

Linn County Courthouse got some touch-up painting Wednesday morning.

What's happening in Linn County, Oregon June 2023



Snow plows are attached to a broad variety of Linn County Road Department vehicles, from pickups to road graders.

No two winters alike for Linn Co. Road Dept.

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

Except December 23 — which was an unusually nasty, icy day in Linn County — this past winter was fairly mild, according to Roadmaster Wayne Mink.

Except, for the first time in more than 15 years, the Road Department had to spend another \$45,000 to buy more magnesium chloride anti-icing materials. “We paid \$1 per gallon, just like we always do and we budgeted \$50,000,” Mink said. “But we had used that up by January.”

The Road Department used a total of 78,731 gallons. During the winter of 2021-22, the Road Department used 38,742 gallons.

The remaining gallons will be seed for next winter’s inventory.

Mink said magnesium chloride is not a de-icing agent, it is an anti-icing agent. It needs to be applied in troubled areas — steep inclines or curves or shaded



areas — before ice arrives and does not work effectively if applied before heavy rainfall.

“Moisture actually activates it, but it can’t be so much rain that it washes it

off into the ditch,” Mink said. Mink said knowing when to apply magnesium chloride is not scientific, but learned. “Our guys do a great job,” Mink said. “They know their roads, their trouble areas, and will apply it at night, or early mornings, or weekends. They keep their eyes out for fog or frost conditions.” Mink said the Scio and Sweet Home areas are especially monitored since they have higher elevations to deal with. Mink said the Oregon Department of Transportation now uses salt to de-ice road surfaces, but salt is corrosive on both road surfaces and vehicles. “Magnesium chloride comes with a rust inhibitor in it, so it is easier on our equipment,” Mink said. “It also balances the pH solution.” Linn County is also well positioned when it comes to snow plowing equipment, Mink said. Road staff recorded

ROADS ... See P. 12

Linn County’s Mobile Crisis Team is reaching out



Nova Sweet, who heads the Linn County Mental Health Crisis Response Team, shows off a new van that will be used for team outreach.

By Scott Swanson
The New Era

SWEET HOME — Law enforcement officers respond to a late-evening call concerning an individual who is undergoing mental health therapy and is feeling suicidal. The individual is not responding well. Family members are concerned. An officer makes a call, and shortly thereafter a van rolls up containing two members of the Linn County Mental Health Crisis Response Team. They take charge and, after a while the patient is back on track, avoiding a trip to the hospital.

Though the incident above is fictional, it is representative of many of the be-

havioral health crises Mental Health Crisis Response Team members handle throughout Linn County — often in person. Though the Crisis Response Team program is not new — it's existed for more than 30 years, it is undergoing changes that will make it more visible to the public — and more responsive, said Tanya Thompson, program manager and a previous team leader. She said that the federal and state governments have provided funding to boost the team's services "to support a more robust effort."

MOBILE CRISIS TEAM ... See P. 13



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

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Linn County Board of Commissioners



Roger Nyquist



Sherrie Sprenger



Will Tucker

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 541-704-3003 PIN 8442.

Call 541-967-3825



Cooperator of the Year award

Linn County Parks Director Stacey Whaley accepted the Cooperator's Award from David Neal, chairman of the Linn Soil & Water Conservation District May 8. Numerous times in recent years the Parks Department has assisted the Soil & Water Conservation District with its annual FFA soil judging contest that includes more than 200 students from numerous mid-valley high schools. District staff praised the Parks Department for the work that goes into digging practice and live-judging pits and for providing public restrooms and plenty of space to park buses at the annual events. Staff said the Parks Department's effort take a tremendous load off the process.



LCSO detective offers tips on securing your passwords

Now, more than ever, it is important to have a strong password to help protect your sensitive information online. Knowing this, we asked our very own Detective Aaron Sutherland for some information and tips when it comes to passwords and how to create strong ones. "Strong passwords are crucial for protecting your online accounts. 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. To further enhance your password security, make sure to use a different password for each of your online accounts. This way, if one password is compromised, your other accounts will still be safe. Additionally, consider using a password manager to generate and store your passwords securely. This can help

you manage multiple passwords without having to remember them all. Finally, be cautious of phishing scams and never share your password with anyone, including friends, family members, or coworkers"

-Detective Aaron Sutherland

We hope you are able to use this information that Detective Sutherland has shared to create a safer password to help protect your information online.

Thanks for reading the Linn County Reporter.

If you have a story idea, please call editor Alex Paul at 541-967-3825 or email apaul@co.linn.or.us.

Thank you!



Carriage Me Back to 1923 returns to Brownsville

By Vance Parrish
The Times

BROWNSVILLE — After last being held in 2019, the long-running Carriage Me Back event returned to Brownsville May 6-7. The main reason behind the cancellations was due to COVID-19 concerns for the older attendees that often patronize the event. The forecast for the weekend included periods of rain, which may partially explain why the event seemed to have a little less attendance in comparison to previous years. However, both rain and sunshine

were seen throughout the event. Speaking with several Brownsville business owners, they also seemed to feel the attendance was down. That being said, those in attendance seemed to really enjoy this year's skits. In particular, the visit to the snake oil salesman's stand (next to Carlson's Hardware) seemed to get quite a few laughs from the carriage riders. Other skits included a meeting with the new "general store" owner (Naïve Melody) on Spaulding Avenue. Also, lessons on ladies' etiquette and how to express frustration with

male scoundrels disparaging ladies (also at the Brownsville library). Another skit involved a visit with a "Civil War Veteran". There also was an impassioned plea to end mud in Brownsville by installing sidewalks. The skits and laughs continued at the Moyer House. (Carriage Me Back is a fundraising event for the Linn County Historical Museum and the Moyer House.) It was great to see this beloved event return after a lengthy hiatus and we look forward to seeing what the Brownsville characters of the past will be up to next year.



Harrisburg student designs problem gambling billboard

Harrisburg Middle School student, Olivia Noll, is one of five Linn County middle school students to receive recognition for their art in the 2022-23 Problem Gambling Art Search sponsored by Linn County Problem Gambling Prevention Program.

As the winner, Olivia's art is currently being utilized in a billboard campaign to raise awareness of problem gambling in Oregon. Her art is on three billboards throughout Linn County that encourage individuals that choose to gamble to set a time and money limit.

Olivia, 12 and in the sixth grade at Harrisburg Middle School, said she has been interested in art since she was nine-years-old. She likes water colors the best, but her billboard drawing was made with colored markers.

She said the scene depicts an ATM machine tempting a person with more money than wanted, which could lead to more gambling.

She said the concept, "Just came to me."

Olivia is the daughter of Bonnie and Robert Noll of rural Harrisburg. She has three siblings, Abe, 16, Carlie, 9, and Ava, 4.

