



Happy New Year Linn County!

See Page 6 for tips on getting healthier in 2022

What's happening in Linn County, Oregon January 2022

Michelle Duncan sworn in as 41st Linn County Sheriff

First female Linn County Sheriff in 173 years

ALBANY — Michelle Duncan, Linn County's 41st sheriff is a hard worker, dedicated, compassionate and a team leader, Circuit Court Judge Rachel Kittson-MaQatish said Monday morning as she officiated over Duncan's swearing-in ceremony at the Linn County Courthouse.

Duncan, 47, is also the first female sheriff in the 173-year history of the Linn County Sheriff's Office and one of less than a handful of female sheriffs in Oregon.

But Duncan has never put being a female in front of her many job titles during her 24-year career at the Sheriff's Office where she has held positions ranging from patrol deputy to undersheriff.

Her supervisors say she excelled at each level.

She was hired by former Sheriff Dave Burright and has been trained and promoted under former sheriffs Tim Mueller, Bruce Riley and Jim Yon. Former Sheriff Art Martinak was present and Duncan said all of her past supervisors shared Martinak's management philosophies with her as she worked her way up the leadership ladder.

Judge Kittson-MaQatish said she spoke to several of Duncan's coworkers and supervisors and all expressed confidence in her ability to lead the Sheriff's Office. Duncan will serve out the final year of Sheriff Jim Yon's four-year term and then be on the ballot in coming elections this year.

Some of their comments included that Duncan is a resolute leader, she has honesty and integrity, she is an extremely hard worker, she doesn't quit when times get hard and she is highly intelligent.



Sheriff Michelle Duncan's children, Kendall Leggate, 17, and Jacob Leggate, 22, pin a new badge on their mother after she was sworn in as the 41st Linn County Sheriff Monday morning by Judge Rachel Kittson-MaQatish.

Judge Kittson-MaQatish said less than 2% of sheriffs in the United State are female and until Monday, there was only one female sheriff in Oregon. Three more were sworn in Monday.

"This is a monumental day," Judge Kittson-MaQatish said. "It's been 173

years and Linn County now has its first female sheriff."

Coworkers said Duncan's leadership skills were especially evident during the Labor Day 2020 wildfires.

Judge Kittson-MaQatish said signing

up to be a deputy sheriff is not "an easy task."

She asked that Sheriff Duncan be protected, feel honored, have the support

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Record year for Youth Wage program

ALBANY — The Linn County Youth Wage Grant Program has disbursed a record \$70,770

to local businesses that provided teenagers with their first job this summer.

The program, sponsored by the Linn County Board of Commissioners, is financed with Oregon Lottery funds targeted for economic development. Linn County has operated the program for 15 years.

The county has traditionally reimbursed employers \$2 per hour. This year, due to escalating wage scales nationwide, that stipend was increased to \$4 per hour.

According to Administrative Assistant Heather Gravelle, who manages the

program, the number of participating employers increased to 28 in 2021, up from 20 the year before. There were seven new first-time employers compared to one last year and the number of young people participating jumped to 61 from 49 a year ago.

Gravelle said those young people worked 17,692 hours this summer, compared to 11,437 hours in 2020.

Sixteen youth were still employed at the end of the reporting period, compared to 10 a year ago. Six earned permanent jobs, compared to one last year.

"These kinds of numbers would be great to see in a normal year," said Board Chairman Roger Nyquist.

"Given the challenges in the labor market, it's incredible."

2021 business participants were: RAM Trucking, Glenn Miller Seed, Morley Thomas Law Firm, A & W Restaurant of Sweet Home, Cascade Timber Consulting, Schmizza Public House/Figaro's Pizza, Kirk Century Farms, David C. Malpass Warehouse, Malpass Farms, Lebanon Aquatic District, Rick Franklin Corporation, Irvinville Enterprise, Phelan Enterprise, The Coffee Hut, The Point Restaurant & Lounge, Miller Grass Seed, Cala Farms, Wirth Farms, Berkey's Blueberries, Dairy Queen of Albany, Koos Seed Company, Third Knight Farms, Spurlin Farm Inc., City of Mill City, Dairy Queen of Sweet Home, OK Country Feed & Supply, Stutzman Services and Boshart Trucking.

To learn more about the First-Time Youth Wage Grant program, call 541-967-3825.



The Linn County Reporter is digitally published monthly by the Linn County Board of Commissioners.

Would you like to receive the newsletter?

Please send your email address to Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, apaul@co.linn.or.us or call 541-967-3825.



Heather Gravelle



We want your Linn County event photos

ALBANY — Do you have photographs of everyday life in Linn County?

We need them for our new Linn County website.

Baseball games, golfing, boating, skiing, fishing, or from community events like the Northwest Art & Air Festival, Sweet Home Sportsman's Holiday or Oregon Jamboree, the Lebanon Strawberry Festival, or the Harrisburg 4th of July parade?

Please send high-resolution photos, with information about location/event and the name of the photographer to apaul@co.linn.or.us, or call 541-967-3825.

Linn County Board of Commissioners

Roger Nyquist



Sherrie Sprenger



Will Tucker



Call 541-967-3825

Children must be up to date on shots by Feb. 16

ALBANY — Students in all Linn County schools — both public and private — pre-school programs such as Head Start and day care, must be up-to-date on their recommended shots by Feb. 16, 2022 or obtain an exemption from the state, according to Hannah Wuilliez, immunization coordinator with Linn County Public Health.

