



All aboard the Tennessee Thunder RR

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

LEBANON — Disneyland likes to promote itself as the “Happiest Place on Earth.”

Well, in Linn County, that motto fits the Tennessee Thunder Stand & Railroad, on KGAL Drive just a wee bit north of the city of Lebanon.

Matt and Ashley LeFever knew they wanted to own the nearly four-acre home and railroad empire the first time they took their children, Reeve, now 10, and Matley, now seven, out for some fun.

That was in 2017 and the family made the leap into the world of entertainment and small business five years ago.

And they couldn't be happier, even though their adventure began just a few months before the COVID-19 pandemic erupted worldwide.

Both Ashley and Matt have full-time jobs as well. Ashley is a Addiction Specialist with Linn County Alcohol and Drug and Matt is a Process Safety Manager with Georgia Pacific.

Although the COVID-19 pressures were felt by all, the fact their railroad is an outdoor activity, allowed them to remain open — albeit carefully. Passengers were spaced apart and the three railroad cars were disinfected after each ride.

Tennessee Thunder RR ... P. 10



The Tennessee Thunder Stand & Railroad is truly a family affair. Pictured are Matt and Ashley LeFever and their children, Reeve and Matley. All pitch in to keep the railroad running in October and December.

Pastega Christmas Lights find new home



Ken Pastega talks about the history of the Pastega Christmas Lights Display that is moving to the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

Join Christmas Storybook Land and Holiday Bazaar for festive season

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

For decades, mid-valley families have enjoyed two outstanding holiday treats — the Christmas Storybook Land in Albany and the Pastega Christmas Lights in Corvallis.

Now, they can be viewed at the same time, under one roof so to speak. Both colorful family events will now be housed at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

And to add even more fun, they will follow the annual Holiday Bazaar, also held at the Fair & Expo Center.

The new partnership is being billed as the Mid-Valley Magical Holiday Celebration. And as always, admission is free, but canned or packaged food items are most welcome. Last year,

Christmas Storybook Land provided 40,000 food items to FISH of Albany. Over the years, Pastega Lights has donated more than 70,000 pounds of food to local charities.

The partnership ensures Pastega Lights will not go dark, Ken Pastega said during a meeting for volunteers Oct. 24.

Pastega said the Christmas lights project was the work of his father and mother, Mario and Alma who owned Pastega Bottling, starting in Klamath Falls and expanding into Corvallis, Tillamook and Medford for decades. His mother would come up with a display idea and a friend would craft it.

The show features 200 figures and mechanized scenes.

The display was a must-see at the bottling company, as families drove through the site. When the family sold the company in 2011, the new owners kept the display running for a couple years and then Pastega and volunteers took on the massive workload for another 10 years.

Pastega Lights ... P. 16



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

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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



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The Board of Commissioners meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and at the same time on Wednesday if needed.

You can listen to the meetings by calling 541-704-3002 PIN 8442.

Call 541-967-3825

Beware a flood of flooded cars

Cars swamped in stormwater could return to market far from where the damage occurred

Courtesy Consumer Reports

Thousands of cars are damaged or destroyed by floods every year, such as those ravaged by hurricanes or major rainfalls. Don't assume all those compromised vehicles end up in a junkyard.

Some water-damaged cars are repaired and resold in other parts of the country without the buyer being aware of the car's waterlogged history. In fact, Carfax says 452,000 flooded cars were back on the roads in 2023—that's 53,000 more than the year before.

Shoppers need to be vigilant when buying a used car, even if you don't live near a traditional storm area. That's because flood-damaged cars are often transported well beyond their original region after major storms to locations where consumers may be less aware of the warning signs to look for.

Water can ruin electronics, lubricants, and mechanical systems. It may take months or even years for problems to surface, as corrosion finds its way to the car's vital electronics, including airbag controllers. You need to carefully inspect any used car before buying one (or pay a mechanic to do it).

Consumer Reports' chief mechanic John Ibbotson says to avoid vehicles with signs of deep-water exposure "even if a vehicle looks acceptable and may be working when you inspect it."

That's because the long-term effects of water damage can haunt you for the life of the car.

Too often, when an insurance company declares a flood-damaged car a total loss, that information isn't communicated to potential buyers. Once a flood car is totaled, it's supposed to get a new title, called a salvage title. Those titles are usually plainly marked (known as being "branded") with the word "salvage" or "flood." In some states, this warning is shown on the title as an obscure letter or number code.

Totaled cars are typically sold at a salvage auction to junkyards and vehicle rebuilders. Reselling them to consumers may be legal if the flood damage is disclosed on the title. Those "salvage title" cars can't be registered until necessary repairs are made and the vehicle is reinspected by officials. Then the vehicle is given a "rebuilt" title, which allows it to be registered for consumer use.

But as Consumer Reports found years ago in an investigation of rebuilt wrecks, some flood-damaged vehicles reappear with a clean title. Be especially wary of any used car being offered with a "lost" title or with only a bill of sale.

Tips and Tools for Used Car Buyers

When you're buying a used car, always check the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System. That site directs you to government-approved providers of vehicle history reports. The NMVTIS system aims to crack down on the practice of "title washing," when cars that have been totaled (or stolen) get clean new titles in states with lax regulations.

However, if the vehicle's owner didn't have comprehensive insurance cov-

Editor's Note: With the recent hurricanes and tornadoes that struck the east coast, I thought this might be a timely warning for anyone looking for a used car at this time.

— Alex

erage at the time of the flooding or the repair bill didn't exceed a certain level, the vehicle might not get a salvage or branded title at all. Only a few states offer a "flood" title, which requires a history of any flood damage.

Carfax offers a free flood damage check in addition to the vehicle history reports it sells. These checks show the "possibility of flood damage" based on area history and the registered address for the car at the time, and whether the vehicle's title shows a reported flood history.

For a basic check, the National Insurance Crime Bureau offers VIN-Check, a free service that searches vehicle identification numbers for evidence of theft or salvage, although it doesn't use as many data sources as some paid providers do.

Of course, vehicle history reports are not all-inclusive and do not guarantee that a vehicle is problem-free, but they're a valued aid in screening potential cars. Ultimately, a detailed inspection is your best protection.

How to Spot a Flood-Damaged Car

Water damage can be hard to detect, but Consumer Reports says you should look for some telltale signs.

- Inspect the carpets to see whether they show signs of having been waterlogged, such as smelling musty or having caked-on mud. Brand-new carpets in an older vehicle may be another red flag.

- Check the seat-mounting screws to see whether there's any evidence that they were removed. To dry the carpets effectively, the seats must be removed and possibly even replaced.
- Inspect the lights. A visible waterline may still show on the lens or reflector.
- Inspect the difficult-to-clean places, such as gaps between panels in the trunk and under the hood (such as behind the engine), for mud and debris. A waterline around the engine compartment is a clear indicator of flooding.
- Look on the bottom edges of brackets or panels where grime wouldn't normally settle.
- Look at the heads of any unpainted, exposed screws under the dashboard. Bare metal will show signs of rust in flooded cars.
- Check to see whether the rubber drain plugs under the car and on the bottom of doors look as if they have been removed recently. That may have been done to drain floodwater.
- Check engine oil. The water mixed into the oil can create an odd, milkshake appearance.
- Check the air filter. Water would cause the cardboard frame of the filter to look textured and soggy.

If you're from an area affected by a flood and have a car that wasn't damaged, be aware that buyers might suspect it was. Have a mechanic inspect your car before you put it up for sale so that you can present potential buyers with a clean bill of health.

