



Please don't  
drink and drive

## St. Patrick's Day

**S**t. Patrick's Day is nearing and the green beer will be flowing. If you're planning to partake of the festivities, be sure to plan for the safety of yourself and others first. Here are some tips to ensure that you're not relying on luck to have a safe, fun St. Patrick's Day whether it's at home or out on the town.

### Plan Ahead

- Have a designated driver. It goes without saying: Don't ever drink and drive. Plan in advance for someone in your party to abstain from alcohol. Thank them by picking up their (non-alcoholic) tab and reimbursing them for their gas.
- Have an alternate plan. If no designated driver is available, make other arrangements (before the evening starts, if possible) for a ride home. Options include calling a friend or family member, or renting a room at a hotel within walking distance. (Hotel Tonight is a great app for finding a discounted hotel nearby.) Many metro areas offer safe driving alternatives, so check to see if there are taxi companies or associations offering a program.

### Stay Aware

- Drink water and eat food. Don't drink on an empty stomach and keep your belly full.
- Don't leave your drink unattended. Also never accept a drink that has been opened for you.
- Keep an eye on your friends. Make sure your friends stay within their limits, and never let anyone drive drunk. If you have to, take their keys and help them find an alternate way home or to a hotel.
- If you're the designated driver, drive carefully. Even though you haven't been drinking, others on the road may well have. Drive extra defensively and make sure everyone in your car remains buckled up. Keep a keen eye out for pedestrians, who may not have all their wits about them after a night of partying.

Research shows that consuming just one drink or smoking one joint affects concentration, perception, coordination and reaction time.



Linn County Parks employees Adam Brenneman and Brett Tetzlaff work on one of the new yurts being added throughout several Linn County Parks.

# Record year for Linn County Parks system

By Alex Paul  
Communications Officer

**I**n spite of triple-digit weather at times last summer, Linn County Parks & Recreation has had a record year, generating almost \$3 million in total income, up about \$800,000 over the previous year.

Parks Director Brian Carroll credits his staff and the quality and diversity of the camping spots available — from rustic tent sites to large RV slips and group camping opportunities, there is something for every budget and taste.

"The pandemic certainly pushed people in our direction," Carroll said. "Being outside was important. We thought that might spike and then fall off, but people recognize our parks quality, facilities and locations. Once they see what's here, they want to come back."

Carroll said a friendly and knowledgeable office staff is also a key.

"Our people know the campgrounds and can answer most questions quickly with a hometown flavor," Carroll said.



**Brian Carroll**  
Parks Director

"Callers don't get sent to a phone tree."

The Parks Department has 13 full-time staff members and like most other businesses, struggled to find enough seasonal workers last summer. They take care of 650 total camping sites

and two marinas on Foster Reservoir including 40 slips at Edgewater Marina and 38 slips at Sunnyside County Park.

Waterloo and River Bend campgrounds are open year-round, all other campgrounds will begin coming on-line around spring break in late March, Carroll said.

"We were probably down about 25% and that puts pressure on everyone else," Carroll said. "Fortunately, the folks we did hire were great, they really shined."

Carroll said his crew has been busy over the winter, working on numerous projects.

He said the public will soon start seeing major changes at Lewis Creek Day Use on Foster Reservoir. A Master Plan is being completed after numerous community meetings and outreach efforts.

This will mark the first major upgrade to the park on the north shore of Foster Reservoir in 50 years.

**PARKS ... See P. 6**



# Oregon Court of Appeals hears \$1 billion breach of contract lawsuit

**S**ALEM — A three-member panel of Oregon Court of Appeals Justices Douglas Tookey, Rives Kistler and Robyn Aoyagi heard arguments Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the \$1 billion Linn County vs. Oregon Department of Forestry breach of contract lawsuit heard in 2019 in Linn County Circuit Court.

The month-long lawsuit focused on the term “greatest permanent value”, which Linn County and other taxing districts that derive income from nearly 700,000 acres of state forest lands, successfully argued means income from sustainable annual timber sales.

Representing Linn County was John DiLorenzo of the Portland law firm Davis Wright Tremaine and representing the Department of Forestry was Oregon Solicitor General Benjamin Gutman.

DiLorenzo argued that the state “enticed” counties to turn over land by including the term “greatest permanent value” in its contract. Two previous attempts to access the lands had failed due to lack of interest by the counties. It was only after the state offered a permanent income source that the counties



agreed to participate.

Gutman argued that “greatest permanent

value” has never referred to revenue only and the state has always seen value in clean water and rec-

reational opportunities for the general public.

DiLorenzo countered that during the 30-day trial, former state foresters testified that for decades they knew their job was to produce timber sales and therefore income for both the state and taxing districts. But in the last 20 years, that direction was changed at the state focused more and more on other amenities such as recreation, flood stabilization and wildlife habitat.