School and day care immunizations are different than COVID-19 vaccination mandates.

“Nearly every place that provides care for a child outside the home requires shots or a medical or nonmedical exemption to stay enrolled,” Wuilliez said.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, 94% of school-aged children in Linn County are up-to-date on all of the recommended vaccinations, Wuilliez noted.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, “On-time vaccination throughout childhood is essential because it helps provide immunity before children are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases. Vaccines are tested to ensure that they are safe and effective for children to receive at the recommended ages.”

Wuilliez encourages parents and guardians to contact their primary medical provider or a local pharmacy to schedule a vaccine appointment. If you or your child are uninsured and under 19 years of age, contact your local health department or call 211 and ask about the Vaccines for Children program.

Parents can opt out of vaccinations by completing a printout from an online webinar showing they've received information about each vaccine, or a form signed by a physician saying they've been informed of the potential consequences for choosing not to vaccinate.



Hannah Wuilliez

Linn County Immunization Coordinator

Required vaccinations for school and child care attendance include: DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough), polio, MMR (measles, mumps rubella), Hepatitis A and B, Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type B) and Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, and acellular pertussis). The required shots for each age group varies. Contact your primary medical provider or your local health department to learn which shots your child needs.

Contact the Linn County Public Health Department at 541-967-3888.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why are vaccines required?

A. Vaccines provide protection against getting serious diseases to the person who receives them. Vaccines also help

protect friends, neighbors and communities by reducing the number of people who could get the diseases. When enough people are vaccinated, these diseases tend to stop spreading. Outbreaks of disease occur more where people are close together for a long time, such as a schools or child care.

Q. Do vaccines given in other countries count?

A. Yes, as long as you can provide at least the month and year that the vaccine doses were given most vaccine doses given in other countries will count towards meeting vaccination requirements in Oregon. Contact your local health department for more information regarding out of country vaccines.

Q. How can I get proof of which vaccines my child has received?

A. Contact your child's primary medical provider or your local health department.

Q. What if I don't know which vaccines my child needs?

A. Talk with your medical provider to learn more about the recommended vaccine schedule for your child.

Q. What if a doctor told me that my child should not get certain vaccines?

A. Oregon allows a medical exemption. It must be signed by a doctor or local health department. If you think your child needs a medical exemption, talk to your child's medical provider.

Q. What if I am choosing not to get vaccinated?

A. Oregon allows a nonmedical exemption. For information about how to get a nonmedical exemption, contact your local health department.

ODOT offers winter driving tips

It's January and mid-valley residents are already seeing snow and ice on area roads.

The Oregon Department of Transportation offers the following safety tips for traveling in winter weather.

If you are headed over one of Oregon's many passes, check road conditions at www.TripCheck.com. There are numerous cameras across the state

so you can see actual road conditions as well as temperature.

Make sure someone knows your planned route and then check in with them when you arrive at your destination.

Make sure your vehicle's gas tank is at least half-full and your cell phone is fully charged. Also remember that cell phone coverage can be spotty in the mountains.

Drive with your headlights on, even in daylight.

Plan to take more time. Your customary two-

hour drive-time may increase by 30 to 60 minutes.

Remember that “smooth” is the keyword for steering, accelerating and braking in snow and ice. Bridges can be extra icy, so be aware.

Make sure your vehicle is road-worthy and has been tuned-up. Fill the windshield washer reservoir with winter-based fluid, check your tire pressure and carry chains

or traction devices that fit the tires on your vehicle.

Make sure you know how to install chains and other traction devices.

Avoid driving through snowdrifts and don't use cruise control.

The National Safety Council offers the following tips for packing a winter travel kit:

- Blankets, mittens, socks and hats
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Flashlight, plus extra batteries (or a hand-crank flashlight)

- Battery jumper cables
- First-aid kit (band-aides, adhesive tape, antiseptic wipes, gauze pads, antiseptic cream, medical wrap). See a first-aid kit checklist.
- Bottled water
- Multi-tool (such as a Leatherman multi-tool or a Swiss Army knife)
- Road flares or reflective warning triangles
- Windshield cleaner
- A bag of sand to help with traction (or bag of non-clumping cat litter)
- Collapsible or folding snow shovel
- Blankets
- Tire chains and tow strap
- Hand warmers
- Winter boots for longer trips
- Sleeping bag for longer trips
- Rags and hand cleaner (such as baby wipes)
- Duct tape
- Nonperishable high-energy foods such as unsalted and canned nuts, granola bars, raisins and dried fruit, peanut butter, hard candy.
- Lighter and box of matches (in a water-proof container)
- Spare change and cash
- Paper maps





Linn County to offer Sweet Home mill site in one piece

*Sealed bids
due by Jan. 27*

ALBANY — Linn County plans to market the 146-acre former Willamette Industries mill site in Sweet Home by sealed bid in early February, Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker agreed recently.

The trio had gone into the meeting with plans to partition some portions of the property and sell them individually. But members of the Sweet Home City Council asked the commissioners to reconsider that plan and sell the property — which the county foreclosed on 12 years ago in lieu of \$500,000 in back taxes — as one contiguous piece.

Council members present were President Pro-Tem Diane Gerson and Dave Trask, who spoke to the board, and Lisa Gourley.

