



# Linn County Parks



# NEWSLETTER



**What's happening at Linn County (Or.) Parks      Fall 2022**

## Cascadia Park now in county family

By Alex Paul

*Communications Officer*

**C**ASCADIA — Linn County Parks has had a long history with the former Cascadia State Park and September 21, the historical site officially joined the parks family with a transfer ceremony that included traditional Native American blessings and a feast.

The 256-acre park sits on land that was an important meeting spot for Native Americans for centuries and also provided camas bulbs, a vital food resource.

Linn County has managed the park for three years and took it onboard in July. Wednesday's ceremony was the official recognition of the ownership transfer and culmination of work that began more than two decades ago.

Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker gave a synopsis of the project, thanking all who were involved.

Fellow Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger called the ceremony a "special moment in time".

She praised Parks Director Brian Carroll and his Parks Department team members.



*Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde elder Dietrich Peters of Lebanon and Dean Armstrong of the Lakota tribe, bless Cascadia County Park during a transfer ceremony September 21. Ownership has passed from the State Parks Department to Linn County Parks Department.*

"We definitely have one of the best parks systems in the entire state," Sprenger said. "That is because they focus on how we use and not abuse the land."

Sprenger pointed out Jean Burger, the unofficial mayor of the unincor-

**CASCADIA PARK ... See P. 2**

**To make campsite reservations visit [www.linnparks.com](http://www.linnparks.com) or call 541-967-3917**

## CASCADIA COUNTY PARK ... From Page 1

porated Cascadia community, as a “champion of this park” that is dedicated to the entire community. Stater Parks Director Lisa Sumption said the park has “so much cultural significance” and she also recognized Linn County Parks as an exceptional system.

She pointed out how successful Linn County Parks has been in managing the nearby U.S. Forest Service campgrounds and she added Cascadia Park “is in great hands.” Brian Carroll called Wednesday’s ceremony a “wonderful journey” that has “taken a career to get here.”

Carroll recently celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> year as parks director and said talk about the park transfer began about a year after he started work here. “We are fortunate that State Parks did a lot of infrastructure work at this park before turning it over to us. That is very important and greatly appreciated,” Carroll said. Carroll also thanked members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde for providing valuable input and historical information about the site.

“It shows they have a lot of trust in our parks staff and the work they do,” Carroll said. “The tribes actually wrote a letter of support endorsing the transfer.”

Carroll also thanked Commissioners Tucker, Sprenger and Roger Nyquist, who has long supported the project.

Both Carroll and Tucker thanked neighboring property owner Cascade Timber Consulting, land owners the Hill family and its president Milt Moran, who chairs the Linn County Parks Commission, for their strong support of not only this pro-



**Clockwise from top left:** Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker, Linn County Parks Director Brian Carroll and State Parks Director Lisa Sumption.

ject, but many county parks projects.

Dietrich Peters, a Grand Ronde elder, assisted by Dean Armstrong, of the Lakota tribe, performed a traditional smudging ceremony and provided a salmon-based feast, part of Native American gatherings.

Peters said it is important to bless the land, talk with each other and share food.

He said the blessing is a way of providing thanks to grandfathers “There is a good energy here, we share that with everyone,” Peters said.

Peters explained how important

the camas fields were to migrating tribes and that the soda water that was so abundant, acted like medicine and called them “healing waters.”

Also representing the Parks Commission was Darryl Dukes and fellow members are Mellissa Barnard, Ken Bronson, Daryl Dukes, Mike Hurd, Rich Kellum, Rachel Maynard and Paul Timm.

Sweet Home City Council members present were Dylan Richards and Angelita Sanchez.

In addition to Jean Burger, an honored guest was former State Senator Mae Yih, who strongly supported the transfer effort.

Cascadia County Park is the entryway to the Cascadia Caves, which is on private property. The Caves

**CASCADIA PARK ... See P. 3**

# Brian Carroll

**Parks  
Director**



**W**elcome to Linn County!

The autumn outdoor recreation season is upon us. Fall is a great time to visit the parks and enjoy the cooler temperatures and smaller crowds.

The fall colors are also one of the bonuses of getting out this time of the year. The maples and vine maples usually put on a great show in October, especially in east Linn County.

Several of our camping facilities remain open throughout the winter. River Bend and Waterloo Campgrounds, as well as Clear Lake Resort offer campsites, yurts and cabins all year long.

Please check our website at [www.linnparks.com](http://www.linnparks.com) for winter season availability and limitations.

