



Don't forget to file your taxes by April 15!

What's happening in Linn County, Oregon

April 2024

Ice is long gone, but @#&%*



persist ...

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — The ice storm that blanketed much of western Oregon during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend in January is but a memory for the most part.

Trees and other debris have long been removed from roads, fences and yards. But thousands of potholes persist and the Linn County Road Department is attacking with zeal as weather, staffing and equipment allow.

Operations Manager Kevin Hamilton said pothole repairs are part of the county's annual maintenance program, but admits the January ice storm — that lasted several days — likely led to more potholes than usual.

What is a pothole?

Well, it's a failure of asphalt pavement. Hamilton said asphalt is a combination of an asphalt binder with various size of rock and sand that is layered and compressed.

"Asphalt paving is affected from above

and below the asphalt surface," Hamilton said.

Water and soil shifting affect asphalt from below. The water can "strip" asphalt paving of its cohesiveness. Also, when water freezes it expands and that action can lead to a pothole. Damage from ice can result from water penetrating void spaces in the pavement and then freezing. This freezing action forces the pavement apart. Asphalt is also affected by the ultraviolet rays from sunshine, oxygen and heavy traffic from above.

"Solvents such as diesel and gasoline also affected asphalt," he said. Also, vehicles push water with great hydraulic force into the asphalt and that can fill spaces between larger rocks in the asphalt.

Linn County will make temporary repairs with a "cold patch" mix, Hamilton said, until the weather warms up and crews can make more permanent repairs.

On a recent day, the Albany District



Linn County Road Department employees Brandon Crow and lead worker Mitch Keenon warm up a ground-out pothole in preparation to receive asphalt filling.

crew was busy repairing potholes on roads near Tangent Drive southeast of Albany.

Chad Sheffield operated a compact track loader with a mill head to grind out the pothole areas. Staff shoveled out loose materials and also used a backpack blower to get the patch area very clean.

A propane torch was used to heat up the area to be patched and then asphalt mix — that leaves the batch plant at 350-380 degrees — was poured into the recessed area. It is in the 280- to 300-degree range by the time it is ready to be applied.

POTHOLE ... See P. 13

Commissioner Nyquist receives C of C Legacy Award



Linn County Commissioner Roger Nyquist with Jennifer Stanaway and Brent Stutzman of the Greater Albany Chamber of Commerce.

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Linn County Commissioner and Greater Albany Public Schools Board member Roger Nyquist received the Legacy Award at the annual Albany Chamber of Commerce awards banquet Saturday, March 9 at the Boys & Girls Club.

Presenter Susie Orsborn, Executive Director of Human Resources for GAPS, called Nyquist a childhood friend who lives up to poet Maya Angelou's philosophy "If you're going to live, leave a legacy, make a mark on the world that can't be erased."

The Legacy Award is presented to the person who has devoted many years of service to the community and in Nyquist's case, Linn County.

Orsborn said Nyquist has devoted himself as a school board member, but he also distinguished himself as an ardent supporter of all things good for

young people. When his brother was a successful West Albany football coach, Nyquist spent 15 years as the team's "most prominent ball boy."

He provided sideline heaters for players on cold nights, paid for players to attend camp, fed kids who were hungry, hosted them at the bowling alley and when a family lost everything in a house fire, he paid for motel rooms to give them shelter, Orsborn said.

Nyquist was recognized as the community's Junior First Citizen in 1999. Numerous people wrote letters of support for Nyquist's recognition.

Chamber of Commerce President Janet Steele praised Nyquist for his first-hand knowledge of business. His parents bought Lake Shore Lanes bowling alley in 1965, when he was 5 years old. He eventually took over ownership and has grown the business into a successful multi-entertainment venue.

LEGACY AWARD ... See P. 4



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Linn County Board of Commissioners

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Nyquist**



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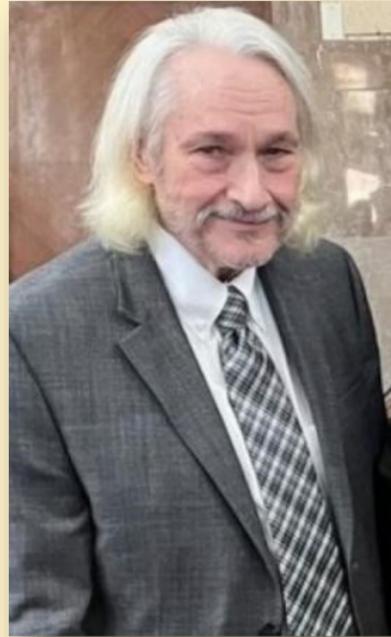
Legislature memorializes former clerk

SALEM — Former Linn County Clerk Steve Druckenmiller was honored at the State Legislature on Wednesday, March 6, with Joint Concurrent Resolution 211.

The resolution celebrated Druckenmiller's many contributions to both Linn County and the State of Oregon. Druckenmiller died last Fall. He was the second longest-serving elected official in Linn County, dedicating 44 years to public service. He oversaw 141 vote-by-mail elections, the most in the United States, plus 28 poll elections.

Clerk Druckenmiller was a mentor to many, inspiring countless individuals to pursue careers in public service. He exemplified the qualities of compassion and service to others.

"Steve Druckenmiller was a man who believed in democracy and did more than most to make it work. From vote-by-mail to Spanish language ballots, Steve worked to realize the aspiration of every eligible voter having a ballot in hand," said Sen. Sara Gelsler Blouin (D-Corvallis). "He did this in a way that united people on the right and the left, and in so doing, he built confidence in our election system. Oregon is better because of



Steve Druckenmiller

Steve's service."

"Clerk Druckenmiller always maintained the highest standards of transparency, accuracy, and accessibility in elections for all Linn County residents throughout his four-decades-long tenure," said Sen. Cedric Hayden (R-Fall Creek). "I know his legacy as an exem-

plary public servant will be remembered for years to come."

Rep. Jami Cate (R-District 11) talked about how Druckenmiller assisted Cate when she voted early, but it appeared her ballot had not been counted. Druckenmiller took great pride in running meticulous vote-by-mail elections.

Cate said Druckenmiller personally took on the task of finding the ballot, which he did. He also found that Cate had taped her ballot shut and was kicked out for hand verification.

"Steve was never going to stop until he had an answer for me about where my ballot was," Cate said.

She praised Druckenmiller's dedication and "unending willingness" to assist voters and to help them understand the vote-by-mail process.

Current Linn County Clerk Marcie Richey said that Druckenmiller, "Inspired an immeasurable amount of institutional knowledge" and he was dedicated to making sure "vote by mail was more secure and robust."

Richey said that over time, Druckenmiller became the "go to elections administrator and historian" and he "leaves a legacy of accurate, fair and honest elections."

Community remembers Sam Eicher

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

Christian Sam Eicher had a deep love for God, his family and his fellow man, friends and family said during a memorial service at the Albany Mennonite Church on Friday, May 15.

Eicher was a former Linn County Fair Board and a faithful supporter of 4-H programs.

He lived on his family's nearly 100-year-old farm on Eicher Road east of Albany and spent his life buying, selling and raising cattle. He was well known among the mid-valley's farm families and if you wanted to find him on certain days of the week, all you had to do was show up at the local cattle auctions.

He was deep in his faith, but also enjoyed learning and talking with others about their faiths.

Members of his family said he was "always present" always happy to attend school, church or community events and making memories with his family.

He was "so interested in life" one person said, adding, "he wore his faith on his sleeve."

Fittingly, the "Auctioneer's Song" played as people left the service.

Feb. 19, 1942 - Feb. 21, 2024

After rounding up that last ornery steer and mending the fence, this Oregon cattleman has moved on to a much larger farm. On his new place, the weather is always perfect, the cattle are always healthy, and the pastures are green and lush.

C. Sam Eicher of Albany, OR, just two days over 82, died February 21, 2024,



surrounded by his loving family.

Sam is dearly missed by his wife Janice Horner; seven children, Marisa (Eicher) DeMasi, Dani (Eicher) Lack, Jaqui Eicher, Tyson (Eicher) Swartout, Travis Eicher, Jay Horner, and Kristin (Horner) Adams; 11 grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren – with three more making appearances soon! Affectionately known as 'GPop', his jellybean stash and making the great grandkids giggle were legendary.

He is preceded in the move to the perfect farm prepared for him, by his parents Samuel Ezra Eicher and Martha (Gerig) Eicher; his siblings Shirley Gingerich and Duane Eicher, and his first wife Roma Jean (Diller) Eicher. We know they were anxious to show him the new place.