## Linn County Board of Commissioners

Roger Nyquist



Sherrie Sprenger



Will Tucker



Call 541-967-3825



### Celebrating National Pizza Day

Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan, left, treated her staff on National Pizza Day, Feb. 9. Also pictured are Undersheriff Micah Smith, Deputy Alex Wilson, Lieutenant Beth Miller.



Left: Sheriff Services Aide Shauni Kelly and Communications Dispatcher Skylar King.

Below: Deputy Eric Lederer and Deputy Loren Nash.



## Editor's Note

Thank you, everyone!

**H**ello all, March 8 I will celebrate my first anniversary as a Linn County employee. It has been a whirlwind for an old guy, but so much fun. I was ready for a new challenge and this has worked out beautifully.

I want to thank everyone for making this past year so rewarding and for providing me with lots of good material for our Linn County Parks and Linn County Reporter newsletters, as well as our Facebook page (18,000 hits in a recent three-week period) and all of the work that has gone into our upcoming new website. (Thank you to our IT folks for all you've been doing.)

We've got lots more planned. Please continue to send me suggestions for stories and photos of events in your departments. The newsletters aren't mine. I hope they are a reflection of the work being done by the nearly 700 of us. I would be remiss to not thank Marsha Meyer and Heather Gravelle for all of their help and to my bosses, Commissioners Nyquist, Sprenger and Tucker and my supervisor Darrin Lane. They have been supportive at every step and that makes my job so much easier. Let's make the coming year even more fun and informative.

Thanks again, Alex Paul



Linn County Fair headliners July 14 - 15 - 16

Sara Evans, Five For Fighting, Sawyer Brown



By Alex Paul  
Communications Officer

**A**LBANY — The 2022 Linn County Fair musical lineup includes two mid-valley favorites, Sara Evans and Sawyer Brown and a newcomer Five For Fighting. The fair will be held July 14-16 at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road, Albany.

**Sara Evans**  
Thursday, July 14

Evans has released eight studio albums, including “Copy That” her most recent album, in 2020.

Her “Born to Fly” earned a two-time platinum certification from the Recording Industry Association of America.

Evans has had more than 20 singles make the Billboard Hot Country Songs charts, including number one hits “No Place That Far,” “Born to Fly,” “Suds in the Bucket,” “A Real Fine Place to Start,” and “A little Bit Stronger.”

Evans has won numerous awards from Billboard, the Academy of Country Music, the Country Music Association, BMI, and a Dove Award.

She has worked with numerous country talents including Vince Gill, Martina McBride, Lorrie Morgan, Mindy McCready and Phil

Vassar. For a time in the early 1990s, Evans lived in the mid-valley. Evans’ last appearance at the fair was in 2018.

**Five For Fighting**  
Friday, July 15

Vladimir John Ondrasik “Five For Fighting” will make his first appearance at the Linn County Fair on Friday, July 15.

He is a multi-talented singer-songwriter, pianist and music producer.

Five For Fighting (a hockey term) has had posted three Top 40 hits, “Superman-It’s Not Easy,” “100 Years,” and “The Riddle”.

“Superman” was nominated for a Grammy in 2002. He has also posted hits on the contemporary charts with “World,” “Chances,”

“What If,” “Christmas Where You are,” and “Got Blood on My Hands.”

He has recorded six studio albums, several live albums and one EP.

In addition to his musical talents, Ondraski has a degree in applied science and mathe-

matics from UCLA and for a time, studied opera.

Five for Fighting has released two Platinum-selling albums, “America Town” and “The Battle for Everything.”

In 2003, Ondrasik was nominated for as a Favorite Adult Contemporary Artist by the American Music Awards and he has been recognized among the top five AC and Top 10 Hot AC artist for the 2000s.

He also speaks about entrepreneurship nationally.

Ondrasik is a lifelong hockey fan and is a contributing writer for Sports Illustrated.

**Sawyer Brown**  
Saturday, July 16

Sawyer Brown has been entertaining audiences coast-to-coast for more than 40 years and is a Linn County Fair favorite.

The band has released 18 studio albums, had more than 50 Hot Country Songs charts hits and three number one singles, “Step That Step,” “Some Girls Do,” and “Thank God for You.”

The group has worked with Randy Scruggs,

Joe Bonsall and Mac McAnally among others.

Band members are Shayne Hill, lead guitar; Joe Smyth, percussion; Greg Hubbard, piano; and Mark Miller, lead vocals.

Originally part of Don King’s road band, the founding members stuck together after King’s retirement in 1981. Their big break came in 1983 when they won the TV show “Star Search” and pocketed \$100,000 and a recording contract.

The band’s original name was Savanna, but another band had a similar name and the group settled on Sawyer Brown from nearby Sawyer Brown Road.

Their first single, “Leona” in 1984, was a Top 20 hit and that was followed by “Step That Step,” which hit number one.