New this Fall, campers now have the ability to make reservations at Cascadia County Park. Just go to Linn County Parks website and you can reserve campsites for the 2023 camping season.

The change of seasons is also a time of transition for the Linn County Parks staff. During this time, park employees will be working on making improvements to the county parks system.

Some of the project the Parks Staff will be working on include:

- **Clear Lake Resort:** Staff are residing several cabins at Clear Lake and will also begin construction of two new

**BRIAN CARROLL ... See P. 9**



## CASCADIA PARK From Page 2

served as a gathering place for Native American tribes for centuries and features numerous historical drawings.

Tucker said it is vital that the Caves be protected from vandalism, which has occurred.

Cascadia County Park sits on the South Santiam River and is surrounded by old growth Douglas fir.

The park offers 12 first come, first served and nine reservable campsites, group tent sites and a picnic area.

A three-quarter mile trail leads to Soda Creek Falls. Ruts on the his-



**Above:** Former State Senator Mae Yih with Cascadia's unofficial mayor Jean Burger. Both were instrumental in the transfer of Cascadia State Park to the Linn County Parks Department.

**Below:** Dietrich Peters of Lebanon prepares dough for Indian fry bread.





## The Spirit of History Lives

By Vance Parrish

*The Times, Brownsville*

BROWNSVILLE — The 2022 Hands On History Day was well attended according to Barbara Andersen with the Linn County Historical Museum. She also noted that it seemed that more of this year's visitors attended the event in period clothing than had been seen in years past.

It is nice to see that they were getting into the historical spirit of the event. A demonstration new to the event this year involved a foot-powered lathe for carving wooden bowls, cups and spoons, shown by Kiko Denzer.

This year also saw a new blacksmith, Forrest Fenske.

Andersen shared that one of the more popular demonstrations was “the old-time photographers printing photos on tintypes this year ... very cool.”

**HANDS ON HISTORY ... See P. 5**





## HANDS ON HISTORY

*From Page 4*

There also was a special addition of Kalapuya storyteller Shannin Stutzman, who filled in for her mother Esther Stutzman who was recovering from surgery.

Gwen Carr from the Oregon Black Pioneers shared stories all day.

“I think the offerings were well enjoyed,” Andersen said. “Of course, Tom Marquette’s wagon rides were full every time! The weather was perfect.”

The museum is looking forward to doing this event again next year.

Food might return to the event in 2023. Cooking bread over a wood fire has been popular in the past and the possibility of smoking salmon was also discussed.





## Mail delivery returns to Cascadia

**C**ASCADIA — Cascadia residents celebrated their new cluster of 48 mail boxes Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 21, after more than 10 years without local mail service for many customers. The U.S. Postal Service developed the mailbox cluster site and Linn County Parks staff built the wooden shelter, according to Commissioner Will Tucker who worked with Sweet Home District Ranger Nikki Swanson, left, and Cascadia honorary mayor Jean Burger on the project. Plans are to add a bench and lighting to the structure which sits on the site of the original Sweet Home Ranger District office. The community lost its post office in 2011 in a fire. Some area residents had rural mail delivery, but many had to drive to the Foster Post Office, about 10 miles west of Cascadia, to get their mail.

**To make campsite reservations visit [www.linnparks.com](http://www.linnparks.com) or call 541-967-3917**

# Clear Lake cabins getting a facelift

By Alex Paul

Communications Officer

**C**LEAR LAKE — Linn County Parks staff members are busy refurbishing three rustic cabins at Clear Lake Resort, installing fiberglass reinforced concrete log-like siding that is fire-retardant and should also provide long-term durability against rugged winter weather.

Adam Brenneman and Brett Tetzlaff were busy on a recent Monday morning removing decades-old wooden shutters and a mixture of siding materials from the cabins.

Brenneman said the interior of two of the cabins had been refurbished in 2020 and one in 2021. The work included new sheetrock, flooring, beds, stainless steel tables and new curtains.

Brenneman said the project should take about three weeks and will include new vinyl-clad windows in two of the units. Number 16 cabin will retain its historical windows that have been rebuilt.

Exterior siding ranges from T-111 on the newer cabins to decades-old cedar shakes on cabin 16.

Brenneman said shakes that are in usable condition will be kept in inventory to use on for repairs at other cabins.

Linn County Parks Director Brian Carroll said this is the first time the county has used the fiberglass-concrete materials that resemble wooden logs. The process has been around for decades and is expected to provide increased fire protection, yet maintain the rustic look and feel of the cabins.



