



**Making spirits
Bright at Santa's
Beat Shop!**

Kevin and Karen Guilford say they get as much enjoyment out of their giant Christmas lights display as the many people who come by to see it. This year's free show at the corner of Moraga and Madrona, runs from 5-10 p.m. nightly through New Year's Eve.

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Disneyland bills itself as the “happiest place on earth”, but this time of year, we’d argue that locally, that honor should go to the home of Kevin and Karen Guildford at the corner of Moraga Place and Madrona. The Guilfords — Kevin is retired from the Linn County Sheriff’s Office and Karen is in the IT Department — is magically transformed into Santa’s Beat Shop, a colorful wonderland of music and lights that delight children and adults alike. What started off as a smallish display six years ago has blossomed into 12,000 lights, hundreds of dollars’ worth of electrical extension cords, several electrical junction boxes and 100 amps of breaker protection. And all of it is coordinated by a computer program that ties music with moving lights that range from slow individual units to frenzied, where the entire yard and house

seem to explode with a multitude of brilliant colors. “We’ve always been into Christmas lights,” Karen said. “We’ve lived here since 1998.” Kevin added the family started with a couple small beat box units about six years ago and once they got the hang of manipulating things, it just grew. “It’s all about community enjoyment,” Kevin said. “We taught ourselves. We looked on-line and on You Tube. There was a big learning curve the first year.” The show has grown so large it requires 100 amps of breaker service. To put that into perspective, the Guilford home has a 200-amp system. There are three electrical junction boxes on the roof alone and seven in total.

SANTA’S BEAT SHOP ... See Page 13

Intermodal is open for business

MILLERSBURG (OR) – The Mid-Willamette Valley Intermodal Center (MVIC) at 3251 Old Salem Road NE is ready to begin operations in early December, project manager Don Waddell said Nov. 16. “We expect the first containers to begin arriving in the next week or two,” Waddell said. “The project team wishes to thank the community and all companies involved in completing construction of this site. The project team now shifts its focus to successfully beginning operations to achieve the expected public and economic benefits of the Intermodal Center.” The \$35.5 million facility was funded entirely by the Oregon

Department of Transportation and Linn County. The project began in 2017 when the Oregon Legislature approved HB 2017. The project overcame many obstacles on its way to completing construction. Benefits from the project include providing businesses in the area with a competitive container transportation alternative to both receive and distribute products, be a catalyst for additional economic development in the area, reduce traffic congestion, improve

INTERMODAL ... See P. 11



Reloading and transporting shipping containers at the new Mid-Willamette Valley Intermodal Center in Millersburg is expected to start by the end of the year.

Festival of Trees Dec. 2-3 in historic downtown Brownsville

Benefits the Moyer House

BROWNSVILLE — The Brownsville Women’s Study Club is gearing up for the annual Festival of Trees fundraiser the first weekend in December.

The Study Club has organized this popular event since taking it over from the Brownsville Chamber in 2015. Held in conjunction with the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce’s Home for the Holidays festivities that take place the first Friday and Saturday of December.

The beautifully festooned trees are placed in locations all over downtown Brownsville for visitors to bid on in a silent auction.

This year the Festival of Trees event will be held on Friday and Saturday, December 2 and 3. Trees decorated by “tree artists” will be placed in the Moyer House Museum and participating businesses downtown. The tree artists are individuals or organizations willing to put their time and talents into transforming the six-foot Nordmann spruce and Noble fir trees into works of art for the good of the community, and often at great expense to themselves.

Over the two days, folks bid on their



A variety of decorated Christmas trees will be available to bid on during the annual Festival of Trees in Brownsville. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Moyer House.

Linn County Board of Commissioners

Roger Nyquist



Sherrie Sprenger



Will Tucker



favorite trees and high bidders can take their fully ornamented tree home, donate it to a family in need, or if they choose, leave it in place to continue bringing holiday cheer to its host site.

This fun event has proven to be a solid fundraiser for the Study Club, an organization started in 1910 to establish the town’s first library.

Proceeds support the library, the Moyer House and other community organizations. This year proceeds will be donated to the Brownsville Volunteer Fire Department to purchase medical supplies for their emergency calls and to the Sharing Hands Christmas Greeters program.

The 2021 beneficiaries of funds raised, in addition to the library, were Sharing Hands and the Central Linn Recreation Center, each receiving a \$1,000 donation.

Host sites include, in addition to the Moyer House Museum, Pioneer Market Antiques, The Stitching Parlor, Randy’s Main Street Coffee and many more, all in walking distance throughout downtown Brownsville.

This is a great time to visit historic Brownsville in all its holiday splendor, and plan to stay for the tree lighting and caroling on Friday evening.

For more information about the event please contact committee chair, Cyndi Anderson at 541-570-1055 or email thebrownsville-house@gmail.com.



