



Parks staff tackled many winter projects

*Welcome to Linn
County Parks 2023*

By Alex Paul
Communications Officer

WATERLOO — There’s no question that from May through September, Linn County Parks are buzzing with activity, everything from tent camping to riding paddle boards at Clear Lake.

But after the camping crowds leave, the behind-the-scenes projects tackled by the Parks Department staff spring to life.



Tristan Davis
Operations Supervisor

Parks Operation Manager Tristan Davis said last winter’s list of projects was a long as ever, including making a left turn and adding an upscale yurt at Sunnyside County Park after a heavy snow load made it impractical to install two new yurts at Clear Lake Resort.

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Above: Glamping anyone? A new yurt installed at Sunnyside County Park features a propane-powered fire pit, two decks, heating and air conditioning, a microwave oven and refrigerator/freezer.



Left: one of three cabins at Clear Lake Resort that got all new siding and windows last Fall. Two more yurts and a new cabin are planned for Clear Lake this year.

What we know about Green Peter Reservoir drawdown

SWEET HOME — After a historically dry start to the refill season, water managers with the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are optimistic about refilling most Willamette Valley reservoirs after increased rainfall and snowmelt in April.

“The last few years have been a hydrologic roller coaster, and this year is no exception,” said Salina Hart, chief of water management for the Corps. “Spring rains are essential for refilling reservoirs and fortunately, we saw a substantial improvement in April.”

The Corps reports the Willamette Valley system of dams and reservoirs is 62% full as of May 2.

Weather is one critical factor among a host of other criteria that influence the way the Corps approaches water management in the Willamette Valley system.

In February, water managers begin the “delicate

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Meet Parks Staffer John Hefty

By Alex Paul
Communications Officer

WATERLOO — When John Hefty reports to work each morning at the Linn County Parks operations office in Waterloo, he never knows what’s on tap for the day.

And that’s how he likes it.

“My wife will ask me what’s up for the day and I tell her I have no idea,” Hefty said with a laugh. “It can be a little bit of everything and that keeps it very interesting.”

Hefty, 58, has worked for the Parks Department since 1996, but admits retirement isn’t far off.

Born in Wisconsin, but reared primarily in Alaska, Hefty gravitated to working with his hands at a young age.

“I was surrounded by working people,” Hefty said. “My dad was a heavy diesel mechanic and we had family members who did a little bit of everything. I guess I’m mostly a fabricator. I like to weld and make stuff.”

In fact, over the years Hefty’s ability to melt steel has resulted in construction of many parks gates and dozens of fire rings.

“We figured out one time that I could build fire rings for about half the price of buying them,” Hefty said.

Hefty brought many varied work skills to his Linn County job.

He graduated from high school in Alaska and spent a few years working in the Prudhoe Bay area, tackling everything from road maintenance and septic systems to equipment maintenance.

When the economy got soft in Alaska, he moved to Arizona but didn’t like the hot weather and then California where he worked in the construction industry.

When his father, David, moved to California, they started a repair shop near a car lot and that’s where John met his future wife, Sally, who was friends with the car lot owner.

Friends with Mike McQueen from Sweet Home, Hefty visited the area over the 4th of July and fell in love with its beauty.

“I could hunt and fish without all of the snow in Alaska,” he said.

He purchased a home on 54th Street in Sweet Home even before he and Sally married and they still live there.

They reared their two children, Joe and Christa there. The family now includes grandchildren Henry and Jamie, who live in Lebanon.

He worked for McQueen until the slump in the timber industry and also worked for Burt Hotchkiss, who



Above: John Hefty has worked for the Linn County Parks Department since July 1996 and says he enjoys the daily variety of jobs that need done. He says everyone takes a lot of pride in their work.



Right: Hefty, Adam Brenneman and Tristy Davis share a laugh before Hefty headed over to run an excavator at Waterloo County Park.

owned a private golf course near Holley.

Hefty worked at the pellet mill near Brownsville for a few years and after his wife took a job with Linn County at the Lewis Creek entry booth, he learned about the Parks Staff opening.

“It’s changed, but it’s still pretty much the same type of work,” Hefty said. “When I started, there was a finish carpenter and equipment operator in addition to me.”