**Above:** Parks staffers Adam Brenneman and Brett Tetzlaff removed old shutters and windows from one of the three Clear Lake cabins that will get new siding. **Right:** Interior of one of the cabins that has already been refurbished.

“It’s more expensive, but we believe it is going to be much more durable,” Carroll said. “In the winter, snow often drifts up against the buildings and we believe this will keep out moisture better as well.”

In addition to the cabin renovations, parks staff will put up two yurts this fall, Brenneman said.

He said it takes about a week and a half to install a yurt, plus additional time for a wooden deck.

There is one yurt already in place at Clear Lake. Yurts have proven popular throughout Linn County Parks.



Clear Lake Ranger J.R. Erspamer said business was brisk this year.

“We’re starting to wind down, but we had excellent boat rentals and overall sales were up, even though we were short-staffed,” Erspamer said.

**CLEAR LAKE ... See P. 8**



**Above:** Clear Lake Ranger J.R. Erspamer helps customers. **Right:** A completed cabin. **Below:** Brett Tetzlaff and Adam Breeneman remove a window from one of the cabins that will get new vinyl-clad windows.

## CLEAR LAKE CABINS

*From Page 7*

Erspamer said members of last summer's staff returned and that helped having experience, even though staffing was short.

Erspamer said the weather was nice and the number of days of smoke invasion were low.

"It never got crushingly hot," Erspamer said. "We didn't have any weather extremes."

It also was a good year for fishing, Erspamer said.

"I saw lots of full stringers of fish," Erspamer said. "The biggest fish was 24 inches long and it was caught by a 7-year-old boy."

Erspamer said that while some county crew members are renovating the cabins and adding the two yurts, he team will be "deep cleaning" the cabins and servicing refrigerators and heaters.

"The cabins are open all winter," Erspamer said. "This is a great place to use as home based to go skiing at Hoodoo or snow shoeing."

Erspamer said this was his third season at Clear Lake, adding "I never get tired of how beautiful this place is."





## Campfire Cookin'



### Marinated chicken

Courtesy Delish Magazine

### Ingredients

- 8 Italian sausage links
- 4 bell peppers, thinly sliced
- 2 large onions, thinly sliced
- 1/4 c. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

### Cooking directions

Heat grill to high. Cut 4 sheets of foil about 12" long.

Grill sausages until charred, 3 minutes per side, then divide among foil. Top with peppers and onions and drizzle each with 1 tablespoon olive oil, then season with salt and pepper.

Fold foil packets crosswise over the sausage and peppers mixture to completely cover the food. Roll top and bottom edges to seal closed.

Grill until peppers and onions are tender and sausage is cooked, 13 to 15 minutes.

Garnish with parsley and serve.



*Fall colors are changing on trees surrounding Clear Lake Resort.*

## BRIAN CARROLL ... *From Page 3*

yurts there. Clear Lake fans should keep in mind that the resort is open all year for cabin and boat rentals, although the restaurant is closed and lodge is running on reduced hours.

- **Waterloo County Park Restroom Project:** Linn County Parks staff and contractors will be constructing a new restroom at Waterloo County Park near the playground. In addition, the project includes improvement to sidewalk access and an expansion of the parking area.

- **Lewis Creek County Park:** Linn County was recently notified that we will receive a grant from the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department to be make renovations at Lewis Creek County Park on Foster Reservoir. This first phase of park renovations includes replacement of the park's main restroom building, replacement of sidewalks and improved access to the park's swim area. Construction of the new restroom and sidewalks won't begin until Fall of 2023.

**Sunnyside County Park:** Visitors to Sunnyside County Park will be able to enjoy two new yurts that are being constructed at Sunnyside near the east end of the ponds at the end of A-row. Parks staff hope to have the yurts avail-

able for use sometime in May of 2023.

### **Reservoir Water Levels**

If you plan to visit Green Peter or Foster Reservoirs this fall, please keep in mind that both reservoir water levels will be very low. However, the really deep reservoir drawdown that you may have read about will not begin until the Fall of 2023.

For the winter of 2022, boating access on Foster Reservoir will be available at Sunnyside County Park; however, the boat ramps at Gedney Creek and Calkins Park will be closed due to the low water levels. Reservoir water levels should begin to rise back to normal seasonal levels in the spring 2023.

I hope you are able to continue to come out and enjoy all of the wonderful outdoor recreation opportunities in Linn County during the remainder of 2022. It is definitely one of my favorite times of the year to be out!