Call 541-967-3825

Building huts for the Homeless in Sweet Home

More than 100 volunteers showed up Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Sweet Home High School construction yard to construct huts for Sweet Home's homeless population.

The event was organized by the Sweet Home Rotary Club and the Lebanon-based Family Assistance and Resource Center.

The huts will be placed on property donated to the program by Linn County.

— The New Era newspaper



Linn County to seek parks grant

ALBANY — Linn County Parks will apply for a matching grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to replace a restroom, sidewalks and improve ADA access to the beach at Lewis Creek Day Use on Foster Reservoir, the Board of Commissioners agreed Tuesday morning.

Parks Director Brian Carroll said the project is estimated to cost \$295,300. The grant would reimburse the county \$247,650 and the Parks Department will match that with labors and funds from the Transient Lodging Tax and RV and Forest Funds.

Carroll said this is basically the first phase of implementation of the long-term Lewis Creek Park Master Plan the county has worked on for several years. Lewis Creek Park is more than 50 years old and this is its first major overhaul.

Numerous public meetings were held to gather inputs from users about what they would like to see in a renovated park, which is a day use area that includes beach access for swimming and boat docks.

Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger asked if there will be camping spurs and Carroll said no, because the site sits on just 20 acres. Camping spurs would take up a lot of space, he explained.

There are several annual events such as a wa-

ter polo tournament and an Iron Man Triathlon that host overnight camping, but they are in tents only, Carroll said.

Carroll told the commissioners the Parks Department will also begin working on securing funding to replace the old infrastructure at Sunnyside Park. Like Lewis Creek, it is more than 50 years old and current water lines are requiring considerable annual repairs.

He said replacement of pipes will be a major project both in time and expense, but there is state funding available to assist with this type of work.

Commissioner Roger Nyquist asked Carroll about annual visitations.

Carroll said parks use remains brisk with more than 500,000 visitors per year. That's down from as many as 700,000 during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic when camping was one of the few public events that remained open.

Commissioner Sprenger said Linn County Parks "are arguably the best" in the state and the Parks Department operates without General Fund monies.

"It's probably been 20 years since we used General Fund money for a capital project," Carroll said.

Town & Country
Christmas Bazaar
At the Linn County Expo Center

- Shop from over 200 artists for unique hand crafted goods for home & garden.
- Handmade items include candles, skin care, jewelry, toys, tasty treats, knit items, local art, decorations and more!
- Get into the holiday spirit, bring the entire family to visit Storybook Land, an Albany holiday tradition!

ADMISSION

\$2

Kids 13 & under FREE

December 2nd - 4th 2022

Friday 10am to 6pm / Saturday 10am to 6pm / Sunday 10am to 4pm

Linn County Fair & Expo Center
3700 Knox Butte Road Albany, OR 97322

lcfairexpo.com

Veterans Day Parade returns



Members of the Linn County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue march in the Veterans Day Parade.



Larry Chafin of Sweet Home leads the Linn County Sheriff's Posse with Sheriff Michelle Duncan close behind.



Hundreds of motorcycles provided lots of excitement.



This 97-year-old veteran still looking handsome in his Navy uniform.

Photos by Alex Paul

Veterans Day Parade returns

Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker emceed the annual Veterans Day Memorial ceremony at Timber Linn Memorial Park.



Our good folks from Linn County Veterans Services.



Rosie the Riveters helped win World War II.



Willamette Valley Pipes and Drums



Members of the Albany City Council



Memorial ceremony keynote speaker Randy Martinak



Veterans rode on a truck provided by Burcham's Metals



OSU Marching Band performs Veterans Day



In spite of cold weather and rain, the Oregon State University Marching Band — the Spirit and Sound of OSU — performed on the steps of the Linn County Courthouse following the Veterans Day Parade. The band's history dates to 1890 and is an important part of any Beaver football outing. Members come from every undergraduate college at OSU. Before their concert the band members were treated to lunch prepared and served by Coastal Farm staff on the Albany City Hall courtyard.



Kris Barnes to lead Fair & Expo Center

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — There is more than 209,000 square feet under cover at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center and it would be a sure bet that new director Kris Barnes has spent time on most of that property at some time or another over the past 15 years.



Barnes takes over the top management post from Randy Porter, who recently retired after 24 years with the county. Barnes started at the facility as part of the county's General Services team, but for the last 10 years or so, has been operations manager.

"I guess I've done just about everything that needs done out here, from electrical and buildings and grounds to using a CAD program to help clients set up their events more efficiently," Barnes said. "I really enjoy working with our clients. It's amazing how much they rely on us to help put on their

events. They really don't know how many chairs or tables they need, or how to contract for drapes. It's satisfying to help them succeed."

Barnes is part of a team that has seen its numbers shrink from seven to four, while the number of events held at the Fair & Expo has increased significantly.