The band has earned a Horizon Award from the Country Music Association, was the 1997 Vocal Group of the Year for the Academy of Country Music and has five Vocal Band of the Year awards from the TNN Music City News Country Awards.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Watch the Linn County Fair & Expo Center website at <https://www.lcfairexpo.com/> and the Linn County Facebook page.





# 4-H offers new adventures for area kids

By Alex Paul

Communications Officer

**T**ANGENT — Maintaining a “normal” routine of daily life has been challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic of the last two years.

But staff at OSU Extension-Linn County has faced the challenge head-on and has reached out into mid-valley communities in unique ways to tell the 4-H story and keep young people involved.

4-H program coordinator Abby Johnson said many people think of 4-H only in terms of livestock projects at the annual county fair, but 4-H can encompass virtually any project such as her latest outreach adventure — embryology — teaching elementary age children about how eggs hatch and chicks grow. “I actually got the idea when I was working in Marion County,” Johnson said.

With support from a 4-H Foundation grant, Johnson has put together hatching kits that are placed in area classrooms.

“It takes about 21 days for the eggs to hatch,” Johnson said. “Then, the chicks spend about a week to 10 days in the classrooms.”

The “kits” include all the supplies needed to successfully hatch 10 to 14 eggs.

There is an incubator, a brooder that is sized so young children can easily view the process, easy-to-understand curriculum materials and cutaways that show the chicken embryos at various stages.

“So far, 50 to 60 children have been involved and by the end of the school year, that will be about 150 or so,” Johnson said.

The county has two kits now.

Children do not need to be 4-H club members to participate, Johnson said. The baby chickens are placed with local poultry club participants or families that already have chickens.

Johnson said she and Andrea Leao have been working with Clover Bud 4-Hers — youngsters ages 5 to 8 years old — through a Clover Bud Explorers Club.

“We are meeting once a month at the Extension Office,” Johnson said.

Each meeting has featured a new skill or learning experience, Johnson said.

In November, the youngsters learned about sewing and how to set a table. In December they learned about cake decorating by decorating sugar cookies.

They also participated in a community service project at the Edward C. Allworth Veterans Home in Lebanon.

January’s project was learning to weave and knit, as well as making initial forays into public speaking. February’s topic was healthy living and making Valentine’s crafts and cards and in March, the youngsters will take part in a STEM activity.

“We’re seeing 8 to 21 kids per meeting,” Johnson said. “We have 14 kids registered and it’s growing.”

Johnson said more adult volunteers are needed across all phases of the 4-H program.

“We need more volunteers across all of



**Top photos:** Clover Bud Explorer Club members enjoy many new activities monthly, from sewing to decorating cookies.

**Below:** Elementary school children are learning how eggs hatch through an embryology program.



our projects from Clover Buds to dog projects to shooting sports,” Johnson said.

Johnson said she is excited that the annual 4-H summer camp and 4-H Summer Conference will be coming back live this summer.

“Summer Camp will be held the last week of June at the 4-H Center near Salem,” Johnson said. “Registrations will begin soon. We are super excited this is back.”

Johnson said the camp is for youngsters who have completed fourth grade through seventh grade.

The 4-H Summer Conference will be held in early June on the OSU Campus and is for students in grades 7 through 12.

“They stay on campus and there are many leadership activities,” Johnson

said. “This is one of my favorite weeks.”

Johnson said registration starts soon and there is a \$250 fee.

Several learning events are coming up in March, Johnson said.

March 5, youngsters can learn about how to set up a market animal project for the July county fair.

We have about 50 kids registered so far,” Johnson said.

That will be held at the Scio Pavilion. A photography workshop was held in February and on March 10, there will be a record book workshop.

Fashion Review, Food Preparation and Flower Arranging programs are also on tap in coming months.

“Our goal is to get our members excited again, to get going again,” Johnson



said. “We have high-quality programs and we want to grow.”

To learn more about all of the many 4-H programs available in Linn County, visit the OSU Extension-Linn County website at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn> or visit the local 4-H program’s Facebook page.