In addition to art, she enjoys wrestling.

Although most adults who gamble do not develop a problem, in Oregon an estimated 2.6 percent of adults experience moderate or serious problems with gambling (Oregon Health Authority). Gambling becomes problematic when it continues despite personal, social, or financial consequences. For each person with a serious problem, many others may be affected (family, friends and community).

While many concerns exist, there is hope. Problem gambling can be prevented, and many resources are available for Oregon residents including prevention, intervention, and treatment resources. Visit OPGR.org for more information. In Oregon problem gambling treatment is free and confidential for individuals or their family members. Call: 1-877-MYLIMIT, text: 503-713-6000 or chat at OPGR.org.



Olivia Noll, Harrisburg Middle School student, and one of three billboards for which she provided artwork about problem gambling.

Many projects kept Parks staff busy over winter

By Alex Paul

Communications Officer

WATERLOO — There's no question that from May through September, Linn County Parks are buzzing with activity, everything from tent camping to riding paddle boards at Clear Lake. But after the camping crowds leave, the behind-the-scenes projects tackled by the Parks Department staff spring to life.



Tristan Davis
Operations Supervisor

Parks Operation Manager Tristan Davis said last winter's list of projects

was as long as ever, including adding an upscale yurt at Sunnyside County Park after a heavy snow load made it impractical to install two new yurts at Clear Lake Resort.

Davis said the yurt was placed at the end of the "A" row of camping slips, near the start of the "B" row.

This yurt is a little fancy and includes a heating/air conditioning unit, a refrigerator/freezer and microwave.

And, since campfires have caused some concerns during recent hot and dry summers, a fire pit is propane-fired for safety. There are also two decks, a water spigot and a picnic table. It is ADA accessible. Some weekends are still available for rental, but folks had better hurry, because bookings are filling up fast.

Davis said the county currently has three yurts at River Bend, six at Whitcomb Creek, one at Sunnyside, one at Clear Lake with two on deck and two in storage. "We got a really good deal before prices went up, so we bought a couple extra," Davis said.



A new yurt at Sunnyside County Park offers two decks, a propane-powered fire pit and air conditioning and heat. Yurts are becoming very popular throughout the Linn County Parks system.

Other key projects included finishing putting new siding and windows on three cabins at Clear Lake. Davis said the new siding looks like logs, but is made of low-maintenance materials. "It doesn't lose its color and all we have to do is hit it with a pressure washer to clean it up," Davis said. "Cedar siding is getting hard to find and is expensive." Staff are currently finishing up installation of a new pre-built concrete

restroom at Waterloo County Park and repairing the on-site drain field before July.

Paperwork is being reviewed for a new RV dump station in Sweet Home and a new handicapped access restroom and 4,000 feet of ADA approved sidewalk will be installed at Lewis Creek Day Use area.

This is the first project in the long-term revamping work at Lewis Creek. The public was involved in numerous meetings leading to a new Master Plan for the popular day-use area on the north side of Foster Reservoir. The Parks Department is working with the Linn County Road Department as it makes improvements on North River Road, which provides access to Lewis Creek Day Use Area. Davis said the plan includes providing off-round parking spaces so people who like to use the area for walking in the winter months have safe access on what can be a busy road.

Staff installed a new wooden deck on the Lewis Creek bridge.

Another cooperative project with the Road Department was removing a large hazard tree at Cascadia County Park.

Davis said the project required two weeks of planning and three or four days to complete.

Last Fall, the Parks staff found a large water leak at Sunnyside County Park and located it under a concrete sidewalk.

"We fixed that and at the same time, we replaced

some old water main valves," Davis said. Davis said that rebuilding the 50-year-old park's entire infrastructure system is at the top of a two-page list of capital maintenance items.

This summer, parks staff plan to install a yurt at River Bend Campground where a cabin had been planned.

"In the Fall, we hope to build a new cabin to replace Cabin 10 at Clear Lake," Davis said. "This won't be a public cabin, but it will be used to house staff."

Davis said although some jobs remain open, recruiting summer staff is in much better shape than a year ago at this time. He could really use a second cook at Clear Lake.

"We are seeing some good people this year," Davis said.



New enclosure for mailboxes near Cascadia County Park.



Testing for methane at new RV dump site in Sweet Home.

Juvenile Department gets \$101,114 wildfire reduction grant

ALBANY — The Linn County Juvenile Department has received a \$101,114 grant from the State Fire Marshal’s Office to support wildfire risk reduction programs.

The funds will be used to purchase a wood chipper, \$36,874 and a dump trailer, \$10,240 and to provide \$54,000 for stipends for young people who work on the trails crew.

“Rob Perkins put together this proposal after he and I discussed the possibility of using grant funds to purchase some needed equipment and pay youth minimum wage for working on these projects,” explained Juvenile Department Director Torri Lynn. “We already have a restitution program in which youth can earn money to pay restitution to their victims. This will give youth the opportunity to earn money to put in their own pocket.”

Lynn added, “We are pretty excited about getting this going and hopefully will be able to provide some summer employment opportunities for youth who have been referred to the department. These are the types of experiences we can give youth in our communities to help them gain valuable job experience and secure future employment.”

The Oregon State Fire Marshal’s office created a grant review committee that included representatives from the Fire Marshal’s Office, Oregon Department of Forestry, non-governmental organizations, fire service agencies, special districts, and emergency management.

Projects were prioritized based on the following:

- Impact in high-wildfire risk regions.
- Those in and around the built environment.
- Protecting people and communities.
- Providing defensible space and community resiliency.

Along with the committee’s work, the Fire Marshal’s Office prioritized geographically diverse projects to ensure all areas of the state can improve community wildfire risk reduction efforts and better prepare communities. There were 164 applications for 269 projects, totaling a requested \$44,543,521.

Fire Marshal Office staff said that as wildfires increase in size and scope, all areas of Oregon have and can be impacted by wildfire. It is important that every Oregonian and community prepare for wildfire risks. For training webinars and more resources, visit www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/Pages/Wildfire-Initiatives.aspx.



Reaching out for better health in Lebanon

LEBANON — Linn County Public Health WIC, Maternal Child Health and Health Promotion team joined together for the Sources of Strength Wellness Fair at the Boys and Girls Club in Lebanon May 24.

“We appreciated the opportunity to interact and educate our community members and collaborate with our community partners. Good weather, music, food, games and fun were shared by all,” said Serena Stearns-Garland, Registered Dietitian.

Pictured in photo above, left to right: Jessica Palmer, Linn County School Health Coordinator and Gayle Woodworth, Linn County Harm Reduction Coordinator

Pictured in bottom photo are, left to right: Serena Stearns-Garland, WIC Registered Dietitian, Maternal Child Health Team; Tania Bailey, Maternal Child Health Nurse; Chelsea Campbell, Maternal Child Health Nurse; Monica Boylan, Nursing Supervisor; Jessica Palmer, School Health Coordinator and Gayle Woodworth, Harm Reduction Team

Photos by Danielle Salazar, Health Promotions.