Please send story ideas to Linn County Reporter editor Alex Paul at apaul@co.linn.or.us.



WILLAMETTE VALLEY
AG EXPO

November 12-14
Linn County Expo Center
Albany, OR

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Over 200,000 sq. ft. of exhibitors,
equipment, seminars, & classes.

Admission: \$5 per person · Parking: FREE

WWW.WVAEXPO.COM

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



Contract and Recruitment Manager Terri McQueen, left, talks about the new modular buildings installed at the Willamette Valley Health Center. McQueen said conference rooms in a main building have been remodeled into much needed office space. The two 12- X 60-foot moduls came from Aumsville and feature two 30-foot conference rooms each.



Nate Larson joins Veterans Services

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Nate Larson has joined Linn County Veterans Services as an Assistant Veterans Services Officer.

Larson, 39, came on board in August and has year’s training to become certified, according to Veterans Services Director Dee Baley-Hyder.

“I enjoy helping our veterans,” Larson said. “My family has a military history.”

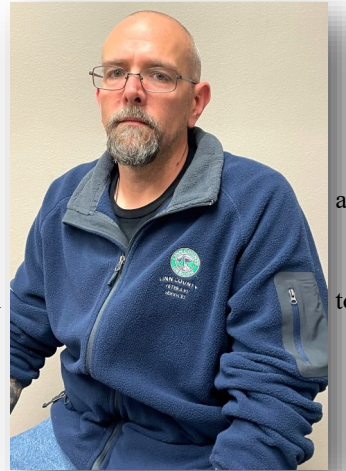
Larson grew up in Jefferson and graduated from Jefferson High School in 2003. He has worked in the trucking field and most recently Jefferson Truck and Auto.

“We had to look up parts for everything from a garden tiller to big trucks,” Larson said. “So, I’m used doing research.”

Larson said his new job is “cool” because he enjoys talking with veterans and learning about their lives.

“I really enjoy helping our veterans get the benefits they deserve,” Larson said. “We help them navigate the bureaucracy. They really shouldn’t have to ask, because they have these benefits coming to them.”

Larson said he enjoys hiking — Silver Creek Falls and McDowell Creek Falls locally — working on cars and trucks and shooting sports.



Be Cyber Safe

PASSWORD

* * * * *

#dignityhonestycompassion

LCSO offers holiday shopping safety tips

Holiday shopping season is closer than you think.

With that in mind, the Linn County Sheriff’s Office wants to share some important information to help keep you safe online this shopping season and all year long.

Detective Aaron Sutherland, who specializes in cybercrimes, offers some tips on one of the more important safety features for online use — passwords. Whether its shopping online for gifts, checking your bank account, or logging on to social media, you will be using a password.

“Strong passwords are crucial for protecting your online accounts,” Detective Sutherland said. “To create a strong password, avoid using personal information such as your name, family members’ names, birthdates, social security or driver’s license numbers, or words related to your hobbies, job, or interests. These types of information can be easily guessed

by hackers.”

Instead, choose a phrase, lyric of a song/poem, or quote that is easy for you to remember. Use a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols within the phrase.

For example, you can take the quote “No! Try not. Do. Or do not. There is no try.” and turn it into the password by using the first character of each word “n!TnD0dNTiNt”. This type of password is much harder for hackers to crack.

“Be sure to also be cautious of phishing scams and never share your password with anyone, including friends, family members, or coworkers,” Detective Sutherland cautions.

Taking these steps will help you be safer online and keep your personal information — personal.

Visit <https://buff.ly/3PpZSIN> for even more great resources to help keep your online activity safe.



Paking a hike at River Bend

Staff members from Linn County Mental Health went on a hike during their lunch hour at a supervisors’ retreat at River Bend County Campground. Pictured are: Brandi Mendenhall (front), Jeff Thoma (far left), Della Edwards (behind Jeff), Georgette Lugo (far back right) and Jessica Burris (front right).

Easy to make apple cider

Courtesy: allrecipes

This apple cider recipe is super easy to make.

I used to buy the spices already mixed at the grocery store, and they stopped carrying them, so I just made my own. Great for a shower or get-together, and the slow cooker keeps it warm so guests can enjoy it through the night! Serve with a slice of orange, and add spiced rum, if desired.

Ingredients

- 1 (64 fluid ounce) bottle apple cider
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 1 teaspoon whole allspice
- 1 teaspoon whole cloves
- ½ cup brown sugar

Combine apple cider and cinnamon sticks in a slow cooker.

Gather edges of the cheesecloth together and tie to secure; place in the slow cooker. Stir in brown sugar. Cook on High, covered, until mixture is steaming and sugar has dissolved.

Reduce heat to Low and keep warm.

If it is Fall — It's time to make cider at juvenile center



Apples donated by Adairs Orchards





Thank you Linn County veterans!

Terry Beckett

Linn County Mental Health
U.S. Air Force
1982-1986
Rank: Sergeant

Mike Brant

Road Department Fleet Maintenance
U.S. Navy Seabees
Construction Mechanic CM2 (E5)
1987-1993



Judy Burke

Administrative Assistant Health
U.S. Army, 1983-1986
Rank: Specialist 4

Michael Chiaffino

Road Department
U.S. Navy, 1995-1999
Operations Specialist
Rank: Petty Officer 3rd Class



Jace Cook

Deputy District Attorney
Oregon Army National Guard, 2020 —
Judge Advocate General Officer
Rank: Captain

Drew Crockett

Linn County Parks Department
U.S. Army, 1993-1997
Rank: Specialist



David Crockett

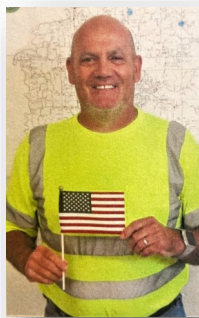
Mental Health Specialist
U.S. Army, 13B Canon Crew
1987-1992
Rank: E4

Brandon Crow

Road Department-Albany
U.S. Army, 2016-2019
Rank: Specialist (E4)

Kyle Geraci

Linn County Sheriff's Office
U.S. Marine Corps, 2014-2018
Rank: Sergeant



Rich Gilbert

Road Department Bridge Crew
U.S. Army, 1983-1989
Rank: Specialist 4

Kevin Hamilton

Road Department Operations Manager
U.S. Navy, 1989-1992
Rank: Petty Officer 2nd Class

Brian Hardy

Linn County Sheriff's Office
U.S. Navy and Reserve, 2006-2014
Rank: Lieutenant



Rob Kennedy

Road Department Bridge Crew
U.S. Army, 1995-2001
Rank: Specialist 4



Darrin Lane

Linn County Administrative Officer
U.S. Army, 1983-2018
Rank: Sgt. 1st Class

Dan Leard

Road Department-Engineering
U.S. Army, 1985-1988
Artillery Repairman-Vulcan
Rank: Specialist
Oregon Army National Guard, 1991-
1993
Combat Engineer-Light
Rank: Specialist

Samuel Macklin

Deputy, Linn County Sheriff's Office
U.S. Air Force, 2012-2016
Rank: Senior Airman



ALBANY — The annual Linn County Veterans Day Parade will start at 11 a.m. on November 11, making its way from Jackson Street to downtown Albany.

The annual week of festivities is sponsored by the Linn County Parade Committee. Board members are Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker, Jonald Gradwohl, Quentin Winegar, Jennifer Martin, Cathy Baker and Danny Perry.