Hefty said he has worked for four operations supervi-

sors and three Parks Directors.

“What hasn’t changed, no matter what, is how much pride everyone takes in our jobs and in our parks and it shows,” Hefty said. “People appreciate the quality and they keep coming back year-after-year.”

Hefty said he is eyeing retirement, possibly next year, but he still enjoys coming to work.

“I’m probably going to buy a motor home and Sally and I are going to do a little traveling for a while,” Hefty said. “Then, we’ve got plenty to do around our place and maybe I’ll pick up a little work here and there.”



Cooperator of the Year award

Linn County Parks Director Stacey Whaley accepted the Cooperator’s Award from David Neal, chairman of the Linn Soil & Water Conservation District May 8. Numerous times in recent years the Parks Department has assisted the Soil & Water District with its annual FFA soil judging contest that includes more than 200 students from several mid-valley high schools. District staff praised the Parks Department for the work that goes into digging practice and live-judging pits and for providing public restrooms and plenty of space to park buses at the annual events. Staff said the Parks Department’s effort take a tremendous load off the process.

Stacey Whaley

**Parks
Director**



Greetings from the new Parks Director

Growing up with two PE teachers for parents, it would have been hard NOT to have fun adventures in the summer and on weekends.

One of my earlier memories was a backpacking trip as a family, and I was about 4-years-old. I remember being so proud of having my own (tiny) backpack with my own snacks and socks in it.

As I grew up, running rivers, skiing, or riding trails on a mountain bike was as natural as brushing my teeth. We had all manner of rafts, kayaks, and outdoor equipment. (To this day, I have never been to Disneyland, but I have been on a ton of adventures in a bunch of really cool places.)

It was only natural that while attending the University of Utah on a volleyball scholarship, I majored in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. I worked in a variety of related jobs for a few years — river guide, Forest Service Ranger, running a rock climbing company, working in hospitality — before moving back here to Oregon to be near family and ultimately pursuing a career in education.

After about 20 years in the classroom teaching high school students with mild disabilities career skills, math and English, I became a school administrator. (Coincidentally, there is a significant overlap between school administration and parks administration — both manage people, facilities, budgets and consumer experiences.)

My husband of 22 years, Garth, is a mechanic for Advanced Mechanical Inc. in Brownsville, and we have a 17-year-old daughter, Brooke. Brooke is a volunteer firefighter and medical technician in addition to taking college prerequisites for her paramedic degree. She is also Upper Willamette District Vice President for FFA, as well as a chapter officer at Mohawk High School.

As a family, we enjoy camping, fishing, taking our jet boat out, floating rivers and even riding ATVs.

When the Linn County Parks Director position opened up after Brian Carroll retired, I couldn't stop thinking about it and knew I had to apply. This is absolutely my dream job. Despite my detour through education, I feel like I was always preparing for this opportunity.

Here at Linn County Parks, our crews have been hard at work improving and building better facilities. Some of the projects accomplished over the winter include: building a new yurt at Sunnyside, re-siding three of the cabins at Clear Lake with fire-resistant siding, adding two yurts at Clear Lake, replacing the HVAC system at the Linn County Museum, and preparing the site at Waterloo for a new bathroom building and drain field.

