



# Linn County NEWS



Contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email: [apaul@co.linn.or.us](mailto:apaul@co.linn.or.us)

## Linn County's First-Time Youth Wage Program growing

ALBANY — Linn County's annual First-Time Youth Wage Grant program added five more participants in September, the Board of Commissioners learned Tuesday morning.

There are now 29 companies and 62 young people participating in the program that is funded by economic development money generated by the Oregon Lottery.

Commissioners Nyquist and Sherrie Sprenger participated in the weekly meeting from the boardroom, while Commissioner Will Tucker was home recovering from COVID-19 and participated by telephone.

New program participants are the O.K. Country Feed & Supply, Sweet Home Dairy Queen, The Point Restaurant and Lounge, Stutzman Services and Boshart Trucking.

Companies that employ teenagers ages 14-17 at their first job from May through September, can receive a stipend of \$4 per hour, up to \$2,000 each for up to three youth, with a maximum reimbursement of \$6,000.

In other business:

- Due in part to grants and payments received for various Covid-19 relief programs, and receipts from the sale of property for the intermodal project in Millersburg, Linn County's financial outlook after the first quarter of

the new fiscal year looks very solid, according to Accounting Officer Bill Palmer.

- County Health Officer Dr. William Muth said there were 2,836 COVID-19 cases in Linn County in September and 107 total deaths since the pandemic began. There have been more than 4,000 deaths statewide. He said about 59% of Linn County residents are vaccinated, about 81% of those age 65 and older. The state average is 51% and 87% respectively. Muth said there were 29 females and 37 males born last month and 153 deaths, of which four were by suicide. There were 21 reported animal bites, of which one was verified as rabid.
- County Treasurer Michelle Hawkins asked the commissioners to approve amending the county policy regarding credit card transaction spending limits. The limit had been \$5,000, but in reality, departments need to make purchases up to \$50,000 at a time. Purchases will be monitored by staff from the Treasurer's Office, Accounting Department and Administrative Officer Darrin Lane. The request was approved.
- Approved a letter of support to allow the Family Treatment Court to apply for a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program.

- Authorized the purchase of two Caterpillar Model 420 backhoes with a total price of \$266,187 for the Road Department.
- The commissioners were told by Alyssa Boles that the Planning Department processed 12 permits for single-family dwellings in September and 90 total permits were issued in September compared to 68 in September 2020. The county has waived more than \$83,000 in permits for families affected by last year's wildfires in the Santiam Canyon.
- Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Albany for the Health Department to assist someone with a mental health crisis; accepted a grant from the Criminal Justice Commission for the Specialty Courts Program not to exceed \$242,191 from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2023.
- Approved an intergovernmental agreement — with a one-year sunset review — to allow the Oregon Health Authority to access the county's database concerning WIC audits.
- Approved a refund of \$1,375 from the Environmental Health Department, after a septic system project was cancelled.

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By Alex Paul  
Communications Officer

**C**LEAR LAKE — The sound of hammers at work filled the air on a recent cool summer day at Clear Lake Resort as staff and volunteers with HistoriCorps made repairs to the log picnic shelter that has stood through rain and snow for more than 90 years.

A Civilian Conservation Corps project from the 1930s, the shelter is showing its age.

It now boasts a new hand-split cedar shake roof, a refurbished lava stone fireplace and some new logs to replace those that had been battered by time.

Jason Benson, who hails from northwest Washington, and Remy Buxton of Corvallis, are the only paid staff members on this project. The others over coming weeks are all volunteers.

Benson has been fixing up old things since he was 5 years old and helped his parents rehabilitate a 1914 farm. He earned a degree in botany, did trail work and then became a preservationist with the National Park Service. He has been restoring historic structures up and down the West Coast for 20 years.

Benson said he is a “carpenter/preservationist” and this is his first season with the program.

Buxton loves being in the outdoors, for work or pleasure.

He has a degree in anthropology from the University of Georgia at Athens and joined HistoriCorps in 2021 after volunteering in 2020.

Recent volunteers included Eric Acosta, Jeunilyan Stenske and David Freeman with Northwest Youth Corps in Eugene.

HistoriCorps spokeswoman Charlotte Helmer said HistoriCorps’ mission is to inspire a preservation ethic by en-



*HistoriCorps staff member Jason Benson, left, talks about the Clear Lake picnic shelter project with Linn County Parks Director Brian Carroll.*

gaging volunteers to save historic places.

“We prioritize experiential, hands-on learning above all else,” Helmer said.

The program relies on a small cadre of paid staff members and a large contingent of volunteers across all age groups and possessing a variety of skill levels.

The concept for HistoriCorps sprang from a project to restore building in the Pike-San Isabel National Forest from 2002-2007.

In 2009 the U.S. Forest Service approached the Colorado Preservation Inc. with the idea of forming a “corps” much like the original Civilian Conservation Corps and since then dozens of special places have been saved for future generations.

Helmer said HistoriCorps works like a traveling road show, pop-

## About HistoriCorps

- People from all walks of life can volunteer with HistoriCorps.
- No prior construction experience is necessary, but it helps to have a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
- Projects range in skill levels and degree of difficulty, from easy to difficult, so participants can choose for themselves.
- HistoriCorps provides meals, lodging, tools, training, safety equipment and materials.
- Lodging ranges from tent camping to indoor facilities.
- Travel and access information is available for each project — some projects can only be reached by hiking) or by four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Learn more about HistoriCorps by watching the documentary, “Saving Places”, call 720-287-0100 or visit <https://historicorps.org/>.

ping up on public lands across the

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country every year.

“Each project is made possible by government partners, generous donors, and passionate volunteers,” Helmer said.

The restoration of Clear Lake picnic shelter involves the Willamette Na-