



Call Alex Paul 541-967-3825 to have office Halloween photos taken.

What's happening in Linn County, Oregon

October 2022



Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde elder Dietrich Peters and Lakota tribe member Dean Armstrong bless Cascadia County Park during a smudging ceremony.

## Cascadia Park welcomed to county

By Alex Paul  
Communications Officer

CASCADIA — Linn County Parks has had a long history with the former Cascadia State Park and September 21, the historical site officially

joined the parks family with a transfer ceremony that included traditional Native American blessings and a feast. The 256-acre park sits on land that was an important meeting spot for

Native Americans for centuries and also provided camas bulbs, a vital food resource. Linn County has managed the park for three years and took it onboard in July. Wednesday's ceremony was the

official recognition of the ownership transfer and culmination of work that began more than two decades ago.

CASCADIA PARK ... See Page 9

## Linn County launches new website

ALBANY — The morning of Sept. 15 was an exciting time at the Linn County Courthouse, as a highly anticipated new website went live, according to Linn County Administrative Officer Darrin Lane.



The site — [www.co.linn.or.us](http://www.co.linn.or.us) — succeeds a site which was between 20 and 30 years old.

Staff and the general public have asked for a more comprehensive and easier to use website for a long time, Lane said.

Several months ago, Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker approved a contract with municipal website development firm Municode (now CivicPlus) that sub-

mitted a low bid of \$48,000 among a field of about a dozen nationally and internationally based companies.

Website development price quotes ranged upwards of several hundred thousand dollars, Lane said.

The CivicPlus quote includes developing an Intranet system for county employees. That project will follow the new website's launch in coming weeks.

Commissioner Sprenger advocated for a new website from her first day in office and said that it was "one of my most exciting days as a county commissioner."

WEBSITE ... See Page 8



Lily Daudert of the IT Department had the honor of "flipping the switch" to enable the new Linn County website at 9 a.m. Sept. 15. Things went off with very few glitches. Left inset: IT staffer Karen Guilford shows off how the new website works on mobile devices.

Halloween is Monday, Oct. 31.



Remember to call or email Alex Paul to take your office costume photos.



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.

### Linn County Board of Commissioners

Roger Nyquist



Sherrie Sprenger



Will Tucker



Call 541-967-3825



### AOC members visit Linn County, tour COMP-Northwest

Members of Associated Oregon Counties met at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center on September 9 and also toured Western University's COMP-Northwest schools in Lebanon.

The tour included COMP-Northwest's

medical school and its new physical therapy school.

Above: Linn County Administrative Officer Darrin Lane examines a lifelike mannequin used in the medical school's training especially for mili-

tary uses. Lane is a retired Army/National Guard helicopter specialist.

Left: Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker welcomes AOC members.

Below: Commissioner Roger Nyquist, Clerk Steve Druckenmiller and IT Director Steve Braaten during AOC meeting at the Fair & Expo Center.

Below: Lifelike mannequins that cost about \$150,000 are a vital part of training at COMP-Northwest. They can even "talk" with students about where their pain is.



## Linn County helps Cascadia families get local mail back

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



## LCSO thanks veterans with gun range outing

The Linn County Sheriff's Office was again honored to host the Veteran's Shoot after missing the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "We had a great time at the Albany Rifle and Pistol Club with several veterans from the Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon," Sheriff Michelle Duncan said. "The range instructors had a fantastic time hanging out and shooting guns with some of our local heroes. There were some great shooters out there." Thank you, veterans for your service to our country. "We are so happy to be able to do this again and look forward to the next group in a few weeks," Duncan said.



## Veterans Affairs helps raise suicide awareness

Linn County Veterans Affairs staff participated in the annual Suicide Prevention Walk at Ralston Park in Lebanon on September 24. The walk was sponsored by the Lebanon Area Mental Health Alliance. Nearly 150 people took part. About 22 veterans commit suicide daily in the United States, about 1.5 times the national average that includes non-veterans. Linn County Veterans Services received a \$4,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs to purchase gunlocks. Packaging included information about the suicide prevention hotline number and local information. They were distributed free. Linn County also provided water and donuts for the event.





## The Spirit of History Lives through Brownsville event

By Vance Parrish, *The Times, Brownsville*

**B**ROWNSVILLE — The 2022 Hands On History Day was well attended according to Barbara Andersen with the Linn County Historical Museum.

She also noted that it seemed that more of this year’s visitors attended the event in period clothing than had been seen in years past.

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

This year also saw a new blacksmith, Forrest Fenske.