Taking the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics

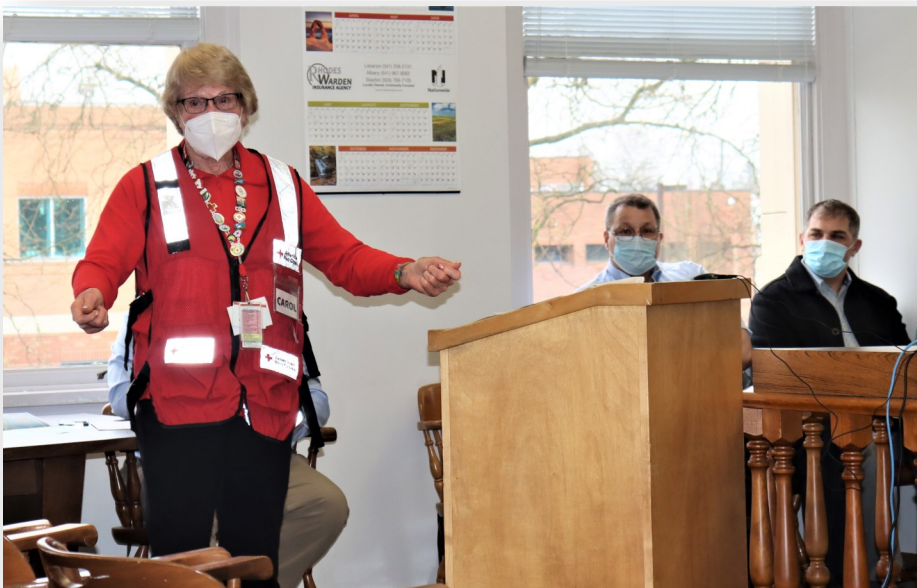


**Above:** Deputy Rachel Poore, Lieutenant Beth Miller, Sheriff Services Aides Tabitha Voisine and Montana Knox, and Deputy Jenna Suple. **Left:** Deputy Tom Reasons, Deputy Dan Graybill, Special Olympics Polar Bear, and Undersheriff Micah Smith.



National American Red Cross Month

**Above:** American Red Cross volunteer Carol Smedberg with Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker (also a volunteer) after the Linn County Board of Commissioners declared March as American Red Cross Month on March 1. **Below:** Smedberg talks about educational programs offered by the Red Cross to local students.



## Law library continues to provide rental assistance information

**A**LBANY — More than 24 people have received rental and utility assistance information through the Linn County Law Library since July, according to librarian Amber Boedigheimer.

“We hope that more people will continue to call for help with the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program application, or other matters about landlord/tenant laws,” Boedigheimer said.

She said the program, for which the county received a \$41,000 grant, continues to:

- Educate the public about changes to landlord/tenant laws as they occur
- Help promote mediation by educating tenants and landlords about the process and how it may help them resolve their legal issues outside of court
- Provide referrals to organizations that provide financial assistance for landlords and tenants who qualify
- Assist persons with the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program (OERAP) application
- Promote the use of the law library and the services it can provide

The library is at 304 Broadalbin St. SW, Albany and is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and every other Friday.

The library contains nearly 2,600 volumes. Ismael Quintero, a library patron said, “The law library is a great place to visit if you need information on Oregon laws and statutes, court forms, how to respond to legal forms, and other legal resources. Boedigheimer added, “We help people navi-



**Amber Boedigheimer**  
Law Library Librarian

gate and access the materials they need to assist them in their legal matters. We have online resources as well as physical resources, a conference room, and a computer that provides case law, and other vital information.” Boedigheimer said she helps both lawyers and non-lawyers locate useful resources. In fact, many lawyers use the law library to supplement their practice area.” She noted that law librarians cannot provide legal advice, but they can help people with their legal matters by providing library materials that may answer their questions and concerns.

Contact Boedigheimer by calling 541-924-6902, visit online at [www.co.linn.or.us/lawlibrary](http://www.co.linn.or.us/lawlibrary) or email: [linncountylawlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:linncountylawlibrary@gmail.com).

## Scholarships available for students pursuing health care careers

**I**s someone in your family studying to be in a health care field? Here are some scholarship opportunities.

The Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation is accepting scholarship application programs for east Linn County students pursuing careers in health care.

Scholarships are available for medical, nursing and nursing education students as well as students enrolled in a Linn-Benton Community College health career program.

Deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 30. Scholarship recipients will be announced by June 1.

The following scholarships are available:

-- The Frank Girod, MD, Medical Scholarship: For students enrolled in medical school. This scholarship is named for the late Frank Girod, MD, a primary care physician who was instrumental in the establishment of Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital. Applicants must submit an application, a written statement about their goals and any community service involvement, as well as a cost and resource estimate worksheet.

-- The Julietta A. Pape Scholarship Fund: For east Linn County students pursuing a medical degree at the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest in Lebanon or Oregon Health Science University in Portland. This scholarship honors Pape’s lifetime contribution to education. Applicants must submit an application, a cover letter introducing themselves, the degree they’re pursuing, their interest in a medical ca-

reer and an official college transcript.

-- The Rachel Easton, RN, Nursing Scholarship: For students enrolled in a nursing degree program. It is named for Rachel Easton, a longtime nurse at Samaritan Park Street Clinic in Lebanon. Applicants must submit an official transcript including fall 2020 grades, a one- or two-page typed statement discussing why they are pursuing a nursing degree, a listing of goals, a completed application form, a cost and resource estimate worksheet, any special circumstances for the scholarship committee to consider, plus a signed and dated letter of recommendation from someone who knows the applicant well.

-- The John and Carol Dinges Medical Scholarship: For east Linn County students enrolled in an entry-level health care program at Linn-Benton Community College. Examples of entry-level programs include certified medical assistant, certified nursing assistant, medical office specialist and dental assistant. First preference will be given to Lebanon High School seniors and graduates, but seniors and graduates at all east Linn County high schools are invited to apply.