A Vancouver, Washington area native, Barnes graduated from Hudson Bay High School and attended Mt. Hood Community College before joining his father in a business that built electrical control panels for municipal water and wastewater treatment plants.

"We worked all over the Pacific Northwest," Barnes said.

It was good training for his job with Linn County.

He met his future wife, Alise, at a stable, while he was tending a friend's horses while they were on vacation. They traveled to horse shows throughout the Willamette Valley, including at the old fairgrounds in Albany.

They eventually purchased five acres on Berlin Road near Lebanon and now live at Bridal Springs in Albany. They have two children, Hannah, 15, a sophomore at South Albany and Ian, 10, who attends Timber Ridge Elementary.



Kris Barnes' skills with CAD programs has proven quite useful in helping set up large events efficiently at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

Barnes said people often don't realize how big the facility is. For example, there are more than 3,000 chairs and many tables.

"The chairs and tables are original, although we recently purchased \$40,000 worth of new tables," Barnes said. "We have a great staff and I want to add some people and grow our event schedule."

Barnes said his goals are to increase revenue, building on the positive brand the facility already has and to integrate the operation's event calendar system.

"We are starting to see events coming back from Covid-19 days," Barnes said. "We have masks and hand sanitizer available."

Barnes said he is learning how to build a budget in his new role.

The Barnes family doesn't have quarter horses anymore, but they enjoy traveling, boating, skiing, snowboarding and hiking.

Kris Barnes has been a key leader at the facility for several years," said Linn County Administrative Officer Darrin Lane. "He has demonstrated the knowledge, expertise and ability to continue the good work that has been done and take it to the next level."

Linn County Sheriff's Office staff are recognized

The Linn County Sheriff's Office would like to congratulate Dispatch Supervisor Amanda Catullo, Patrol

Deputy Jacob Randall, Corrections Deputy Lewis Tucker and Lieutenant Steve Looney on their recent Service Awards from the American Legion Post 10 in Albany.

Amanda has been with the office since 2012. Amanda's professionalism and positive attitude serve as an example for her co-workers and new employees coming into the office. This year alone, Amanda has put in more than 156 hours of overtime serving the people of Linn County. She is dedicated to her work and to helping protect the great County in which we serve.

Deputy Jacob Randall has been a deputy with us since 2020, and in 2022, he has been our top performing deputy.

So far this year, Jacob has completed more than 261 arrests and been on more than 1,700 calls for service.

Even with this workload, Jacob is one of the most positive deputies and always maintains a professional demeanor.

Deputy Lewis Tucker is a Corrections Deputy with just over 5 years' experi-



American Legion Post 10 recently honored LCSO Captain Andy Franklin, Lt. Steve Looney, Deputy James Randall, Deputy Lewis Tucker and Dispatch Supervisor Amanda Catullo and Sheriff Michelle Duncan.

ence at the Linn County Jail. Beyond his duties in the jail, he is also active with the Linn County Search and Rescue program and has served honorably in the Coast Guard Reserve for more than 10

years.

Lt. Steve Looney was honored for his service to the dog population of Linn County. Because of his dedication, the American Legion

Post 10 has adopted the shelter by raising funds, food, and supplies on an ongoing basis. Congratulations to all of you.

It's time to prepare your car and yourself for winter driving

From the National Safety Council

In addition to annual maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car:

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car
- If using all-season tires, check the tread on your tires and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze
- Remember to keep your car's emergency preparedness kit fully stocked, too.

Before You Start Out

- Clean your car's external camera lenses and side view mirrors so you'll be able to see what's around you
- Remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors to allow the assistive-driving features like automatic emergency braking to work
- In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive it
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in your garage – even with the garage door up
- If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm if possible; if you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave

How to Avoid a Crash

AAA offers the following driving tips:

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to overcorrect to stay



Photo by Alex Paul

- in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill
- If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve. Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles can't see yours on the shoulder.

Know Your Car's Capabilities

- My Car Does What? is a national campaign to help educate drivers about the safety features built into vehicles. Search for your car and find out what safety features are already built in.
- Traction control is now standard on most new vehicles. This function helps your vehicle gain traction on snowy, icy or wet surfaces, particularly when accelerating from a stopped or slowed position, or when trying to make it up a slippery hill.
- Anti-lock braking system (ABS) helps you steer in emergencies by

restoring traction to your tires and is standard on most new vehicles as well. ABS may vibrate or pulse when engaged. This is normal. Continue to press and hold pressure to the brake pedal.

- Remember, you are your car's best safety feature. Take precautions to ensure you arrive safely at your destination. If you become stranded in an unfamiliar area, do not leave your car. Light flares in front and behind the car and make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow, mud or objects.