Described by those who knew him best as kind, funny, faith-filled, and generous, Sam's legacy is one of devotion - to his family, his faith, his love of raising livestock, and serving his community. His passion for service was not for personal recognition, but a testament to the values he held dear. It

included several local and national Board of Directors, Committees, and volunteer service for faith-based, business, and philanthropic benefit. He also was a great encouragement to those he mentored, encouraged, and stood beside in times of hardship.

Sam's influence will continue to be felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A Celebration of his life was held at 1:30 p.m. on March 15 at the Albany Mennonite Church in Albany, Oregon followed by a light meal including his famous 'Eicher Sausage' enjoyed by many at the MCC and Western Mennonite High School Benefit Auctions. All are welcome.

In remembrance of Sam Eicher's life, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to Albany Mennonite Church, MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates), St. Edwards Catholic Church in Lebanon Oregon, and Drift Creek Camp.

Aasum-Dufour Funeral Home handled the arrangements (www.aasum-dufour.com).



CASA supporters filled the Boulder Falls Inn Events Center in Lebanon for the annual Stand Up for a Child fundraiser March 13.

CASA of Linn County holds annual Stand Up for a Child

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

LEBANON — This is a good news, bad news kind of story. The good news is that 97 Linn County children in the



CASA volunteer Mike Unsworth and Ani Yardumian.

state’s foster care system have a Court Appointed Special Advocate — someone who speaks and acts in that child’s best interests.

The bad news is that there are 107 children on a waiting list, according to Casa of Linn County Executive Director Leslee Mayers.

During the annual CASA Stand Up for a Child luncheon fundraiser March 13 at Boulder Falls Inn, Mayers told several hundred CASA supporters that some 253 Linn County children spent at least one day in Foster Care last year.

“And I think we can all agree that one child in foster care is one child too many,” Mayers said.

Ani Yardumian and her daughter Jasmine are definitely a part of the good news quotient.

Jasmine was 11 years old and in foster care when Yardumian — a prosecutor in the Linn County District Attorney’s Office — first met her.

Six years later, they became a family.

“I was 48 years old and was OK not having children, in fact, I thought they could be a pain,” Yardumian said.

“I really didn’t need a child in my life,” Yardumian said. “Then, I realized we were meant to be mother and daughter and I can’t imagine life without her.”

But, she admits, adjusting to the new lifestyle was a bit difficult for both mother and daughter.

“Jasmine hadn’t known many men who were good role models,” Yardumian said.

Yardumian said that although she had good intentions of wanting to give everything she could to Jasmine, “I didn’t understand that wasn’t enough.”

“I had to realize that I could give her everything in the world and it still wouldn’t take away what she had already lost, which was everything — her family, her siblings, her friends, her home — I wish I had understood that better. Mike was one of the folks who helped me see the perspective from the other side.”

Yardumian added, “Realistically, Jasmine had no reason — in fact she had every reason — to not trust adults.”

Two factors helped make the transition less harrowing, Yardumian said. She works with a strong group of good men in the District Attorney’s office. She asked them to help provide positive male role modeling and they gladly jumped in.

The second factor was Jasmine’s long-term CASA advocate, a man name Mike.

“Mike was already there and he showed that men can be good, loving and trustworthy,” Yardumian said.

Now 20 years old and studying communications at Linn-Benton Community College, Jasmine said she really didn’t understand about CASA until about two years ago.

“What CASA meant to me was Mike,” she said. “He provides me with a sense of peace.”

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES CHANGE LIVES

“Being in foster care is living in a constant state of flux. Homes, schools, families...everything is always changing, often suddenly and without warning. The only constant was my CASA volunteer. Without her I would have been lost in the system.” MELISSA, FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

THE PROBLEM: OVERWHELMED SYSTEMS



THE SOLUTION: CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), trained volunteers who help abused and neglected children find safe, permanent homes.



THE RESULTS: BRIGHTER FUTURES



OUR VISION: SERVING EVERY CHILD



Jasmine said she had a female CASA for a short time before Mike and at first, she “gave him a cold shoulder.”

And then Mike became a “constant” in her life.

He has been there for her for nine years, during both high and low points.

“He was my biggest supporter through every foster home I was in,” she said. “There were always new foster parents and new rules, but there was always Mike. He listened so much. We still meet regularly, go out for coffee and talk about everything from politics to weather.”

Jasmine said that next to her mother, Mike is the most influential person in her life.

“I appreciate him every day,” she said. “He is kind, honest and he listens. He was constantly on my side. I can’t imagine these nine years without him.”

After the program Mike Unsworth said he taught for 40 years and when he retired he missed the contact with

young people.

“I had seen the pain that children experience when families are in crisis,” Unsworth said. “CASA was an ideal opportunity for me to try to make an impact that helped children and kept me in touch with young people.”

CASA volunteers come from all walks of life. They must commit to taking 40 hours of training and completing at least two years of service.

Children with a CASA are more likely to be adopted; spend much less time in long-term foster care; and are more likely to have a plan for permanency — especially children of color.

CASA of Linn County board members are President Greg Anabele, Secretary Rebekah Brown, Treasurer Tom Hatley, Past President Sylvia Ebbert, Val Decker, Susan Marie Almquist, Emily Harfouche and Brenda Wampler.

You can learn more about CASA of Linn County by visiting: www.linncasa.org.



Commissioner Roger Nyquist with fellow award recipients. Left to right: Brayden McKay, South Albany High School, Distinguished Student; Alex Patterson, Junior First Citizen; Kevin Fandrem, Jim Linhart First Citizen; Roberta White, Distinguished Service Award; Roger Nyquist, Legacy Award; North Albany IGA, Large Business of the Year; Country Financial –Morford, Small Business of the Year.

Albany Chamber of Commerce Awards ... From P. 1

“You have become a deeply trusted friend and ally,” Steele noted. “You have been a mentor, a confidant, an influencer and most of all a respected leader that I can call on anytime. Through the years you have given us your very best.”

Former State Rep. Andy Olson called Nyquist a “true leader” who adheres to the philosophy to “stay humble, ignore noise and protect the team.”

“It is such a benefit having a business owner and leader as a County Commissioner,” said Karla Chambers, co-owner of Stahlbush Island Farms. “Understanding how the economy works is essential. Your vision of how a thriving economy aligns with the business community is refreshing.”

Fellow Commissioner Will Tucker said that although their viewpoints don’t always align, “you still support the conversation and vote to do the right thing for Linn County. You take the heat, you stand by your vote and you stand for what you believe is right.”

Fellow Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger praised Nyquist for his “dedication to serving Linn County citizens over the years has been unwavering” especially as an advocate for family owned businesses.

Former Linn County Sheriff Tim Mueller said Nyquist is “the absolute best and most effective Linn County Commissioner that has held that office. You never lost sight of who you have been elected to serve — the citizens of Linn County, and as a citizen of this county, for that I am forever grateful.”

Clearly humbled by the honor, Nyquist said he learned about running a small business and treating others with respect from his parents.

“They bought the bowling center in 1965, when I was 5 years old and that ignited my passion for helping small businesses,” Nyquist said. “I am also lucky to have a job where I am inspired daily by the kindness and character of this community.”

Nyquist talked about the Santiam Canyon wildfires of September 2020, when the county turned the Fair & Expo Centers into an emergency shelter for both people and animals. He was overwhelmed by the generosity of local businesses and community members who donated pallets of water, food, clothing and much more.

At one time, more than 900 animals — from chickens and goats to horses — were housed at the facility and Nyquist half-joked that state Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis knew nearly all of their names after the first day. Local farmers and ag stores donated tons of hay and feed.

He thanked Janet Steele and all of the paid staff and volunteers who make the Albany Chamber of Commerce so effective. He also thanked his wife Christie, daughter Jenna and son Ryan, with whom he shared the evening.

Nyquist said managing Linn County is a team effort. He recognized fellow Commissioners Will Tucker and Sherrie Sprenger as well as County Clerk Marcie Richey, Public Health Director Todd Noble and former County Administrative Officer Ralph Wyatt, who were all in attendance.

Nyquist congratulated his fellow award recipients, adding, “It has been the honor of my lifetime to serve all of you.”

Also recognized Saturday evening were:

Distinguished Service Award: Roberta White.

Jim Linhart First Citizen: Kevin Fandrem.

Junior First Citizen: Alex Patterson.

Small Business of the Year: Country Financial — Christine Morford.

Large Business of the Year: North Albany IGA Supermarket.

Distinguished Student of the Year: Brayden McKay.



Linn County folks at the Chamber awards included Commissioner Will Tucker and his wife, Lynne; County Clerk Marcie Richey, Holly and Todd Noble and Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger and her husband Kyle.



