless services and organizations in Linn County for over 20 years," said Dina Eldridge, CSC Housing Senior Operations Manager. "I'm very familiar with the ebb and flow of funding, new programs and services, and rarely does it make a dent in the

magnitude of impact that's needed in our region. I truly believe the leverage and opportunities provided by this funding and collaboration of the MAC

group will bring long-term, sustainable change to our local homelessness crisis, creating a safer, healthier community for all."

Introduction to Forest Management Plans Webinar Series + Field Day

Cost: Free

Webinar Dates:
April 8th, 15th, 22nd

Time: 10am - 11:30pm

Location: Online

Field Day:
April 19th 1pm-3pm

Field Day Location - Polk County

RSVP Here:
<https://beav.es/ckC>




Commissioner Tucker encourages timber folks to make voices heard

EUGENE — Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker told attendees of the annual Oregon Logging Conference Thursday, Feb. 22, that the logging/wood products families must have an active voice in how state and federal forest lands are managed, or face ever more decreasing annual harvests.

Tucker said that if proposed long-term management plans — Habitat Conservation Plan — are approved on Oregon Department of Forestry lands, harvest levels will be cut in half. Currently, the State Forest system produces about 10% of annual log harvest from state-managed lands. That will drop to 5% Tucker said.

Tucker pointed out that prior to the Northern Spotted Owl and salmon

wars, the U.S. Forest Service and BLM — which controls 60% of government forest lands in Oregon — produced “substantially more million board feet of harvestable timber annually — than private lands.

Today, USFS and BLM produce just 14% and the private forest lands that make up 34% of forest lands, produce 76% of harvestable timber.

Tucker talked about numerous groups or advisory committees that influence forest management:

- Certified Burn Manager Program.
- Committee for Family Forestlands
- Compliance Monitoring Pro-

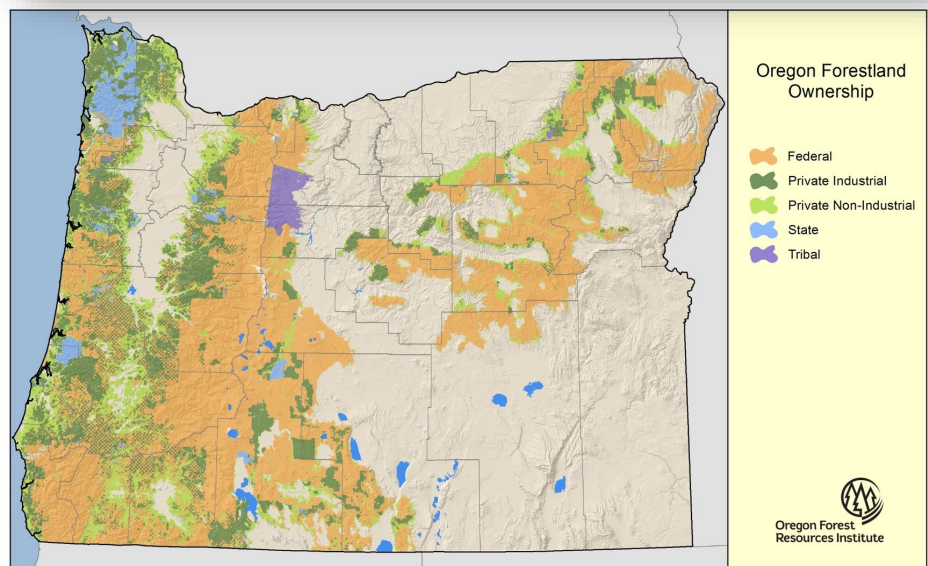


Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker.

Photo courtesy Milt Moran

Section 629-603-0000 - Adaptive Management Program Purpose
 (1) The purpose of the adaptive management program rules is to provide science-based recommendations and technical information to assist the Board of Forestry in determining when it is necessary or advisable to adjust rules, guidance, and training programs to achieve the biological goals and objectives.
 (3) It is the policy of the State of Oregon that regulation of forest practices for the protection of aquatic species shall, in addition to other statutory requirements, be subject to a process of adaptive management, whereby forest practice rules are:
 (a) Monitored for effectiveness relative to the biological goals and objectives; and
 (b) Modified if necessary to achieve the biological goals and objectives.