Parade committee president Christine Ferguson said this year's event features stories about Rosie the Riveters, women who stepped up to staff military plants, building airplanes, tanks, ships and all other types of equipment needed to win World War II.

Also featured are Donut Dolls, who staffed military canteens providing coffee and doughnuts to weary soldiers, sailors and airmen and also offering an encouraging word or two.

A third story focuses on a Special Olympics organizer, who despite battling cancer, wanted to ensure her "kids" could participate in the parade.

Dr. Derrick Sorweide is this year's parade Grand Marshal. His is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and Training Command Surgeon for the Reserve Component. Dr. Sorweide is the Director of Clinical Education at Western University of Health Sciences COMP-Northwest in Lebanon. He previously practiced family medicine in Grants Pass for 16 years.

Raymond Petite, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant retired, is this year's Native American representative. He served tours of duty in both Korea and Vietnam and was posted from Alaska to Colorado. He has been a member of the Grand Ronde Honor Guard since 2012.

A special guest this year is Colonel Thomas H. Kirk Jr.

Colonel Kirk completed 50 missions in Korea and was on his 67 mission in Vietnam when his F-105 Thunderchief airplane was struck by a surface-to-air missile. He was forced to eject at 600 knots, was temporarily blinded and was captured by the North Vietnamese.

He spent five and a half years in the Hoa Lo Prison, where he endured extreme tortured and for two years, solitary confinement.

"Our Linn County Veterans Day Parade this year starts at 11 a.m. on November 11. We're looking forward to seeing everyone there, especially after surviving two years of isolation with COVID," Ferguson said. "Traditionally, the parade in Albany has been the largest west of the Mississippi and the third largest in the USA. We have worked hard to make this year's parade as close as we can to the family-friendly, community celebrations of your childhood."

A complete schedule of events can be found on page 6.



Thank you Linn County veterans!

Robert McKibben

Veterans Services Officer
U.S. Navy, 1987-1991

Rank: E-3

Conor McCahill

Deputy District Attorney
U.S. Air Force, 2011-2015
Oregon Army National Guard, 2015-2019

Emergency Management Specialist
Rank: E-6/Technical Sergeant

Alan Merrick

Linn County Public Health
U.S. Army, 2001-2022

Rank: Specialist First Class

Nichole Piland

Assessment and Taxation Office
U.S. Navy and Oregon Army National Guard, 1994-1999

Rank: E-3

Thomas Reasons

Corrections Deputy, Linn County Sheriff's Office

Oregon Army National Guard, 1995-2021

Rank: Master Sergeant retired

Eric Rice

Linn County Veterans Services
U.S. Air Force, 2014-2018

Rank: E-4



Juli Rodriguez

U.S. Navy, 2008-2013
Fleet Marine Force Hospital Corpsman

Rank: E-3

OEF 2010-2011

John Schaer

Road Department-Scio
U.S. Navy, 1983-1986

Rank: Petty Officer Second Class (E5)

Daniel Smith

Linn County Alcohol & Drug
U.S. Army, 1983-1998

Rebekah Soriano

Juvenile Crime Victims Advocate
U.S. Marine Corps, 2001-2005

Rank: E-4

Geoff Thoma

Mental Health Specialist
U.S. Army, 2003-2016

Rank: Sergeant/E-5



Will Tucker

Linn County Commissioner
U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve,
1971-1976

Rank: AW-4



Phillip Van Leuwen

Deputy County Attorney
U.S. Army National Guard, 1999-2022

Rank: Captain

Jack Wagner

ITS-Systems Administrator
U.S. Navy, 1990-1995

Fire Control Technician

Submarine Warfare Specialist

Rank: FT2(SS) E-5

Kathy Wynhausen

ITS Database Administrator
U.S. Air Force, 1989-1993

Rank: Senior Airman

Oregon Army National Guard, 1994-1995

VETERANS DAY



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

★ ★ ★ EVENTS ★ ★ ★

*Below is a list of events
which will take place around Veterans Day.*

Wall of Honor

Heritage Mall, 1895 SE 14th Ave
Wednesday November 6th - Tuesday, November 12th

Veterans Uniforms on Display

Downtown Albany
Wednesday November 6th - Tuesday, November 12th

Celebration of Americas 250th

8 panel display created by District 4 OSSDAR chapters
Featuring: Albany, Corvallis, Eugene, Stayton, Salem, and Lebanon
Public display: Albany Regional Museum November 9th-11th.

Willamette Valley Concert Band - Annual Veterans Day Concert

Russell Tripp Performance Center,
Linn-Benton Community College, Albany Campus
Saturday, November 9th - Time: 2:00 PM

Veteran of the Year Banquet

National Guard Building, 3800 Knox Butte Road E
Saturday, November 9th - Time: 6:00 PM

Veterans Day Breakfast hosted by the Albany Optimist Club and the Albany Optimist Foundation

West Albany High School, 2100 Elm Street SW
Monday, November 11th - Time: 6:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Veterans Day Memorial Service

(Flyover by U.S. Coast Guard - approximately 9 AM)
Veterans Memorial, Timber Linn Park, 900 Price Rd SE
Monday, November 11th - Time: 8:30 AM

Veterans Day Parade

(Flyover by U.S. Coast Guard - approximately 11:50 AM)
Downtown Albany Parade Route
Monday, November 11th - Time: 11:00 AM

Spaghetti Lunch

American Legion Post 10, 1215 Pacific Blvd SE
Monday, November 11th - Time: 11:00 - 2:00 PM

All Services Star and Stripes Ball

Knife River Training Center, 35973 Kennel Road SE
Monday, November 18th - Time: 5:30 PM

The American Legion Post 10

1215 Pacific Blvd., Albany, Oregon
(Breakfast) Monday, November 11th - Time: 7-9:00 AM
(Lunch) Monday, November 11th - Time: 11-2:00 PM



OSU Extension Service



Rural Linn County residents can get free well water tests

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

TANGENT — Rural Linn County residents who would like to have their well water tested for nitrates, arsenic and coliform bacteria, will soon be able to do so for free thanks to staff at OSU Extension-Linn County and a \$59,000 grant from the Crossroads Communities program in Lebanon.

According to Chrissy Lucas, the OSU Extension Ground Water Quality Outreach Program Coordinator, about one in five private wells in the United States contain contaminants at levels that are a health concern. Arsenic, nitrate, and coliform bacteria are the most prevalent contaminants.

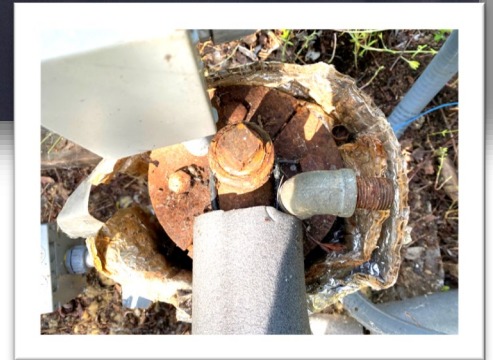
Lucas said funds come from a partnership grant with Lebanon based non-profit Crossroads Communities.

“We will target the areas of the county that are known hot spots for arsenic and nitrate including Scio, Lacombe and Sweet Home,” Lucas said, noting that tests are open to anyone living in Linn County that have a domestic well.