-- The Nurse Education Scholarship: For caregivers and certified nursing assistants who are pursuing continued education in the nursing field. Preference is given to applicants from the Lebanon area and single parents. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Saturday, May 28. Recipients will be announced by July 1.

For more information, call (541) 451-6303 or visit [samhealth.org/Scholarships](http://samhealth.org/Scholarships).



LINN COUNTY PARKS

From Page 1

"I am in the process of writing for grants to start implementing the plan," Carroll said. "It is a major project and will cost several million dollars to complete. Money from the county's Transient Lodging Tax will play a big role in this, along with matching grants."

Among the improvements will be new restrooms, potable water systems, better access to water recreation, updated tables and benches and improved walking trails.

A new state-of-the art water boom was added to the swimming area last summer.

Improvements have begun at Rocky Top Bridge Group Site on Green Peter Reservoir.

"We have approval from the Corps of Engineers to drill a well and we're waiting on approval from the Oregon Health Authority," Carroll said.

The plan is to develop a group camping site that will serve 8 to 10 RVs with a total capacity of about 80 people. There will be eight picnic tables, a large group fire ring and a vault toilet.

Linn County Parks has been managing Cascadia State Park for several years and Carroll said he believes this will be the year the park ownership is turned over to the county by the state parks system.

"The state is working on the deed now," Carroll said.

Cascadia State Park is about 10 miles east of Sweet Home and has 25 primitive

**QUOTABLE**  
*"We listen to the people. They will tell you what they want. They want to spend time with each other and have a good time."*  
Brian Carroll

campsites, two group tent camping areas and two reservable group picnic areas



Native encampments held at Sunnyside County Park and Cascadia State Park each summer are very popular.

with kitchen shelters and electricity.

The campground borders the South Santiam River and is surrounded by old-growth Douglas fir trees.

Carroll said Cabin 16 at Clear Lake Resort has been remodeled.

and four new yurts have been installed at Whitcomb Creek.

A cabin used to house staffers has been torn down and a new one will be built, Carroll said.

"The previous cabin is tiny," Carroll said. "We want to be able to keep staff on-site and one way to do that is to provide a better

living area. We plan to make more efficient use of space."

Four new yurts are almost finished at Whitcomb Creek Park, Carroll said.

"They have beautiful views of the reservoir," Carroll said.

Carroll said the plan is to have a public contest to name each of the yurts.

Boat-in camping will also be allowed at North Whitcomb Creek, Carroll said.

"There will eventually be six yurts and seven campsites," Carroll said. "Access will be by boat only."

The site will include a vault toilet and in time, a potable water well.

Another goal at Clear Lake Resort is developing a battery system that would

take pressure off the diesel generators.

"Right now, we shut the power off at 10 p.m.," Carroll said. "With a battery system, people could run lights all night if they needed."

This summer, Carroll hopes to build a new restroom for the "C" row at Sunnyside County Park on Foster Reservoir and by fall, add a new restroom near the playground at Waterloo County Park.

"We will use a similar design at Whitcomb Creek Park," Carroll said.

Carroll said he and his staff share the philosophy that, "We listen to the people. They will tell you what they want. They want to spend time with each other and have a good time."



Renovated cabin interior at Clear Lake Resort. Improvements are made annually at the popular destination point.





# Corned beef and cabbage, a St. Patrick's Day tradition

By Tyler Florence  
For the Food Network

**C**ombine all the brine ingredients, except the brisket, in a large non-reactive bowl. Add the brisket (you may have to cut it into 2 pieces) and rub the spice mix into the meat.

Pour cold water over until the meat is covered. Weight the brisket down with a small plate so that it is completely submerged; cover and refrigerate. The meat can be brined overnight or as long as 10 days. The longer the brining the more pickled the meat.



Heat the oven to 300 degrees F. Heat a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat and add the olive oil. Add the onion, carrots, celery, garlic, marjoram, and bay leaves and cook until

starting to soften, about 10 minutes. Remove the meat from the brine and rinse it well. Set the meat on top of the vegetables and add water to just cover the meat. Bring to a boil skimming any foam that surfaces. Reduce the heat to a simmer, place the lid on the pot, and cook for 15 minutes. Add the cabbage pieces, cover, and put it into the oven; cook for 3 hours.

Remove the meat, cover it with foil, and let it rest for 20 minutes. Cut the fat off the corned beef, slice the meat against the grain, and serve it in shallow bowls with the cabbage wedges, some cooking liquid, and the Herbed Root Vegetables.

**Herb Butter:**

Put the olive oil and butter into a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the vegetables and toss to coat them well with the fat; season with salt and pepper. Add 1 cup water and bring to a boil. Lower the heat to a simmer, cover the pot, and cook until the vegetables are tender, about 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, make the Herb Butter by combining the soft butter and herbs together; season with some salt and pepper.