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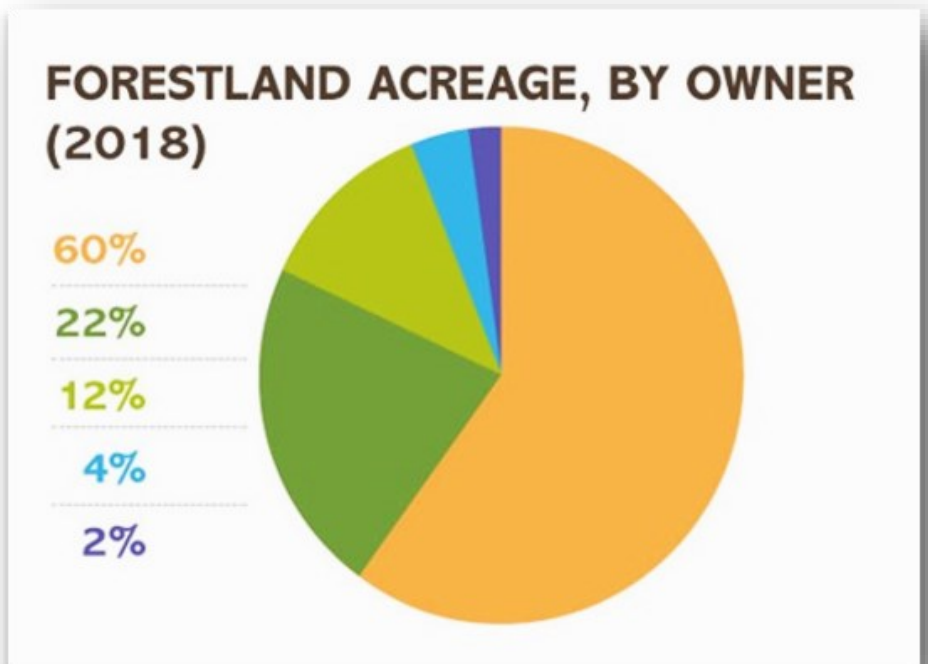


Ownership	Forestland (acres)	Percent of total
U.S. Forest Service	14,093,000	48%
Bureau of Land Management	3,573,000	12%
National Park Service	160,000	1%
Other federal	32,000	<1%
Total federal	17,858,000	61%
State	942,000	3%
County and municipal	187,000	1%
Total state and county	1,129,000	4%
Total government	18,987,000	64%
Large private landowners (>= 5,000 acres)	6,487,000	22%
Small private landowners (<5,000 acres)	3,702,000	12%
Total private	10,189,000	34%
Native American tribal forestland	480,000	2%
TOTAL FORESTLAND, all owners	29,656,000	100%

- gram Committee
- Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund
- Regional Forest Practice Committees
- Smoke Management Advisory Committee
- State Forests Advisory Committee
- State Stewardship Coordinating Committee

Added to state law, AMPC (Adaptive Management Program) is new, it the promise of rule for a reason, changes based upon science. The changes to the Oregon Forest Practices Act are aimed to avoid, minimize and mitigate the legacy effects of timber harvest and other private forest management activities have on certain aquatic species and their habitats. While giving certainty to property owners and timber processors. First question around roads, and connectivity of runoff water to streams, road construction. Next question is amphibians, list-

ing by the feds a 3 to 5 might be coming, but knowledge is light. Tucker emphasized people need to engage with the Bureau of Land Management and encourage them to salvage burned timber, as well as timber downed by wind and snow storms. Tucker said Forest Trust counties are seeing a 30 to 50% drop in income due to Habitat Conservation Planning on the State Forest lands. “Our voice was not heard,” Tucker said. Tucker noted, “Your voice is needed. You need to advocate. You need to vote in elections — local, state and federal positions — and they need to know you and your issues.” Tucker said Linn County has a 3% share of the State Forest lands within its borders. That forest land has average \$3.3 million in annual revenue for the county and taxing districts over a 10-year period. But with lower harvests, there will be much lower income unless the public acts soon.



Commissioners OK first economic development grant

Funding comes from Millersburg property lease

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — In March 2023, a car struck the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce building in the middle of the night, causing extensive damage to the 70-year-old former DMV office building.

Tuesday morning, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker approved a \$70,000 economic development grant to help repair the building and modernize it with an ADA approved restroom.