Commissioner Nyquist and his family, daughter Jenna, son Ryan and his wife, Christie.



2024 Total Eclipse: Where & When

Eclipse Explorer

Editor's Note: Remember a few years ago, when Oregonians had a front-row seat to watch a solar eclipse. Well, another one is coming in April, but Oregon isn't going to be included on its main path that will cross 13 states. We will, however, see a partial solar eclipse.

NASA's Eclipse Explorer is an interactive map designed to enhance your eclipse-viewing experience. Crafted to complement our existing static eclipse maps, this tool enables users to dive into this amazing celestial event like never before. With this map, you can learn what will be visible in different areas, see a prediction of the corona, compare this path to previous eclipses, and more. To see it full screen, visit go.nasa.gov/EclipseExplorer.

NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio

The Monday, April 8, 2024, total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The total solar eclipse will begin over the South Pacific Ocean. Weather permitting, the first loca-

tion in continental North America that will experience totality is Mexico's Pacific coast at around 11:07 a.m. PDT.

A map of the contiguous U.S. shows the path of the 2024 total solar eclipse stretching on a narrow band from Texas to Maine.

The total solar eclipse will be visible along a narrow track stretching from Texas to Maine on April 8, 2024. A partial eclipse will be visible throughout all 48 contiguous U.S. states.

Want to download this map and view other versions? Visit NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio.

NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio

The path of the eclipse continues from Mexico, entering the United States in Texas, and traveling through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Small parts of Tennessee and Michigan will also experience the total solar eclipse. The eclipse will enter Canada in Southern Ontario, and continue through Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton. The eclipse will exit continental North America on the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada, at 5:16 p.m. NDT.



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Requirements:

- Submit design (1 per contestant) by May 20th
- Must be original work, no tracing or copying designs
- One color to be printed on front of color shirt
- Entries must be submitted as a pdf or jpg
- Upload entry to <https://beav.es/cmz>

Thank you to our sponsors No Dinx and Knife River!





OSU Extension Service



Diane Hyde's goal: waste no food!

North Canyon resident is master gardener, master food preserver

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

LYONS — Diane Hyde was born to be a gardener and a teacher.

She vividly remembers helping in her grandmother's garden on the family property near Coos Bay when she was just five years old.

She knew she liked growing things even then.

Now, almost 77, Hyde's devotion to growing her own food — and especially sharing her bounty with others — has only grown stronger. She is well known and respected in the North Canyon.

She lives in Lyons and for 17 years, was the Lyons postmaster, so she knows everyone, and everyone knows her.

When it comes to talking about Diane Hyde's role with the OSU Extension Master Gardener program it might be easier to list things she hasn't done with the program over more than 40 years.

"OSU Extension has been important to my personal and community life since I was a child in 4-H more than 65 years ago," Hyde said. "I take every opportunity to introduce the wonderful OSU Extension resources to others so their lives will also be enhanced. The Linn County Extension staff has always been supportive of those efforts."

A 1969 Oregon State University graduate who taught in secondary public schools for 15 years — everything from home economics to computer science to industrial arts.

She was a small business owner for many years, growing StoneCrop Gardens — a succulent nursery — from serving four stores to 72 stores. A back injury forced her to change careers.

Hyde completed her initial Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver training in 1981, then audited the training again in 1990 and 2018.

The program has remained important to her all these decades later.

In 2002, she was appointed Lyons Postmaster and her six-day-a-week work schedule wouldn't allow her to actively participate in Master Gardener projects, but Hyde said she continued to pay her dues and keep informed through the program's newsletter.

"As Postmaster in a small community, I had constant opportunities to discuss gardening with customers and frequently was asked to identify plants, diseases or insects at the Post Office," Hyde said. "I continued to make gardening and food preservation my hobbies."

Hyde retired from the Post Office in 2018, and as she notes, "Just in time to complete the Oregon Food Bank training and then teach the Seed to Supper course at the North Santiam Gleaners in Scio" where she is an active member.



Whether she is growing food, teaching others how to grow or can food, or helping distribute it to her fellow canyon neighbors, Diane Hyde's goal is to reduce hunger and eliminate food waste.

She is proud to have taught the Seed to Supper class — and other timely workshops — every year since 2018 in Lyons. In addition to working with 20 or more adults at a time, Hyde is also proud of working with 47 children — about 20% of the school enrollment — through an afterschool program at Mari-Linn Elementary School for the 4-H Junior Master Gardener program in 2019.

In 2020 and 2021, Hyde presented Master Gardener webinars on Tuesday mornings "to an enthusiastic" group at the Santiam Senior Center in Stayton. 2021 also was a banner year because the volunteers developed a much-needed community garden on Hyde's property in Lyons.

"Having served as Postmaster of Lyons for 17 years, and currently on the Lyons City Council, I became aware that the community needed an affordable source of fresh produce, and residents were seeking reliable information that OSU Extension could provide," Hyde said. "I sold property in Albany and purchased an old vacant fixer-upper house adjacent to the garden. We



have been repairing and remodeling the house for three years to serve as a classroom and community kitchen, as well as a monthly Canyon Garden Club meeting place."

Hyde said nonprofit Santiam Community Garden members trade jams, jellies and pie fillings for cash or can-

ning jar donations at the Art Mart in Mill City, the first Saturday of each month. All products are prepared in a certified kitchen to Department of Agriculture standards.

DIANE HYDE ... See P. 7



OSU Extension Service



DIANE HYDE

From Page 6

The garden boasts as many as 100 varieties of tomatoes, 25 raised beds, two greenhouses and a berry field. and two years ago, volunteers planted 100 donated dahlias.

She has no problem staying busy in retirement.

Gardening classes, “Grow Your Own Food” are held on the second Saturday of each month. Currently, there are 17 students.

Third Saturdays Linn County Extension outreach clinics are held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Garden House for drop-in Q & A, garden or food problem-solving, or visiting over a beverage. On a recent Saturday, nine local residents viewed OSU Master Gardener videos on topics like pruning and planning their gardens.

Also, on third Saturdays, the local Grange has a flea market one block north of the garden and the local food bank distributes boxes at the school one block south. Residents stop by to contribute food or take food from our the “free little pantry” in the Garden House.

On Fourth Saturday Garden members help to preserve surplus food from Gleaners, food bank, the garden or donations. We share OSU Extension Master Gardener, Master Food Preserver and Food Hero videos and recipes in our Community Garden kitchen. The Garden House is open Friday through Monday.

“We have finished pruning our fruit trees. We’ll be starting seeds under lights on all those days to prepare for planting,” Hyde said. “On sunny days we plan to work in our 100’ x 80’ berry field. All of our local garden activities are fun and easy with many participants ranging from nine years young to 92 years mature.”

And if all of that isn’t enough — there is much more in fact — Hyde is mentoring Rosemary McBrayer, a new Master Gardener trainee, who serves on the Santiam Community Garden Board and is vice-



president of the Canyon Garden Club.

And did we mention that for four years, Hyde wrote a weekly garden column in the Canyon Weekly newspaper?

“It is fulfilling to share food,” Hyde said. “I have the resources, the education. I like doing something constructive. It keeps me alive and I enjoy the

social interaction. I haven’t had time to watch TV in years, this gives me a reason to get up every day.”

Hyde said if she had a motto it would surely be, “No food wasted.”

A few comments from fellow gardeners ...

Although I have been a master gardener since 2013, I did not meet Diane until 2018 when she invited me to give a talk on mason bees to a garden club in Lyons. Diane has been the sole master gardener supporting the Lyons area. She has worked diligently to help the people of Lyons learn more about gardening including setting up a community garden to help people after the major fire in that area. While many of the Linn Master Gardeners may not know Diane, after meeting her you get to know a special person whose passion is teaching others about all aspects of gardening.

— Rance Webb, Linn County Master Gardener

“Diane provides extensive educational information about plant and insect identification to her local community in the Santiam Canyon. She has gone above and beyond in teaching Seed to Supper classes consistently each spring to members of her commu-

nity. Seed to Supper is a beginning garden course focuses specifically on reducing food insecurity in Oregon. Through Diane’s educational classes, she has been able to empower members of her local community to grow healthy vegetables often hard to find in the Santiam Canyon.

“Diane, a Master Gardener Since 1980, has been an invaluable part of the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program. Throughout her time in the program through teaching and her community relationships in the Santiam Canyon, she has exemplified what it means to be a Master Gardener. The OSU Extension Master Gardener Program is grateful to have her as a part of the program.

“Diane is an amazing resource for gardeners in the canyon community. Her energy and enthusiasm for gardening education is contagious. Diane runs workshops all season long and mentors all

ages at the community garden and schools. Thank you, Diane!”