County Property Manager Rachel Adamec said she could advertise the process immediately.

The sealed bids will need to be in the county’s possession no later than 5 p.m. on January 27 and the commissioners will open the bids at their Feb. 1 meeting.

The commissioners’ actions Tuesday came after their joint meeting with the Sweet Home City Council on Nov. 9.

Over the years, Linn County has worked with the Department of Environmental Quality and Weyerhaeuser, which gave



the property to the Western States Land Reliance Trust — which would become a failed housing development —

to identify and mitigate areas of environmental concern.

But, several portions of the site still have contamination concerns and an unknown amount of mitigation costs, which has caused issues for potential

buyers. The county has previously offered the site for sale and had an auction at which four proposals were rejected.

Councilor Gerson said the city is con-

cerned that if the county sold the areas cleared of contamination issues by the DEQ, “the dirty” areas would never be cleaned up and “piece meal” the property would diminish its overall value.

The commissioners told her that would not be the case and the county would continue to work on contamination mediation until final DEQ approval is given.

The commissioners are concerned that if the property is sold as one unit, the new owner could partition off the contaminated areas into individual lots and cease paying taxes on those units.

In six years, Linn County could be forced to take the parcels back in lieu of unpaid taxes and during that time, there would be no contamination clean up, leaving both the county and city in no better position, environmentally speaking.

Chairman Nyquist reiterated his belief that a hot housing/property market will not last forever and it is time to get the property back into private ownership.

“The risk is waiting to get a clean bill of health from DEQ while the marketing opportunity goes away,” Nyquist said. Nyquist emphasized he was ready to sell the property as quickly as possible.

After a lengthy conversation, the commissioners asked the councilors to pinpoint what they wanted to see happen and they were told the City Council met Monday evening and agreed the property should be sold as one unit.

The commissioners unanimously agreed to make that wish come true.

The commissioners talked about whether to use an auction or sealed bid process to dispose of the property and chose to seek sealed bids.

QUOTABLE

“The risk is waiting to get a clean bill of health from DEQ while the marketing opportunity goes away ...”

Roger Nyquist

After 28 years with LCSO, Sheriff Yon off for new adventures

By Alex Paul

Communications Officer

ALBANY — Like any other profession, when retired cops get together, stories start flowing.

But newly retired former Linn County Sheriff Jim Yon has a real doozie to talk about.

He was a rookie with three years under his belt as a resident deputy in Harrisburg and had moved into the patrol division in Albany.

“We got a call there was an orangutan on the loose on the streets of Brownsville,” Yon said. “I was talking to the owner and we were getting tips from townspeople about his sightings. The owner warned me the orangutan was full-grown and could rip my arm off.”

Yon and the owner soon located Herbie, but he refused to go along peaceably.

Finally, someone found a child’s scooter and the owner handed it to Herbie, who hopped on it and rode it all the way home.

Yon, who spent all of his 28 years in law enforcement with the Linn County Sheriff’s Office, retired December 31 and Undersheriff Michelle Duncan has been appointed by the Board of Commissioners to fill the final year of his term in office.

Yon also remembers the time a female caller reported someone was trying to break into her home.

“It turned out to be a woodpecker hammering on the garage,” Yon said with a grin.

A 1989 graduate of South Albany High School, Yon had considered following in his parents’ footsteps and becoming a teacher, but his focus soon shifted to law enforcement. He studied criminal justice at Western Oregon University, where his brother Scott — retired from the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office — was enrolled and playing football.

Yon said for a brief moment, he “was the worst college football player in America.”

“I had been a kicker and they needed

somebody, so I walked on and tried to play as a guard,” Yon said. “I was terrible, but it was interesting.”

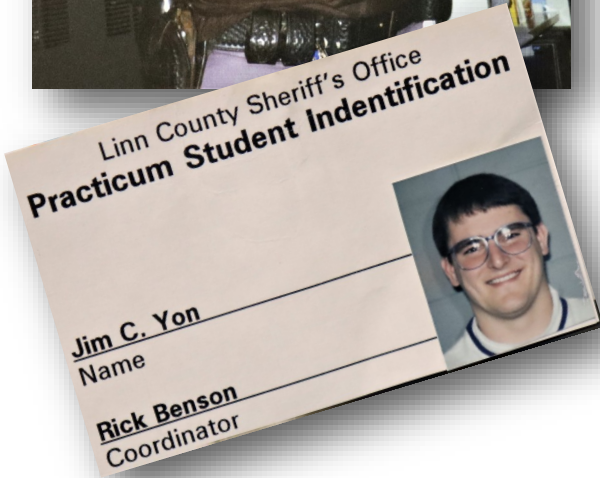
After earning his degree in 1993, Yon worked one summer at National Frozen Foods and applied for a job when one came open at LCSO.

“I had done my practicum with Linn County and I knew it was where I wanted to be,” Yon said. “I would do it all over again.”

Yon’s wife Angie — who works at the Sweet Home Junior High School — is related to former Sheriff Dave Burright and his brother-in-law is Lebanon Police Chief Frank Stevenson.

After moving into the main office, Yon worked traffic, sex crimes, narcotics and support divisions. He was promoted to under-

sheriff in 2014 and sheriff in 2018. He was elected to a four-year term in November 2018.