- Nitrate occurs naturally in air and soil. They are composed of nitrogen and oxygen. Nitrate is also commonly used in fertilizers and munitions, and some pharmaceutical medications. Groundwater that has nitrate has been contaminated by fertilizers, animal waste, or septic systems.
- Arsenic is naturally occurring and can be present in the environment in air, water, and soil. In this region, arsenic gets into groundwater from our volcanic geology. It is toxic at any level to humans and cause cancer, skin lesions, cardiovascular disease and affect cognitive development.
- Coliform bacteria is common in soil, plants and the intestinal tracts of humans and animals. It is only found on the surface, so when it gets into groundwater this indicates a surface to groundwater interaction. Fecal coliforms are the coliforms that can



Above: Intern Jackie Ruff is shown at a free nitrate screening event over the summer. Right: an old well head in poor shape.



cause health issues from gastrointestinal issues to death in humans.

Lucas said an intern will visit homes that sign up for the program and show people how to properly take a water sample and transport that sample to a testing site.

“We will then provide results and if necessary, provide information about ways to mitigate contamination,” Lucas said.

Lucas said she hopes to provide 150 to 200 tests. Testing will run from November through March, “Or until we run out of money.”

OSU Extension-Linn County staff and interns had a busy summer holding 15 water information clinics and over 300 free nitrate screenings.

To sign up for a free test, visit: <https://beav.es/GZh>; email: Chrissy.lucas@oregonstate.edu or call 541-713-5009.

To sign up for a free test, visit: <https://beav.es/GZh>; email: Chrissy.lucas@oregonstate.edu or call 541-713-5009.

NO-COST WELL WATER TESTING

For Nitrate, Arsenic, & Coliform Bacteria

Testing includes an OSU intern coming out to your home to gather the sample, a voluntary well inspection, and participation in a workshop.

Why Test?

Testing your water is the only way to know if these contaminants are present.

It is important to test your water regularly, since these contaminants have the potential to cause short- and long-term health issues.

Fill out this interest form to get started:
<https://beav.es/GZh>

Questions? Contact Chrissy Lucas at chrissy.lucas@oregonstate.edu or (541) 713-5009

Oregon State University Extension Service
In partnership with Crossroads Communities

Oregon State University Extension Service

Women Farmers Tractor Implement Training

Wed. November 6th, 10am-1pm
Sweet Home, Or
\$20
*Scholarships Available

<https://beav.es/pH6>

Oregon State University Extension Service

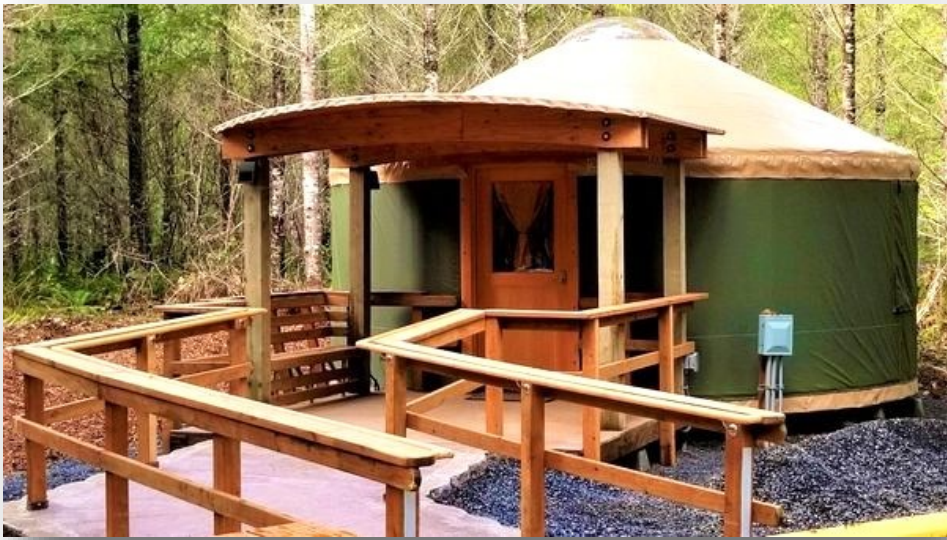
Writing Your Farm Plan Workshop Series - For Veterans

Friday, November 8th & Wednesday, November 13th
10am - 12:30pm
Tangent, OR
\$10 *Scholarships Available

Are you a Veteran who is farming or interested in farming, and want help with writing your Farm Plan? Please join us!

Register Here: <https://beav.es/pvu>

Questions or accomodation requests?
Contact crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu or call (541) 730-3539



River Bend campground to be open all winter

By popular demand, River Bend campground will remain open this fall/winter.

Have you wondered what all the excitement is about River Bend, but struggle to get a reservation? Come check it out in the off season instead.

Happy camping.



Story idea for the Linn County Reporter? Email: apaul@co.linn.or.us.



Madilee wins Junior Ranger '24 contest

Thank you to all of the Junior Ranger participants for 2024!

Madilee was the winner of the grand prize camping package, presented by Linn County Parks & Recreation's Allie Bates.

Kids: Don't forget to wear your Junior Ranger shirts to the parks next time.

This year's program featured a new and improved Junior Ranger activity book for kids, ages 5-12. Becoming a Junior Ranger is fun for everyone.

Youngsters can pick up Junior Ranger activity books from any park ranger and then complete the activities inside.

Turn the book in to the fee tube at your park — make sure your contact information is included — and you can

win prizes. All participants who complete the activities will earn a T-shirt at the end of the summer. Completed books will also be entered into a drawing for the "Grand Prize".

Linn County's program invites participants to complete a variety of activities intended to help them learn about the environment around them, animals that they may encounter, packing lists, safety tips, and more.

The program features Scruffy, a cartoon bobcat character, who encourages kids to get outdoors and have fun.

If you have questions about the Junior Ranger Program, please ask any Linn County Park Ranger.

New! Community Training Page

at linntogether.org

Check out our new Linn Together Community Training page!

It lists current mental health and suicide prevention trainings, as well as any community trainings we host.

The training page has easy online registration, and all trainings are offered without cost to participants.

See the new page at:



OSU scientists take some 'zing' out of habaneros ...

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Two mild habanero peppers known as “Notta Hotta” and “Mild Thing” that retain the peppers’ unique fruity and floral fragrances and flavors but have lower heat levels are being released by Oregon State University.

“We had chefs walking up to them and looking at them and saying, ‘I know in my mind you’ve told me they’re not hot, but physi-

cally I’m preparing for intense heat when I taste these,” said Jim Myers, a vegetable breeder at Oregon State who spent the last 25 years developing the peppers.

“The chefs have done some very interesting things that I would never have considered, like making a soda that’s flavored with these peppers. And I think there are other potential for flavorings in both savory dishes and in dessert-type dishes.”

Notta Hotta and Mild Thing have been cleared for release by Oregon State University officials, who can now work with seed supply companies interested in licensing the peppers. Myers expects that next year the varieties will be available at farmers markets, and that home gar-

deners will be able to grow them.

The story of Notta Hotta and Mild Things began in 2001 when Myers received a mild habanero variety from Kevin Crosby, a fellow vegetable breeder at Texas A&M University. That pepper was then accidentally crossed during a pepper variety trial at Oregon State. The resulting cross had desirable characteristics around color, shape, pungency and time to ripen.

During the next two decades, between other projects such as developing purple tomato varieties that have drawn widespread attention, Myers continued to breed the pepper. He focused on low heat pungency and early maturity while maintaining high levels of aromatic and flavor compounds. Early maturity is important to allow the peppers to be successfully grown in temperate climates where habaneros typically struggle.

Those years of refinement led Myers to select Notta Hotta and Mild Thing. The two varieties are quite similar but have some slight variations.