— Otilia Schreuder, Linn County Master Gardener Coordinator

“Diane has an extremely broad knowledge base. She is fearless in trying new things and taking on new projects. The enthusiasm in catching, and she has a seemingly inexhaustible energy level. I trust her knowledge and value her friendship”

— Rosemary McBrayer; 2024 Linn County Master Gardener Trainee

“What a gift to the community for Diane to share her experience, expertise, and energy.”

“I have enjoyed getting to know Diane the past year. She is a kind and generous person who has a wealth of knowledge and is so passionate about helping others have access to fresh foods and be able to grow it, preserve it, and reduce waste.”

— Jennifer Gilbert, Linn County Master Food

ODOT grant will aid travel for mid-valley veterans

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Veterans who live in rural Linn County will have access to transportation to medical facilities thanks to a \$50,000 Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Linn County Transportation Coordinator Reagan Maudlin told the Board of Commissioners Tuesday morning that she worked with Linn County Veterans Services, especially Jess Valenzuela, to submit the grant application. Funding for the program is not always available, but this grant will run until July 2025.

“We are really excited about this,” Maudlin said. “It is a statewide competition for the funding, that must be used solely for veterans’ transportation programs.”

Maudlin said transportation can be more expensive for rural residents, so this grant will help buffer some of that cost.

Linn County has been providing transportation for area veterans for a couple years thanks to funds from the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and the Linn County Board of Commissioners.

This new funding stream will provide another pool of money.

Valenzuela said Linn County Veterans Services coordinates about 20 rides per month and works with Quality Medical Services.

“They use both cars and vans with wheelchair access,” Valenzuela said.

Transportation is for medical appointments only.

According to ODOT, the Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Grant Program was created in 2019 and began with \$500,000 in funding. In 2021 that was increased to \$650,000 and funded 12 area programs and development of Go Vets Oregon, a “veterans only portal on ODOT’s ride matching Get There Connect.”



Reagan Maudlin



Jess Valenzuela

To access, healthcare rides for local visits, visit the Linn County Veterans Services website at [www. https://www.linncountyor.gov/vets](https://www.linncountyor.gov/vets).

Schmidt named GAPS Assistant Superintendent Schools

ALBANY — Greater Albany Public Schools is pleased to announce Bruce C. Schmidt, Jr. will serve as the district’s next Assistant Superintendent. Schmidt will begin his contract with GAPS on July 1 pending board approval on April 8, but plans to spend time over the next few months getting to know district staff and systems.

“I am excited for Bruce to begin as the Assistant Superintendent of Greater Albany Public Schools,” said GAPS Superintendent Andy Gardner. “Bruce has experience as a 14-year accomplished teacher – teaching in both Career and Technical Education and science classrooms. He has served as a district level leader, principal at two levels, and coached student-athletes in football and baseball over the course of his career. He will be an incredible addition to GAPS and I look forward to him joining our leadership team.”

Schmidt is the current Director of K-12



Bruce Schmidt

GAPS Assistant Superintendent

Schools for the Gresham-Barlow School District. As the Director, Schmidt oversees the daily operations of the district, middle and high school principals, as well as supervises the Facilities Department. He began this position in July 2023 and his key accomplishments include the management of several capital improvement projects, most notably the installation of turf baseball and softball fields; the construction of a student-based health center; and remodel of the district’s alternative school.

Prior to this role, Schmidt was the principal of Sam Barlow High School for nine years. During his tenure at Sam Barlow, Schmidt established a five-year average graduate rate of 86 percent and established partnerships with local community colleges leading to increased college credit attainment for students. In 2014 when he started

as principal, Sam Barlow High School offered 1,254 credits and Schmidt led the charge to more than quadruple those opportunities in five years.

Schmidt is passionate about building collaboration in schools. “I am a forward-thinking visionary leader with unending energy and a passion grounded in the belief that all students and staff can achieve excellence,” Schmidt said.

Schmidt has earned several awards over his career including the Oregon Music Education Association Administrator of the Year in 2019, and the Gresham-Barlow School District Instructional Leader of the Year for the 2020-21 school year. Additionally, for his work in Career and Technical Education (CTE), he was recognized as the 2009 State CTE Administrator of the Year. Schmidt holds a master’s degree from Portland State University, as well as his bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Davis.

Baby shower for Lamberts

Daman Lambert looks pretty calm for a guy who is about to become a first-time dad. He and his wife, Koryn are expecting baby Waylon in a few weeks. A building inspector, Daman’s co-workers in the Planning and Building Department hosted a baby shower for the couple March 21.



Community Services Consortium reached 133,000 in 2023

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — More than 133,000 people and 50,000 households were affected by Community Services Consortium programs in 2023, according to Executive Director Peggie McGuire.

In her letter to the public in the organization's annual report, McGuire noted that, "In a year with increasing rates of homelessness, food insecurity and demand for services, federal and state funding is decreasing and costs for resources and services are at all-time highs. This means our work is more important than ever."

Commissioner Will Tucker added, "CSC continues to build and restore families by supporting food and housing needs. Our community is much better off having CSC working so hard to support vulnerable." According to the report, community members donated more than \$707,000 and volunteers contributed more than 55,190 hours of service.

Community Services Consortium made more than \$11.6 million in community investments.

Housing: 802 households and 1,947 individuals were prevented from eviction; 562 unhoused persons were served and 75% are now in stable housing; 50% of households served had children in them; 134 veterans and their families received housing support; 55 persons graduated from RentWell tenant education

classes; and more than \$2.1 million was provided to partner shelters and organizations.

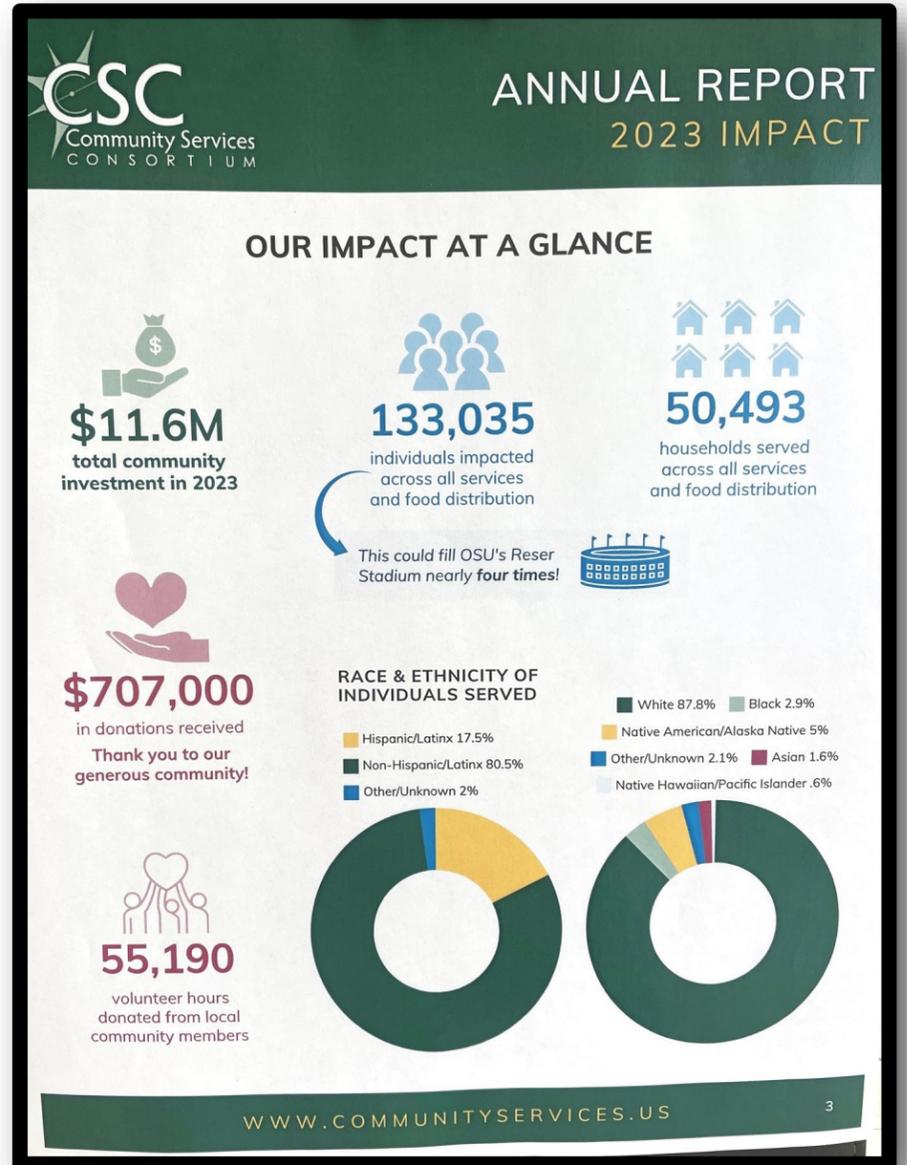
Energy Services: Some 8,542 households — 10,353 individuals — received utility assistance totaling \$4.1 million; 60 households received weatherization services averaging \$15,024. CSC invested \$4.6 million.