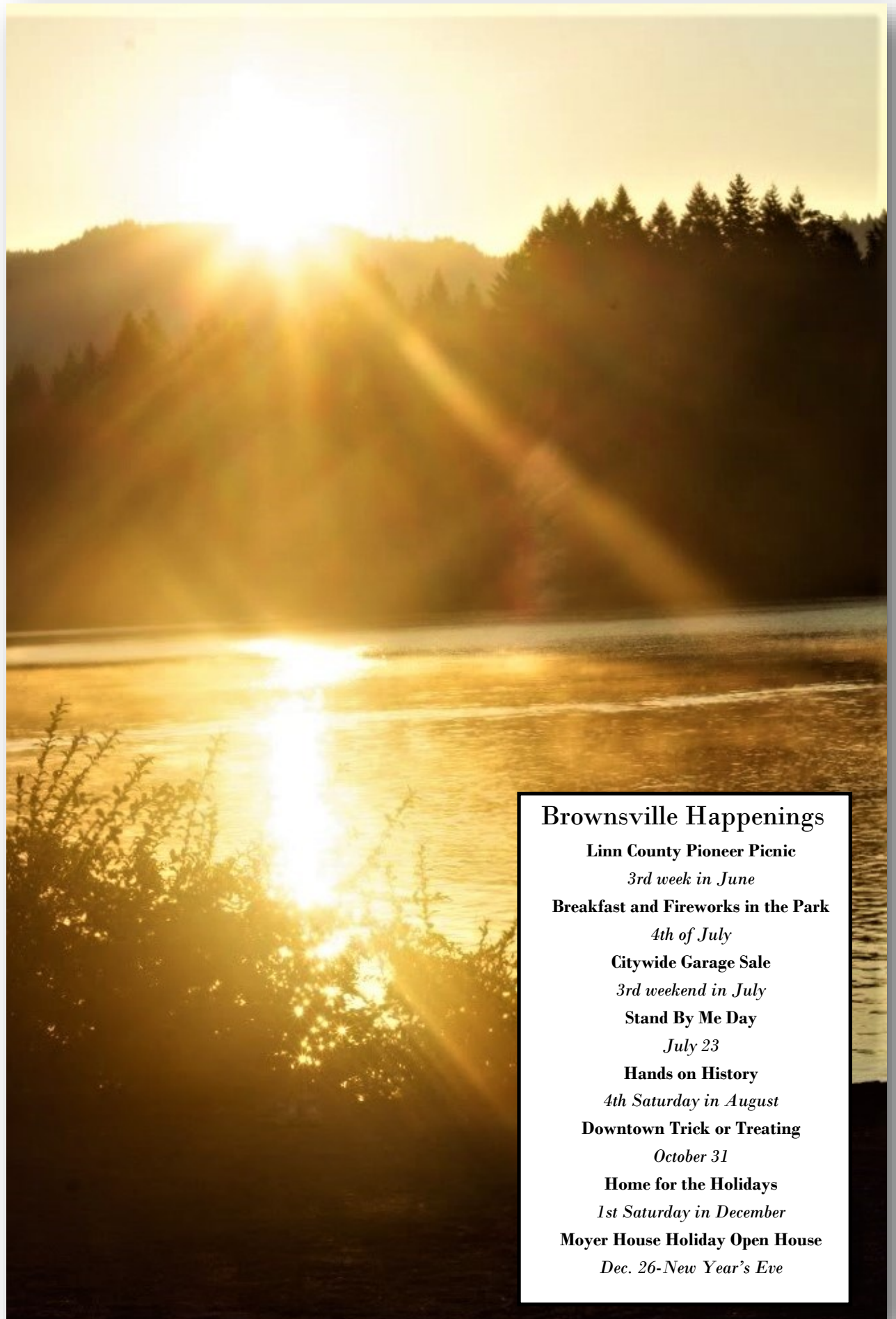
We can't wait for you to come out and see the new facilities!

We are just as excited as you are to finally have some nicer weather to get out and enjoy the parks. Some of our higher elevation sites such as Clear Lake and Lost Prairie still have quite a bit of snow. (Clear Lake was just stocked with fish the other day.)

Other parks will have high, cold water in the rivers and lakes for a while yet, even though it is nice weather, so please use caution around the water.

Come on out to your favorite park and I'll see you soon!

Stacey Whaley



Brownsville Happenings

Linn County Pioneer Picnic

3rd week in June

Breakfast and Fireworks in the Park

4th of July

Citywide Garage Sale

3rd weekend in July

Stand By Me Day

July 23

Hands on History

4th Saturday in August

Downtown Trick or Treating

October 31

Home for the Holidays

1st Saturday in December

Moyer House Holiday Open House

Dec. 26-New Year's Eve

Camping moves to 9-month reservations

In order to provide better serve our guests, Linn County Parks has moved from a 12-month reservation, to a nine-month reservation system. This helps you by spreading out the peak times for our office staff so you get help in a timely manner. (As you can imagine, summer gets very busy!)