To serve, spread some Herb Butter in the bottom of a bowl. Add the hot vegetables and dot with more Herb Butter. Moisten with some of the cooking liquid and serve.

**Ingredients**

- 1 cup kosher salt
  - 1 cup brown sugar
  - 1 1/2 tablespoons whole coriander
  - 1 1/2 tablespoons whole mustard seeds
  - 1 1/2 tablespoons whole black peppercorns
  - 1 1/2 tablespoons whole allspice
  - 4 sprigs fresh marjoram
  - 4 sprigs fresh thyme leaves
  - 2 bay leaves
  - 1 (2 1/2 to 3 pound) brisket
  - 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
  - 1 onion, halved
  - 6 carrots, coarsely chopped
  - 1 head celery including leaves, coarsely chopped
  - 1 head garlic, halved
  - 3 sprigs fresh marjoram
  - 1 small cabbage cut into 6 to 8 wedges
- Herbed Root Vegetables, recipe follows**
- Herbed Root Vegetables:
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
  - 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
  - 1 pound new potatoes, scrubbed
  - 1 pound baby carrots, trimmed

and scrubbed

1 pound baby turnips, trimmed and scrubbed

1 pound baby parsnips, trimmed and scrubbed

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

**Herb Butter:**

1/2 pound unsalted butter, softened

1/2 cup mixed chopped fresh herbs like thyme, mint, chives, parsley, or chervil

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper



**Remember ...**

**Daylight Saving Time**

**Begins March 13**

**Set your clocks ahead one hour.**



# Committee making progress on new county website

By Alex Paul

Communications Officer

“How is the new website coming along?” It’s a question that members of the website committee hear often.

And the answer is that it’s coming along quite well. Members of the committee which includes myself and IT experts Steve Braaten, Karen Guilford and Vicki Slover, have met on-line with staff from Municode and have received initial drawings of what the new website could look like.

We have our own Municode project manager and we have provided the company with our list of design preferences and needs.

Municode provided us with an initial drawing and while it wasn’t exactly what we want, it provided us with an excellent starting point.

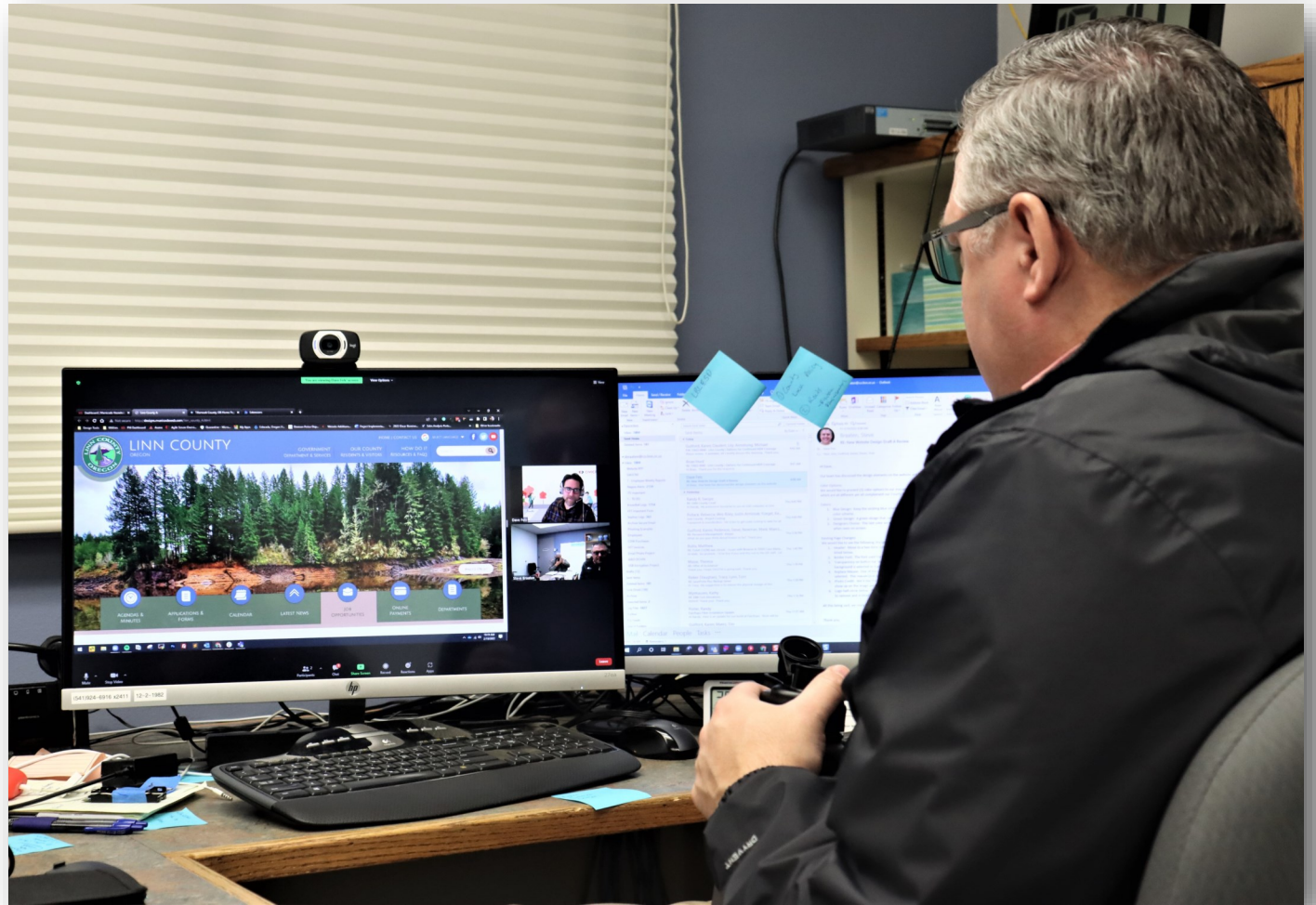
We met again recently and dissected the initial draft and much like trying to pick out colors for walls and furniture in our own homes, we provided each other with lots of give and take.