Notta Hotta is more elongated and smoother and better adapted for a range of climates. In fact, Myers believes it can be successfully grown in much of the United States.

Mild Thing has a blockier shape, rougher texture and slightly more intense flavor, Myers said. It is better suited for the Pacific Northwest climate, he said.

Pepper pungency or heat is ranked on the Scoville scale. Habaneros are typically between 100,000 to 350,000 on the scale.



Nikki Guerrero and Jim Myers at the Culinary Breeding Network Variety Showcase in Portland. Photo by OSU News Service.

But Notta Hotta and Mild Thing should be around 500 to 1,000.

During the development process, Myers worked closely with Lane Selman, an assistant professor of practice at Oregon State. She is also the founder of the Culinary Breeding Network (Link is external), which is dedicated to connecting farmers, chefs, plant breeders and consumers.

Selman, who calls herself Myers’ cheerleader, initially connected Myers with a group of 25 chefs in 2011 for a mild habanero tasting.

Since then, she has showcased Notta Hotta and Mild Thing at several public events, including the Culinary Breeding Network Variety Showcase in Portland earlier this month. At that event, Myers was paired with Nikki Guerrero, owner of Portland-based Hot Ma-

ma Salsa, who made a dish with the peppers. Guerrero also gets credit for naming the peppers.

Selman and others she works with are excited about the peppers.

“They have floral, fruity and tropical kind of vibes,” she said. “They make you feel like you are at the beach, like you are somewhere warmer when you taste these things.”

She added: “I know because of the ripple effect of these events that at least here in this community a lot of people will be growing them and eating them.”

The mild habaneros are the latest Oregon State discovery in food and agriculture research. University researchers have previously developed the maraschino cherry, marionberry and hop varieties that help launch the craft beer industry.

Tennessee Thunder Railroad ... From Page 1

Elaine Macintosh more than 20 years ago. Their son, Dan, known locally as "Diesel Dan" due to his skills with diesel engines, built the quarter-scale engine from scratch. Power comes from a three-cylinder Chevrolet Sprint engine. It easily pulls three rail cars and up to 24 adult passengers. Matt wants to add a fourth car.

"Even when we lived in town, we were the folks who loved to host parties, family events," Ashley said.

Matt grew up on a farm near Goldendale, Washington and his father also ran a natural disaster repair business. So, he knows how to maintain equipment and also understands business.

"It was a learning curve," Matt admits. "I enjoy steam tractors and knew a little bit about railroads, but I

didn't know as much as I thought I did."

Ashley grew up near

Seattle and has a background in education.

She enjoys the social side of

the business, selling tickets and talking with guests, young and old. She also runs the small gift shop, where families can buy Tennessee Thunder themed shirts, caps and other items.

People can buy pumpkins and apples and the family wants to expand the "stand" part of the business in coming years.

Tennessee Thunder Stand & Railroad

Location: 37672 KGAL Drive

Tickets and hours: See website: www.ttsrailroad.com/

Cash preferred, but credit cards accepted.

Parking: Carpooling is encouraged.

Contact info:

Call 458-223-0258.

December hours:

Please visit

www.ttsrailroad.com/



The Tennessee Thunder Stand & Railroad will be closed in November, so family members can string more than nine miles of Christmas lights and transform their property into a beautiful holiday adventure.

Reeve and Matley are active participants as well. Reeve knows how to make track switches and run the engine. Matley enjoys talking with youngsters who come by and hopes to run a lemonade stand on-site.

The railroad is open in October and December. November is when the family and friends decorate with more than nine miles of Christmas lights.

"It takes about 125 hours to decorate," Ashley said.

The railroad is open a couple weekends in the summer as well.

If you visit the Tennessee Thunder Stand & Railroad, plan on slowing down from our often hectic pace of life.

Although it can go faster, Matt runs the train about six miles per hour. A ride takes about 10 minutes. You are welcome to just sit and visit with friends and family.

"We would like to add more things for young teenagers to enjoy," Ashley said. "More play areas for kids."

The LeFevers say they are already seeing repeat customers, people who say an annual visit has become a tradition.

"It's awesome," Ashley said. "It's a lot of work, but it's all worth it when we see the smiles on people's faces."



Above: Matley and Reeve LeFever show off some of the many pumpkins available for purchase at the Tennessee Thunder Stand & Railroad on KGAL Drive, north of Lebanon. Left: Christmas lights turn the LeFever property into a winter wonderland

Linn County property tax statements mailed Oct. 18

ALBANY — Linn County residents will begin receiving their property tax statements this week.

Approximately 62,000 statements were mailed on Oct. 18. If you do not receive your tax statement by Nov. 1, please call the Assessment and Taxation office at 541-967-3808 or email assessor@co.linn.or.us to get a duplicate copy. Taxes are levied based on the Assessed Value on the Property Tax statement. The Real Market Value on the Property Tax Statement is based on the assessment date of January 1, 2024. The Real Market Value is the estimated amount of money that could reasonably be expected to be paid for a property by an informed buyer to an informed seller.

The total Real Market Value of all property in Linn County is \$27.4 billion (up almost \$400 million), and the Assessed Value of all property in Linn County is \$13.5 billion (up about \$450 million). Schools receive 41.7% of Linn County taxes, the county receives 23.5%, cities 23%, rural fire districts, 7%, urban renewal 3.2%, and miscellaneous 1.6%.

Notable voter approved tax changes: Properties within the Jefferson Rural Fire District will see a new Local Option Levy starting this year at a rate of \$.81 (81 cents) per thousand of assessed value. Properties within the Sweet Home Fire & Ambulance District will see a new bond rate of \$.46 (46 cents) per thousand of assessed value, replacing a previous bond. Sweet Home residents may notice an increase of the Sweet Home law enforcement levy. In the past two years they had under-levied, and this year will receive the total voter approved levy amount of \$7.85 per thousand of assessed value.

Pay your taxes in full by Nov. 15 to receive a 3% discount. There is a payment drop box at the west end (Ferry Street) entrance of the courthouse on the left side of the doors. You can look up your individual tax information at <https://www.linncountyor.gov/assessor/page/account-detail>. Taxes can be paid on-line at <https://www.linncountyor.gov/assessor/page/online-tax-payments>. The site also features videos that explain the property tax system at <https://www.linncountyor.gov/assessor/page/property-tax-informational-videos>.

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Taxes can be paid on-line at <https://www.linncountyor.gov/assessor/page/online-tax-payments>.

The site also features videos that explain the property tax system at <https://www.linncountyor.gov/assessor/page/property-tax-informational-videos>.

Property Tax Payment Schedule

To avoid interest charges and receive any applicable discount choose one of the following payment schedules:

Full Payment: Receive a three percent (3%) discount on the current year, if paid in full by November 15. We accept postmark.

Two-thirds Payment: Receive a two percent (2%) discount on the current year, if the first two-thirds payments are made by Nov 15. Pay the final one-third balance by May 15.

One-third Payment: No discount allowed. Pay one-third by November 15. Pay a second one-third payment by February 18. Pay the final one-third balance by May 15.

Reminder: Notices are not sent for February or May payments.

Interest is charged on any past due installment for the schedule you choose. Statute determines the interest rate.

Property Owners with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the Linn County Assessor's Office at 541-

Burning season has arrived

Courtesy The New Era newspaper

The Linn County Fire Defense Board – representing the fire agencies of Albany Fire Department, Brownsville Rural Fire District, Halsey Fire, Harrisburg Fire & Rescue, Lebanon Fire District, Scio Fire District, Sweet Home Fire District and Tangent Fire District – announced the opening of burn season on Oct. 19.