For example, if you are making a reservation for July 15, you can make your reservation nine months prior to that, on October 15.

How to Make a Reservation

With more than 600 options in the Linn County Parks, there is something for everyone. To ensure your space, please make a reservation for a camp site, yurt, cabin, day use area, or picnic shelter. This is an easy process that can be done from your phone, tablet, or computer at linnparks.com.

Using the online booking system allows you to see maps and photos of each camp site or structure, so you know if your RV will fit, how close you are to a restroom, and where the nearest water or RV dump site is located as well. While a few of our sites are first come-first serve, it is better to reserve ahead to guarantee your spot.

Having trouble?

Give us a call at 541-967-3917 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Use the table below to plan your reservations.

To camp in ...	Reserve in...
January	April
February	May
March	June
April	July
May	August
June	September
July	October
August	November
September	December
October	January
November	February
December	March

3 Native Encampments planned this summer

Deitz Peters loves telling the stories of his people — members of the Grand Ronde tribe — that have been passed down from generation to generation.

He is also skilled in hand-beading clothing and jewelry and performing on handmade flutes.

Now, Peters and other Native Americans like him pass those stories, as well as their music and dancing traditions on to anyone who wants to learn more about Native American culture.

For several years, Peters and others have hosted Native Cultural Encampments at Linn County Parks. This summer, there will be three encampments: June 23-25 at Roaring River, July 28-30 at Waterloo County Park and August 25-27 at Cascadia County Park.

Plus, Peters and his fellow story tellers will also be at LaPine's Frontier Days June 30-July 4 and the annual Flutestock Festival in Elkton on July 14-16.

Each encampment will feature daily prayers, a welcoming morning ceremony that includes time for questions and answers, craft making as well as crafts and other items for sale.

There will be dancing and music and on Sunday, to conclude each encampment, people are invited to share in a feast.

Participants will wear Native American regalia — they are not called costumes — including caps and headdresses made from American Bald Eagle feathers.

All of the encampments are free to the public and open children and adults alike.



Hey, kids! Here's how to become a Jr Ranger

Linn County Parks has developed a new Junior Rangers program for children, to help them develop an appreciation for Linn County's parks facilities and what they have to offer.

"The idea behind it was to get kids excited about being in the outdoors," said Quartzville Corridor Parks Ranger Blake Nightingale, who co-created the program with fellow Ranger J.R. Erspamer. "There are so many other distractions out there for kids – video games, cellphones, what have you. We want them to get excited for these public facilities.

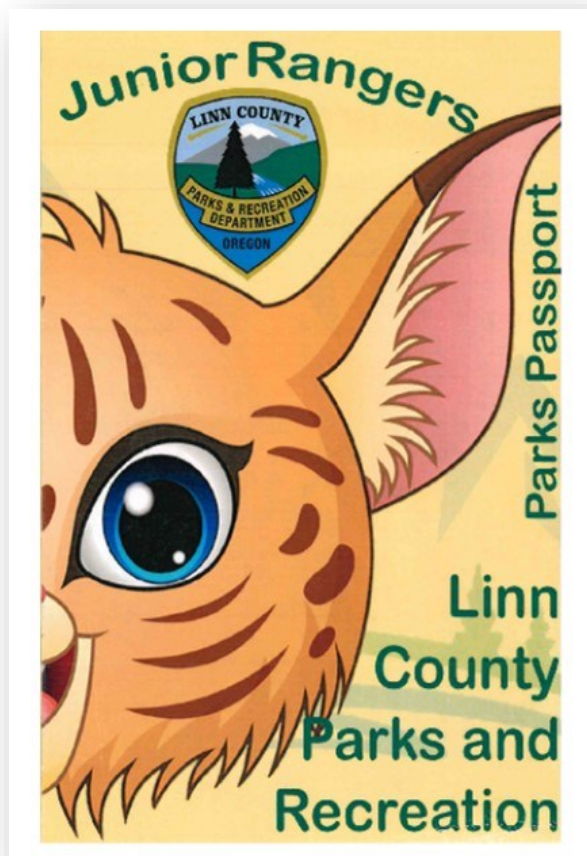
The program has been in development for a couple of years, Nightingale said, but he's looking to see it really take off this season.