Food & Nutrition: 3.76 million pounds of food distributed and more than 315,367 meals supplied to food network sites; 15,000 pounds of produce from local farms; 531 seniors received monthly food boxes; 53,716 emergency food boxes supplied to 153,622 people; 68 local food pantry and meal site partners.

Education & Employment: \$1.6 million in holistic support services including housing stability, secondary education, transportation assistance, clothing and personal items and on-the-job training compensation; more than 4,012 individuals served and 697 individuals provided with job readiness training.

Measure 110: Providing assistance to community members with substance use issues. 274 individuals served; 50% have families supported with the same services; \$232,338 provided in housing support.

Wildfire Prevention Program: 47 participants; 1,300 hours of work readiness and academic instruction; 15,000 hours invested in



local forests; 189 acres treated; 31 program partners. CSC has more than 300 partners and in 2023, strengthened

its partnership with the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, which included moving into a new shared office in Corvallis.



LCSO issues scam alert

The Linn County Sheriff's Office wants to make everyone aware of an ongoing phone scam rearing its ugly head again and using the names of deputies to try to fool you into giving money.

As with many previous scam attempts, citizens are receiving calls from individuals pretending to be deputies from the Linn County Sheriff's Office saying that the person has a warrant and demanding payment over the phone to clear up the situation. They may also be demanding payment via gift cards. This should be your other indicator that this is a scam!

The Linn County Sheriff's Office will never call you and ask you for money over the phone for any reason. We do not make calls and demand that you pay to clear up a warrant. If you receive a call like this, it is a SCAM! Do not give the caller any information. If you want to double check any information that caller is saying, and before providing any monetary payment, please call us and we will be happy to check on anything!

If in doubt, never give your personal information to anyone over the phone or online and call us.

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

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

YOU WILL LEARN:

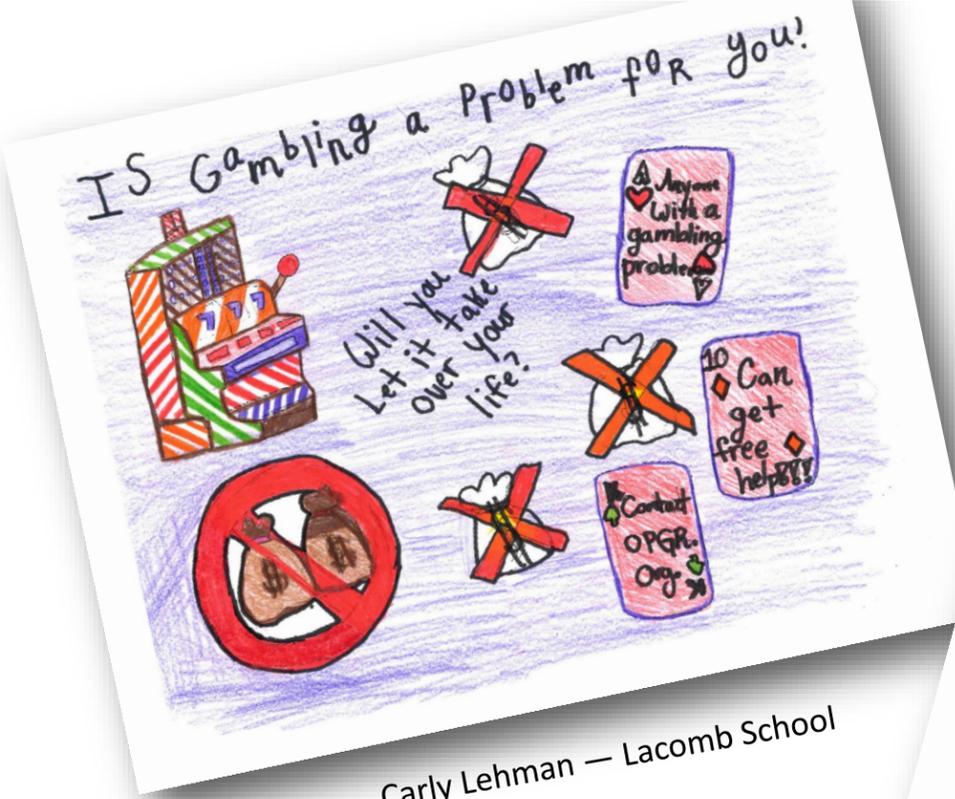
- Common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges.
- 5-Step action plan to help a person in crisis and non-crisis situations.
- How to connect a person to appropriate services and supports.

**APRIL 22, 2024
8:00 AM- 5:00 PM
ARMORY BUILDING
104 SW 4TH AVE
ALBANY, OR**

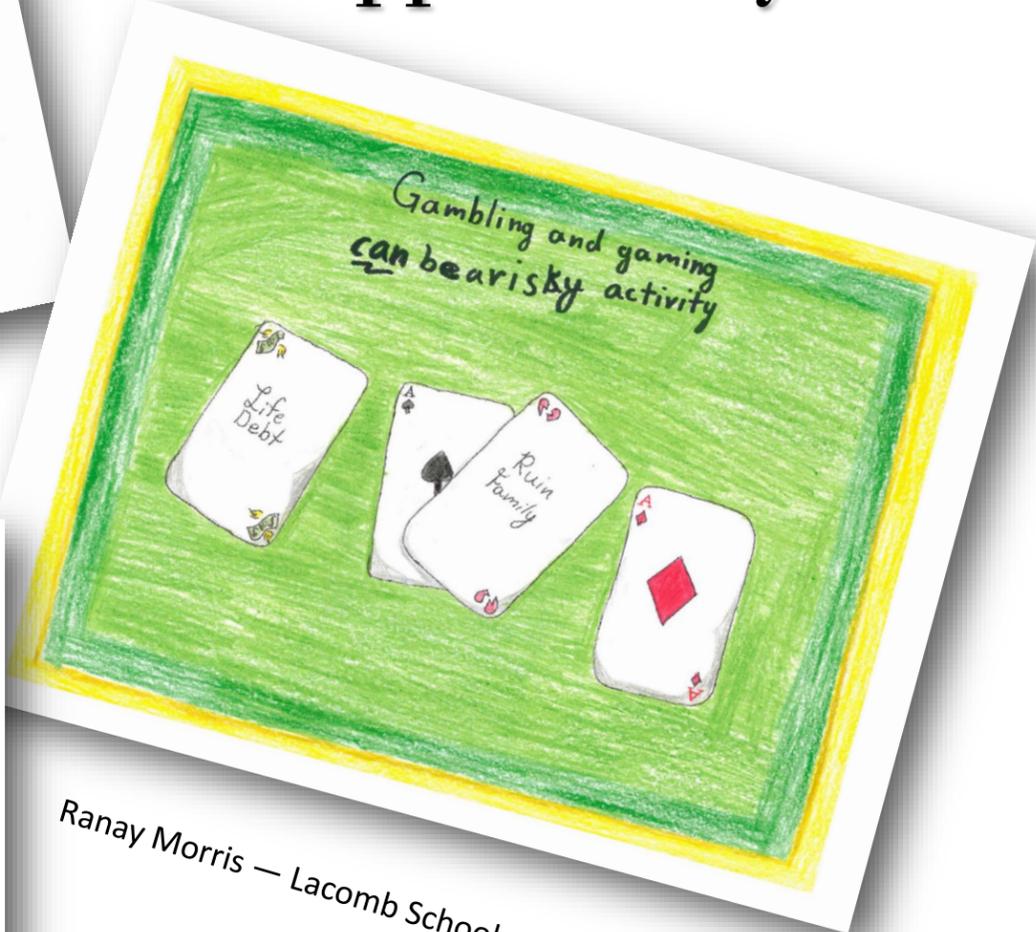
WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
Community members • Employers
Educators • Hospital staff • First responders • Faith leaders • Support services professionals • Individuals interested in supporting others

Sponsored by Linn County Health Services
Registration is required. Certification will be provided.
For more information or to register, email prevention@co.linn.or.us