Cinco de Mayo

A taco feed is an annual tradition for staff of the Juvenile Department and this year was no exception, although it was held a couple days early due to scheduling issues.



OSU Extension — Linn County

Through the Garden Gate Garden Tour June 17

By Karen Magnuson
Committee Member

The Albany area is burgeoning with passionate gardeners and beautiful gardens.

You can see some of the best during the Linn County Master Gardeners 22nd annual "Through the Garden Gate" tour on Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We have six beautiful and varied gardens for you to explore this year. You will find that each garden is full of lush plantings and dozens of inspiring ideas. Bring your idea notebooks and your camera.

Sharing their gardens is a labor of love for these gracious homeowners. Each garden is a unique expression of the gardener's personalities and gardening styles. Some of our gardens are well established and some are newly planted, but all have much to offer from Asian inspired landscapes to burbling stock pond pools, raised bed veggie gardens to varied ornamental beds and patios of reclaimed bricks.

Tickets are \$15 and are available May 22 – June 16 at Albany Visitors Association, Urban Ag Supply and Peaceful Valley Farm & Garden Supply and on the day of the tour, June 17, downtown at the Albany Visitors Association, 110 SE 3rd St.

For more garden tour information check out www.LinnMasterGardeners.com.

The ticket brochure includes garden information, addresses and driving directions. A tour map is also available. Proceeds from the tour support the outreach and education work of the Linn County Master Gardeners Association and our continued collaboration with the Oregon State University Extension Service.



Photo by K. Magnuson



Photo by Samantha Fox



Photo by K. Magnuson

Food Safety & Security Includes Ways to Reduce Food Waste

By Jennie Gilbert
Linn & Benton Food Security
& Safety Program Assistant

Americans waste an average of one pound of food per person per day. When you add that up, food waste is a big expense we can do without.

The Food Safety & Security Team has started building a curriculum to help our communities think about and reduce food waste in their homes. The best way to start reducing food waste in your home is to plan ahead.

Things to think about to reduce food waste:

- Make a menu and plan meals and snacks.
- Prep lunches and breakfasts for the week.
- Make a shopping list that includes ingredients for meals and snacks but try to use what you already have in your pantry and freezer.
- Read labels and know the difference between best by and expiration dates.
- Store food correctly so that it does not spoil as quickly.
- Use leftovers for lunches or new



dinners.

- Preserve leftovers, fruits, and vegetables for later use.
- Tips for using waste (vegetable and fruit trimmings, meat bones and trimmings):
- When cutting and trimming vegetables for stir fry, soups, or other dishes, save the peelings, ends, and pieces in a freezer bag. Include onion ends and peels for a rich flavor. Put bag in the freezer to use later to flavor broths.
- You can boil down chicken and turkey bones/carcass with veg-

etable trimmings for a flavorful and healthy soup base or broth. Just strain bones and trimmings and add favorite seasonings and spices.

- Overripe bananas can be cut up and frozen for later use in smoothies, breads, or dehydrated for fruit leather. Bury the skins by your rose bushes and tomato plants for an excellent fertilizer.
- Outdated or stale bread can be cubed and dried in the oven for croutons. They are delicious on soups and salads.

In addition to freezing, a canner and an inexpensive food dehydrator are great tools to help reduce food waste. You can catch those unused fruits and vegetables before they become waste and make snacks, ground or dried spices, pickles, and preserves. The possibilities are endless. If you have a garden, these are also the best ways to preserve your bounty for future use.

For more information on food preservation and reducing your food waste at home check out: eatsmartwasteless.com
catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/topic/nutrition-and-foods/food-

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

Budget Committee OKs \$229 million 2023-'24 budget

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — After four daily meetings, the Linn County Budget Committee approved a proposed 2023-24 budget of \$229,270,552 Thursday morning at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

Budget Committee members include community volunteers Jennifer Stanaway, chair; Kerry Johnson, vice-chair; and Mellissa Barnard and Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker.

Stanaway, who has chaired the committee for many years, said that although the work is time-consuming, “I really enjoy the process every year, largely because everyone works together so well.”

Commissioner Nyquist thanked county staff and elected officials for working together year-round and being fiscally conservative with Linn County residents in mind.

Although approved by the Budget Committee, the budget will still need to be adopted by the Board of Commissioners before July 1 to be official.

The following fund levels were approved:

General Fund, \$52,054,069; **Road Fund**, \$31,814,204; **Fair Fund**, \$686,600; **Law Library**, \$360,651; **General Grants Fund**, \$31,515,265; **Bicycle and Pedestrian Fund**, \$408,468; **Corner Preservation Fund**, \$413,645; **Law Enforcement Levy**, \$44,140,211; **Historical Fund**, \$37,497; **County Forest Park Fund**, \$923,500; **Health Fund**, \$62,315,292; **County School Fund**, \$1,966,100; **Federal Forest Title III/Restricted Fund**, \$420,000; **Internal Service Fund**, \$2,215,050. **Total**: \$229,270,552.

The permanent tax rate was set at \$1.2736 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Law Enforcement Levy will be



Diana Denham and Todd Noble present the Health Department's proposed budget.

\$2.98 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

Will Summers brought three proposals from the Board of Compensation, that were approved by the committee.

They include adjusting the salaries of the Elected Officials based on the same Cost of Living Adjustments as the management staff adjustments; increasing the salary schedule of the Treasurer/Budget Officer to that of other elected officials, such as the County Clerk and Commissioners; adjusting the Sheriff's salary to include all incentive pay for which she is qualified. State statute requires that the sheriff be the highest paid member of the office.

A major capital project approved by the committee will be \$500,000 to purchase and install a new HVAC system for the courthouse.

Another capital improvement will include purchasing 3,000 plastic chairs and 400 cloth-covered chairs to replace 25-year-old units at the Fair & Expo Center. Total cost: \$265,000.

Other information gathered during the meetings included:

- New Parks Director Stacy



Chief Deputy Clerk Marcie Richey presents the Clerk's Office proposed budget.

Whaley said the drawdown of the water level at Green Peter Reservoir this summer and in ensuing summers will affect parks revenue, but the Parks Department is going to bid on managing all of the U.S. Forest Service campgrounds in the Willamette National Forest as a possible revenue source replacement. Linn County already manages several Forest Service campgrounds near Cascadia.