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

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

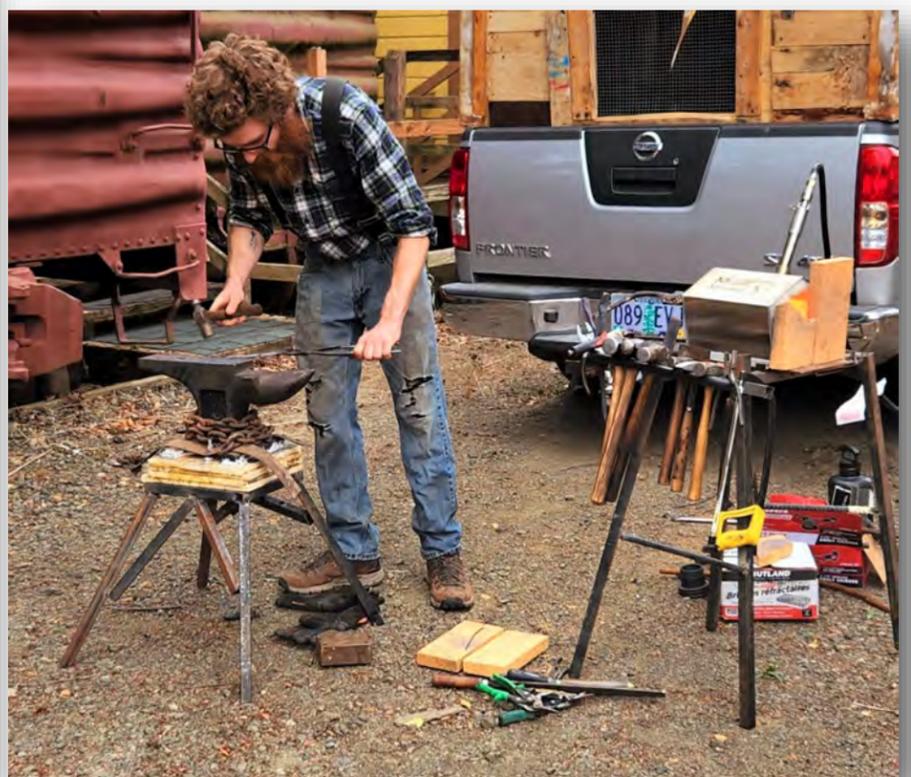
Gwen Carr from the Oregon Black Pioneers shared stories all day.

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

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

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

**HANDS ON HISTORY ... See. Page 4**





### 4-H/FFA auction buyers enjoy fete

The Linn County Youth Livestock Auction committee hosted a thank you dinner Sept. 29 for those who spent nearly \$1.2 million supporting 4-H and FFA livestock projects at the Linn County Fair in July. The dinner was held at the Knife River Training Facility and included a tour of the indoor training center where Knife River employees from across the country gain skills in how to operate heavy equipment more safely and efficiently.



### So long Heather and thank you

Friday, Sept. 16 was Heather Gravelle's last day as an administrative assistant for the Linn County Board of Commissioners. Heather worked in the Commissioners' Office for almost 10 years and previously worked for the City of Albany and State of Oregon. She plans to visit relatives in the Midwest and tend to her garden at her home in Brownsville. She was treated to a candy bouquet by Senior Administrative Assistant Marsha Meyer and to lunch — her favorite Mexican food — by coworkers and Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker.



### Sunnyside Park is 50

Courtesy The New Era, September 1972

#### SH Couple First at Sunnyside Park

Sara E. Johnson

The Topp's have been taking short trips in their new motor home, "to shake the bug's out, before we start on an extended tour of the western states," Topp said.

Sunnyside Park, with its spanking new facilities and peaceful surroundings would be a welcome spot to any camper. But to Vern and Gladys Topp, the park's first campers, it was also something of a sanctuary.

An unimproved site near Sunnyside Park that the couple picked for last Thursday night's camping proved to be an unfortunate choice. "Our neighboring campers were having a party and kept us awake most

of the night," Mrs. Topp reported. "But when they started throwing knives and missed the tree they were aiming at and hit our home we decided it was time to leave."

"We like to hike, fish and hunt rocks," Topp said "we've done a lot of these things since we moved to Sweet Home from Iowa four years ago. Now we have rented our home and we plan to see and to do a lot more in all the western states. But I don't think we will find a nicer park than Sunnyside anywhere."

Sunnyside Parks' second campers were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Willem, Shelly, Mike and Eric

of Albany.

"This is real nice for us," Mrs. Willem said. "The boat dock is close to the camp site, this is good with young children."

All the family agreed with Mrs. Willem, although the showers there might spoil things for Shelly since she declared "The best thing about camping is not having to clean up at night."

The Willem family have been vacationing close to home this year while Willem recovered from surgery. The stop at Sunnyside was their last camping trip before he returns to work as a millwright at Van-Ply in Albany.



MRS VERN TOPP AND MRS. CLARENCE SMITH, above, compare notes on facilities at Sunnyside Park. Their families were the first and second to use the new park which was opened to the public Friday. (Photo by Sara Johnson.) 1972



# Linn County remembers 9/11

The Dominy Family known as Praise in 3D, performs during the annual 9/11 memorial ceremony held on the Linn County Courthouse lawn. Gov. Kate Brown, salmon-colored jacket, was a special guest.