Linn County's program, loosely based on a similar Junior Ranger program offered by Oregon State Parks, is represented by a mascot, Scruffy, a cartoon bobcat character.

Participants, ages 3 to 14, can pick up a passport when they visit Waterloo, Sunnyside, Whitcomb, Riverbend and Clear Lake campgrounds. Each of those campgrounds offers activities or challenges that the young Junior Ranger must then complete to get a stamp, featuring Scruffy's image, from a parks ranger.

"Let's say a kid is at Sunnyside and they bring their passport up to a ranger, show him or her that they've done the task, and they'll get a stamp," Nightingale said.

Children who complete their passports should clearly write their name and phone number on the front cover and drop it off at the Lewis Creek day use site fee booth.



Those who complete their books will earn a Linn County Parks T-shirt. All completed passports will be entered into a drawing for a youth fishing package at the end of the year.

Nightingale has been a Linn County Parks staffer since 2012 and a full-time employee since 2017, when

he graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in anthropological archaeology.

He said he likes that he can use his college training as a member of the county's interpretive committee and working with programs like the Native American encampments each summer, as well as the Junior Ranger program.

One of his emphases as a ranger has been to make sure the parks are "as user-friendly as possible," he said.

"That includes making sure all kids, including those with disabilities, can use our playgrounds."

The Junior Ranger passport is filled with information about each campground, wildlife and camping. For example, one "Did You Know?" section points out that the South Santiam River is 69 miles long, starts at the base of the Cascade Mountain Range and feeds into the Willamette River. Another one asks, "Did you know ... when bald eagles dive they can reach speeds of up to 100 miles per hour?"

Another section invites children to draw a line from the name of a tree to a drawing of its leaves. It also warns them to never leave a campfire unattended because a single ember can start a forest fire.

"It's pretty simple stuff," Nightingale said. "It's geared toward younger children."

Nightingale estimated that "several dozen" children have participated as the program "has been trying to get off its feet," and last year one completed all the tasks, getting stamps from all five campgrounds and winning a sweatshirt.

"We all take pride in these facilities," Nightingale said. "We want to pass that on to the generations to come."

**Craft Class from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Native American Traditional Dancing Demonstration and Information 4-6 p.m.**

Beautiful bright colors moving in the breeze, feather flowing in the air, the heartbeat of Mother Earth, voices singing a song for everyone to dance to and prayers in each step.

Evening Prayer
Please join us in a prayer as we end the day.

Sunday

Morning Prayer:
We start the day in prayer at sunrise; camp opens at 10 a.m.; Meet & Greet from 10-10:30 a.m.

Native American Traditional Dancing Demonstration & Information 1-3 p.m.
Dance demonstration and information about our dance regalia and meaning of the dancing. We will also answer questions and are happy to share our dancing traditions with you.

Thank You Feast 4-6 p.m.
We welcome all of our new friends with a feast to thank everyone for coming and sharing our culture and traditions. We thank all those who helped us



with everything. We hope you enjoyed yourselves. Hiya Masi (Thank You)

Ending Prayer
We thank the Creator for everything and everyone who has come to share with us and all those who have helped us. Blessing to all.

Hiya Masi — Thank You
We wish to thank our friends at Linn County Parks & Recreation for bringing us back this year, the Park Rangers for everything they have done for us and all of the help needed to bring these encampments together.

Contact Information

You can reach Deitrich Peters, Cultural Encampment Director/Cultural Instructor (Dietrich Peters, John Two Eagles) at: petersdeitz@gmail.com and the Linn County Parks web page.

Also: Kathleen Keating-Peters is the non-profit organization information liaison.



Native + American + Cultural + Encampments



Brought to you by Linn County Parks & Recreation
Open to the public

Hello everyone, we invite you to our home away from home and hope you will have a great time learning about our culture, heritage and traditions and to share with you our native ways. We always end our weekend with a feast on Sunday afternoon. We hope you will enjoy your time with us.
Hiya Masi (Thank You)

Cultural Encampments 2023
June 23-25: Roaring River County Park
July 28-30: Waterloo County Park
August 25-27: Cascadia County Park
Other encampments in Oregon
June 30-July 4: La Pine Frontier Days
July 14-16: Flutestock Festival-Elkton

What is a cultural encampment?