- The Linn County Sheriff's Office handled 4,341 cases last year and dispatchers fielded more than 62,000 calls. More than 2,900 inmates were booked and processed. The LCSO hired 29 new staff members, but there are still 18 vacancies. Total employment is 193.
- The Sheriff's Office has reinitiated a GED program that was put on hold during COVID-19 pandemic, increased the Chaplain's Service and is working closely with the Alcohol & Drug Department to assist inmates.
- The cost of new service vehicles is up about \$10,000 each, which adds up when 10 or more are needed at a time.
- The Clerk's Office is seeing a decrease in revenue for property recordings as interest rates have gone up and home sales have slowed.
- Due to the type of winter

weather the mid-valley experienced the Road Department used far more anti-icing materials than planned.

- The Health Department has seen a major increase in behavioral issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in addition to the Crisis Team, a new Mobile Crisis Team is being put together. Mental Health assistance will be available 24/7. More than 3,027 people are enrolled in the county's Mental Health program. Public Health assisted more than 19,000 people last year.
- All but one Deputy District Attorney is responsible for a homicide case and the number of drug overdoses are escalating.

Also on Thursday, the 4-H/Extension Service District Budget Committee approved a 2023-24 budget of \$1,006,097 and a tax rate of 7 cents per \$1,000 of property valuation.

Although Linn County owns the building in Tangent in which the Extension Service is housed, Oregon State has leased space for \$83,000 per year, which the county used to pay for the building. Now, that money may be used in part for continuing maintenance and/or boosting 4-H/Extension programs.

Several months ago, a vehicle smashed into the Extension Service side of the building (the Sheriff's Office shares space in the building) and repairs are estimated to cost about \$60,000. Insurance is expected to cover that expense.



Roadmaster Wayne Mink, left, and Surveyor Tom Casey talk during a Budget Hearing break.

Thanks, Dr. Muth; welcome Dr. Brady

ALBANY — Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist and Sherrie Sprenger thanked Dr. William Muth for his nearly 14 years of service as the county's Health Officer, Tuesday morning. Commissioner Will Tucker is on vacation.

Dr. Muth — who specialized in infectious diseases with Samaritan Health Services — has retired and his successor, Dr. Adam Brady — who also specializes in infectious diseases — was introduced.

Dr. Muth participated in Tuesday's meeting by phone.

"It's difficult to convey our gratitude over the phone," Board Chair Roger Nyquist said. "I am grateful personally and from a county perspective for your guidance over the years and especially through COVID-19. You often told us things we didn't want to hear, but that we needed to hear. And you did it without political spin."

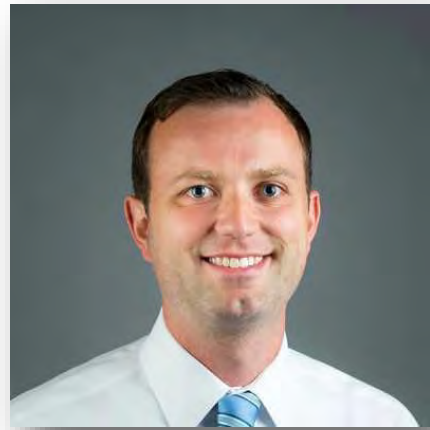
Nyquist praised Dr. Muth's support of the county's mass COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs that he said likely saved lives locally.

"You were absolutely the right person at the right time," Nyquist said. Commissioner Sprenger said she took office as the pandemic was waning, but she also appreciates Dr. Muth's professionalism and leadership.

Dr. Muth thanked the commissioners and had high praise for his successor.



Dr. William Muth



Dr. Adam Brady

Dr. Brady completed his undergraduate degree at Oregon State, his medical education at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, his internship and residency at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center and a fellowship at the Oregon Health Sciences University School of Medicine.

According to his profile on the Samaritan Health Sciences website, Dr. Brady enjoys playing sports, gardening, traveling and attending Oregon State University athletic events.

'Learn While You Earn' phlebotomy training program begins here

Samaritan Health Services

CORVALLIS — The lack of affordable housing in many of Samaritan's communities is

one factor that makes it difficult to fill some entry-level positions. Recognizing this challenge, the Talent Acquisition Department is launching a unique training program to entice workers to a vital but sometimes difficult position to fill: phlebotomist.

Beginning on Monday, April 24, phlebotomy job openings are being posted with a note that no experience is needed and that all required training to become a registered phlebotomist will be paid for by Samaritan after a successful hiring process.

With a "learn while you earn" model, it is hoped that local residents considering a health care career will take advantage of this opportunity. Both internal and external applicants are encouraged.

"This training can cost anywhere from \$3,000 to \$5,000 so this is a valuable

incentive," said Dallas Hull, manager of the Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital laboratory. "Our hope is to recruit from the local population, eliminating one obstacle to hiring — newly hired employees relocating from out of the area who are then unable to find a home in their new community."

Phlebotomy in-

volves drawing blood from the patient for testing in the medical laboratory. This is an important tool for diagnosing many medical conditions. Those who are newly hired for the position will travel to Beaverton for nine hours of training over three days, followed by the registration examination. This will be done without cost to the new hires, who will be paid for their time and also be reimbursed for mileage.

"We're hopeful that this training program will bring many good candidates to our team," Hull said.



National Day of Prayer



Several dozen people gathered at the flag pole in front of the Linn County Courthouse on May 4 to take part in the National Day of Prayer. The group prayed for our nation and for its leaders, both local, state and national. Every president since 1952 has signed a proclamation for a National Day of Prayer.



Celebrating 9th birthday in style

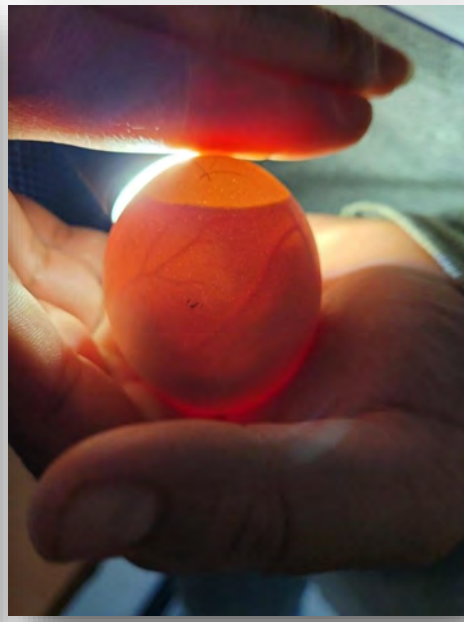
Recently, the Linn County Sheriff's Office had the opportunity to give 9-year-old Gabriel a ride home from school in our SWAT BearCat.

Gabriel's family won this opportunity at a recent auction held by the Albany Boys and Girls Club, where the LCSO donated the opportunity to help raise funds for this great organization!

Gabriel was joined along for the ride with friends Timothy, Austin, Bou and mom as well.