**Above:** American Legion Post 10 Honor Guard with large American flag posted by local fire departments.



**Left:** Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan.



Bagpiper Steve Fowler of the Willamette Valley Pipes & Drums.



Crowd waves American flags during the 9/11 ceremony at the Linn County Courthouse.



13-year-old Jackson Hayzlett of Albany plays the National Anthem on trumpet.

Photos by Alex Paul

# Prepare your family's evacuation plan now

Recent disasters like wildfires, floods, extreme heat, winter weather, and a pandemic along with other threats like earthquakes demonstrate the need to prepare for emergencies and disasters.

That is why this September for National Preparedness Month, Linn County is partnering with Benton County and the cities of Corvallis and Albany to raise awareness about how to create an emergency evacuation plan, build a kit, get alerts and warnings and know what to do during an evacuation.

- Remember the Five Ps of Evacuation: People, Prescriptions, Papers, Personal Needs and Priceless Items.
- Make sure you know your evacuation routes before a disaster strikes and that includes knowing the local evacuation plan.
- Identify several escape routes for your location in case roads are blocked or bridges are compromised.
- Take the needs of anyone in your family who has a disability into consideration, plus have a plan to feed or shelter pets or livestock while you are away from home.
- Keep emergency supplies and a change of clothes in your car.

- If you will need to share transportation, make arrangements now. If you will need to use public transportation, including paratransit, contact your local government emergency management agency to ask how an evacuation will work, how you will get current information during an evacuation, the location of staging areas, and other information.
- If you need to relocate for an extended period of time, identify a place away from home where you could go if you had to leave. Consider family or friends who live outside of the local area.

"It's important that families make their emergency evacuation plans now so that they are prepared when a disaster occurs," said Linn County Administrative Officer Darrin Lane. "Free materials are available to make developing your family's evacuation plan easy to do."

Learn more at [www.ready.gov/evacuation](http://www.ready.gov/evacuation).

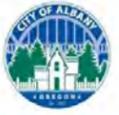
Follow @cityofalbany @cityofcorvallis @BentonCoGov on Facebook for more information about emergency preparedness throughout September.

## Here's what you should pack in your evacuation kit

- Water
- Supply of non-perishable food
- Flashlight and batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Hand Crank Radio
- Medications
- Multi purpose tools
- Sanitation/hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents in safe keeping
- Cell phone with extra chargers
- Cash
- Emergency blankets
- Maps
- Fire extinguisher



This message brought to you by:



**BE READY.  
BE SET.  
GO NOW!**

Know evacuation levels and follow advice of emergency officials. Make the best decision for your safety. Don't wait to evacuate if you feel unsafe!



**LEVEL 1**

**BE READY**

**PREPARE TO EVACUATE**  
BE AWARE OF DANGER IN THE AREA

- ✓ Stay informed.
- ✓ Have your plan & go-kit ready.
- ✓ Act early if you or your loved ones can't move quickly.



**LEVEL 2**

**BE SET**

**BE SET TO EVACUATE**  
AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE  
SIGNIFICANT DANGER IN THE AREA

- ⚠ Follow your evacuation plan & grab your go-kit.
- ⚠ Check news & radio for updates.
- ⚠ Conditions change rapidly. Leave if you feel unsafe.



**LEVEL 3**

**GO NOW!**

**LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!**  
EXTREME DANGER IN THE AREA

- 🚗 Leave without delay. It is unsafe to stay.
- 🚗 Do not stop to gather belongings or protect your home.
- 🚗 Do not return until officials announce the area is safe.



## Dedication Oct. 15 for Ponderosa pine project

By Larry Mauter  
For the Linn County Reporter

More than a decade in the making, an environmental education project at Linn County's Sunnyside Park is complete. A dedication ceremony has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15.

The 9 a.m. gathering will be at the project site, located on the northeast corner of Foster Reservoir just east of Sweet Home.

A grove of young Willamette Valley Ponderosa pines and a two-sided information kiosk featuring information about the pines and their revival in the valley are featured. The timbers used in building the kiosk are locally grown and milled Ponderosa pine.

The kiosk project has been financed through an education fund provided by Robert H. Mealey (1912-2007) to the Linn County Small Woodlands (LCSWA) to promote the management of family forest lands in the Linn County area.

Ponderosa Pine was once a major tree species in the Willamette Valley, but had been reduced to scattered individual trees and small patch.

Efforts in the 1980s to restore this tree species, which is a dominant tree species in wet and dry soil areas, were stymied by the non-existence of seed from native Willamette Valley Ponderosa pine. Ponderosa pine native to Southern or Central Oregon cannot handle the wetter Western Oregon climate.