Linn County Sheriff Jim Yon capped a 28-year law enforcement career with the Linn County Sheriff’s Office Dec. 31. Left: A young Yon fresh out of Western Oregon University.



Yon and his wife, Angie, followed the Beavers to the Jimmy Kimmell Los Angeles Bowl.

Yon said he has seen the best and worst in people during his career.

The worst cases usually involve young people, perhaps because he and his wife, Angie, had a son and daughter, and his thoughts often turned to them.

He still visits the site of a car crash that claimed a Stayton High School student’s life on the anniversary of her

death.

Yon said technology has changed the job, good and bad.

“It’s helpful to have instant access in the field, but people have cell phones and they start posting things on social media — sometimes convicting someone — long before we have all of the information,” Yon said.

But the basics of the job have not changed.

“When I was in Harrisburg, I was supposed to get to know people, to know the owner of the local hardware store and for them to know me,” Yon said. “That’s true today as well. It helps them and it helps us.”

And Yon said proudly, “We still answer every call.”

Sadly, Yon said, respect for law enforcement has slipped sharply among some sectors of the public.

“I think the core support is still there.

Some folks still care about what we do, but a small vocal group doesn’t like being told no,” Yon said.

QUOTABLE

“Linn County has been a great place to work. I’m proud of how I did it. I have no regrets.”

Jim Yon

Yon said he set his sights on becoming sheriff early in his career.

“I have always liked being part of making decisions,” Yon said. “I just did my best in every position. I got a good view of what it’s like from Dave and Frank. Of course,

timing plays a big role, but I’m grateful to have had the opportunity.”

The Yons enjoy camping and plan to do more traveling domestically and internationally.

“It’s bittersweet,” Yon said of his retirement. “I have made a lot of great relationships over the years.”

Yon said it will be different not having a patrol car in his driveway for the first time in three decades.

“I’ve had a pager since 1999 and January 1, I will turn off my cell phone,” Yon said. “Linn County has been a great place to work. I’m proud of how I did it. I have no regrets.”

LCSO quartet recognized for August water rescue

SALEM — The Oregon State Marine Board recently recognized the "heroic" life-saving efforts of four Linn County Sheriff's Office personnel who rescued two boaters on the Middle Fork of the Santiam River on Aug. 4.

Linn County senior deputy Stuart Spangler, marine safety officer Lexi Heyerly, deputy Dan Graybill and Sgt. Chris Houdek were feted, along with sheriff's deputies, marine safety officers and private citizens from four other counties – Newberg-Dundee Police, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and Yamhill County Sheriff's Office – during the agency's virtual post-season conference held Nov. 18.

According to a Marine Board release, a boat operator and his girlfriend on Aug. 4 were taking a new craft on its maiden voyage from Sunnyside Park on Foster Reservoir, up the Middle Fork Santiam River toward the base of Green Peter Reservoir dam. They did not see a brush-obscured sign warning of intermittent releases of water from the dam.



Dan Graybill



Chris Houdek



Stuart Spangler



Lexi Heyerly

They beached the boat to swim to shore. As they decided to leave, the water began rising. Rushing water separated the couple, with the woman becoming trapped on the rocks. The boat was tied to a tree and stuck in an eddy with water rushing past.

The man called the Linn County Sheriff's Office for help. Spangler and Heyerly arrived via patrol boat, which

they maneuvered through the swift water to rescue the woman. Meanwhile, Graybill and Houdek arrived in a separate boat. Houdek threw a rescue line to the man and pulled him aboard.

The actions and teamwork of the Linn County Sheriff's Office staff likely saved a life and led to a positive outcome, the Marine Board said in a statement.

The Life Saving Award recognizes individuals who have exhibited heroism, going above and beyond the call of duty, by directly attempting to rescue one or more persons involved in a water-related incident.

For more information about the Marine Board, visit <https://boat.oregon.gov>.

Courtesy Oregon State Marine Board

Staff honored at Sheriff's Association Conference

BEND — Recently, several members of the Linn County Sheriff's Office were recognized at the annual Oregon State Sheriff's Association conference.

Human Resources/Training Clerk Shannon Heyerly, Records Manager Taylor Rodriguez, Lieutenant Bruce Davis and Captain Jeff Schrader received the Distinguished Service Award for their work on implementing a best-in-class online Concealed Handgun Licensing (CHL) system.

With many services throughout the world turning to online in response to the COVID pandemic, staff knew the Sheriff's Office also needed to adapt.

They worked together to create an online process for CHLs that makes it possible for citizens to process CHL changes, apply for their CHL, pay for the changes, and even take their own photo for use on the CHL card all from a computer or mobile device.

Lieutenant Joe Larsen was recognized for his many years of dedicated service in Emergency Management.

Deputy Brandon RatheLeGurche received the Award of Valor for his quick action and bravery last year. On December 8, 2020, Deputy RatheLeGurche located an armed robbery suspect, who had robbed a Domino's Pizza Restaurant in Bend. The suspect had also sto-



Left to right: Shannon Heyerly, Human Resources Clerk; Taylor Rodriguez, Records Manager; Bruce Davis, Civil Lieutenant; Joshua Perkins, Computer Resource Specialist; Joe Larsen, Search and Rescue Coordinator; Jeff Schrader, Civil Captain; Brandon RatheLeGurche, Patrol Deputy.

len a vehicle and evaded officers from the Bend Police Department and Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.