Cultural encampment is a group of Native Americans from different parts of the United States coming together, making village-type settings with tipis and tents. We share our individual cultures and traditional information with the community. Many moons ago, traveling



through an area, you might see groups of tipis or tents for a short time in each area. They were there to gather together, trade or meet family members and to celebrate life by having a big feast and sharing food with one another as they traveled from one area to another. Come see what we have to offer.

A little bit about us.

We are a group of Native Americans with different backgrounds from different tribes in the U.S. We have come here to share with you our culture and traditions. We are working to enlarge our group and add more interested tribal people so we are always reaching out to many different indigenous groups around the U.S. to bring more information about native culture from all over the U.S. to share with the community.

You can ask questions about us and we will answer the best way we can with the knowledge that has been passed down to us. We have brought to you some of our history of our people and their journey

through this area they traveled many years ago — trading, gathering, fishing and hunting. At each encampment, there will be an agenda posted at the entryway to our village. There you will find dates and time of each event happening Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Please come in and visit and talk with us.

FRIDAY

Morning Prayer
We always start each day with a morning prayer. If you are up before the sun you may join us at our camp. A prayer is a good way to greet the day and make sure that the day goes smoothly and to ask our Creator/Great Spirit to bless the grounds we are on and everyone who may visit and thank him for our blessings. Usually, we start at sunrise with the prayer and to catch the first rays of the sun when it touches our camp area about 5:30 or 6 a.m. When the prayer is finished we usually start a campfire and cook breakfast.

We will open the village at 10 a.m. Friday through Sunday

Meet & Greet 10-10:30 a.m.
It is important for us to introduce ourselves and welcome you to our camp, answer questions that you might have. We will do this every day of the en-



campment. We will have things on display and items for sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please come and see what there is for offer.

Each encampment will have its own craft class you can participate in. Instructors will help you complete your craft item before you leave each day. Class times are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Storytelling & Flute Music: 4-6 p.m.

We start with a flute song, then storytelling and we combine the two as we go along. We also answer questions about stories and our music at this time. When the last story is told, we thank you for coming to listen to us.

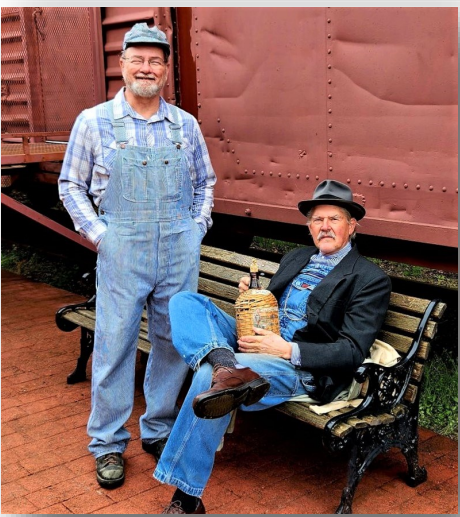
Evening Prayer
After we are finished with the stories and music, we finish with a prayer to end the day. We thank everyone for coming and remind them of the next day's events.

SATURDAY

Today, as before, we start with a prayer at sunrise; camp opens at 10 a.m. and the Meet & Greet will be from 10-10:30 a.m.

Photos from Carriage Me Back to 1923

May 6 & 7 Fundraiser for the Linn County Historical Museum and Moyer House.



Linn County Parks & Recreation



Cook at Clear Lake Resort

\$18 per hour

Booth attendant

Lewis Creek and/or Sunnyside Parks

\$16 per hour

HOW TO APPLY: Submit a completed Linn County Employment Application to: Adam Brenneman, Assistant Parks Operations Supervisor, Linn County Parks and Recreation, 3010 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 97322; Fax: 541-924-6915 or via email at parksjobs@co.linn.or.us. Application forms may be obtained through the Linn County webpage at www.co.linn.or.us/jobstemp.html.

To make campsite reservations visit www.linnparks.com or call 541-967-3917

Green Peter ... From P. 1

dance” of balancing the many Congressional purposes of both the reservoirs and the dams that impound them.