Mealey was a Linn County forest landowner from the Sweet Home area, and a professional

forester. He played a key role in the collection of seed from local Ponderosa pine trees and personally financed the growing of pine seedling for Willamette Valley family forest landowners. Once forest nurseries saw that there was a demand for Willamette Valley Ponderosa pine, they invested in the seed collection and growing of seedlings.

"It has been a long process to decide how to honor Bob and his efforts to reestablish Ponderosa Pine in the Willamette Valley," said Tim Otis, LCSWA President. Otis recently put the finishing touches on the Ponderosa pine kiosk project. Jim Cota, Joe Holmberg and Larry Mauter, all LCSWA members, played key roles in building the kiosk and planting the adjacent pine grove.

"Mealey was a consummate forester," said Holmberg. "He was a tree farmer and a LCSWA leader. He was also an initial member of the Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine Conservation Association. The association, established in the early 1990s, has led the effort to restore Ponderosa pine in the Willamette Valley through establishing a stable supply of high-quality valley pine seed. "I think Bob is smiling as he looks down on the 10,000 valley pine I have planted on former hay fields on our tree farm," Holmberg added.

Mealey was also a poet. "If you would like some inspiration," Holmberg suggested, "read Bob's poem 'Why Does an Old Man Plant a Tree?'" A section of this poem is captured in a panel on the Sunnyside Park

pine kiosk.

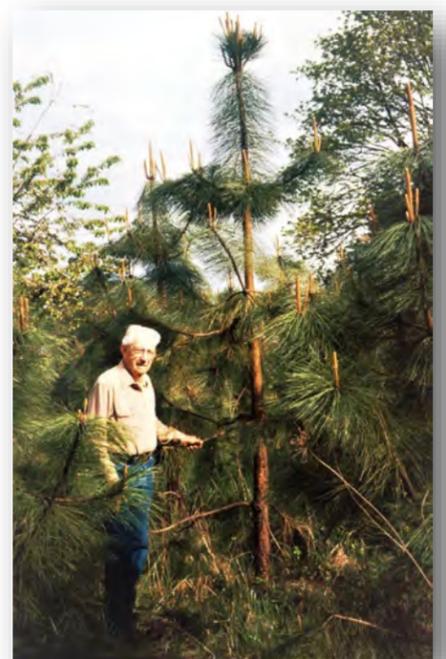
Mealey's forest career spanned 50 years. He worked for the USDA-Forest Service and rose to the level of Forest Supervisor. He retired in 1973. The WVPPCA established in 2000 the Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine seeding orchard at the Oregon Department of Forestry Schroeder Seed Orchard near St Paul. In honor of all the effort Mealey put into the restoration of Ponderosa pine west of the Cascades, the orchard is titled The Robert H. Mealey Willamette Valley Ponderosa pine Native Gene Conservancy Orchard.

In building the Sunnyside Park pine kiosk two Linn County businesses played a part. The kiosk pine grove trees were purchased from Seven Oaks Native Nursery located south of Albany, and the heavy-gauge aluminum kiosk signs were manufactured by Foress Sign and Manufacturing located in Albany.

In an agreement with Linn County Parks, the LCSWA has pledged to maintain the signs and pine grove.

With the completion of this education project, there is the opportunity to establish additional pine groves coupled with environmental education signs, said Otis.

**Editor's note:** LCSWA is an acronym for the Linn County Small Woodlands Association.



Above: Bob Mealey spent a lifetime working with trees. Below: New information kiosk at the Valley Ponderosa pine educational area at Sunnyside County Park.





Linn County website committee members Steve Braaten, Vicki Slover and Karen Guilford of the IT Department and Communications Officer Alex Paul.

## Website launch ... From P. 1

CivicPlus has developed an easy-to-use system that will allow staff members from each of the county's departments to add information or make changes without having to work through a webmaster. Information and photos can be updated as many times per day as the department head wishes.

The site complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act and with the click of a button, users can select from numerous languages from Chinese to Russian, in addition to English.

Several mid-valley municipalities including Sweet Home, Millersburg and Lebanon utilize websites built and maintained by CivicPlus.

A committee composed of Steve Braaten, Karen Guilford and Vicki Slover from the IT Department and Communications Officer Alex Paul have worked with CivicPlus staff for several months and are pleased with the outcome.

"We believe the public will like this new website because it so comprehensive, yet easy to navigate," IT Director Braaten said. "People can find links to each department on the front page of the website and there is a full seven-day calendar of upcoming events on the front page as well."

Braaten called the new website a "living document" that will evolve over time.

Paul said he is pleased that press releases and photos can be added in real time and there is a banner heading for any breaking news, such as inclement weather issues.

"When people learned I had come to work for the county, the first question I would get asked was whether we were going to do something about the website," Paul said. "Thanks to support from Darrin Lane and the commissioners,

the answer was yes. Considering the magnitude of converting so much information into a completely new system, the project went amazingly well. We have an amazing IT Department and they worked one-on-one with a single CivicPlus project manager the entire time."