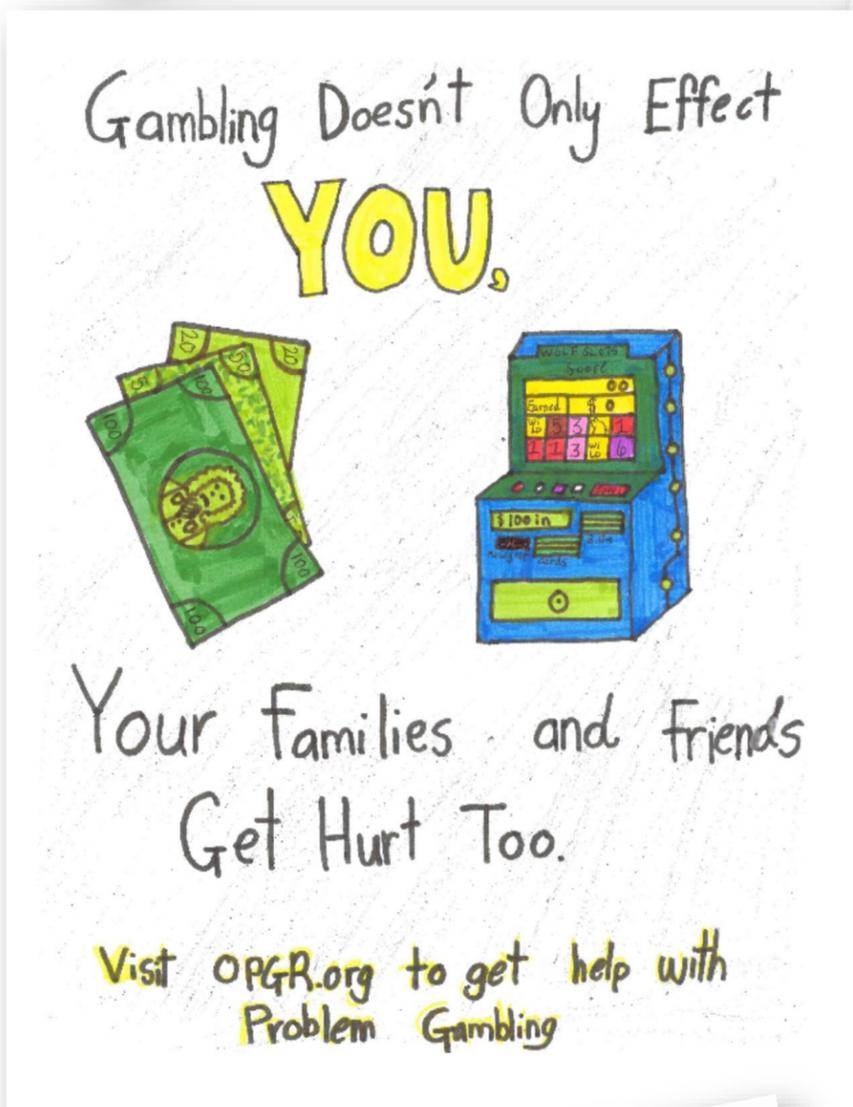
Problem gambling can happen to anyone!



Carly Lehman — Lacombe School



Ranay Morris — Lacombe School



Cricket Smith — Lacombe School

2024 Linn County Problem Gambling Awareness Art Search

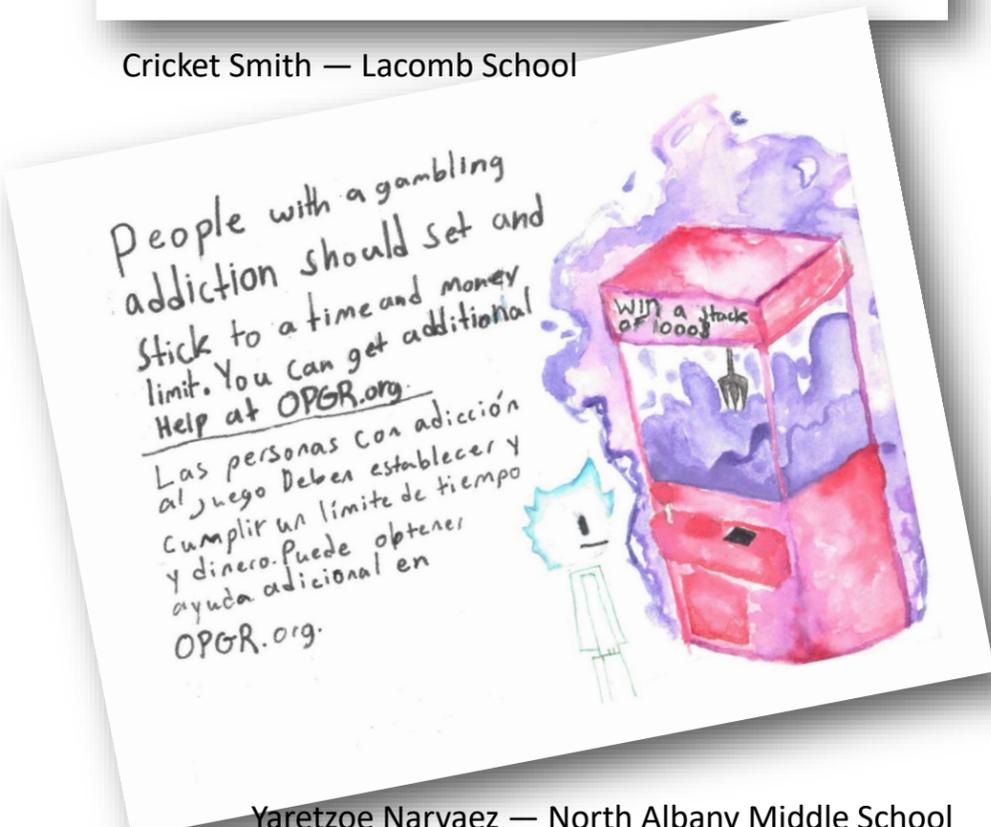
Middle school students throughout Linn County were invited to participate in a problem gambling awareness art search.

Winners:

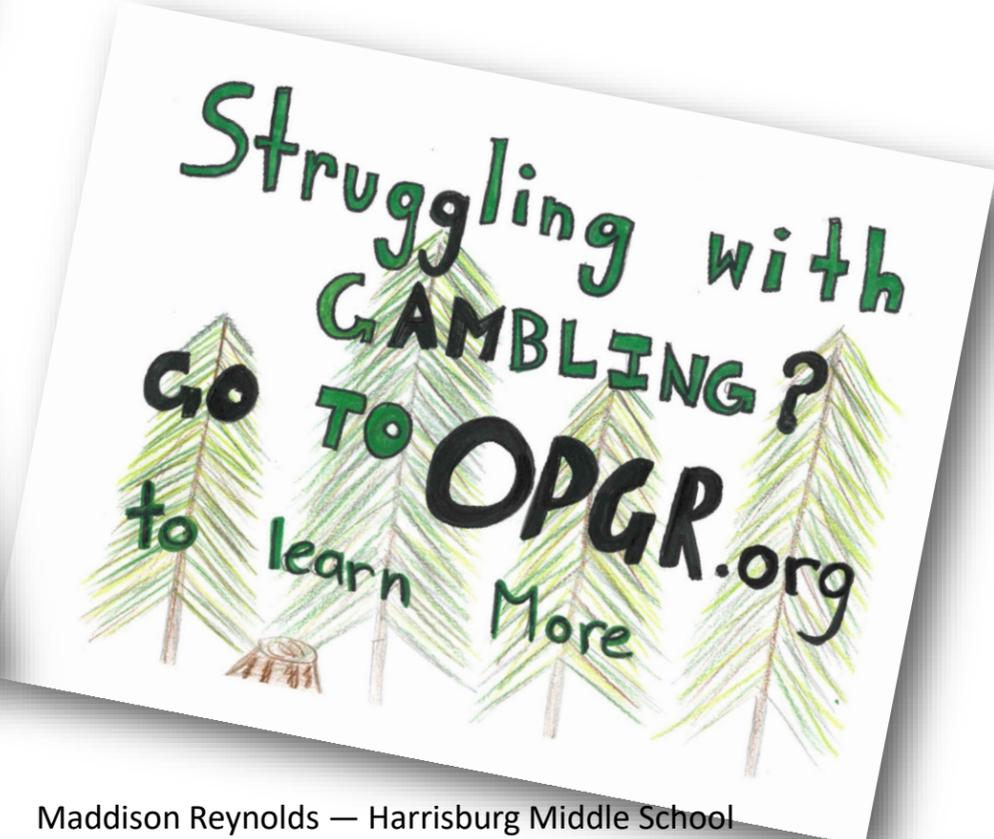
- Maddison Reynolds, Harrisburg Middle School
- Yaretzoe Narvaez, North Albany Middle School
- Cricket Smith, Lacombe School
- Ranay Morris, Lacombe School
- Carly Lehman, Lacombe School

Sponsored by the Linn County Alcohol & Drug Prevention Program.