Chamber CEO Rebecca Grizzle told the commissioners the project estimate is \$202,000 for the basic structural repairs.

The ADA restroom and major electrical upgrades will cost more. Insurance will cover about \$180,000 and Grizzle said that leaves about \$70,000 to raise.

She said the ADA improvements are not mandated “but it is the right thing to do.”

Grizzle said the chamber has applied for financial assistance from the City of Lebanon as well and has been fundraising in the community. Board Chairman Nyquist said the grant will come from the monthly lease of property adjacent to the intermodal facility in Millersburg. Linn County purchased 192 acres from International Paper, sold about 60 acres for the intermodal facility and is in the process of developing an industrial park on the remaining property.

National Carbon (now known as Aymium) has leased 33 acres at about \$462,000 per year for 16 years, plus inflation increases. That money is being earmarked by Linn



Above: The Lebanon Chamber of Commerce building has been boarded up for a year since a car ran into it in March 2023. **Below:** Chamber CEO Rebecca Grizzle addresses Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker.

County for economic development, including small businesses.

Aymium will use woody biomass from area forests to produce high-value carbon products used to improve metals production, purify air and water and improve crop production.

The commissioners unanimously agreed the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, as well as all chambers in the county, directly benefit small businesses in many ways. The Lebanon chamber has 400 members.

The commissioners also agreed that an application process should be developed — much like one used to help local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic — as this program is expected to last for decades to come.

The chamber has been working out of the Morley Thomas Law Firm building since the incident. Fortunately, the incident happened at 2:21 a.m. and no staff members were in the building.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!
Send any fun photos to
apaul@co.linn.or.us

BEEVENT 10th Annual POLLINATOR CONFERENCE

Save the date!
March 2, 2024

Registration opens February 1st

ALL GAPS Seniors Can Apply!

ALBANY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Scholarship Applications are NOW OPEN!

albanypsf.org > What We Do > Scholarships

Albany Visitors Association
17th Annual Photo Contest

Entry Deadline is March 8, 2024
For information and entry, visit albanyvisitors.com or email info@albanyvisitors.com
See your photos on social media and in print publications!

Donna Short
Pavla Zakova-Laney
Melinda Martin
Camron Settlemier

Coating for grapes shows promise in battle between wildfire smoke, wine

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Spray on coatings for the vineyard have promise in preventing off flavors in wines that result from contact with wildfire smoke, according to new Oregon State University research.

Oregon State researchers are developing a product that vineyard managers could spray onto their grapes to protect from wildfire smoke before it reaches their vines. The researchers expect to have a spray coating to prevent smoke damage available in the next several years.

“Wildfire smoke is an increasing problem for wineries in the United States and around the world and right now vineyard managers really have no tools to manage the effects of the smoke,” said Elizabeth Tomasino, an associate professor of enology at Oregon State. “This coating has the potential to transform the wine industry.”

This research was prompted by wildfire smoke that enveloped much of Oregon, Washington, California and British Columbia in September 2020 and significantly impacted wine grape quality.

The fires coincided with the harvest time for grapes. At the time, vineyard managers were unsure of the impact of wildfire smoke on their crop and as a result many decided the uncertainty wasn’t worth the cost to harvest their grapes and potential impact on wine quality.

The smoke event resulted in more than \$3 billion in losses for the wine industry.

In a paper recently published in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, Oregon State researchers, led by Yanyun Zhao, targeted three compounds known as volatile phenols that contribute to smoke taint in grapes.

Zhao, a university distinguished professor who has studied food coatings for more than 20 years, and Jooyeoun Jung, a senior researcher assistant professor in Zhao’s lab, developed cellulose nanofiber-based coatings containing chitosan and beta-cyclodextrin that can be applied to grapes in the vineyard.

The work showed that depending on the formulations, the films can block guaiacol and syringol and capture meta-cresol, wildfire smoke compounds that when absorbed by wine grapes result in off-flavors in wine. The difference between blocking and capturing is important, Zhao said. Blocking means the coating doesn’t absorb the phenol compounds and wouldn’t need to be washed off before winemaking. Capturing means the coating absorbs the compounds and would need to be washed off.

“Not having to wash it off saves time, money and water for grape growers,” Zhao said. “That is what we are aiming for.”