The design committee thanked department heads and elected officials for providing clear direction in terms of their department's needs and working with the committee every step of the way, including face-to-face meetings with the department heads and key staff members.

"It is not the committee's website, it is the county's website and we wanted as much input as possible from everyone involved," Paul said. "We even provided folks with a couple color samples and asked their opinion about which they would prefer."

Data Center Engineer Guilford noted, "County staff will now have the ability to quickly update and maintain information they are directly responsible for. This is a huge benefit to Linn County residents, giving them the ability to quickly and easily access even more up to date information. We are extremely excited to finally be at a point to share it with all of Linn County."

The committee appreciates photographs that were provided for this project by Trisha King, Amber Enyart, Perry Carmichael, Mark Ylen, Logan Cooley and Alex Paul.

The county welcomes the submission of high-quality digital images of life in Linn County including landscapes and events such as the Scio Lamb & Wool Festival, the Lebanon Strawberry Festival and Sweet Home's Sportsman's Holiday, among others.

Send images to [apaul@co.linn.or.us](mailto:apaul@co.linn.or.us).



Linn County Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger views the new website on IT staffer Mike Armstrong's computer screen and her smart phone.

## Linn County goes "phishing" for bad emails, hackers

By Alex Paul

Communications Officer

ALBANY — Linn County is going "phishing" for bad emails.

IT Director Steve Braaten said his department is rolling out "phishing simulation training" and installing anti-phishing software on department computers county-wide.

Phishing are emails sent by companies that hope to enter the county's computer systems illicitly.

The companies send out emails that at first glance appear like legitimate inquiries.

"The goal of this new phishing training is to help employees more easily identify current and future threats to our system," Braaten said.

The new software, called "KnowBe4" is already being used by the Health Department and the Linn County Sheriff's Office.

Braaten said the county receives hundreds of phishing emails weekly.

Braaten said county employees will be required to complete two 10-minute video training sessions and the IT Department will begin sending out a fake

"phishing" email weekly with the hope that employees will spot it and report it via the new software.

Braaten said once an email is reported within KnowBe4, emails will be automatically identified, but on occasion a manual review will need to be performed, which could take 72 hours to complete.

The new system is paid for through the IT budget and will not cost individual departments, Braaten said.

"Phishing emails are the easiest path into our computer system through ransomware," Braaten said. "We have been monitoring the Health Department for several years and have found that once trained, staff are four times less likely to open a phishing email than an untrained staff member."



Steve Braaten  
IT Director



Marine deckhand Gabe Knox plans to become a patrol deputy after college.

## LCSO appreciates summer deckhand

Each summer season, the Linn County Sheriff's Office brings on marine deckhands to help our Marine Patrol Deputies out on the many waterways of Linn County.

We want to thank Gabe Knox for his dedication and effort he showed over the summer working for the people of Linn County.

From Harrisburg, Gabe took on the seasonal position with us while also working with Benton County Parole and Probation.

Gabe applied for the marine deckhand position and saw it as an opportunity for him to familiarize himself with more of the patrol side of law enforcement. He also wanted to see how other agencies performed their duties.

When asked what advice he would give to a future Deckhand, Gabe said "Buy some really quality sandals to wear on the boat."

Thank you again, Gabe. Best of luck in college and we look forward to seeing you again here at the office.

After attending college, Gabe plans to come back to the Sheriff's Office as a patrol deputy.



Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker welcomes nearly 75 people to the Cascadia County Park transfer ceremony September 21.



Linn County Parks Director Brian Carroll said the park transfer project dates back 24 years.



Above: Dietrich Peters of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde prepares traditional Indian fry bread for a feast after the transfer ceremony. Right: State Parks Director Lisa Sumption said the park is in "great hands."



### CASCADIA PARK ... From Page 1

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

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

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

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

Sprenger pointed out Jean Burger, the unofficial mayor of the unincorporated Cascadia community, as a "champion of this park" that is dedicated to the entire community.

State Parks Director Lisa Sumption said the park has "so much cultural significance" and she also recognized Linn County Parks as an exceptional system.

She pointed out how successful Linn County Parks has been in managing the nearby U.S. Forest Service campgrounds and she added Cascadia Park "is in great hands."

Brian Carroll called Wednesday's ceremony a "wonderful journey" that has "taken a career to get here."

Carroll recently celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> year as parks director and said talk about the park transfer began about a year after he started work here.

"We are fortunate that State Parks did a lot of infrastructure work at this park before turning it over to us. That is very important and greatly appreciated," Carroll said.

Carroll also thanked members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde for providing valuable input and historical information about the site.

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

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

Both Carroll and Tucker thanked neighboring property owner Cascade Timber Consulting, land owners the Hill family and its president Milt Moran, who chairs

the Linn County Parks Commission, for their strong support of not only this project, but many county parks projects.