Linn County Juvenile Department 3rd Annual Quilt Raffle

This stunning quilt measures 86" w x 96" h" and is created in shades of greens, grays, oranges, and white. It was handmade with fabric with a camping & state park theme and quilted in a tree pattern.

Tickets are \$5.00 each. All proceeds go to purchase food items for baskets that we will put together & deliver during the month of December.



Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased from October 31st - December 9th @ 11:30am at the Linn County Juvenile Department during normal business hours.

Sponsors:
Rhonda Nicholas
Finally Together Quilt Shop
in Lebanon, Oregon



Christmas Storybook Land

Walk-Thru Returns!

December 2nd-16th 2022
Linn County Fair & Expo Center
Albany, OR

Monday - Friday
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Saturday - Sunday
10:30am - 8:30pm

Friday - Dec 9th
2:00pm - 8:30pm

Friday - Dec 16th
2:00pm - 8:30pm

Times for Seniors, Veterans, & Special Needs Day, Star Wars Day, & Children's Tours on our Website






ChristmasStorybookLand.org

Free For Everyone!

Commercially Packaged Food Donations for Fish of Albany Food Bank Gladly Accepted

Ten tips to help you enjoy the holidays

Courtesy Johns Hopkins

Your feelings about the holidays are very personal. They can cause us to feel happy, sad or ambivalent. The holidays can also cause stress because of:

- Overscheduling, overindulging and overspending
- Too much time with family or not enough
- Multiple caregiving roles
- Personal or family illness
- Work demands
- Expectations of what you should do
- Seasonal affective disorder or depression
- No matter how you feel, the following tips can help you enjoy the holidays as much as possible.

Reflect on what is important to you during the holidays. This may change over time, but thinking about what you want for this holiday season will help you choose more intentionally about who you would like to spend time with and how you would like to spend the time. It's hard to have a meaningful holiday if you don't determine ahead of time what will give it meaning.

Make a plan as early as possible about what you will do during the holidays. Try to plan at least one activity that is important to you for each holiday that you celebrate. Feel free to initiate activities with family and friends. Consider volunteer activities. Making a plan well in advance can give you something to look forward to and help you feel a greater sense of control.

Communicate clearly how others can assist or support you. Accept offers to help shop, wrap or cook. Some people may not know how best to help, especially if your needs and desires have changed from last year. Most people are happy to help as long as they understand clearly what you want and they have enough time to provide the support.

Realize the holiday season is a marathon, not a sprint. In other words, pace yourself. While extra social gatherings can be exciting, you don't want to compromise your physical or mental health by doing too much. Acknowledge that you cannot do everything for everyone. Practice saying "no" without guilt. Allow yourself the opportunity to grieve the loss of giving up some activities.

Maintain a healthy lifestyle. Try your best to make good food choices and relax to restore energy. Your endurance will be better if you can stick to your daily routine as much as possible, including exercise.

Manage your spending. It's easy to feel the pressure of consumerism during the holidays. Decrease the financial stress by making and sticking to a budget. Thoughtfulness need not come with a hefty price tag. Gift solutions include: reducing the number of gifts; initiating a gift exchange; giving to a favorite charity in family members' names; and providing gift certificates for babysitting, snow shoveling, a home-cooked meal, or time together. Gift cards can also be purchased for small amounts and the receiver will enjoy thinking of you as he or she enjoys a cup of coffee or music download "on you."

Monitor alcohol and medications – individually



She's a beauty !

Rick Slover of General Services recently captured the beauty of the Linn County Courthouse in this photo. The courthouse was constructed in 1939 and has had additions since then, but she's aged very gracefully and is a proud center of our county.

and together. It's easy to overindulge in alcohol during the holidays. Moderation is key so that your balance and emotional well-being are not negatively impacted. If you do not usually drink alcohol, consider beforehand how alcohol and your medications may interact, especially if you're taking a new medication or an increased dose. Maintain your daily medication

schedule. Missed doses can cause you to feel less than your best or, worse, cause a medical issue that requires emergency care.

Manage your expectations for family gatherings. When multiple generations and multiple families celebrate together, it can be challenging to feel heard and understood. Be clear about what you need the most and flexible about the rest.

Think ahead about stories or observations from the past as a family that you'd like to share. You may know how a specific family tradition began or have a funny story to tell about the holidays when you were a child.

Reflect on what went well this holiday season and improvements you would like to make for next year.



Clerk's Office had busy election cycle

County Clerk Steve Druckenmiller's staff was extra busy in early November as Linn County residents turned in 61,472 ballots by Nov. 8 in the General Election. The Clerk's Office sent out 97,495 ballots and the return was 63.3%. Making voting easy included Mikhael "Miko" Sarmiento, above, Julie Ganta, above right, and Elections Supervisor Derrick Sterling, right.