Developing the coatings is challenging because the phenols have different chemical shapes, the researchers note, making it difficult to create a coating that adheres properly to all the shapes to block the smoke. The researchers are continuing to refine the coating formulations and perform cost analysis studies.

Their two years of coating application studies in the vineyard at Oregon State’s Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center in Central Point, Oregon found that the coatings do not impact the growth and quality of the grapes.

The coatings were also applied at Oregon State University’s Woodhall Vineyard outside Monroe, Oregon, where smoke chambers were placed over vines to test the smoke-blocking ability of the coatings. Wine from these grapes is currently being



analyzed for quality attributes.

“Growers want something they can spray on their vines to protect them,” said Alexander Levin, a viticulturist who is the director of the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center. “If this becomes a commercially

available thing it’s going to be a big game-changer.”

In addition to Tomasino, Zhao, Jung and Levin, the paper is authored by Trung Tran, Lindsay Garcia, Joseph Deshields, Cole Cerrato and Michael

Penner, all of Oregon State.

The work is funded by the Oregon Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Grant.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Youth Mental Health First Aid is an entry-level training that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adolescents ages 12-18.



YOU WILL LEARN:

- Common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges.
- 5-Step action plan to help a youth in crisis and non-crisis situations.
- How to connect a youth to appropriate services and supports.

**MARCH 7, 2024
8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
ARMORY BUILDING
104 SW 4TH AVE
ALBANY, OR**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Parents • School Staff • Educators • Coaches • Youth Group Leaders • First Responders • Youth-Serving Adults

Sponsored by Linn County Health Services

Registration is required. Certification will be provided.

**For more information or to register, email
prevention@co.linn.or.us**



Helping kids quit smoking

Dani Crabtree, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator, works on "Quit Kit" during a building session held on Friday, Feb. 16. The youth kits include a journal to use with the program, hard candies, fidgets, information about nicotine's effects on the youth brain and stress reduction ideas, as well as cessation resource information available to them. The kits will be used by Greater Albany Public Schools as part of the In-Depth Program, a four-part education program from the American Lung Association specifically for youth who have been caught vaping or with tobacco products at school.

Juvenile Department expands intervention program to Lebanon, SH

ALBANY — The Linn County Juvenile Department has expanded its middle-school — junior high prevention program into both Lebanon and Sweet Home, Juvenile Director Torri Lynn told Commissioners Roger Nyquist and Will Tucker Tuesday morning. Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger was not present.

Lynn said intervention specialist Beth Shook has been successfully working with 18 groups of middle school kids — 118 in all — from Greater Albany Public Schools. She recently updated the GAPS Board of Education on how the program is working, Lynn added. In his written report, Lynn said of the 118 young people, 112 have not been involved with law enforcement.

Now, the Juvenile Department has expanded the program to young people in Lebanon and Sweet Home with intervention specialist Emily Bell.

Lynn said this is a voluntary program that targets young people who are "at risk" due to behavior or attendance issues, or poor grades. Shook and Bell work with the young people in small groups and help them work on self-regulation skills, how to handle frustration,



Torri Lynn

anger management and recognizing appropriate boundaries. The Juvenile Department also works with school officials and parents. Lynn said there are 220 young people in the Probation Unit or pending court and of those, 52 are considered high-risk. Lynn said the horticulture program is ramp-

ing up and is receiving pre-orders for trees and native plants from the Bureau of Land Management for soil erosion control projects.

Plantings for hanging baskets and other floral and vegetable starts will begin in March.

The Tier 1 work crew completed 147 hours of community service on nine project days. During the same time period a year ago, the crew completed 8.25 hours of service.

The Tier 2 work crew completed 125 hours of service over nine project days. During the same time period in 2023, the crew completed 182 hours of service.

In January, there were five young people from Benton County held for 44 total days; 22 young people from Linn County held for 230 total days; and two young people from Lincoln County held for 43 total days of care.

Grief Education & Support Group
Wednesdays from 2-3:30 p.m.
Spring Dates: March 6 to April 17, 2024
Fall Dates: Sept. 4 to Oct. 16, 2024

Sponsored by Samaritan Evergreen Hospice

Why participate in a weekly group?

- It's a chance to meet with a small group of people who are also learning how to go on living after the death of someone close.
- Each session includes information on a particular aspect of grief, and suggestions on how to cope with the things that come up while grieving.
- There is time to talk about your experiences in a confidential, supportive setting, and hear from the group about the changes in their lives following the death of someone in their world.