The delay was necessary to ensure safety amid recent weather conditions. As burn season begins, residents are urged to stay informed and follow regulations to maintain a safe and responsible burning environment. Residents are reminded to adhere to Division 264 Rules for Open Burning. The following requirements must be met:

Before burning, call the Linn County Burn Line at 541-451-1904 or review the Willamette Valley Open Burning Announcement online at smkmgmt.com/burn.php to confirm daily restrictions.

- Never leave a fire unattended. Escaped fires can lead to dangerous wildfires in Oregon.
- Following Division 264 Rules for Open Burning does not exempt anyone from responsibility for any damages.
- To burn efficiently and minimize smoke pollution, follow these key tips:
- Burn dry firewood and yard debris; avoid wet materials.

- Stack firewood and yard waste loosely to ensure good air circulation.
- Re-stack or feed the fire regularly to prevent smoldering.
- Avoid using lighter fluid or other accelerants.
- Maintain safe distances from buildings, as required by city or county codes.

The LCFD Board urges residents to stay updated on any burn bans that may be enforced by a local fire agency.

Reminder: burning certain materials in Oregon is illegal. The following items cannot be burned:

- Asbestos
- Automotive parts
- Plastics and rubber products
- Waste oil and petroleum products
- Wet garbage and food waste
- Materials that create dense smoke or noxious odors

Residents are encouraged to consider alternatives to open burning to help keep the air clean:

- Recycle paper and other products when possible.
- Compost yard debris and kitchen scraps.
- Dispose of waste at an approved landfill or hazardous waste collection site.

For more information on regulations and safe practices, contact your local fire agency or call the Linn County Burn Line at 541-4511904.

Communicable disease nurse recognized for supporting local communities

Communicable disease nurse Rachel Powell, RN, received the Disease Intervention Specialist G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time) Award from the California Prevention Training Center in October 2024.

Powell was nominated for this award by her colleagues the Linn County Health Department in recognition of her leadership and ability to help build the DIS knowledge of their growing team. She is celebrated for her expertise in disease prevention and public health, often demonstrating how to integrate disease dynamics and epidemiology through collaborative infection prevention and intervention efforts with community members.



Rachel Powell, RN

Powell has been a nurse with the Communicable Disease team since January 2022. Initially unaware of public health during nursing school, she has since developed a strong passion for the mission of public health, particularly in patient education. She is dedicated to educating the community, especially underserved populations, in hopes of reducing disease transmission and destigmatizing certain diseases and infections. Outside of work, Rachel is a busy mom of two young children who enjoys baking and going on Disney trips with her family.

California Prevention Training Center seeks to build the capacity of health care professionals working in HIV, STIs, sexual and reproductive health, and emerging public health needs to deliver high-quality, respectful, and inclusive services.

Two vaccine events planned for November

The Linn County Communicable Disease team will host two vaccination clinics in November.

The first event will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1, at Colonia Paz, 500 Weldwood Drive, in Lebanon. The event is a partnership with Casa Latinos Unidos to provide immunizations for the Colonia Paz November celebration.

Services will include childhood vaccinations, adult vaccinations, limited covid and flu shots, and entering and printing of immunization records.

The second event will be from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, at the Lebanon Soup Kitchen, 170 E Grant St., in Lebanon. The event is a partnership with FACT and the Lebanon Soup Kitchen.

Services will include adult vaccinations, and covid and flu shots.

Outside of these events, immunizations can be scheduled with the immunization team via the Linn County website <https://www.linncountyor.gov/public-health/page/immunizations> or by calling Cassandra Aquilar, LPN, at 541-967-3888 option 7.



Goat Workshop

November 14
6:30pm - 8pm
Linn County Extension Office

LEARN:

- Goat Husbandry
- Raising a healthy goat

REGISTER AT:
<https://beav.es/G49>

Presenters:
Christy Pitts
Harmony Morris






OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs.

Happy Halloween!



General Services: Michelle Markson passes out candy to youngsters from the First Presbyterian Church pre-school Thursday morning.

Below — General Services: Mary Pendley (witch), Steve Daugherty (tourist), Russ Williams (batman), James Reed (YMCA), Emma Bagozzi (witch), Michelle Markson (witch) and Jesse Zamora (Michael Myers).



General Services: Batgirl was excited to meet Batman (Russ Williams).



General Services: Did someone say "witches"? Michelle Markson, Emma Bagozzi and Mary Pendley.



WIC Program: Serena Stearns-Garland, Brandy Tarr, Shelby Sayer-Cameron, Leah Brunson, Juana Lopez- Gonzalez, Mandi Funk and Cristal Ponce.

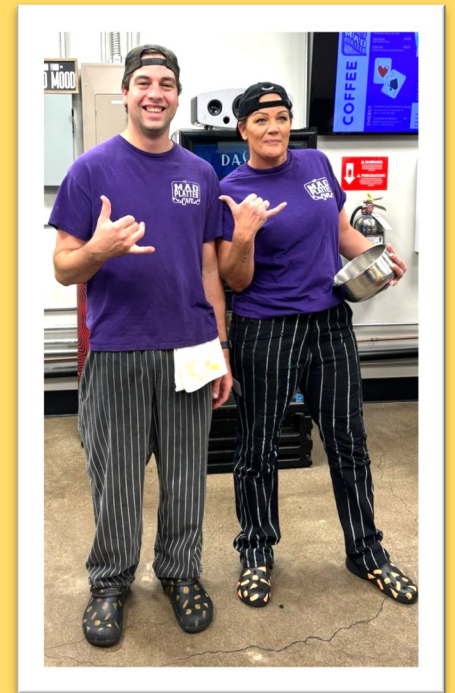


Treasurer's Office: Michelle Hawkins wears a colorful outfit from her recent mission trip to Africa and Breeanna Oxford celebrates the movie Hocus Pocus.

Happy Halloween!



Above — Assessment & Taxation Office: Anne Wright, Ed Barvosa, Cheryl Winstone, Heather Svensen, Heidi Tandy, Tammy Thompson, Lisa Vanderwood, and Mindy Cummings.



Above: Nate Mattson of the Mad Platter Café has a doppelganger in Alaire Bryan, Assessment & Taxation office.



OSU Extension-Linn County: Michele Webster, Jody Hill and Laurie Gibson got into the spirit of the holiday.

Right — Planning & Building: Office folks dressed up as building inspectors. Suzanne Hunt (as Rick Goff) Rick Goff; Jaci Cumpiano (as Damon Lambert) Damon Lambert; Frank Dewilde (in the horse head) Lexi Mitchell (as Frank Dewilde); Bobbi McDonald, Jenna Hoyt (as Bobbi McDonald); Megan Sharp (as Matt Mason) Matt Mason.



Left — District Attorney's Office — Front row: Landri Sassaman and Sophia Myrick. Back row Amy Guyer, Marci Mascarenas, Elisa Marvin, Kim Norris and Kim Sassaman.



Veterans Services: Dee Baley-Hyder and Jess Valenzuela.

Happy Halloween!



Alcohol and Drug: The good folks in the Alcohol and Drug Department dressed up as Alice in Wonderland characters. Row one: Summer Phelps, Dani Klein-Sekiya, Jamie Huebner and Kiela Hubler. Row two: Tashina Gordon, Kevin Ort, Sarah Solus, Desiree Velasco.



Meet The Things: Rhonda Nichols, Juvenile Department; Shannon Snair, Alcohol and Drug; Mindi Case, Juvenile Department; and Ashley LeFever, Alcohol and Drug.