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

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

He said the blessing is a way of providing thanks to grandfathers

"There is a good energy here, we share that with everyone," Peters said.

Peters explained how important the camas fields were to migrating tribes and that the soda water that was so abundant, acted like medicine and called them "healing waters."

Also representing the Parks Commission was Darryl Dukes and fellow members are Mellissa Barnard, Ken Bronson, Daryl Dukes, Mike Hurd, Rich Kellum, Rachel Maynard and Paul Timm. Sweet Home City Council members present were Dylan Richards and Angelita Sanchez.

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

Cascadia County Park is the entryway to the Cascadia Caves, which is on private property. The Caves served as a gathering place for Native American tribes for centuries and features numerous historical drawings.

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

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

The park offers 22 first come, first served campsites, group tent sites and a picnic area.

A three-quarter mile trail leads to Soda Creek Falls. Ruts on the historical Santiam Wagon Road are still visible.



Former State Senator Mae Yih, left, and Jean Burger, the unofficial mayor of unincorporated Cascadia, were strong supporters of the project.



## Thank you Mr. Linn County Fair

Linn County Fair & Expo Center Director was honored with a plaque at the September 20 meeting of the Linn County Board of Commissioners. He will retire at the end of the year after 24 years of service to the county. The commissioners thanked Porter for his easy-going style that was popular with the public. They said his management expertise shined during the COVID-19 pandemic, when public events were cancelled at the Fair & Expo Center and were replaced with county-sponsored mass vaccination clinics and during the September 2020 wildfires that displaced families in the Santiam Canyon. Porter and his crew turned the Fair & Expo Center into an emergency evacuation center.



## Dispatcher earns Life Saving award

Congratulations to Communications Dispatch Supervisor Amanda Catullo for receiving a Life Saving Award from the Oregon Chapter of APCO/NENA, for her actions in April 2021.

On April 23, 2021, Amanda took a 911 call from a mother who said her baby was choking and was not breathing.

Amanda routed the initial information to the fire dispatcher so medics could be sent out immediately, but stayed on the line with the mother too. Amanda calmed the mother down as much as possible and was able to give instructions on how to clear the baby's mouth.

Amanda reassured the mother throughout the call and talked her through clearing her baby's mouth.

Sheriff Michelle Duncan said Amanda's professionalism, simple instructions, and calmness under pressure convinced the mother it was vital and safe to take these life-saving steps. After the baby's mouth was cleared, he started breathing again. Amanda remained on the phone with the mother until medics arrived.

Amanda's calm demeanor and reassurance helped the mother follow the instructions Amanda was giving her to help save the baby's life, Sheriff Duncan said.

"Amanda exemplifies the true spirit of service and professionalism all our Communications Dispatch staff give to the citizens of Linn County every day," Sheriff Duncan add-

## Commissioners says timber contract Issues headed to state Legislature

By Alex Paul  
Communications Officer

ALBANY — The recent decision by the Oregon Supreme Court's to not accept the appeal of a \$1 billion breach of contract lawsuit brought by 13 counties and numerous taxing districts against the Oregon Department of Forestry, will ultimately result in more wildfires and poorly managed state forest lands, Linn County Commissioner Roger Nyquist said Tuesday morning.

Commissioners Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker concurred with the board chairman's comments.

Linn County took the lead in a class action lawsuit that was announced in 2016 and was heard in Linn County Circuit Court over 21 days in October and November 2019.

The court ruled in favor of the class members which included fire and library districts among others, who argued that in the 1930s and 40s the state had taken over control of more than 700,000 acres of mostly cut-over timber lands in numerous counties with a contractual promise to manage those lands with the "greatest permanent value" as a priority. The class members argued that for decades that meant timber harvesting and reforestation that provided income to the counties and taxing districts.

A jury found in favor of the litigants, but in April 2022 the Oregon Court of Appeals reversed that decision. The class members hoped the Supreme Court would hear the case.

"This is about more than just money," Nyquist said, "If the state does not change its direction in terms of forest management, we will likely see more wildfires. The forests produce flammable materials two to three times their rate of removal. That program will undoubtedly lead to more catastrophic wildfires."

Nyquist said the state will also likely see more pre-emptive power shutdowns like the mid-valley experienced a week ago. Power companies, fearing high winds would down power lines, shut off electricity for nearly 24 hours in some parts of Marion and Linn counties.

"Taxpayers may also see a small portion of the income taxes taken out of

### QUOTABLE

"This is about more than just money. If the state does not change its direction in terms of forest management, we will likely see more wildfires. The forests produce flammable materials two to three times their rate of removal. That program will undoubtedly lead to more catastrophic wildfires."

Commissioner Nyquist

their paychecks to build homes (habitat) for spotted owls that will never show up," Nyquist said. "It's not in the best interests of the citizens of Linn County."