OSU Extension — Linn County

Outdoor adventures suit retiring OSU Extension forester

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

TANGENT — Brad Withrow-Robinson grew up exploring the woodlands and marshes around his coastal Massachusetts community of Falmouth, Mass. “If I could have made a living as a naturalist, I guess that’s what I would have been,” Withrow-Robinson said. “I was exposed to agriculture, fishing and the Woods Hole National Oceanographic Institution is there. So, he found the next best way to make a living, farming and forestry, spending the last 30 years as a forest expert with OSU Extension Service from McMinnville to Linn County. He plans to retire at the end of the year and says his career has been rewarding in many ways, not the least of which is that his job was never boring.

QUOTABLE

“It has been fascinating and of course, there is always too much to do, you have to choose what you are going to tackle.”

“Sure, like farming, there are seasons, but there are also so many variations,” Withrow-Robinson said. He ventured to the Pacific Northwest to visit friends in Washington in the 1980s and never left.



Brad Withrow-Robinson has enjoyed exploring nature since he was a child growing up in Massachusetts. His job as a forest expert with OSU Extension has allowed him to explore, study and help improve forest lands in the mid-valley.

Withrow-Robinson’s college career began exploring biology and then shifted gears to agriculture. He has since earned a bachelor’s degree in ag, and masters and doctorate degrees in forestry at Oregon State. Withrow-Robinson used his ag degree to manage a farm for several years and then he returned to Oregon State to study forestry and that’s when he made connections with OSU

Extension. “Even before I graduated I started working with Rick Fletcher, assisting him,” Withrow-Robinson said. After graduation, he landed an Extension position in Yamhill and

Polk Counties, where he worked for about a dozen years. When Fletcher retired in 2012, Withrow-Robinson returned to the mid-valley, working in Linn, Benton and Polk counties. “It has been a blast,” Withrow-Robinson said. “I have worked with really good people.” Withrow-Robinson said he has witnessed community needs change over the years. “It has been fascinating and of course, there is always too much to do, you have to choose what you are going to tackle,” he said. Withrow-Robinson said he has especially enjoyed working with landowners over the years through local Small Woodland Associations and the Volunteer Master Woodland Managers. “Rick (Fletcher) launched the

Master Woodlands program in the mid-valley in 1983 with the Oregon Department of Forestry and NRCS as partners. It’s been going almost 40 years.” Over the years he has worked on projects such as family woodlands succession plans, riparian management, oak restoration and he enjoyed Art About Forestry. “This was an idea started by Art About Agriculture,” Withrow-Robinson said. “The concept is to use art to expand conversations about forestry.” A recent project has focused on increasing populations of pollinators.

A long-term project has been Community Science Tracking, which focused on how precipitation levels affect plant seasonal changes. “This a national program, our data is fed into a national database,” Withrow-Robinson said. Withrow-Robinson said climate and the ash borer will have dynamic effects on mid-valley forests. Withrow-Robinson and his wife, Tina, have one daughter and one grandson. He plans to visit family and friends early in retirement and then do more of the things he has always enjoyed such as gardening, hiking and woodworking. “Oregon State plans to fill this position,” Withrow-Robinson said. “I will help with the transition and we are already working on the process. We hope to have a replacement within six months. Forestry is a valued position.”



The best part of Brad Withrow-Robinson’s work as an OSU Extension Forester has been working outside with people across the mid-valley.



Intermodal facility opens ... *From Page 1*

highway safety, reduce highway maintenance costs, reduce air emissions, provide additional jobs to the area and generate economic benefits to taxpayers. "Our region has a long history of producing products that are beneficial to people around the world, from 2 X 4s to the food people put on their dinner plates," Linn County Commissioner Roger Nyquist said.

Nyquist added, "This intermodal facility increases the likelihood that producers of those products will have ample transportation access to those markets which use them long into the future. We are grateful to all involved who have helped make this happen." The facility sits on 64 acres of the former International Paper containerboard mill that was closed in 2009. LEDG is responsible for executing the grant from ODOT which includes operating the MVIC for at least 20 years. The MVIC will be operated by ConGlobal, which is headquartered in Darien, Illinois. ConGlobal also operates a container depot in Portland. The Union Pacific Railroad will provide rail service to and from marine terminals in Seattle and Tacoma to the Intermodal Center. The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), operator of the marine terminals in Seattle and Tacoma, assists in sales and marketing for the Intermodal Center. Reece & associates designed the facility and



Linn County Commissioner Roger Nyquist provides background information about the new Mid-Willamette Valley Intermodal Center to Mid-Valley Media reporter Joanna Mann during press tours on November 16.

Rotschy, Inc. was the general contractor. The facility has automated truck gates which will allow trucking companies to get in and out of the Intermodal Center efficiently. The facility will have a rubber tired gantry crane and reaches-

tacker to handle the lifting of containers. The facility is also equipped with four hostlers and bombcarts for efficiently moving containers around the property. For additional information,

contact: Linn County Commissioner Roger Nyquist, 541-967-3825, or Executive Director Don Waddell at 503-319-5099.