One committee member liked the somewhat subdued light blue and olive colors on the main pages, but other committee members said they thought the blue should be much darker and the reverse letter type needs to be much brighter to contrast more with a dark olive background.

After more than an hour, a long “wish” list was prepared and Feb. 18, the committee provided that information to our Municode project manager.

We asked that changes be made to the initial drawing, a second drawing be made using different colors and a third design left entirely up to the designer be developed to contrast completely with the first two drawings. Kind of an artist’s vision that might be a little more “vibrant”.

Our goal is to provide three conceptual



**Above:** IT Director Steve Braaten discusses initial website design draft online with Municode staffers. **Below:** Karen Guilford and Braaten offer design changes.

designs to the Board of Commissioners and all department heads soon, so we can get their feedback, which is very important to us.

This is not the committee’s website, it is Linn County’s website and we want to reflect that.

But, so far, so good. We are excited to be proceeding on this much-needed project.



## Sheriff Duncan serves eviction notice; welcome Baby Maia!

Welcome baby Maia!

26-year-old mom of two, Jessica Barker reached out to the Sheriff’s Office at the start of the New Year with news of her new baby and a request of an “eviction notice” to put in her daughter’s baby book.



With help from Records Manager Taylor Rodriguez, the Sheriff’s Office put together a “Trespass Notice” for Maia. Sheriff Duncan presented it to Jessica and her family a few weeks after she was born. Maia was born happy and healthy January 19th, 2022 at 11:59 PM, just seconds before her older sister’s third birthday. Congratulations!







## From one fire district to another



The Lebanon Fire District has donated its 1999 Pierce Lance Pumper to the [Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Protection District](#).

During the devastating Santiam Canyon wildfires in September 2020, the Idanha-Detroit Fire District lost most of its firefighting apparatus. Fire Chief Chad LaVallee and members of the Idanha-Detroit Fire District made the trek to Lebanon to sign the paperwork and make the donation official.

The Idanha-Detroit Fire District is an all-volunteer district that serves multiple communities along Highway 22. Those communities were ravaged by fires during the Labor Day weekend of 2020, affecting not only the residents but the fire district as well.

“We are glad to help our neighbors and partners,” said Lebanon Fire Chief Joseph Rodondi. “I am hopeful that this engine will be able to serve the residents of the Idanha-Detroit Fire District for many years to come.”



## Public invited to enter Stand By Me T-shirt design contest

**B**ROWNSVILLE — The Stand By Me Day Committee will host a T-shirt design contest for the 2022 Stand by Me Day on July 23.

The committee, in consultation with a professional graphic artist, will choose two designs to be made into T-shirts for this year’s event. The winning artists will each receive two free T-shirts, a \$50 gift certificate towards Stand By Me memorabilia and extensive bragging rights. Their name will be included on the graphic.

Here’s how the contest works:

- All art must be original, no scenes from the movie or its promotional materials may be used. No copyrighted images may be used.
- The images must be given a name and be signed by the artist. The name needs to be referenced on the e-mail subject line and on the entry form as well
- You may enter more than one image, but you must complete an entry form for each one.
- The scanned images must be submitted by e-mail to [lchm@co.linn.or.us](mailto:lchm@co.linn.or.us) by midnight March 14. Winners will be announced on April 8 on Facebook: Linn County Historical Museum & Stand By Me Day and at [linnmuseum.com](http://linnmuseum.com). Winners will be contacted directly
- Images may be submitted electronically, preferably as a jpg, but the image could be saved in tiff, eps, pdf, png or psd formats as well. Each image transmission must include a name and contact phone number.
- Images must be accompanied by a signed entry form which may be obtained at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIjjoHwihwVVCXrasWWfyIDkaeat-5rLUKXxlXHLQiMauRbA/viewform>
- If you are unable to scan an image you have created on paper please send the original to Linn County Museum Friends, Box 607, Brownsville, OR 97327. Include your name and a contact phone number. Originals will not be returned.
- The two winning artists will be asked to sign an artist’s release form.