Nyquist said class members — especially county commissioners — will now need to move the issue to the State Legislature which will convene in February and into the new governor's office, in January.

"We must force continued public conversation about this issue," Nyquist said.



Halloween is

Monday, Oct. 31.

Remember to call or email Alex Paul at 541-967-3825 to take photos of your office staff costumes.



Oregon State University  
Extension Service  
Linn County

OPEN HOUSE

October 17, 2022

4:30pm - 6:30pm

33630 McFarland Rd, Tangent  
(Corner of Old Hwy 34 & McFarland Rd)

Meet the staff  
Learn about our programs  
Door prizes  
Refreshments & more!

OSU Extension — Linn County

# Master Gardeners' garden feeds many

By Alex Paul  
Communications Officer

**A**LBANY — Members of the OSU Extension Master Gardeners buttoned up against cool, damp weather on a recent fall morning as they tended to their demonstration garden on the north side of the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.



The garden is a prime example of what can be accomplished garden wise in town — in fact built over an asphalt parking lot. Master Gardeners Janice Gregg, Rancee Webb, Larry Steele and Kelly Muller are among the half-dozen or more regulars who plant, fertilize, prune and put to bed dozens, if not hundreds of crops, from March through October.

They work from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays and Fridays, except in March and October, when they shift to the warmer afternoon hours of 1-3 p.m. Gregg began volunteering in 2015 after retiring from the OSU Extension Service -Linn County.

"I want to help people learn what they can do with their food. How do you know when to harvest and what they can do if they get a really large crop," Gregg said.

Muller is a retired science teacher and says working with other Master Gardeners is "fun." She also likes learning from others.

She is proud of the fact the garden produces up to 800 pounds of food that is donated to FISH of Albany and the St. Mary's soup kitchen.

"We each have our own gardening strengths and we grow everything from vegetables to ornamentals," she said. "We learn from each other. I'm learning about flowers.

And, the gardeners aren't afraid to experiment with their work.

Muller said she tried growing potatoes using bales of straw and failed.

"The potatoes grew in the dirt, but they didn't move up into the straw," Muller said.

One raised bed that was home to zucchini, was not watered all summer," Gregg said. The zucchini grew well, but melons planted in the same bed, did not do well. "Maybe water seeped up through the asphalt from our other raised beds that we watered," Gregg said.

Tomatoes were bountiful this year, as were herbs such as basil and oregano that Gregg focused on.

But just like one's home garden, not everything was a hit, Gregg said.

"Our asparagus struggled this year," she said. "We have the Asian jumping worm and it can ruin soil."

The COVID pandemic made it difficult to keep the gardening running, but Master Gardeners worked alone and established a COVID protocol.

The garden is long and narrow, so a visit is like strolling along a bountiful boulevard and features everything from straw-



**Above:** Linn County Master Gardeners Janice Gregg, Kelly Muller and Larry Steele pick produce one of the Demonstration Garden's raised beds. **Right:** Gregg weighs produce to be donated to local food groups. **Below:** Steele samples a strawberry or two. **Below right:** The Master Gardeners also offer classes at the Albany Public Library.



berries to three varieties of grapes, plus six varieties of oregano and basil and five varieties of mint.

Gregg is proud of how Japanese Shiso grew. It is an herb that is often used to wrap sushi.

"It is purple and green and eaten raw," she said. "We made pesto out of it."

The Master Gardeners take some produce home with them and also sample some as they go about their work.

They encourage people to drop by, view the garden and take home ideas for their own gardens.

The Demonstration Garden was founded in 1997 and steady progress has been made ever since. A number of free gardening classes are held each summer.

To learn more about how to become a Master Gardener, visit <https://linnmastergardeners.com/>.

To visit the garden, come to the back of the Linn County Fairgrounds entrance by the barns. Drive around the barns to reach the garden.



## Gardening in the PNW

**October 6 Insect Explorations with Rich Little**

Retired entomologist Rich will introduce you to pollinators and pests alike.

**October 20 Successful Gardening with Physical Limitations with Karin Magnuson**

You can keep gardening over the years, using adaptive methods to match your garden and your abilities.

**November 3 Xeriscaping with Dan Murphy**

Save water, time and money with beautiful and practical water-wise plants.

**November 17 Garden Planning for the Senses with Karin Magnuson**

Gardening is physical, emotional, sensory, and more. Our gardens can be designed to speak to all of our senses while adding meaning and satisfaction to our lives.

All classes are held from noon to 1 p.m. at the Albany Public Library, 2450 14th Ave SE, Albany

Classes are FREE. Drop in.

# 3 Clear Lake cabins getting a facelift

By Alex Paul  
Communications Officer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“It never got crushingly hot,” Erspamer said.



**Above:** Linn County Parks staffers Adam Brenneman, foreground, and Brett Tetzlaff work on cabin 11 at Clear Lake Resort. **Above inset:** Corner pieces of new siding. **Right:** Brenneman and Tetzlaff take off shutters and old windows. **Center:** Renovated interior of one of the cabins. **Bottom right:** Clear Lake Ranger J.R. Erspamer helps customers at the lodge.