Gabriel and his friends were all smiles and we had a great time helping them celebrate his birthday.

We truly enjoyed the opportunity to help Gabriel celebrate his birthday.



A big thank you to Jenks Hatchery

The Linn County Juvenile Department received 36 fertilized chicken eggs a few weeks ago, a variety that included Barred rock, Rhode Island Red, and Blue Sapphire. Three of our youth were chosen to learn how to care for the eggs and lead groups of their peers on the developmental stages and incubator process. They've done an awesome job and are seeing the rewards of their hard work as all the chicks are starting to hatch.



Sheriff's Office takes part in mass casualty Search & Rescue exercise

By Matthew Kincade

For the Linn County Reporter

On Saturday, April 22, Linn County Search and Rescue (SAR) participated in a mass casualty exercise that Lane County Search and Rescue organized. The training incident had 50 patients scattered over the roadway and down a steep embankment. The training tested a variety of skill sets ranging from incident management, communication, medical triage, and technical rope rescue. This training was an excellent opportunity for multiple agencies to come together and work through a complex incident. The Linn County Sheriff's Office would like to thank Lane County Search and Rescue, Lowell Rural Fire Protection District, Dexter Rural Fire Protection District, and all the volunteers who acted as role players.



It is training opportunities like this that help make our SAR group one of the best in the state! We truly take pride in knowing that if someone in Linn County needs them, our SAR group will be there to provide the best service possible!



Early prep makes for a fun, safe boating season

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

SWEET HOME — Boating season has arrived in the mid-valley and soon, local waterways will be filled with all kinds of watercraft — from kayaks and paddleboards to fishing boats to high-speed ski boats. Linn County Marine Patrol Deputy Dan Graybill reminds everyone they can enjoy the area's plentiful water resources, if we all follow some simple boating courtesy guidelines.

And, Graybill emphasizes, that means being prepared well before you pull up to one of the many boat ramps on our reservoirs and rivers.

"Number one, make sure your boat maintenance is done before you launch at a ramp," Graybill said.

Tempers can get short on a busy weekend day, when someone ties up valuable dock space trying to get their boat to run properly.

All items needed for your outing should be in the boat and operational.

Long before you launch your boat, make sure the engine has been tuned up and runs properly, that the carburetor's spark arrestor is clean of debris and oil or gas and there are plenty of personal flotation devices and they fit accordingly for every person who will be in the boat.

It makes no sense having an extra-large life jacket for a 2-year-old passenger and vice versa.

Also, make sure the drain plug is in and that your boat's bilge pump and engine



Linn County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Deputy Dan Graybill and summer intern Aero Franklin from Western Oregon University, place marker buoys at Foster Reservoir.

exhaust fans are operational.

Have the boat tie-down straps off or ready to be take off easily and of course, make sure you have adequate working fire extinguishers on hand — check their expiration dates at home not at the ramp.

Graybill says anyone who can't afford a life jacket for children, should call him at the Linn County Sheriff's Office 541-967-3950.

"The courtesy docks are for people getting on and off boats," Graybill said. "Please let passengers off on the dock and then move your boat out into the water to wait for your trailer

to arrive. It will greatly decrease congestion at the ramp area."

Graybill, who has been a Marine Deputy six years, reminds boat operators they can have alcohol in their watercraft, but just like driving an automobile, the operator cannot be intoxicated.

And just like with automobiles, put down your cell phone when operating a watercraft.

And, he adds, with boat ramp access at Green Peter Reservoir expected to be lost by mid-July, the number of boats on Foster Reservoir could be

high so operators will need to be especially careful and have heightened awareness of others around them. He said that river flows are expected to be higher, faster and colder than usual, so extra caution is advised there as well. Graybill says he has the best job in Linn County.

He said everyone can enjoy the mid-valley's beautiful water sources, especially if they are "nice to each other."

To learn more, visit the Oregon State Marine Board website at: <https://www.oregon.gov/osmb/pages/index.aspx>.



Ag Fest helpers

Linn County 4-H Ambassadors served breakfast at Ag Fest in late April. This group of teens did an excellent job.

Ambassadors are 4-H members in grades 7 to 12 who have at least one year of 4-H experience. Participants attend monthly meetings to develop their leadership and communication skills, as well as serve as leaders for the county program.



Boating preparedness — Oregon State Marine Board

- **Wearable Life Jackets**
 - Sailboats less than 16 feet in length and all paddle craft (canoes, kayaks, stand up paddleboards, etc.) need to carry properly-fitting, U.S. Coast Guard -approved wearable life jacket(s) for each person on board and the life jacket must be readily accessible. All children 12 and younger are required to wear a life jacket.
 - Sailboats 16 feet and over must also carry one, Type IV throwable cushion.
 - **Sound Devices**
 - A boat less than 39 feet 4 inches (or 12 meters) long, must carry a whistle or a compressed air horn. It's easy to attach a whistle to a life jacket. Both are required equipment.
 - **Navigation Lights**
 - Required only when underway or at anchor between sunset and sunrise, and during periods of restricted visibility.
 - **Waterway Access Permit (boats 10' and longer, including sail between 10'-11'9")**
 - A waterway access permit is required on boats 10' long and longer, and sailboats between 10' and 11'. One permit per boat. Permits are transferrable to other non-motorized boats and children 13 and younger are exempt.
 - **Check the weather beforehand**
 - Warm, sunny days are ideal for boating, but you can't always predict when a storm will roll in. Varying gusts of wind and choppy water are signs of an approaching storm. And even if it's a warm spring day, the water could instead reflect winter temperatures. In the event that your boat capsizes or you and your passengers get wet, make sure you have a plan to seek help and get dry.
 - **Don't overload the boat with people or equipment**
 - Always follow your boat's capacity restriction. Overloading your boat with passengers or equipment can unbalance your craft.
 - **Check for harmful fumes**
- After refueling your boat, open all the vents and check for fumes. Do not start your boat's engine until all fumes are cleared.

Daily variety a plus for Parks Department's John Hefty

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

WATERLOO — When John Hefty reports to work each morning at the Linn County Parks operations office in Waterloo, he never knows what's on tap for the day.

And that's how he likes it. "My wife will ask me what's up for the day and I tell her I have no idea," Hefty said with a laugh. "It can be a little bit of everything and that keeps it very interesting."

Hefty, 58, has worked for the Parks Department since 1996, but admits retirement isn't far off.

Born in Wisconsin, but reared primarily in Alaska, Hefty gravitated to working with his hands at a young age.

"I was surrounded by working people," Hefty said. "My dad was a heavy diesel mechanic and we had family members who did a little bit of everything. I guess I'm mostly a fabricator. I like to weld and make stuff."

In fact, over the years Hefty's ability to melt steel has resulted in construction of many park gates and dozens of fire rings.