To learn more about problem gambling, visit OPGR.org.



Yaretzoe Narvaez — North Albany Middle School



Maddison Reynolds — Harrisburg Middle School



Recognized for their work with the Linn Together program at a recent luncheon, left to right are: Dani Crabtree, (first photo left); Julie Mercer, Jean Wooten, Brandi Blethen and Stephanie Sather.

Linn Together recognizes outstanding volunteers

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — The past year was a busy one for staff and volunteers with Linn Together — a coalition for healthy young choices — but it was also a very rewarding one, individuals said during a volunteer recognition luncheon held on March 20 at the Old Armory.

Linn Together is a coalition of individuals and groups with the shared goal of helping young people make positive choices when it comes to marijuana, alcohol and drugs, gambling and tobacco use.

Long-time volunteer Dar Merrill said he has spent more than 20 years working at first with the Commission for Children and Families and now with Linn Together.

He said that after he retired, he wanted to continue doing something meaningful that would help children.

“We can provide parents with the tools they need to educate their children about these key issues,” Merrill said.

He said that it can be difficult to determine if the outreach is working, but perhaps that outcome will best be known 20 or 30 years down the road.

Several volunteers were recognized with plaques and other gifts for their outstanding efforts last year.

Dani Crabtree of the Linn County Health Department has been a committed volunteer and has done everything from dressing up in costume for a Halloween promotional event at the mall to hugging llamas at another event.

Sarah Daniels said Linn Together volunteers participated in 24 events and made contact with 5,354 adults, youth and children.

Events ranged from the Scio Lamb and Wool Fair to the Linn County Fair and other tabling events.

Julie Mercer was honored with her very own “press pass” for her work spreading the word about Linn Together on a new website, Instagram and list serv mailings.

Mercer said the new website —

www.linntogether.org — provides the group with a conduit to disseminate feature stories and news about events and programs.

The efforts are paying off as Linn Together sees more response and questions from members of the general public, Mercer said. The website has had more than 17,000 visits.

Mercer said Linn Together’s bottle tagging program is going extremely well. Volunteers visit stores where alcohol is sold and put cardboard tags that remind people to not sell or provide alcohol to minors on beer and liquor bottles.

“I’d say 90% of store owners/managers are excited to participate,” Mercer said. “We also give recognition to the stores on our website.”

Michael Mattingly of the Linn County Sheriff’s Office provided an update about the marijuana poster and billboard programs that reach out to students in middle schools and high schools.

He said there are currently four billboards — three in English and one in Spanish — throughout the county.

Rose Reader talked about the fentanyl task force work and called the fentanyl outbreak a “scourge” in the community.

The task force developed fentanyl information cards that can be easily distributed.

Shannon Snair said the Stand Youth Council has been successful county-wide, even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

She said young people meet monthly at various high schools. Volunteers have also had information booths at county-wide events such as the Central Linn Health Fair.

The goal is to promote a positive social message.

Snair recognized Harrisburg High School health and physical education teacher Stephanie Sather, who has been a driving force for the program.

“She is motivated to make a differ-

ence,” she said.

Sather said this is her 17th year of teaching and said STAND is a huge part of her curriculum.

“I enjoy seeing the students grow in their ability to speak in front of groups and to talk about positive issues,” Sather said.

STAND participants also sign a contract to not use drugs or alcohol.

Danette Killinger praised Brandi Blethen for always “working behind the scenes” at events.

She also recognized long-time Scio area resident Jean Wooten, noting that

she has been dedicated to improving the lives of young people in many venues for decades. Among her many volunteer activities, Wooten spent 32 years on the Scio School Board.

“She has a vested interest in youth and her community,” Killinger said.

In closing, Rose Reader said the diversity of the Linn Together volunteers provides a broad perspective as the group works together on numerous community issues.

She encouraged the group to continue to invite new members.



**MAY 4, 10 TILL 4 &
MAY 5, 12 TILL 5**

**JOIN US FOR A ROLLICKING GOOD TIME AS WE
RETURN TO THE GILDED AGE IN BROWNSVILLE**

The 19th century is winding down, spirits are high and Brownsville is growing up! Three enterprising young men are starting a Hops farm, there is a doctor, a lawyer, a woolen mill, a grist mill and benevolent Societies abound. There are two hotels and the train comes through twice daily! Brownsville and North Brownsville are about to consolidate into one incorporated city. The Mazanans were founded in Portland, a mountaineering club for exploration and scientific achievement. Across the nation times were hard for the under classes and full of life and gaiety for the upper classes. An economic recession was coming and unemployment was high. Enjoy a carriage ride around town while being entertained by skits based on history and flavored with artistic license before being dropped at the Moyer House for more entertainment.

Adults	\$15.00
Children under 12	\$5.00
Full Carriage (20 people)	\$225.00

Reservations are strongly recommended!



Call the Linn County Historical Museum at 541-466-3390
Or stop by the museum at 101 Park Ave, in Brownsville
Open Tues-Sat 11-4 We accept Cash, Check or Credit Cards

OSU researchers advance toward removing pesticide from groundwater

OSU News Service

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Scientists led by an Oregon State University chemistry researcher are closing in on a new tool for tackling the global problem of weedkiller-tainted groundwater.

Kyriakos Stylianou of the OSU College of Science led an international team that identified a material known as a metal-organic framework, or MOF, that showed an ability to completely remove, and also break down, the oft-used herbicide glyphosate.

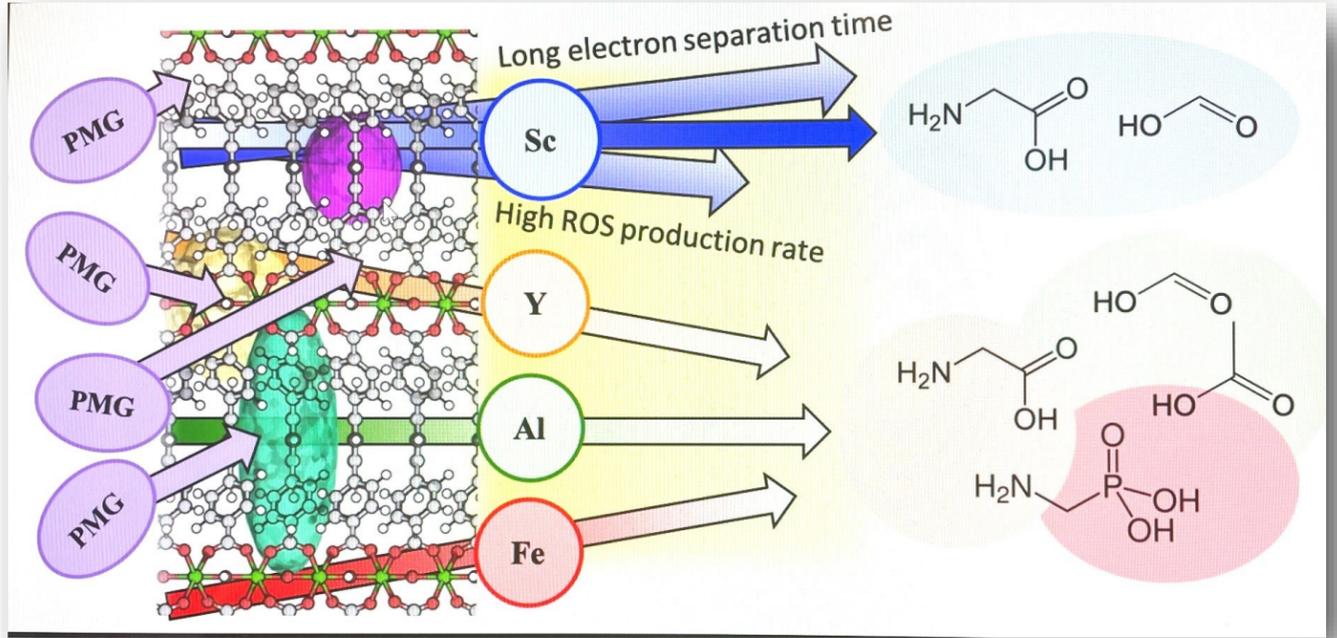
The MOF, one of four tested in a collaboration among scientists from Oregon State and Tiangong University in China, is based on scandium, chemical symbol Sc, and a carboxylate linker, TBAPy.