One primary purpose of the system’s dams and reservoirs is flood risk management: Water managers must keep reservoir elevations low to maintain storage space in the reservoirs through the spring to capture seasonal rains and prevent flooding downriver. This must be balanced with what sometimes seems to be conflicting purposes: refilling the reservoirs for irrigation, hydropower generation, water quality improvement and recreation.

The balancing act doesn’t end there: The Corps must also meet minimum water releases according to the requirements of the 2008 Biological Opinion, which define minimum releases, or “beneficial flows,” from the reservoirs to improve downstream habitat for endangered species.

Additionally, this year, water managers will continue to operate under the constraints of a [2021 federal court injunction](#) that aims to improve conditions for endangered species. The injunction orders have called on the Corps to begin an early fall drawdown of Green Peter Reservoir, which will impact recreational access as the reservoir releases water sooner to provide fish passage.

Water managers forecast that Foster Lake will remain full for Memorial Day through Labor Day. Reservoir refill levels for the Willamette Valley can be found at www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nwp/teacup/willamette.

Year-to-date precipitation across the Willamette was 92% of median, as of early May. The snowpack was 236% of median (24 inches) for the Willamette. Snowmelt accounts for less than 10% of refill in the system and helps keep reservoir elevations up in the summer – but only if the inflow of the snowmelt to the reservoir matches outflows from the reservoir. This year, given the late season melt, reservoirs that do have heavier snowmelt influence, like Detroit, will see additional refill benefit.

The Corps manages reservoir inflows based on a water control diagram, more commonly called the “rule



curve,” which is the authorized maximum elevation on a given day to balance flood risk management and storage for other authorized purposes, such as recreation, hydropower, and irrigation supply. The Willamette Valley System’s reservoirs are kept lower in the winter to reduce downstream flooding and are refilled in the spring to prepare for recreation and

adequate flows for Endangered Species Act compliance and water quality.

Portland District encourages the public to check its “teacup diagrams” before heading out to recreate. These diagrams show water elevations for Corps-managed reservoirs: www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nwp/teacup/willamette or pweb.crohms.org/nwp/teacup/willamette.

See you at the Linn County Fair!

July 13-14-15



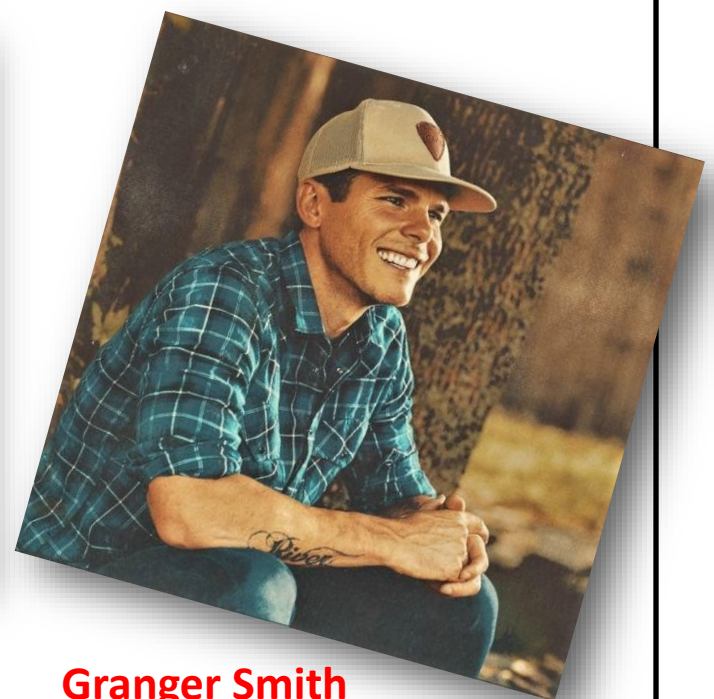
Clint Black

July 13



Smash Mouth

July 14



Granger Smith

July 15

Carnival — 4-H/FFA Fair — Family Land — live music!

www.linncountyfair.com

To make campsite reservations visit www.linnparks.com or call 541-967-3917

Parks projects ... *From Page 1*

Davis said the yurt was placed at the end of the "A" row of camping slips, near the start of the "B" row.