"We figured out one time that I could build fire rings for about half the price of buying them," Hefty said.

Hefty brought many varied work skills to his Linn County job.

He graduated from high school in Alaska and spent a few years working in the Prudhoe Bay area, tackling everything from road maintenance and septic systems to equipment maintenance.

When the economy got soft in Alaska,



Above: John Hefty, the longest tenured member of the Linn County Parks crew, says he enjoys the great variety of jobs he does every day. Hefty joined the Parks Department staff in 1996. **Below:** Hefty talks with Adam Brenneman and Tristan Davis, as they line out a day's projects.

"I could hunt and fish without all of the snow in Alaska," he said. He purchased a home on 54th Street in Sweet Home even before he and Sally

married and they still live there. They reared their two children, Joe and Christa there. The family now includes grandchildren Henry and Jamie, who live in Lebanon. He worked for McQueen until

the slump in the timber industry and also worked for Burt Hotchkiss, who owned a private golf course near Holley. Hefty worked at the pellet mill near Brownsville for a few years and after his wife took a job with Linn County at the Lewis Creek entry booth, he learned about the Parks Staff opening. "It's changed, but it's still pretty much the same type of work," Hefty said.



"When I started, there was a finish carpenter and equipment operator in addition to me." Hefty said he has worked for four operations supervisors and three Parks Directors. "What hasn't changed, no matter what, is how much pride everyone takes in our jobs and in our parks and it shows," Hefty said. "People appreciate the quality and they keep coming back

year-after-year." Hefty said he is eyeing retirement, possibly next year, but he still enjoys coming to work. "I'm probably going to buy a motor home and Sally and I are going to do a little traveling for a while," Hefty said. "Then, we've got plenty to do around our place and maybe I'll pick up a little work here and there."

QUOTABLE

"What hasn't changed, no matter what, is how much pride everyone takes in our jobs ..."

— John Hefty

he moved to Arizona but didn't like the hot weather and then California where he worked in the construction industry. When his father, David, moved to California, they started a repair shop near a car lot and that's where John met his future wife, Sally, who was friends with the car lot owner. Friends with Mike McQueen from Sweet Home, Hefty visited the area over the 4th of July and fell in love with its beauty.

Native Encampments 2023

Linn County Parks

- June 23-25: Roaring River County Park
- July 28-30: Waterloo County Park
- August 25-27: Cascadia County Park

Free and open to the public!





Above: For the first time in 15 years, the Linn County Road Department bought an additional \$45,000 worth of magnesium chloride (anti-icer) which is stored at the Lebanon shop. Right: Lots of snow plowing at higher elevations.



ROAD DEPARTMENT ... From P. 1

"We have snow plows or attachments on just about everything, from pickups to road graders," Mink said. "And, we have done a lot of cross-training."

Mink said he doesn't want operators working more than 12-hour shifts, preferable 10 hours or less.

Mink said staff from the vegetation unit, to the bridge crew and traffic control are trained to operate snow plows.

"We have a very good group and they know what to do," Mink said.

2022-23 Road Department highlights:

- Completed more than 68 miles of road improvements with chip sealing, overlays and reconstruction.
- Repairs made on 25 small bridges.
- Capital projects total \$4.9 million.
- The Road Department is responsible for 1,117 miles of county roads and 49 miles of local access road.
- The Road Department maintains 335 bridges.
- The Road Department striped 963 miles of yellow centerline, 628 miles of white edge-line and 614 pre-marks such as sidewalks, arrows and stop bars.
- There were 1,181 total sign replacements with a cost of \$31,170.



Linn County Roadmaster Wayne Mink.

See you at the Linn County Fair!

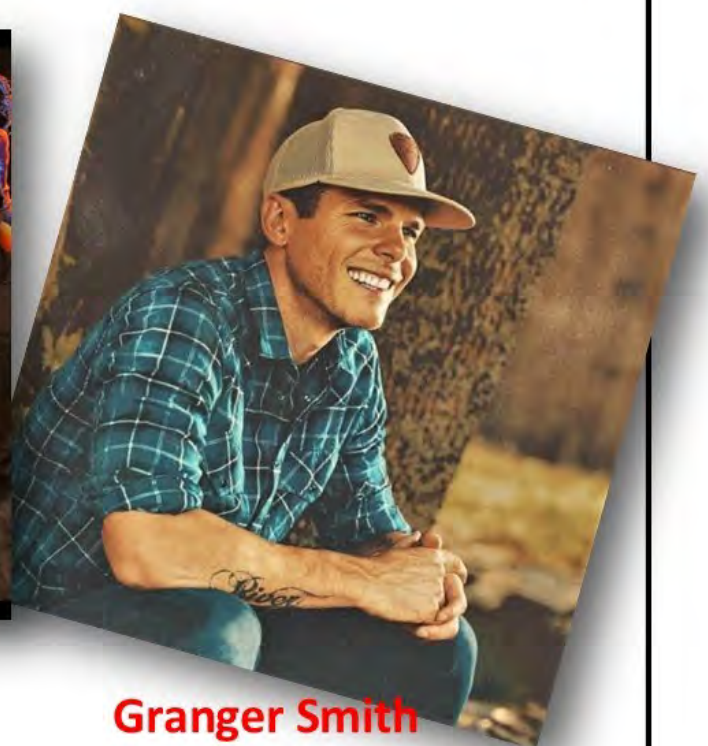
July 13 — 14 — 15



Clint Black
July 13



Smash Mouth
July 14



Granger Smith
July 15

Carnival — 4-H/FFA Fair — Family Land — live music!

www.linncountyfair.com



Sharing nutrition facts with LBCC students

WIC Training Supervisor Serena Stearns-Garland, RDN, LD, was invited to present a nutrition program for the Linn-Benton Community College health and wellness classes. She said she appreciated the "opportunity to share up-to-date and evidence-based information with the students." And share a photo op, too.



MOBILE CRISIS TEAM ... From P. 1

Previously, the team would respond to the three area emergency rooms, jails and its own walk-in clinic in Albany, but now it has wheels.

That would be a brand new mobile van that will soon be wrapped with the county's logo and other identification and will become a mobile office "so people will actually be able to recognize us in the community," said Nova Sweet, who has led the team for the last year and a half and has been with county Mental Health for six years.

What's also new is that the team can now respond to police calls outside of business hours, she said.

"Seven days a week, from 8:30 to midnight, in teams of two. It used to be that we stopped doing that at 5 and we wouldn't do it on weekends. But now we're set up to do it till midnight, seven days a week."

Sweet, who's led the team for the past year and a half, said they typically hit the road three to 10 times a week in east county to visit individuals who need help.

"That's us going into the community and reaching out to pre-planned visits with folks or to a call that is happening that day," she said.