Thanksgiving trivia questions and answers

By Sarah Lemire

TODAY

Thanksgiving Trivia Questions

- What process refers to soaking a turkey in a saltwater solution before cooking it? Answer: Brining
- On average, how many questions does the Butterball Turkey Talk-Line field from callers during the holiday season? Answer: 100,000
- What family does the pumpkin belong to? Answer: Cucurbitaceae
- What four ingredients go into making a basic pie crust? Answer: Flour, salt, water and butter/shortening
- According to Lending Tree, how many guests, on average, did Thanksgiving hosts expect to serve in 2023? Answer: 11
- In 1995, this popular Thanksgiving vegetable was the first to be grown in space. Answer: The potato
- With 15 Best in Show titles, what dog breed has had the most wins at the National Dog Show (which airs on Thanksgiving Day)? Answer: Wire Fox Terrier
- Around how many calories are in a half-cup serving of bread stuffing? Answer: 118
- In 2023, which state raised the most turkeys? Answer: Minnesota



- How many balloons were featured in the 2023 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade? Answer: 25
- According to a poll, what Thanksgiving side dish is the least popular among Americans? Answer: Green bean casserole
- According to Merriam-Webster, when was the term "Friendsgiving" first circulated? Answer: 2007
- Referred to as the "pumpkin capital" of the U.S., what town is home to the Libby's pumpkin canning plant? Answer: Morton, Illinois
- What year did "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" debut on television?

Answer: 1973

- According to Macy's, roughly how many people attend the attend the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York each year? Answer: 3.5 million
- How many pounds of glitter are sprinkled on Macy's Thanksgiving Parade floats and costumes? Answer: 300 pounds
- What movie holds the record for the highest-grossing weekend in Thanksgiving history? Answer: "Frozen 2"
- Are pumpkins technically a fruit or a vegetable? Answer: Fruit
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, how many places in the U.S. are named Cranberry? Answer: Five
- According to Guinness World Records, how much does the world's largest pumpkin pie weigh? Answer: Made in 2010, the record-breaking pie weighed 3,699 lbs.
- How many calories are in a typical holiday dinner? Answer: Approximately 3000
- How many minutes a day does the average American (15 and older) spend eating and drinking? Answer: 67 minutes

- What is an adult female turkey called? Answer: A hen
- What is an adult male turkey called? Answer: A tom
- What temperature should a turkey be cooked to for safe eating? Answer: 165 °F
- What holiday was the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade commemorating? Answer: Christmas
- What hurricane made landfall on Thanksgiving Day 2016? Answer: Hurricane Otto
- Which is the most popular day to shop during Thanksgiving weekend? Answer: Black Friday
- On Thanksgiving Day 1989, what weather event disrupted the Macy's parade? Answer: Snow. On Nov. 23, four inches of snow fell on the Big Apple, marking the first Thanksgiving Day storm in more than 50 years.
- Which retailer was the first to host a Thanksgiving Day parade? Answer: Gimbels. The department store hosted a Thanksgiving Day parade in Philadelphia in 1920, four years before Macy's held their first.
- Which U.S. president was the first to officially pardon a turkey? Answer: George H.W. Bush. In 1989, Bush "presented a Presidential pardon" to a "fine tom turkey" — and it's been an annual tradition ever since.



Workers, volunteers and Health Department staffers pause for a photo at recent migrant farm worker clinic.

Linn County partners to support farmworker health

By Dani Crabtree

For the Linn County Reporter

(Editor's Note: Dani Crabtree is the Tobacco Prevention Coordinator for the Linn County Health Promotions Team.)

The Willamette Valley has a rich history of agriculture and one of the largest agricultural workforces in the United States, led by over 40,000 permanent, seasonal, and migrant farmworkers in the mid-valley. Whether permanent, seasonal, or migrant, farmworkers have varying needs as they support Oregon's \$5.01 billion industry.

Recognizing this need, Casa Latinos Unidos organized a farmworkers clinic from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5, at Sandy Ridge Berry Farm in Linn County.

Doctors, nurses, staff, and volunteers from Linn County Public Health, CLU, Community Outreach, Inc., welcomed 27 farmworkers at the event. Four doctors from Samaritan and Community Outreach, Inc., which hosts free clinics in Corvallis and Lebanon, saw patients. General check-ups and osteopathic manipulation treatment, as well as blood pressure checks, temperature checks, oxygen level readings, blood sugar tests, and interpreter services were provided.

"It was an amazing experience, and I hope we can continue to provide services like these," said Rebecca Torres, Linn County Access to Care Coordinator. "The workers were so grateful. Some of these workers had never seen a medical provider before. While some discovered health concerns, others were put at ease with these health checks."

Casa Latinos Unidos is an organization committed to strengthening the Latinx communities in Linn and Benton counties through programs that support people in meeting basic needs, building resilience and capacity through education and leadership development, and celebrating cultures.

Upcoming events sponsored by CLU include a vaccination event from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1, at Colonia Paz, 500 Weldwood Drive, in Lebanon, as part of the Colonia Paz November Celebration. They will also host another farmworker health event at Colonia Paz in December and hope to offer similar farmworker clinics at area farms in the future.

Food Systems Coordinator Diego Nieto noted, "One person told me as he was leaving, 'I haven't been to a doctor in years. I can feel at ease about my health now.' That was all I needed to make it worth it."



LCSO dispatchers help 3 babies enter the world in September

In the life of a 911 dispatcher, few moments are as significant or fulfilling as the opportunity to assist in the delivery of a newborn child.

Statistically, only about 5% of dispatchers will experience the adrenaline-pumping chaos of guiding a mother through childbirth over the phone, yet these extraordinary moments happen when we least expect them. Believe it or not, in September, Linn County dispatchers assisted with the delivery of not one, but three babies.

On September 9, at approximately 1:39 a.m., dispatcher Kaitlyn Kuzma received a frantic call from a father who was pulled over on the side of the road in downtown Albany. His wife was in labor with twins, and they were racing to Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis — yet time was running out.

With one child already born, Kaitlyn sprang into action, utilizing her training and tools to guide the father through the delivery of baby number two. With her coaching, the second child entered the world safely and both babies were confirmed to be healthy by the Albany Fire Department. They transported the family to Albany General Hospital.

Just hours later, at 4:43 a.m. on the same day, dispatcher Skylar King answered another urgent call.

A 22-year-old mother was in her third trimester, with contractions just two minutes apart. Recognizing the urgency, Skylar quickly provided instructions to prepare for the imminent birth. Within three minutes, a new child was welcomed into the world, thanks to Skylar's expert guidance.

Upon arrival, Medic 34 from Lebanon Fire Department quickly assessed the situation and transported the mother and child to Lebanon Community Hospital.

On September 29, dispatcher Chelsea Peaslee received a call from a father whose 37-year-old wife was experiencing intense contractions just days before her due date. Chelsea calmly guided the father through the delivery process, her training shining through as she coached him on how to assist his wife.

Just moments later, he excitedly announced, "It's coming now, baby's out!"

Chelsea provided reassurance and congratulated the father as the sound of the newborn's first cry filled the air. The entire process took less than seven minutes, and when Medic 13 from Albany Fire Department arrived, they were greeted by the joyful cries of a new life. The family was then transported to Albany General Hospital.

"Congratulations to these amazing dispatchers, and to the families of the newborn babies," Sheriff Michele Duncan said. "We are honored to be able to be a part of helping ensure a happy, healthy, and safe delivery. These three dispatchers were awarded with Stork Pins, a symbol of their hard work and dedication in assisting with a birth over the phone."