FAST FACTS

The MVIC is the beginning redevelopment of industrial land that formerly housed a containerboard mill that closed in 2009. Construction and all equipment necessary to operate the MVIC is being funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Linn County.

The MVIC will benefit businesses in the area by providing a container transportation alternative to both receive and distribute their products. MVIC should be a catalyst for additional economic development in the area. The public will also benefit from reduced traffic congestion, improved highway safety, a reduction in highway maintenance costs, reduced air emissions, provide additional jobs and generate economic benefits to taxpayers.

The initial focus of the MVIC will be international container service via rail to and from marine terminals in Seattle and Tacoma. Additional container storage, chassis pool, domestic container service, expanded container and chassis maintenance, storage & reload and USDA inspections are targeted for future development as the MVIC has the capacity and capabilities to serve these markets.

Site facts: located at 3251 Old Salem Road NE, Millersburg OR, 97321; 64 acres, 60,000 square foot warehouse, rubber tire gantry crane, reachstacker, four hostlers and bombcarts and large fork truck, automated truck gate, three tracks/one truck lane beneath

RTG for approximately one-half mile, electrical support for refrigerated containers and air system

Site advantages: Industrial site surrounded by companies that need competitive transportation services; located adjacent to I-5 and Union Pacific Railroad mainline; provides truckers opportunity for multiple turns per day reducing trucking costs and utilizes existing infrastructure for heavy truck & rail volume.

Business information: Intermodal center base operation consists of moving containers from truck to rail and rail to truck. Estimated international annual container volume exceeds 40,000. Container storage is key to providing high quality intermodal service and MVIC has plenty of space for storage.

Key service providers: ConGlobal is terminal operator for MVIC, Union Pacific Railroad will provide rail service to/from MVIC to Seattle and Tacoma, Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) operates marine terminals in Seattle and Tacoma, Ocean Network Express (ONE) has committed to provide containers and vessel service to MVIC (we expect several other ocean carriers (SSLs) to commit to MVIC soon) and several local trucking companies are expected to serve MVIC.

The time for citizen input in the foster care system is NOW.

The Citizen Review Board is a program of the Oregon Judicial Department that gives local volunteers like you a say in the cases of children in foster care in your county, through impartial case reviews and advocacy. Your voice matters!

A COVID-safe opportunity. Learn more at www.courts.oregon.gov/CRB



For information about volunteering in Linn County contact:

CRB Volunteer Resource Coordinator
503-731-3391
crb.volunteer.resources@ojd.state.or.us
www.courts.oregon.gov/crb





SANTA'S BEAT SHOP ... *From Page 1*

The annual show actually starts while a current show is underway, the Guilfords said.

"We start talking about what we are going to do differently for the next year,"

Kevin said. "I like to have seven or eight songs so each show lasts 15

to 20 minutes. It takes me about three months to program three new songs per year. I do that in the summer."

Actual construction begins a few weeks before Thanksgiving. The multitude of lights, cords and frameworks are stored in the family's shop attic — but that has grown so large it's beginning to tumble over into the main shop itself.

"It takes us about 40 hours to put everything together," Kevin said. "This year, on our first day we had quite a bit of help."

The Guilfords purchase some displays such as the giant 22-foot Christmas tree, but also make things, such as using wire tomato cages turned upside down and encrusted with lights as tiny Christmas trees.

They do not seek donations, but some local businesses have insisted on donating money and every year some folks won't take no for an answer and insist on leaving money.

"We truly appreciate it, but it's not why we do this," Kevin said. "We are thinking about working with one of the many local non-profits in town next year and maybe accept food donations for a good cause."

The display features a variety of light technologies and Kevin's face beams when he talks about them — kind of like an avid fisherman describing how he produces his favorite casting fly guaranteed to slay the biggest lunkers day in and day out in any weather.

We'll just say they are colorful, beautiful and amazing, guaranteed to bring a smile to anyone's face.

The display goes live the day after Thanksgiving and runs from 5-10 p.m. daily until New Year's Eve.

"We haven't had any problems with

our neighbors over it and the response from the public is amazing," Kevin said. "We have lines of people on opening night and it's not uncommon to come outside and see a dozen cars."



Above: Santa and Mrs. Claus enjoy visiting with children every year on the opening night. **Right:** Santa works on programming lights and music.

He added it's fun to see young folks with fancy car stereos who tune into 89.5 FM and listen to the music.

"There's a lot of bass, boom, boom, boom," Kevin said. "It's terrific."

On opening night Santa and Mrs. Claus visit and bring youngster a goodie bag filled with all kinds of treats. This year the family made 144 bags.

"We had 100 kids last year, but this year the weather was nasty,"

Kevin said.