"All of the law enforcement agencies have access to our pager number (234/7/365), which we can respond to in person until midnight," Sweet said. She added they can use direct email to provide a "heads up, can you do outreach?" type of requests as well.

"We go to the area shelters regularly to just be present," Sweet said. "Just so folks that live there can start recognizing our faces, we can build relationships and they will feel comfortable coming up to use to chat about things."

For approximately the past year, the team has made regular visits to both Sweet Home and Lebanon in an effort to provide "preventative" mental health care – which means working in advance to build relationships that allow team members to respond more effectively when things go south, Sweet and Thompson said.

"All the law enforcement agencies have access to our pager number up until midnight," Sweet said, adding that there's also "our direct email that can put a 'heads up, can you do outreach?' kind of thing."

Team members regularly visit Sweet Home's FACS homeless shelter and show up at the Lebanon Soup Kitchen at the First Christian Church or at the breakfast served three times a week at St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

"We go there once a week or as needed," Sweet said, adding that they're working on getting a "space" set up at the free lunch "so people can start understanding why we are there. It's been kind of awkward, just walking in and people don't really know who you are, or why you are there."

In the year ending April 30, the team responded to 1,437 situations requiring

"mobile" services and saw 768 unique clients (many clients require multiple interactions). About half were in the Albany area, but 23% were in east Linn County areas, and 15% were at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis, accord-

ing to county data. The other 15% were in undefined areas.

Sean Morgan, community services officer for the Sweet Home Police Department, is a regular visitor to the FAC shelter and interacts frequently with its clients.

Having the response team is helpful when a situation requires more expertise than a police officer can provide, he said.

"Sometimes callers report that somebody's having issues. Officers respond and do the best they can, but oftentimes we need mental health professionals," he said.

And on a more regular basis, "outreach workers check in here, look for folks they should reach out to, try to see if they're willing to engage."

Dick Knowles of Sweet Home, who chairs the Linn County Mental Health Advisory Board, of which he's been a member for more than 20 years, said that a mobile response "has been needed for a long time."

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," said Knowles, who's been a member of the advisory group for 20-plus years and was a longtime administrator in psychiatric care facilities in the Bay Area of California.

He said that having locations, such as the Soup Kitchen or the homeless camp, gives the team a chance to focus their efforts.

"We're all new at this," he said. "But if things transpire the way we hope, this will provide a place for people to go, those who are homeless or in some type of desperate situation, where they can find help in crisis."

Another advantage of the outreach, he said, is "wherever you go in the community, there's someone who knows you and when you really get in trouble, somebody's going to help."

Those with whom the team is connecting now are "just the tip of the iceberg," Knowles cautioned.

"From my perspective, it's 'thumbs up, go for it.' We've needed this for a long time."

Sweet said dealing with mental health situations often requires an extended process.

"I think the challenge for all of us is that people have free will and sometimes the people that we really want to help don't want help. And so that tugs on all our heartstrings, so you do the best you can – you keep re-engaging."

"There's just some folks that either we can't step in and take away their legal rights, because they are not yet to the point of imminent dangerousness."

Morgan said establishing relationships takes time.

"Sometimes they're working with some of the harder cases who have the most difficulty engaging services," he said. "They reach out and build trust, build a relationship over time. I know they've engaged with folks who are really trying to make things work and that's sometimes an onramp for them."

Team members also regularly respond to hospitals when patients report they are "feeling suicidal or homicidal", or they can't take care of themselves," Sweet said.

In addition to the unplanned or scheduled visits with individuals, the team makes "way more mobile visits when you add in hospital calls," Sweet said.

"Our regular responses to the hospitals is when there's somebody suicidal, homicidal, or can't take care of themselves. We provide a consult service to the area hospitals by facilitating a risk assessment with recommendations. This determines next steps, which are typically a higher level of care or discharge home with a safety plan," Sweet said.

"We are consistently getting phone calls about people of concern, in these situations we walk families and/or concerned community members through the steps to file a two-party petition, which then starts the process of an investigation. We also educate people on what services are available in this area," Sweet said. "That's kind of our gamut."

Samaritan Health's hospitals in Albany and Lebanon both have emergency rooms equipped to handle mental health crises, but the nearest inpatient psych unit is at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis.

Sweet said people who are struggling with mental issues will typically go to the emergency departments, then be transferred to Good Sam or to Eugene,

Salem or Portland.

She said she "loves" Lebanon's emergency wing, completed in 2018, which includes three rooms specially designed for mental patients, where they can stay until they can be transferred to a psychiatric unit.

The rooms "on the quieter side of the emergency department, all have locking doors on a quiet hall. They can have cameras and all that good stuff," Sweet said.

Thompson, a 25-year veteran of the Linn County Health Department, said psychiatric care is in short supply in Oregon.

"There is a shortage of higher-level-of-care site beds," she said. "That's something that I know we're trying to communicate to both Samaritan and the state. Because what happens is there's a logjam, like in the emergency rooms and in our communities."

Another challenge is keeping their department adequately staffed, the two said.

"One of the bigger struggles we're dealing with is workforce," Thompson said, noting that as interaction with other agencies increases, so does demand for the program's services.

Although the department includes staff with all levels of education, outreach teams must include at least one member with a Master's Degree, known as a qualified mental health professional (QMPH).

Currently, the entire team has 19 people, including Sweet. The daytime team has 11 members and the after-hours team has eight members, of which four are on the daytime team.

"Somebody who has 20 years of experience and, maybe, not a Bachelor's Degree, can help us as a qualified mental health associate (QMHA), which is a lot, a lot of our work. I would say that anybody who has any sort of mental health background, education or experience, should try and apply," she said.

It's a challenge, Thompson said.

"We've seen the increase of intakes and referrals, connections from the crisis team for ongoing services with people. So with a workforce where we can't get those clinicians in place – again, we want to serve them, ongoing. And we're doing the best we can and many of them are getting in much better than they would if they were in the private sector. But it is a struggle."

"For those folks who are struggling, suicidal, but might have to wait four weeks to see a therapist, we're just seeing them every week," Sweet added. "We're just, like, 'We'll take care of it.' And our team really thinks outside the box; whatever we can do to make sure somebody's getting their needs met. We're doing it."

County Mental Health workers also schedule regular appointments in both Sweet Home, at 799 Long St., and in Lebanon at 1600 S. Main St. Information on eligibility, resources and options is available by calling 541-967-3866 (press 0), or at the walk-in clinic at 445 3rd Ave. SW in Albany.

QUOTABLE

"We try to go to the shelters or we do go to the shelters regularly and just be present. Just the folks that live there, they start recognizing our faces, and come up to us and chat about things."