Suggestions for success: Clean lines and simple colors, remember the art will have to show up when printed on a T-shirt. The committee reserves the right to make alterations needed to create the best image on a T-shirt.



## Cookies and conversation

About 50 Linn County staff members visited with Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger over the lunch hour March 1 at an informal listening session in the basement meeting room of the courthouse. Sprenger provided cookies and cake for all. There was no formal agenda and Sprenger said she was speaking as an individual commissioner, not for the entire three-member board. Sprenger said she wanted to hear from employees and offer some insight into what is happening in Linn County government. Future meetings will be held from noon until 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month.







## Students getting hands-on heavy equipment skills

By Alex Paul

Communications Officer

**A**LBANY — Most teenagers are happy to get behind the steering wheel of their family's min-van, but 11 students from the Juvenile Department, Jackson St. Youth Services and Albany Options School are getting hands-on training operating heavy equipment — from giant excavators to bull dozers.

Baker Technical Institute rolled in a large self-contained classroom on wheels filled with heavy equipment simulators, identical controls used to steer, dig, lift and push mounds of dirt and rock.

Instructor David Frazey said that after the young people get several hours of simulator time, they will demonstrate their new skills on machines that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Frazey said students learn how to operate a grader, small wheel loader, excavator and dozer.

Sixteen-year-old Elijah was one of the students learning to operate a dozer on a recent afternoon.

"It's pretty cool," he said. "I'm learning a lot and I think I'd like to become an operator."

Linn County Juvenile Director Torri Lynn said the project was set up by Oak Creek Principal Joy Koenig through the Multnomah Education Service District. "If the kids had to pay for this on their own, it would cost about \$6,000 each," Lynn said.

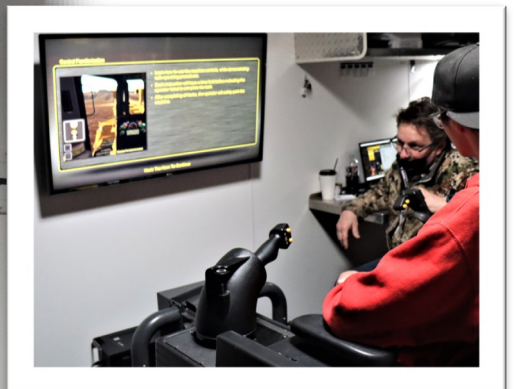
Lynn said a similar program was held last year with six students. It was put together on short notice. Having more time to develop the program this year has allowed it to double in the number of students.

Lynn said there are 10 boys and one girl, ages 16 to 19 participating in the two-week program.

Much like an airplane simulator, each of the four heavy equipment simulators in the portable classroom is extremely life-like. The units similar Caterpillar equipment, but the joystick controls can be set up for either Caterpillar or John Deere operations.

The simulators include both front and rear computer screens and make noises and vibrate much like their real-life counterparts.

When a student turns a key to start an engine, there is a roar from a simulated exhaust and the RPMs rev up on the dash tachometer.



*Heavy equipment simulators provide life-like sounds from the roar of a diesel engine to back-up warning signals and even vibrate so operators get an almost real learning opportunity. After a week of work on the simulators, students at the Linn Benton Detention Center will spend a week operating real machinery.*

When a student moves a dozer blade left or right, he can feel the vibration of the move and hear the huge metal blade clank into place.

If the students are successful, they will receive a certificate of completion that is good for a lifetime. They can use that certificate when they apply for a job. Frazer said the job market for heavy equipment operators is "unbelievable" and the pay scale is high, starting at more than \$20 per hour.

"What I see in most classes is the students are scared at first and then they settle in and get the hang of it," Frazer said. "It's amazing when they get on the real machines how quickly what they learned here comes to them. They learn things in two weeks that might take them six months in the field."

And, Frazer said, the simulators are based on current technology, 2017 and newer.

"We're booked for the next two years," Frazer said of the program's popularity.

Based in Baker City and Prineville, Baker Technical Institute offers education and training for careers in agricultural sciences, building trades, natural resources/environmental sciences, engineering, health services, welding,



heavy equipment operation, truck driving, and manufacturing.

"We believe that career and technical education is one of the most important things we can give our students," said Three Lakes Principal Joy Koenig. "We are always looking for opportunities and access to preparing students for workforce ready jobs."

Koenig said the heavy equipment training is an area where students can experience almost instantaneous success upon graduation.

"The skills they learn with heavy equipment training intersect with so many jobs," Koenig said.

Koenig said students who complete the heavy equipment training can easily operate an on-site tractor used in the school's gardening program.

"BTI also provides our students with great information about 'soft' skills associated with jobs such as showing up on time, proper appearance and a good attitude and perseverance," Koenig said.