Free, seven-week series on Wednesdays starting March 6 and September 4 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at Hospice House

Spring Dates: March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17

Fall Dates: Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16

Location: Samaritan Evergreen Hospice House
 4600 Evergreen Pl SE, Albany
Facilitators: Maria Ross and Cindy Thelen
 Evergreen Hospice Bereavement Coordinators

There is no charge for the group, but a pre-registration phone call is required. Call Maria at 541-812-4665 or Cindy at 541-812-4653.

Please register early as space is limited.



Start the Conversation & Prevent Youth Marijuana Use

Start the conversation

Talk to your teen about the risks associated with marijuana or other drug use. Be your teen's trusted resource.

Listen

Stay calm and non-judgmental. When you allow youth to be heard, they're more likely to hear what you have to say.

Set clear rules

Youth with clear family rules about drug use are less likely to use marijuana than those without clear rules. Let them know your expectations and possible consequences.

Focus on the good

Encourage young people to make healthy decisions that help them achieve their goals. Remind youth that most of their peers choose not to use.

Monitor

Ask Who? What? Where? When? Get to know the parents of your teen's friends.

Count it and lock it up

If you have alcohol, marijuana or other substances in your home that are prohibited to minors, track them and lock them up.

Visit linntogether.org for more tips and resources.

New Mobile Crisis Intervention Team van ... From P. 1

Nova Sweet, Linn County Crisis Supervisor Manager, said the county ordered the Ford van more than 18 months ago through a fleet program. It recently underwent transformation inside and out, with a colorful graphics wrap and an interior that features a generous amount of storage, seating, lights, a computer holder, swiveling front seats, a bench seat, and an on-board generator that will allow mental health staff to provide services in places where no electrical outlets are available.

Public Health Director Todd Noble said the project is in response to the passage of HB 2757, which requires counties to provide mobile crisis response. Funding came through the Oregon Health Authority.

"We have traditionally been 24/7 but we primarily only responded directly to local hospitals to do crisis screenings. Now we can meet people where they are at in the community and will respond to crisis situations anywhere in the community," Noble said. "We are working towards a firehouse model similar to EMS."

Sweet explained that currently, county staff respond to crisis calls in passenger vehicles. The new van provides them with an actual work space that will hold a wide variety of items that may be needed in a crisis intervention situation.

Sweet said that although Linn County will continue to work closely with



Nova Sweet shows off the multi-functional interior of the new mobile crisis intervention van. There is ample storage space, seating and even an on-board generator that makes the vehicle extremely versatile.

RV shore line adapter; water jug with spout; cooler; all needed documents/resources AED First aid kit/CPR masks; lock boxes/med minders; pamphlet rack for resources; computer chargers (times two); phone charger; broom, trash can/bags/recycle bin; sanitizer and sanitizer wipes; rubber gloves; sharps container pens/notepads; fire extinguisher; paper towels; resource phone book; charging cables/charge packs; rain jackets for crisis team; flashlight/extra batteries; jumper cables and an ice scraper

Sweet said she received an email from Trivan after the van was delivered.

It noted: "Your van was the envy of the Vancouver/Portland Area, as I made stops at Vancouver Public Schools and the Clark County Fleet Garage. Vancouver Public schools is looking for an audiology testing van upfit and I stopped there so they could see our product in person. They were big fans of the orange interior cabinetry and overall finish quality ..."

There are also several high-powered lights on the exterior of the van and there is a canopy that lifts out above a large table when the back doors are opened.

The unit will start rolling out as soon as all staff members are checked out driving it.



EMTs and law enforcement, the van will provide services independently of those agencies. The mobile crisis response model requires that two county staff are present when working with people in need.

Sweet said the new unit may provide many amenities for both clients and staff.

Possible items to be stocked for clients include: Narcan/Covid tests; fuel vouchers/bus tickets; food/snacks/bottled water; hygiene (male/female); items for children such as fidgets and coping items; outreach bags; diapers/wipes/powder formula; sleeping bags/tents/tarps; backpacks; hand warmers; coats/socks/clothes; Gatorade as well as warm drinks such as hot coffee or hot chocolate; and blankets

Possible items helpful to staff may include: heavy duty extension cord/



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Please don't drink and drive!