The Guilfords set up a tent and kids can sit on Santa's lap and get their photo taken. There's also lots of hot chocolate.

Kevin chokes up when he tells of meeting a youngster who was in a wheelchair and was watching from her family's van. Santa took her hand and chatted with her for several minutes, all the while

the young girl was beaming. She got a goodie bag as well and both Santa and the girl made a lasting memory.

"I can't tell you how good it makes us feel," Karen said. "We get so many comments on our Facebook page. There is a group of young girls that came by and awarded us a certificate. This year they called it the 'Disco Fever House'. It's just so much fun."

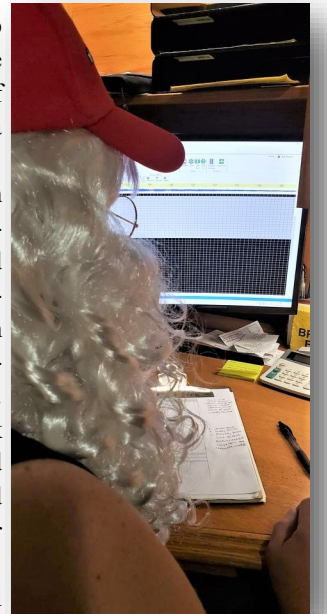
Although the Guilford house and yard have run out of room to expand the display, where there is a will there is a way. Their son, Calvin, recently purchased a home across the street from his parents and next year, there will be a Beat Box Santa annex thanks to technology.

Again, Kevin talks about a device that will allow him to set up a display in his son's yard, yet control it with the master unit in he and Karen's house. Their son, Kolton, a senior at South Albany High, calls it a "family event" and said he enjoys it as much as his parents.

The only thing that can dampen a show is a lot of snow, Kevin said. There was a day or two last winter that forced a night or two of cancellation.

"If the snow is too deep, you just can't see the lights," Kevin said.

"But fog makes it really beautiful," Karen chipped in. "The fog just lifts the light up. It's super cool in the fog."



Don't promote gambling to your kids this holiday season

Courtesy Linn Together

As the holiday shopping season begins and many people look for smaller gifts for stocking stuffers, experts advise against giving lottery tickets to children. Due to an abundance of gambling-like games, children today may be introduced to gambling at a young age. Research shows that the earlier a person's participation or exposure to gambling, the more likely they are to develop a gambling problem later in life (National Council on Problem Gambling).

Tips for talking to your kids about the risks of gambling:

- Start Early – Don't wait until adolescence to talk about gambling or other risky behaviors.
- Listen – Create an open environment for conversation about their lives. Start by asking them, "so what are kids gambling on these days?"
- Educate yourself and your kids about gambling – Share with kids that gambling isn't risk free. It's not a "healthy alternative" to alcohol or drug use.
- Look for opportunities to discuss the risks of gambling – When there is a news report of a jackpot win, talk about the odds and reality of winning. It's great math practice!
- Monitor your child's activities – Know where your kids are. Know their friends and what they are doing. Don't forget about their online and video game activity.
- Keep talking – Like alcohol and drugs, it isn't one conversation that does the trick. Bring it up in casual conversation and keep talking.
- Live by example – Remember that kids are watching what adults are doing.



From OPRG.org

If you (or someone you know) are gambling too much, you can call the Oregon Problem Gambling Helpline and speak to a certified gambling counselor. All information shared is confidential and this service is free to Oregon residents. Call the Helpline 1-877-695-4648 or text 503-713-6000.

This message brought to you by Linn Together. Linn Together is a community coalition that equips partner organizations, parents, and educators throughout Linn County with information and tools to guide positive youth choices around substance use and other behavioral health issues



Welcome to Linn County

Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker talks with new Sweet Home City Manager Kelcey Young during a community meet and greet on Nov. 9 at the Sweet Home Community Center.

There are several new town leaders including: Fire Chief Nick Tyler, Chamber of Commerce Director Lagea Mull and District 55 Superintendent Terry Martin.

— The New Era newspaper

It's time to enter Albany's 35th annual Nighttime Magic Holiday Light Contest

From our friends at the Albany Visitors Association

There may be more than one way to light up the holidays but the Nighttime Magic Holiday Light Contest is our favorite!

So, whether it's untangling your lights, plugging in Rudolph's nose or blowing up your giant dreidel, get going and have fun! Burcham's Metals and Hospitality Vision are proud to be the premier sponsors.

Albany residents are encouraged to enter the 35th Annual Nighttime Magic Holiday Light Contest for the best use of lights in decorating the exterior of their homes for everyone to enjoy and vote for their favorite. The winners will gain bragging rights for the year and receive some great prizes, including a variety of gift certificates from local stores.

Judging this year will again be open to the community. Pictures of entries will be posted on the AVA Facebook page and addresses will be included for people to drive by. A holiday light drive (with map) will be posted on the Albany Explorer App and community members can vote for their favorites via Facebook or by emailing the Albany Visitors Association.