Once located driving westbound on Highway 22 outside of Detroit, Deputy RatheLeGurche assisted in disabling a stolen vehicle

using spike strips. When the vehicle eventually stopped, Deputy Rathelegurche and Oregon State Police Troopers gave commands to the suspect as he exited the vehicle. The suspect ignored these commands, pointing a gun at Deputy RatheLeGurche and

OSP Troopers. Deputy RatheLeGurche and the OSP Troopers protected themselves by firing at the suspect to stop the threat. The suspect died at the scene.

Happy retirement to Pam Vassey

Pam Vassey, Certifier/Nutrition Educator, has retired after 16 years with the Linn County WIC program.

Registered Dietitian Serena Stearns-Garland said that even through a battle with cancer, Vassey "continued to serve our clients."

Vassey served an estimated 59,420 clients in her career with WIC.

"Her energy, creativity and kindness will be remembered by all of us," Stearns-Garland said.





8 Strategies for a Healthy Spring

From the Centers for Disease Control

Help prevent chronic diseases like type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and cancer with these 8 healthy habits for spring.



Move More, Sit Less

Get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity (e.g. at least 20 minutes a day or 30 minutes on 5 days) every week, plus muscle-strengthening activities at least 2 days a week.



Eat a Healthy Diet

Try healthy food choices like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean meats, and low-fat dairy products. Make half your plate fruits and vegetables and half your grains whole grains.



Rethink Your Drink

Substitute water for sugary or alcoholic drinks to reduce calories and stay safe.



Get Enough Sleep

Adults need at least 7 hours of sleep at night. Kids 6-12 need 9-12 hours of sleep a night. Teens 13-18 need 8-10 hours of sleep a night.



Be Sun Safe

Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses, and use broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 15.



Brush Your Teeth

Brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste.



Learn Your Health History

Talk to your family and your doctor about your family health history. Learn more ways to stay healthy and prevent chronic disease at www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease.



Don't Use Tobacco

You can do it! Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for free support.

WIC team had lots o' fun during Holiday Spirit Week



Ho Ho Hat Day

Left to right: Hannah Wuilliez, Serena Stearns-Garland and Leah Brunson.



Flannel Day

Row one, left to right: Brandy Tarr, Sydney Jones, Shelby Sayer-Cameron

Row two: Serena Stearns-Garland, Leah Brunson, Hannah Wuilliez

Right: Brandy Tarr, Juana Lopez-Gonzalez



Pajama Day

Above: left to right: Leah Brunson, Shelby Sayer-Cameron, Hannah Wuilliez, Serena Stearns-Garland and Brandy Tarr.

Left: Juana Lopez-Gonzalez.



Holiday Attire Day —

Ugly sweater Day

Above: left to right: Pam Massey, Leah Brunson, Hannah Wuilliez, Megan Dunn, Leonor Rodriguez, Brandy Tarr, Shelby Sayer-Cameron, Brenda Zambrano, Serena Stearns-Garland.

Left: Brandy Tarr, Juana Lopez-Gonzalez, Serena Stearns-Garland.



Linn County folks helped make spirits bright



WIC staff -Serena Stearns-Garland, Registered Dietician Nutritionist and Brandi Tarr, nutrition educator, with clothing collected for local families.

WIC staffers help families stay warm

“Thank you for making our coat and warm clothing drive successful this winter 2021,” said Serena Stearns-Garland, Registered Dietician Nutritionist with the Linn County Women, Infants and Children program.

“FISH of Albany was extremely grateful and will be able to use the donations right away,” she added. “Coats and warm clothing have been in high demand this year.”

This year we were able to donate: 21 jackets, 17 hats, five sweaters, four pairs of gloves, four pairs of socks, five scarves and four pairs of pants.



Angel Tree gifts

Gina Bustamante of the Salvation Army picks up dozens of gifts donated by Linn County staff members for the annual Angel Tree program. Courthouse coordinator Heather Gravelle said the names of 32 families were taken quickly by county employees who brought back a room full of Christmas gifts.



Linn County Juvenile Department employees Rob Perkins, Beth Shook, Emily Bell, Rhonda Nicholas and Tencha Serna pose with just a few bags of goodies collected for local families.

Juvenile Department’s quilt raffle pays for food, gift boxes

Staff at the Linn County Juvenile Department made the lives of 13 mid-valley families a little merrier thanks to numerous baskets of food and gifts under their Christmas trees.

More than \$2,000 was raised by raffling a quilt made by Rhonda Nicholas and the Finally Together Quilt Shop. Tickets were \$5 each.

This is the second annual event and the staff made it a baker’s dozen of 13 families, up one from a year ago.

In addition to the quilt raffle, staff had some in-house ways to raise money, such as paying a fee to be allowed to wear blue jeans to work.

Nicholas said Dala’s Blue Angels also assisted, thanks to Dala Johnson of Lebanon.

“This is a great opportunity to give back to the families we work with,” Rob Perkins said. “It affects not only the kids, but their entire families.”



Linn County Juvenile Department quilt raffle winner Misty Taveraz., left, and Rhonda Nicholas.

LCSO staff made great Santa's helpers

The Linn County Sheriff's Office held an internal silent auction to raise money to fulfill gift tags for the local Salvation Army.