This yurt a little fancy and includes a heating/air conditioning unit, a refrigerator/freezer and microwave.

And, since campfires have caused some concerns during recent hot and dry summer, a fire pit is propane-fired for safety.

There are also two decks, a water spigot and a picnic table. It is ADA accessible.

Some weekends are still available for rental, but folks had better hurry, because bookings are filling up fast.

Davis said the county currently has three yurts at River Bend, six at Whitcomb Creek, one at Sunnyside, one at Clear Lake with two on deck and two in storage.

"We got a really good deal before prices went up, so we bought a couple extra," Davis said.

Other key projects included finishing putting new siding and windows on three cabins at Clear Lake. Davis said the new siding looks like logs, but is made of low-maintenance materials.

"It doesn't lose its color and all we have to do is hit it with a pressure washer to clean it up," Davis said. "Cedar siding is getting hard to find and is expensive."

Staff are currently finishing up installation of a new pre-built concrete restroom at Waterloo County Park and repairing the on-site drain field before July.

Paperwork is being reviewed for a new RV dump station in Sweet Home and a new handicapped access restroom and 4,000 feet of ADA approved sidewalk will be installed at Lewis Creek Day Use area.

This is the first project in the long-term revamping work at Lewis Creek. The public was involved in numerous meetings leading to a new Master Plan for the popular day-use area on the north side of Foster Reservoir.

The Parks Department is working with the Linn County Road Department as it makes improvements on North River Road, which provides access to Lewis Creek Day Use Area. Davis said the plan includes providing off-round parking spaces so people who like to use the area for walking in the winter months have safe access on what can be a busy road.

Staff installed a new wooden deck on the Lewis Creek bridge.

Another cooperative project with the Road Department was removing a large hazard tree at Cascadia County Park.



Davis said the project required two weeks of planning and three or four days to complete. Last Fall, the Parks staff found a large water leak at Sunnyside County Park and located it under a concrete sidewalk.

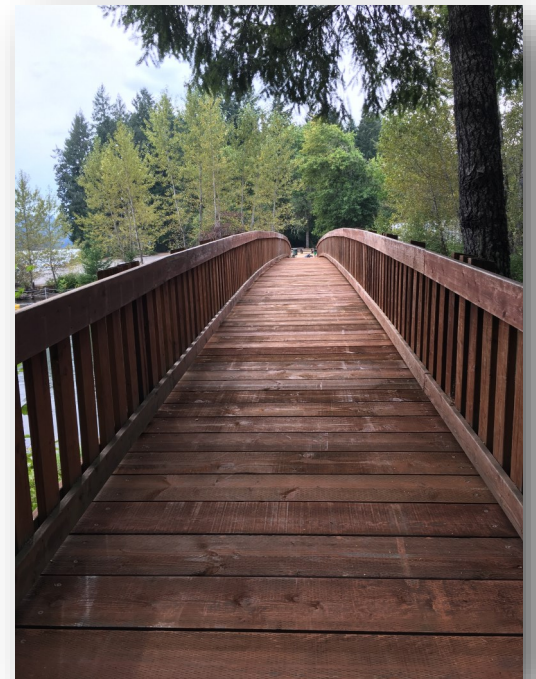
"We fixed that and at the same time, we replaced some old water main valves," Davis said. Davis said that rebuilding the 50-year-old park's entire infrastructure system is at the top of a two-page list of capital maintenance items. This summer, parks staff plan to install a yurt at River Bend Campground where a cabin had been planned.

"In the Fall, we hope to build a new cabin to replace Cabin 10 at Clear Lake," Davis said. "This won't be a public cabin, but it will be used to house staff."

Davis said although some jobs remain open, recruiting summer staff is in much better shape than a year ago at this time.

He could really use a second cook at Clear Lake.

"We are seeing some good people this year," Davis said.



Clockwise from top: Pulling power to the new restrooms at Waterloo County Park.

New decking for bridge at Lewis Creek Park.

Testing for methane at proposed RV dump in Sweet Home.

New shelter over mailboxes near Cascadia County Park.