# Clear Lake makes great snow hub

Winter is almost here.

The U.S Forest Service - Willamette National Forest Service have a Winter Recreation Map providing all the information you need to get out into the snow this year.

Book your cabin now at the Clear Lake Resort, just 4 miles south of the Santiam Junction on HWY 126. Winter cabin rates go in effect as of November 1.

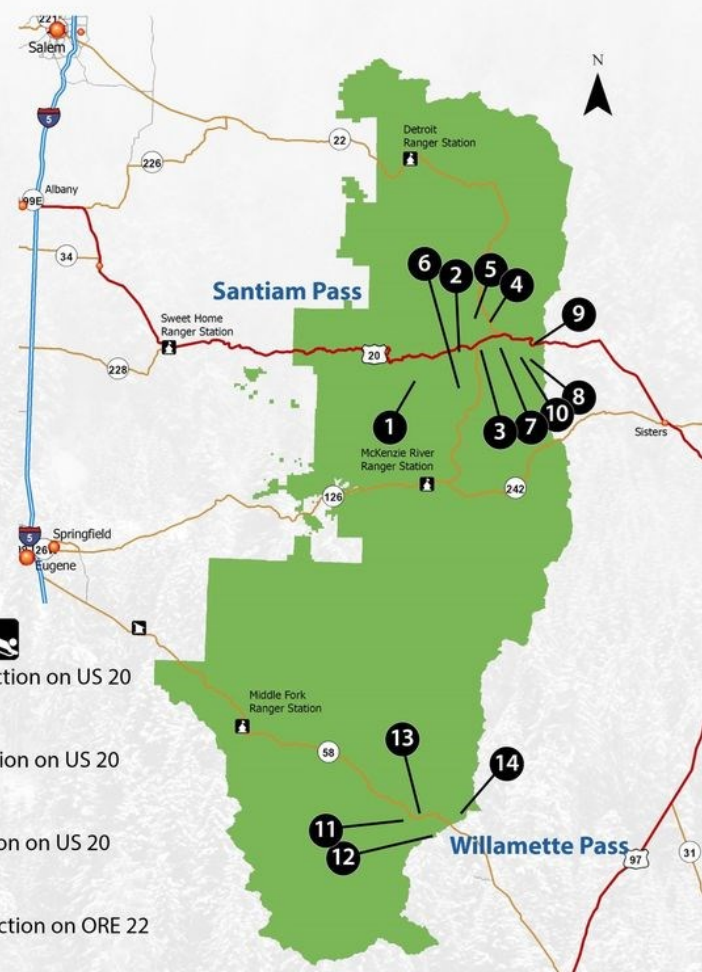
Visit our website @ [linnparks.com](http://linnparks.com) or call the office to make reservations today. See you on the Mountain.

## ready, set, snow! CHOOSE YOUR WINTER ADVENTURE

-  Cross-country Skiing/  
Snowshoeing
-  Snowmobiling
-  Sledding/  
Snow Play
-  Dog Sledding
-  Downhill Skiing/  
Snowboarding

### Santiam Pass Winter Recreation Area

- 1 Tombstone Summit**    
11 miles west of Santiam Junction on US 20
- 2 Lava Lake**    
4 miles west of Santiam Junction on US 20
- 3 Little Nash**    
1 mile west of Santiam Junction on US 20
- 4 Maxwell Butte**   
3.5 miles west of Santiam Junction on ORE 22
- 5 Big Springs**    
3 miles west of Santiam Junction on ORE 22
- 6 Ikenick**    
3.5 miles south of US 20 on ORE 126
- 7 Potato Hill**   
1 mile east of Santiam Junction on US 20
- 8 Ray Benson**     
5 miles east of Santiam Junction on US 20
- 9 Santiam Pass**    
5 miles east of Santiam Junction on US 20
- 10 Hoodoo Ski Area**     
6.5 miles east of Santiam Junction on NF-2690



### Willamette Pass Winter Recreation Area

- 11 Salt Creek Falls**   
21 miles east of Oakridge on ORE 58
- 12 Waldo Lake Road**    
23 miles east of Oakridge on ORE 58
- 13 Gold Lake Road**   
26.5 miles east of Oakridge on ORE 58
- 14 Willamette Pass Ski Area**     
27 miles east of Oakridge on ORE 58

You must have a valid Sno-Park permit displayed in the windshield of your vehicle if you park in designated winter recreation parking areas (Sno-Parks) between November 1 and April 30.