Sheriff Duncan added, "It is an honor few dispatchers get bestowed upon them, and we are proud to have awarded three for September. Great job everyone."

Statistically, only about 5% of dispatchers will experience the adrenaline-pumping chaos of guiding a mother through childbirth over the phone, yet these extraordinary moments happen when we least expect them. Believe it or not, in September, Linn County dispatchers assisted with the delivery of not one, but three babies.

— Sheriff Duncan



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER ADULT SAR TECHNICIANS

The Linn County Sheriff's Office is currently accepting applications for Volunteer Search and Rescue (SAR) Technicians. Our Search and Rescue program is made largely of volunteers who are highly trained, motivated, and willing to be called out anytime day and night to search for missing persons and to rescue injured individuals.

The Linn County Sheriff's Office will train new volunteers. There is a strong youth component on the Linn County Search and Rescue team and applicants must be willing to work with and lead youth SAR members. Successful applicants must be willing to attend regular SAR trainings/meetings as well as have a strong commitment to respond to callouts, at times in inclement weather, when their schedule allows. SAR Technicians will be expected to provide the majority of their own gear.

We will host an open house at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center on November 6th, 2024 and January 8th, 2025 from 7 PM to 8:30 PM. Stop by to learn more about our program and apply!

SAR Technician Requirements:

- Complete ICS 100, 200, & 700 (available to do online through FEMA)
- Complete BLS CPR and First Aid (taught during the SAR Course)
- Must be able to attend and complete an 8-week adult SAR certification course
- Course Schedule: Every Wednesday night, 6:30pm-9pm, and every other Saturday, 8am - 4pm. Starting on 02/05/2025

Application Process:

Applicants must submit an application online. Applicants will need to complete an interview, SAR fitness test, and a background check. Applicants must have a valid drivers license. The Linn County Sheriff's Office has a zero-tolerance policy on Controlled Substance (drug use), that is not prescribed. Controlled substances include, but is not limited to, any controlled substance listed in Schedules I through V of the Federal Controlled Substance Act, including marijuana and psilocybin that is otherwise lawful to use under Oregon, Washington, or any other state's law.

Apply at <https://tinyurl.com/Zzua835u>

For questions regarding this program, the position of Volunteer SAR Technician, and/or any part of the process, please reach out to SAR Coordinator, Ric Lentz at 541-812-2274.



Apply here! →



Remember to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed Saturday night.

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

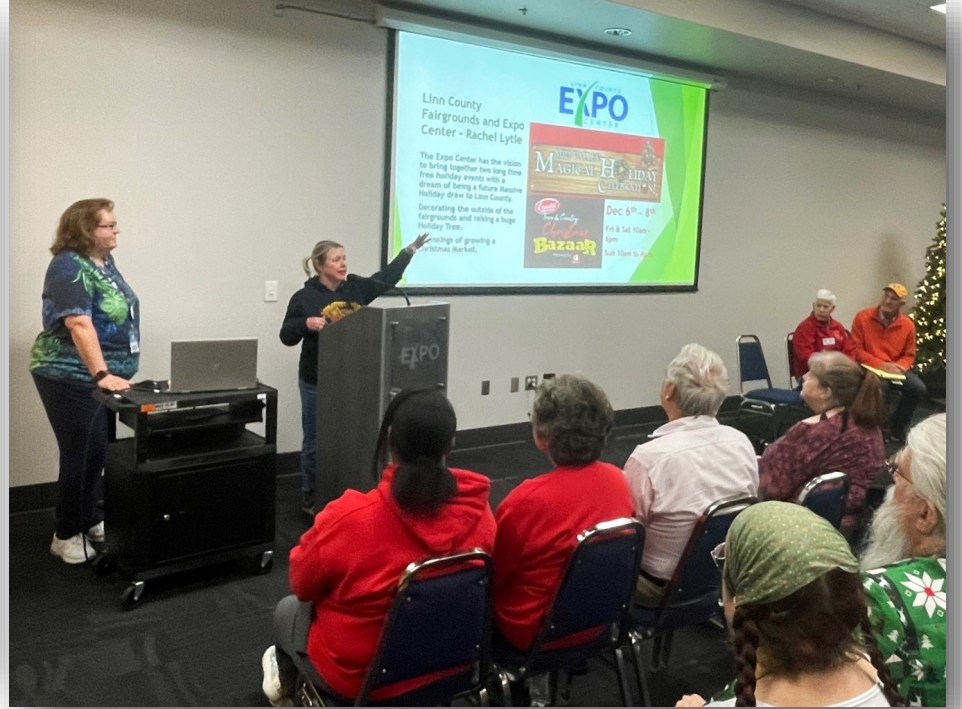


Happy retirement, Dina !

Staff from throughout Linn County offices dropped by the Commissioners Board Room Wednesday, Oct. 30, to wish Dina Dysinger good luck and lots of fun in retirement. Dina worked at Oregon State for several years before joining the Accounting Office in payroll. She plans to spoil her grandbabies and travel.



Above: Volunteers sign up for various jobs at the Mid-Valley Magical Holiday Celebration during a meeting Oct. 24 at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center. **Right:** Fair & Expo Center's Rachel Lytle talks about plans to light up areas of the fair site and enhance the experience coming up in November and December.



Pastega Christmas Lights ... From P. 1

In recent years, a more permanent solution was sought. That's where Scott Schuler, who has helped Linn County market the annual county fair, called Pastega suggesting the display move to the Fair & Expo Center and team up with Christmas Storybook Land. The excitement surrounding the new partnership was palpable at the volunteers' meeting. "It is exciting to have the display continue here in Linn County," Pastega said. "It's a new home with a positive attitude. We are really excited. This is such a beautiful fairground." The scenes will be set up inside Fair & Expo buildings, not outside. Christmas Storybook Land leaders said this year's event will require even more volunteers than usual.

Christine Morford said all volunteers under age 18 must complete a parental consent form. All volunteers are required to register and schedule their planned activities.

- The Coastal Farm and Ranch Town & Country Christmas Bazaar will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 6 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7. Admission is \$2, children 13 and under admitted free.
- The Mid-Valley Magical Holiday Celebration will run from Nov. 30 to Dec. 22. Hours will be: Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Monday through Friday, 4-8 p.m.

Special days will include:

- Seniors, special needs and veterans: December 2: 10 a.m. to 12-noon and 1-3 p.m.
- School tours: Dec. 3-6: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- Star Wars Day: Dec. 7: 12-4 p.m.
- Magic Friends Visit — Party Perfection Characters: Dec. 8 and 14: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To learn more about this year's event or to volunteer, visit: <https://christmasstorybookland.org/>.

ANNIVERSARY 48 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

LINN COUNTY EXPO'S

Christmas Pastega Storybook Land Lights!

MID-VALLEY MAGICAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION!

Nov 30th to Dec 22nd
Saturday - Sunday 10:00am - 8:00pm
Monday - Friday 4:00pm - 8:00pm
ChristmasStorybookLand.org

COME CELEBRATE the SEASON WITH US...

Coastal FARM & RANCH
 Town & Country
Christmas Bazaar
 Presented by GREGORY

ADMISSION \$2
 Kids 13 & under FREE

Dec 6th - 8th, 2024

Bazaar Hours:
Friday - Saturday 10:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday 10:00am - 4:00pm

Over 60,000sq.ft. of handmade items for you to discover

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