“When exposed to light for just five minutes, Sc-TBAPy eliminated 100% of glyphosate in water,” Stylianou said. “In addition to its quicker adsorption and more efficient photodegradation of glyphosate compared to the other three TBAPy MOFs we looked at, it also degraded the glyphosate without producing a toxic acid, unlike the other three.”

Findings were published in Nature Communications.

The MOFs in this experiment rely on photocatalysis. A catalyst is a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change, and photocatalysts are materials that absorb light to reach a higher energy level and can use that energy to break down organic contaminants through oxidation.

Among photocatalysts’ many applications are self-cleaning coatings for stain- and odor-resistant walls, floors, ceilings



and furniture.

Made up of positively charged metal ions surrounded by organic linker molecules, MOFs are crystalline, porous materials with tunable structural properties and nanosized pores. They can be designed with a variety of components that determine the MOF’s properties.

Glyphosate, also known as N-phosphonomethyl glycine or PMG, has been widely sprayed on agricultural fields over the last 50 years since first appearing on the market under the trade name Roundup.

“Glyphosate and other herbicides are commonly used to safeguard farms from weed infestations, but the persistence of glyphosate in the environment has been associated with

potential health effects on various living organisms including humans,” Stylianou said. “Only a small percentage of the total amount of PMG applied is taken up by crops, and herbicides leaching into water channels are a primary cause of water pollution. That means it’s crucial to come up with innovative technologies and materials to combat this problem.”

To uncover the PMG remediation abilities of Sc-TBAPy, Stylianou’s lab collaborated with groups led by Chong Fang, Paul Ha Yeon Cheong and Hongliang Huang at Tiangong University. Stylianou said his collaborators provided key insights into the MOF’s adsorption properties and photocatalytic activity.

A number of Oregon State graduate students also played important roles in the study, Stylianou said. Nan Chieh Chiu, Jacob Lessard and Emmanuel Musa led all the experiments and catalysis testing, Logan Lancaster investigated the optical properties of the materials being researched, and Clara Wheeler computationally examined their electronic properties.

OSU postdoctoral researcher Taylor Krueger, research associate Cheng Chen and graduate students Trenton Gallagher and Makenzie Nord also took part in the study.

The National Science Foundation, the Oregon State University College of Science and the OSU Department of Chemistry funded this research.



Linn County’s very own leprechauns, Paul Hermens, above, and Josh Leahy celebrated St. Patrick’s Day in style.



Transform your love for kids into a child care **business.**



Visit growingcare.org



STEP 1

Chad Sheffield operates a compact track loader with grinder attachment as Albany District Supervisor Curtis Norton looks on.



STEP 2

Tyler Graham uses a backpack blower to get fines out of the hole.



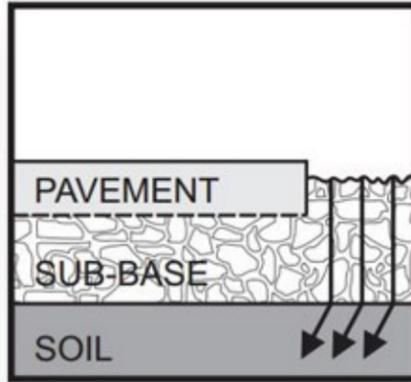
STEP 3

Laying in the 280- to 300-degree asphalt mix.

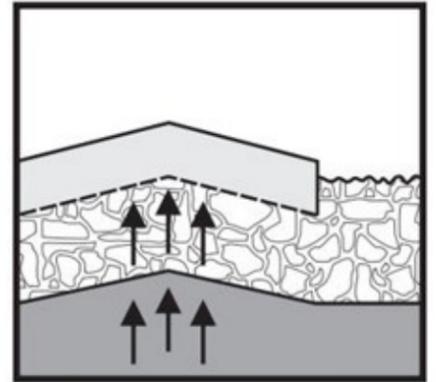


STEP 4

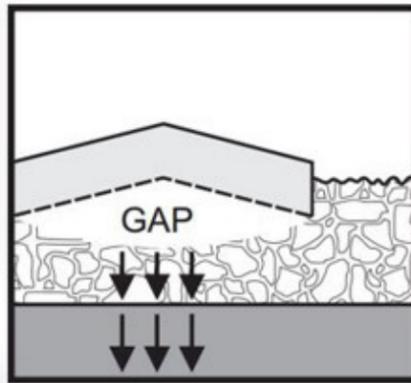
Tyler Graham, Troy Harkens and Mitch Keenon do the initial spreading, flat-



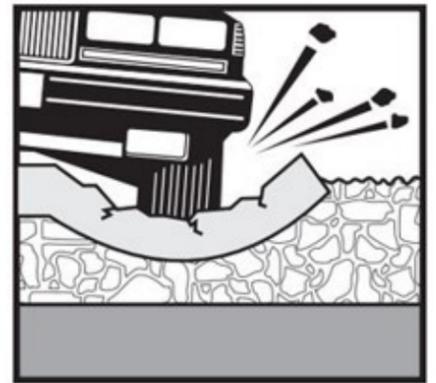
Potholes begin after snow or rain seeps into the soil below the road surface.



The moisture freezes when temperatures drop, causing the ground to expand and push the pavement up.



As temperatures rise, the ground returns to normal level but the pavement often remains raised. This creates a gap between the pavement and the ground below it.



When vehicles drive over this cavity, the pavement surface cracks and falls into the hollow space, leading to the birth of another pothole.

Graphic courtesy city of West Sacramen-

POTHoles ... From Page 1

Hand crews tidied it up and then Brandon Crow used a heavy roller to pack it in.

Hamilton said the Road Department fixes thousands of potholes annually on its more than 1,017 miles of roadway (multiply by two for lanes of travel.)

Hamilton said each of the Road Department's four districts budget about \$20,000 annually for pothole repair materials.

Hamilton said 7 Mile Lane appears to have the most potholes this season and major temporary repairs will begin in mid-April with new paving in late spring and summer months.

He encourages travelers to view the Road Department's summer work plan by visiting: <https://www.linncountyor.gov/roads/page/construction-projects>.

"We take it as it comes," Hamilton said. "There's really no such thing as normal."



STEP 5

Brandon Crow operates a heavy roller to compact the new asphalt patch.



Leadership Lebanon visits Courthouse

Members of the Leadership Lebanon program sponsored by the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce visited the Courthouse on March 7 and got to meet and talk with numerous elected officials and department heads including Surveyor Tom Casey, top left, and Assessor and Tax Collector Andy Stevens.

New at Road Dept.

Jacob Snyder, 32, has joined the Linn County Road Department's engineering team as a Civil Engineering Associate.

A Stayton native and 2010 Stayton High School graduate, Snyder attended Chemeketa Community College and graduated with a Civil Engineering degree from Oregon State University in 2014.

He is familiar with the Albany area, having lived here while attending Oregon State. He also worked for the Albany Parks & Recreation Department during the summer.



Jacob Snyder

"I always knew I wanted to be involved with building things," Snyder said of his career choice.

After college, Snyder took a job as an engineering tech with Bend Research, helping build a new plant.

He spent a year working for T.Y. Lin International — a global engineering firm — in Beaverton, then spent five years with Emerio Design in Beaverton.

For the last two years he worked for Marion County Public Works.

He and his wife, Sarah and their son, Eli, 3 1/2 live in Adair Village, and Snyder wanted a shorter commute, which led to his job with Linn County.

"I enjoyed working in Marion County," Snyder said. "I also like my new job. The people I work with are very nice and I'm enjoying the move."

He will work on a variety of projects, from bridges to repaving roads, Snyder said. He will also be involved with project management and project estimating. Snyder said he is well versed in using AutoCad.

Snyder said he enjoys spending time with family, bowling and hiking. Their family includes two dogs and a cat.

Linn County Sheriff's Office to offer Spring Citizens Academy

The Linn County Sheriff's Office will offer a Spring Citizens Academy and is accepting applications.

Their Citizens Academy offers a unique and detailed look into the dynamic operations of the Linn County Sheriff's Office. The academy is open to any qualified and interested Linn County citizen.

The academy will run from April 17 through June 12. Classes will be every Wednesday from 6-9pm. There will also be one Sunday "field trip" to the firearms range and Animal Control, with that date to be determined later.

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

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

For more information and to apply, visit <https://buff.ly/3DoHjOD>

For more information, please contact Community Services Specialist Michael Mattingly at mmattingly@linnsheiff.org.



Wednesday Evenings
April 17-June 12
6pm-9pm

2024 SPRING
CITIZENS ACADEMY

Apply Now @
linnsheiff.org