Different teams and divisions throughout the office donated items and then made themed baskets to be put up for bids. Auction baskets included themes like a Beavers Sports Package, Family Movie Night, Star Wars "The Child" and many more.

Area businesses also donated services to be put up for bids. A big thank you to Albany Auto Body and Detail for donating \$1,200 in detailing services and Wreckamended Auto for donating \$200 in services.

Apart from the auction, the LCSO also received a very generous cash donation of \$5,000 from All Rite Towing which enabled the Sheriff's Office to purchase even more gifts.

While out shopping for gifts LCSO staff received even more support for the cause.

At the Albany Walmart an employee recognized what deputies were doing and donated an additional \$20 to purchase

gifts and while shopping at the Albany Fred Meyer a citizen saw the efforts and made another \$50 donation.

Along with these additional cash donations, the manager at the Albany Fred Meyer provided a 10% discount on all

the items purchased!

Various other cash donations were made by Sheriff's Office employees and were also able to add an additional \$179.20 by returning the office soda cans.

Coupled with the auction proceeds and cash donations from the public and employees, LCSO raised more than \$8,000 and 208 gift tags for the Salvation Army.



Left: Santa (Vern Mills) visited Linn County offices early last week and above, the crew from the Developmental Disabilities department in the spirit of the season.

Longest married couple?

We'd like to hear from the longest married couple among our Linn County staff members.

One or both persons can be a Linn County employee.

Please contact Communications Officer Alex Paul at 541-967-3825 or email apaul@co.linn.or.us.



We would like to feature the couple in a story in our February Linn County Reporter.

Retired county engineer proud of staff, projects completed

By Alex Paul

Communications Officer

ALBANY — Although Linn County Engineer Chuck Knoll's last day of work was December 31, his list of planned activities will keep him busy for a long time to come.

For example: trips to Alaska, Yellowstone, and Hawaii; spending more time at his family's Crescent Creek cabin; snow skiing, golfing, fishing, and working with his wife Terry on American Legion Post 10 projects.

He also has a few fish passage projects he would like to see completed in the Cascades.



And those are just a few items on his agenda.

Knoll, 72, held the local engineering post for 16 years and brought a

broad range of experience to the job — including working in Idaho, Washington and Alaska.

Knoll was born in The Dalles and lived in Klamath Falls, Pendleton and Bend before his family settled in north Seattle when he was 8 years old.

Knoll was fortunate that his grandparents owned the Shelter Cove Marina and store on Odell Lake from 1948 until 1972 and he got to spend summers working with them. He said the experience was "fantastic."

To help his grandparents out with the business, he "ran trap lines, shoveled snow, cut firewood, painted and roofed cabins, pumped gas, and managed boats in the marina, played the trumpet in the boat house, and had a great time," Knoll said. "Oregon Fish and Wildlife was also set up on the west end of Odell Lake and I often visited them and was invited to participate in stream surveys. As a result, I have been and am still involved in fish and wildlife aspects of my work and fun times."

It's also where his love of being on and around water originated. He has sailed and canoed on the Puget Sound, the Skagit, Alsea, Deschutes, Skyhomish, Snoqualmie, Lewis and Willamette Rivers and many other creeks and lakes.

Knoll didn't have a clear career choice when he entered the University of Washington, but an adviser suggested that his summer jobs and passion for the water might bode well in the field of civil engineering.

As a result, Knoll earned a degree in Civil Engineering in 1971 and had the opportunity to enter graduate school. He earned a Master's Degree in engineering hydraulics and water resource management in 1973.

At 6'3", Knoll also found himself drawn to the University of Washington rowing



Former Linn County Engineer Chuck Knoll is proud of a long list of projects the county staff has completed during his 16 years with the Road Department.



team and he competed from 1967 until 1971 on squads that would win numerous national titles.

Knoll's career eventually brought him to the City of Salem Department of Utilities, then the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality located in Eugene — where he also coached the University of Oregon's men's rowing team from 1975-1978.

He worked as a process engineer, and then environmental program manager at Teledyne Wah Chang from 1978 until 1999.

He was the senior engineer at Benton County Public Works from 1999 until 2005 where he obtained funding, designed, permitted, contracted and provided oversight for 26 fish passage projects while there.

He came to Linn County in 2005 as the Linn County Engineer and developed, obtained funding

and guided numerous projects from one end of the county to the other.

He is especially proud of the recent \$9 million TIGER project in Mill City, a

local and federal project that includes refurbishing the community's historic pedestrian bridge, the traffic-bridge over the North Santiam River and street improvements.

This is part of a list of over 40 projects with a total value of more than \$80 million in which \$42 million in outside funding was provided. Part of this list includes obtaining funding and providing engineering design and contracting for the rehabilitation of five covered bridges.

Other accomplishments on this list have included obtaining funding, designing and obtaining environment permit approvals for eight fish passage improvement projects. Knoll's favorite fish passage project was the replacement of a perched culvert with a bridge on Mad Creek on Gates Bridge East Road.

"The minute the stream was restored for fish passage about 200 salmon swam up the creek in the first hour," Knoll said. "It was nice to see the appreciation."

This does not include an additional 11 projects to complete with \$19,500,000 in approved funding grants. This list also includes another \$3,620,000 in funding for the rehabilitation of the Shimanek Covered Bridge that is in line for rehab this summer.