It just takes four things to participate:

1. Your display must be within the city limits of Albany.
2. Email a picture of your completed light display to info@albanyvisitors.com by 5 p.m. Monday, December 5.
3. Include in your email entry:

Your name
Your full street address
Title of your display
Your email address
Your phone number

4. Keep your light display on from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. December 5 through January 1, or longer if you like!

That's all it will take to be a part of Albany's Nighttime Magic this year. So, break out the lights and help us all have a big and bright holiday season! Questions – Email in-

fo@albanyvisitors.com or call 541-928-0911.

Public voting will open on Friday, December 9, and continue through Sunday, December 18, 2022. Winners will be announced by Tuesday, December 20.

People wishing to drive the route to look at the participating locations can pick up a list

of participants at the Albany Visitors Association beginning December 9, or download the Albany Explorer App.

Thank you to all the homeowners who participate in this program. Without your efforts this wonderful community tradition would not be possible.

Congratulations to the Linn & Benton County

2022 Master Gardener graduates

Have you always wanted to volunteer as a gardening educator?

Apply to become a Master Gardener in 2023!

Classes start in February 2023, apply by 12/31/2022.

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/linn-benton/how-join>



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™

Call the Linn County Board of Commissioners at 541-967-3825.

The Long Road to arrive December 12 in Sweet Home

Three Marines walking across America
along Route 20 to raise awareness for MIAs

SWEET HOME — The Long Road team, three retired Marine Corps sergeant majors hiking the entirety of U.S. Highway 20, are expected to arrive downtown Sweet Home on Monday, December 12.

Averaging 20 miles a day, Justin “J.D” LeHew, Coleman “Rocky” Kinzer, and Ray “Shino” Shinohara have been traveling the “longest road” in America to bring awareness to the nation’s 81,000 service men and women still Missing

In Action (MIA) since WWII and raising money for the nonprofit, History Flight, that dedicated to researching, recovering and repatriating America’s service members back to the United States of America.

“We encourage businesses, citizens, and veterans to come out and show their support as they make the trek through our town,” said Kelsey Young, Sweet Home’s City Manager.

Veterans of Foreign Wars 3437 Sweet Home Post’s quartermaster, Ryan Matteson is excited about their arrival, “Sweet Home takes Linn County’s motto, ‘We Honor Veterans’ seriously. Our post can’t wait to welcome them and cheer them on as they walk by our post at 580 Main Street.”

The Sweet Home VFW hosts memorial services with full military honors as well as provides a social outlet and services to veterans and their families.

When asked about the team’s mission, J.D. LeHew said, “They’ve never had the opportunity to come home. And when you tell people that there are 81,000 of those that are still missing out there, their jaws hit the deck. And their response is, ‘I had no idea that we had left that many dead and wounded on the battlefields around the world.’”

State legislatures across the country have taken action to designate

Highway 20 the Medal of Honor Highway. The naming effort started in Oregon with other states following suit as the Medal of Honor flag has been transported across



the state chapters of the American Legion. Other veteran partners include the VFW, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Officers Association of America, and state coalitions of veteran’s groups. Since the Civil War, 3,511 service men and one woman have received the honor, and 66 are still living today.

JD and Rocky collectively served in the United States Marine Corps for a total of 56 years on active duty and are two of America’s most highly decorated combat veterans who have served since the end of the Vietnam War. They have been working together for years, not just in uniform, but also outside of it as they have been circumnavigating the globe in the search for America’s missing and killed in action since departing the active ranks of the US Military, investing their own money in the search and recovery of our nations lost heroes.

Now with the addition of another highly decorated Marine, 11-year Marine Corps veteran Ray Shinohara, the three Marines together are continuing this epic journey across America to spread the word of the plight of our nations missing and killed in action as well as reinforce the principles of “never leaving a fallen comrade behind” and “I am my brother and sister’s keeper.”



Grant a child’s wishes

Courtney Leland, Office Specialist in the Commissioners’ Office, puts one of 30 Salvation Army Angel Tree Tags on Christmas trees decorated by County Treasurer Michelle Hawkins. The tags include the name, age, gender of a child and possible gift ideas for them.

The trees and tags are on the second floor of the Linn County Courthouse.

Tags can be taken now and gifts plus tags should be dropped off at the Board of Commissioners office, Room 201, no later than Dec. 13. (Please do not place gifts under the trees.)

“All of your donations are appreciated and will help a child who might otherwise not receive a gift for Christmas,” Leland said.



Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyful Kwanzaa...

However you celebrate the holidays, we wish you much happiness and good health in the coming year and thank you for all you do for the residents of Linn County. Great folks doing great work all year long!

Call the Linn County Board of Commissioners at 541-967-3825.