“We didn’t have any weather extremes.”

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

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

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

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

Erspamer said this was his third season at Clear Lake and “I never get tired of how beautiful this place is.”





Veterans from Linn, Benton, Lane and Lincoln counties prepare for their trip to Portland and then on the Washington, D.C. on Sept. 29 through the Mid-Willamette Valley Honor Flight program.

# Honor Flight takes off — thank you veterans!



Rob McKibben of Linn County Veterans Services passed out water bottles to Honor Flight travelers and their helpers.



Kind of says it all.

Photos by Alex Paul



Linn County Veterans Services staff drove vans that transported veterans to the Portland airport escorted by the Linn County Sheriff's Office, Albany Police Department and Albany Fire Department. The next Honor Flight will be held April 27-May 1. A fund raiser is set for 5:30 p.m. on October 22 at Island Acres in Monroe. Visit <https://www.swwhonorflight.org/upcoming> for more information.



Milt Moran, president of Cascade Timber Consulting, makes some comments during a ceremony honoring three employees who saved a man from drowning in

## LCSO honors Sweet Home life savers

**S**WEET HOME — Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan recently had the honor of presenting Sheriff's Office Challenge Coins to Cascade Timber Consulting employees who saved two lives on Foster Reservoir.

The coins were presented when Cascade Timber Consulting held its annual Hill Family Employee BBQ.

On July 29, the Linn County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center received a call of a drowning which was occurring on the north side of Foster Reservoir.

Deputies and EMS services were dispatched to the scene. When deputies arrived, they learned a male had jumped off the dock and was in distress trying to stay above water. A second male jumped in to attempt a rescue and was pulled underwater by the first male. He was able to break free of the first male, but was now struggling in the water himself.

Luckily, Madison Harris, Michael Rowe and Lace-Anna Shiffert, Cascade Timber Consulting

employees, were on shore and saw this happen. They all quickly jumped into action.

Madison jumped into the water and grabbed the second male in distress. As Madison and Lace-Anna helped the male to shore, Michael was swimming out to where the first male had now gone underwater. Michael had to dive three different times to the depth of 15 to 20 feet before he located the male's lifeless body on the bottom of the lake. Michael pulled the male above water and dragged him to shore.

Madison assisted and could see the male was not breathing. Madison started CPR and after about 10 to 20 compressions, the male started to breathe again. Madison, Michael and Lace-Anna placed the male in the recovery position trying to stabilize him while waiting for medical personnel to arrive.

Madison Harris and Lace-Anna Shiffert were presented with challenge coins by Sheriff Duncan for their bravery and selfless actions. Michael Rowe could not be present because he left to fight fires a couple days before the BBQ.



### Juvenile Department has fishing project

We at Juvenile Detention love and appreciate staff member Freitag, who is constantly coming up with projects to teach our youth.

Here are some of the fishing jigs she taught them to make. Just \$2.50 each at:

<https://new-beginnings-garden.myshopify.com/products/steelhead-jigs-assortment-of-colors?fbclid=IwAR0bThOX96aln3LxRgCA YkAARorqwZvF7zSLk3mw7UPT-bv-tshOjR6tUE>



### Corvallis Arts Center to host show of veterans' photos

**C**ORVALLIS — The Arts Center welcomes a new exhibit — Through a Veteran's Lens. This show highlights photographic works from Benton, Lincoln and Linn County Veterans. The exhibit is a partnership between The Arts Center, Samaritan ArtsCare, Samaritan Veterans Outreach and Red Feather Ranch.

Through a Veteran's Lens celebrates artistic expressions of veterans and their loved ones, through photographs. Throughout 2022, workshops led by professional photographers and artists introduced various photographic techniques to the participants. Visit The Arts Center's Main Gallery to experience the moving, yet relatable work created by veterans from Benton, Lincoln and Linn counties.

"This exhibit is rooted in the personal experiences of veterans throughout our region. We were able to give the veterans an opportunity to display their self-expression and time to hear their stories," said Erin Gudge, program manager for Samaritan ArtsCare. "The cyanotype workshop at Red Feather Ranch



was particularly moving to me. It was an opportunity to see a group of women veterans come together to create a collaborative piece of art. The experience was fostered by their connections with each other and wrapped in laughter and creativity."

On Thursday, Oct. 20, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., a reception will be held in Corvallis at The Arts Center, 700 SW Madison Ave., highlighting the work of these veterans.

On Thursday, Nov. 3, at noon, Art for Lunch will be held with exhibit organizers and participants fielding questions.

The Through a Veteran's Lens photo exhibit will be on display at The Arts Center from through Nov. 12. Visit [www.theartscenter.net](http://www.theartscenter.net) for more information.