In addition to the completed and presently funded projects, Knoll also has a few he would like to see completed including a bike and pedestrian bridge crossing I-5 next to the Grand Prairie Avenue bridge, a multi-use path next

to Three Lakes Road from Grand Prairie Road to Spicer Road, as well as a bike path alongside the railroad from Albany to Lebanon, and the continuation of the bike path along Highway 34 from Riverside Drive to Linn Benton Community College.

Knoll has been primary in development of the Stormwater Management Plan for Linn County, and a fish passage barrier inventory and restoration plan. During the past 15 years the engineering staff have also developed and implemented a Certified Agency Project Delivery Program with the written approval of the Oregon Department of Transportation to deliver federally funded projects. This program includes the development of a county-wide ADA transition plan, a Civil Rights program, Contract Conditions and Specifications to meet federal and state requirements, and approval to provide engineering design and delivery of bridge and road projects.

Linn County is the only rural agency that has all of these certifications.

Knoll also managed the development and update of the county's Transportation Plan in 2018. This was all in addition to the routine workload which also included reviewing access and driveway permits, developments, and other problems that might come up.

Knoll said he is most proud of working with a dedicated and talented staff at the Road Department.

"Kevin Groom is one of the top covered bridge engineers in the entire Northwest," Knoll said. "I knew Daineal (Malone) when she worked in Benton County and she is a very good road designer and has good organizational skills for construction project management."

Other staff include Andrew Potts, another great bridge and road design engineer, and 3 engineering technicians, (Dan Leard, Scott MacLean and Amanda Howe) who provide construction inspection to make sure the projects are completed as designed.

"Across the board, it's a great engineering staff that provide an efficient collaborative team effort," Knoll said.

Daineal Malone succeeds Knoll as the new county engineer.

Knoll actually retired on June 30 but has remained with Linn County to provide for a good transition and help take care of some of the workload.

Knoll has served on the Cascades West Commission on Transportation, the Albany Area Metropolitan Policy Organization, and the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors. He was named the "County Engineer of the Year" in 2017. He has also worked with and assisted the Calapooia, North Santiam and South Santiam Watershed Councils which resulted in obtaining funding for fish passage improvement projects.

Linn County Administrative Officer Darrin Lane was the Linn County Roadmaster who hired Knoll.

"Chuck has a larger-than-life personality and he has used his tenacity and skills to bring a lot of grant money to the Linn County Road Department over the years," Lane said. "He has definitely made an impact."

Both Knoll and his wife Terry are ready for his retirement. They have plans to continue to enjoy the northwest as well as a few trips and will be able to spend more time with their two grandchildren.

And then again, there are other projects on another list at home that need tending to.

QUOTABLE

"Chuck has a larger-than-life personality and he has used his tenacity and skills to bring a lot of grant money to the Linn County Road Department over the years. He has definitely made an impact."

**Darrin Lane
Administrative Officer**

Thank you Tony Howell

At their December 14 meeting, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker thanked Tony Howell, who retired Dec. 31 after 42 years of service to Linn County's Alcohol & Drug program.

Howell worked for the county from 1977 to 1980, took a couple years off to earn his Master's Degree in Michigan, and then returned to Linn County, heading up the A & D office for decades.

"Tony, you were here before I got here and that's a long time," Board Chair Nyquist said.

Howell said it was "wonderful working in and for Linn County."

"The commissioners have always been supportive," Howell said. "Many other counties have contracted for services with private programs."

Howell said Linn County's financial support has "been a Godsend, especially maintaining our program during this time of COVID. We are one of few programs in the state that have remained open."

Nyquist praised Howell's "staying power" no matter how difficult economic times were.

He said that Howell and his staff built up a relationship of trust in the county and that has led to uninterrupted supply of services to those in need.

"You delivered services timely and effectively," Nyquist said. "When I first got here, maybe my first year, there was an analysis done concerning effectiveness of services. I thought it might be 20 to 30% and it was something like 70%."

Nyquist called addiction "a deadly illness and treatment either works or it doesn't."

"It's an issue in our community about which many people are very passionate," Nyquist said. "It's an emotional issue as well."

Nyquist said that despite the emotions, How-



Retiring Alcohol & Drug department head Tony Howell talks with Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker at the Dec. 14 board meeting. Howell spent 42 years with Linn County.

ell was always able to keep his wits about him "while all heck was breaking loose. In the middle of it all, Tony would be there

with a note pad and figure out how to do it. A plan would appear and it worked. I can't thank you enough."

Commissioner Sprenger said she has known Howell only a short time, but she appreciates his commitment and his longevity in the department.

"I value longevity in people, especially since people change employers about every seven years or so," Sprenger said. "I appreciate people who stay engaged in the process and continue to move the ball down field."

Commissioner Tucker said Howell had the "ability to roll with the punches," and did a fine job of integrating Linn County's services with Samaritan Health Services' new STARS treatment center in Lebanon.

"You have helped thousands of people in your career," Tucker said. "The public should thank you. You and your staff have changed many lives," Tucker said.

Nyquist presented Howell with an engraved plaque.

New Linn County Sheriff ... From P. 1

and unity she needs and have compassion.

Sheriff Duncan said she learned something new from each sheriff with whom she worked.

Dave Burrignt taught her to always keep what's best for the public in mind when making decisions. Tim Mueller taught her to take care of the staff. Bruce Riley taught her about leadership in and out of the office and Jim Yon taught her about true humility, doing what's right even when others disagree with your decision and not being afraid to "make fun of yourself."

Sheriff Duncan added that she has always taken great pride in being a hard worker.

"Public safety is always the number



Linn County's 41st Sheriff Michelle Duncan with her predecessors, left to right: Art Martinak, Dave Burrignt, Bruce Riley and Jim Yon.

one priority for any sheriff," Duncan said.

Duncan has previously said her philosophy is that each of the Sheriff's Office's six divisions — patrol, corrections, detectives, corrections programs, civil and support services — are important.

At full strength, the LCSO employs 190 people and has a budget of \$36 million.

Duncan believes the office works best

when all staff members work as a team.

Duncan's children, Kendall Leggate, 17, and Jacob Leggate, 22, pinned a new badge on their mother.

"We're very proud of our mom," Jacob said after the ceremony. "She's always about putting family first."

Per tradition, in her first act in office, Duncan swore in retired Sheriff Jim Yon as a deputy sheriff.



Snow days

It doesn't happen often in the mid-valley, but Linn County received several inches of snow and cool temperatures with day-time highs in the low 30s and overnight lows in the mid-20s the last week of December. Above: Eric McNulty of General Services hard at work shoveling snow off the courthouse steps.



Linn County Circuit Court Judge Rachel Kittson-MaQatish administers the oath of office to new Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan Monday morning.

OSU names new vice provost for extension and engagement

Courtesy OSU News Service

CORVALLIS — Ivory W. Lyles, who prioritized the needs and challenges of the residents of Nevada as associate dean for engagement and director of extension for the University of Nevada, Reno, has been named Oregon State University's new vice provost for extension and engagement and director of the OSU Extension Service.

Lyles' appointment began Sept. 30. He succeeds Anita Azarenko, who served for more than two years in an interim role following the retirement of Scott Reed in 2019. Azarenko is retiring after nearly 35 years of service to OSU in a variety of roles.

"Dr. Lyles has a long history of outstanding leadership in extension and engagement positions in universities in multiple states, and he is a national leader in this domain as well, through organizations like the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities," said Edward Feser, OSU's provost and executive vice president. "Most recently, in Nevada, he renewed strong stakeholder partnerships and implemented innovative programs in workforce development and other areas. I'm delighted he is joining OSU's leadership team."

Oregon State University's

Division of Extension and Engagement includes the OSU Extension Service and the Office of Professional and Continuing Education. The division's educational programming and activities serve all of Oregon's 36 counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs reservation. Programs center within seven focus areas: 4-H youth development; agriculture and natural resources, including the Small Farms program and the Master Gardener program; family and community health; forestry and natural resources; OSU Open Campus, a community-based education partnership; Outdoor School; and Oregon Sea Grant.

"I am very pleased to join OSU and I



Ivory Lyles

look forward to helping support the needs of Oregonians and communities statewide by working with uni-

versity colleagues, the Oregon Legislature, local counties and community partners throughout the state," Lyles said.

Working at land-grant universities across the U.S.,

Lyles has served in many extension leadership roles. At the University of Nevada, Reno, where he has worked since 2017, he has overseen about 300 employees, including academic and administrative faculty and support and clerical staff, as well as a budget of about \$40 million.

Previously, he was professor, dean and director of land grant programs at Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi, and administrator of the cooperative extension program at Tennessee State University in Nashville, both of which are historically Black colleges and universities.

He also served as associate vice president for agriculture and di-

rector of the cooperative extension service at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock and held extension leadership roles at Ohio State University and the University of Tennessee.

Lyles holds memberships in the National Association of County Agriculture Agents and the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. He is a member of the national 4-H Diversity Design team and serves as chair of the program committee for the national Extension Committee on Organization and Policy.

Lyles earned his bachelor's degree at Alcorn State, his master's degree at Mississippi State University and his doctorate in agricultural education, community and rural development at Ohio State University.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In 2008, Linn County residents approved a tax levy to support the OSU Extension-Linn County programs. That levy generates more than \$700,000 per year.

At the University of Nevada, Reno, where he has worked since 2017, he has overseen about 300 employees, including academic and administrative faculty and support and clerical staff, as well as a budget of about \$40 million.



Linn County Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger welcomes Dr. Ivory Lyles to his new position as head of the OSU Extension Service.

Tell us about your first car

What was your first car?

Was it a bright red '65 Mustang, a light blue 1975 VW bug or a silver 2010 Honda Civic?

We'd like to hear about your first set of wheels.

How much did it cost? Where did you buy it? Did you give it a name?

Did it sip gas or guzzle it back when regular gasoline cost 39 cents a gallon?

What happened to it and would you like to have it back?

We would also like to see a photo of your first car, especially if it includes your image.

Please send your story and a photo or two to alex.paul@co.linn.or.us. I'd like to include this feature in the February issue of The Linn County Reporter.

P.S. My first car was a 1966 Dodge Coronet convertible. Dark green with a white top and interior with a 383 4-barrel and factory 4-speed. Would love to have her back.



I paid \$600 for her.

What happened to her?

Well, I raced her (with a broken right leg in a cast no less) and then

wrecked her on a very muddy Iowa road on a winter's morning.

Long story.

— Alex Paul