— Nova Sweet



Talking about Linn County Parks

New Linn County Parks & Recreation Director Stacey Whaley was the guest speaker at the monthly Cookies and Conversation get-together on May 23. Whaley said the parks team had a busy winter and is gearing up for another busy summer.

Many opportunities to serve on Linn County committees

ALBANY — Do you have an interest in improving our Linn County Parks?

Or increasing health care opportunities for Linn County's 130,000 residents?

Or having a say in how the annual Linn County Fair operates?

There is a committee or commission for that. And volunteers are always needed.

In fact, Linn County has more than two dozen committees and commissions that assist staff members in doing their jobs and making long-term plans for their departments and the county's operations.

Service periods vary and some committees meet monthly, such as the Planning Commission, while others may only meet annually, such as the Budget Committee.

"I think it is important to give as many Linn County citizens the opportunity to serve on the various committees as possible," said Linn County Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger. "We have folks who have served for decades and I am grateful for their dedication to our county. We are always looking for the next generation of volunteers that will lead our amazing county into the future."

Anyone interested in learning more about any or all of the committees and commissions should call the Board of Commissioners office at 541-967-3825.

Linn County Committees and Commissions

ALCOHOL & DRUG PLANNING COMMITTEE:

The Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee shall serve to insure the orderly development of needed services in the area of alcohol and other drugs in Linn County by performing the following functions: 1) To act in an advisory capacity to the Linn County Board of Commissioners in the development and operations of services to prevent and treat alcohol and drug dependency problems; 2) To coordinate planning for local programs dealing with prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of alcohol and other drug problems; 3) to review and comment on applications for local, state, and federal funds for local alcohol and drug programs; and 4) To develop the alcohol and drug services portion of the Linn County Biennial Implementation Plan for Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug, and Problem Gambling Services, when required by the state, and subject to the review of the Board of Commissioners. Term: 3 years. Meets the 3rd Wednesday in Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept and Nov.

AMBULANCE SERVICE AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The Committee is composed of nine members – eight (8) professionals and one (1) public member. The purposes of the Committee include: 1) to ensure the best quality of delivery of the most efficient and effective pre-hospital emergency care possible with the available resources; 2) to reduce needless attention by state regulatory agencies to problems that can be resolved locally; 3) to increase local awareness of potential problems that may exist; and 4) to increase the awareness of ambulance medical directors regarding area concerns and activities. Term: 2 years. Meets the 3rd Thursday at 1:00 p.m. each Quarter.

BOARD OF PROPERTY TAX APPEALS:

The Board of Property Tax Appeals hears petitions for the reduction of the value of property placed on the roll by the County Assessor. The Board also considers requests to waive penalties assessed for the late filings of property returns. Term: 1 year. Convenes first Monday in February of each year.

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

The Committee reviews and approves the county budget, limits the amount of tax which may be levied by the county and establishes a tentative maximum for total permissible expenditures for each fund. Term: 3 years. Meets in April and/or as needed.

COMMUNITY SERVICES CONSORTIUM (LINN, BENTON AND LINCOLN COUNTIES):

COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY COUNCIL:

The purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide recommendation to the CSC Governing Board on services, contracts, program design, content, and budget of Consortium approaches to addressing the needs of low-income persons and to the alleviation of conditions leading to poverty. Its area of jurisdiction shall be Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties. Term: 3 years.

COMPENSATION BOARD:

In accordance to ORS 204.112, the purpose of the Compensation Board is to annually recommend a compensation schedule for the County elective officers. The Board annually reviews the compensation paid to persons comparably employed by the State of Oregon, local public bodies and private businesses within a labor market deemed appropriate by the board for each elective officer. Term: 3 years. Meets in March and as needed.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD:

The Board shall consist of nine (9) persons. The purpose of the Board shall be to advise the Linn County Board of Commissioners and the Linn County Department of Health Services regarding the county's developmental disability related activities, programs and policies. Term: 3 years. Meets the second Tuesday of each month.

4-H AND EXTENSION SERVICE DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE:

The Committee reviews and approves the 4-H and Extension Service District Budget. Terms: 3 years. Meets in March and May and/or as needed. Term: 3 years

FAIR BOARD:

The Board is primarily a policy-making group involved with the annual Linn County Fair. The Board provides budget and policy recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on all issues and activities regarding the Linn County Fair. Term: 3 years.

HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:

The council advises the Board of Commissioners and the Linn County Department of Health Services of activities, programs, and policies of the County Department of Health Ser-

vices, Public Health and Environmental Health programs. With concurrence of the Board of Commissioners, the council advises the State Health Division and the Oregon Legislature on public and environmental health related legislation, activities, programs, and policies. The council provides a citizen perspective and identifies unmet public and environmental health needs of county residents. Term: 3 years. Meets bi-monthly.

HISTORIC RESOURCE COMMISSION (HRC):

The HRC conducts public meetings and implements the Linn County Historic Preservation Program. The HRC: 1) Maintains the Linn County Inventory of Historic Resources and the Linn County Register of Historic Resources; 2) Takes action to include a potential historic resource on or to remove a listed resource from the Historic Register; 3) Reviews permit applications for alterations to or demolition of historic resources; 4) Reviews land use actions that may impact an historic resource; 5) Makes recommendations on National Register and State Historic resource nominations; and 6) Works to increase public awareness and appreciation of historic resources. Term: 3 years. Meets: Quarterly.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMISSION:

The commission advises the Linn County Parks & Recreation Director on matters relating to the operation, maintenance, promotion and development of the Linn County Historical Museum and the Moyer House. The commission, through the Parks & Recreation Director, also advises the Linn County Board of Commissioners on matters relating to the Linn County Historical Museum and Moyer House. The Linn County Board of Commissioners establishes all major policies governing the Historical Museum and Moyer House. Term: 3 years. Meets the 2nd Monday every other month at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum.

LINN-BENTON HOUSING AUTHORITY:

The authority was created by the Boards of Commissioners of Linn and Benton Counties to provide a vehicle for accessing federal low-income housing program funds to provide the opportunity for decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing to lower income families residing or wishing to reside in the two counties. In addition to the federally funded programs administered by the authority, they have endeavored to develop other local programs to help meet the additional low-income housing needs of our area. Term: 4 years.

LINN LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The Linn Local Advisory Committee (LLAC) will ensure that the integrated health care needs of all Linn County residents and their community are effectively and efficiently addressed. The LLAC will parallel, in structure, function and membership the established InterCommunity Health Network (IHN-CCO) regional Community Advisory Council (CAC). Term: 3 years; Meets monthly.

LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL:

The purpose of the

Council is to: 1) promote public safety and reduce crime; 2) assist the Oregon Department of Corrections by and through its Linn County Parole and Probation Office in the development of the Linn County Community Correction Plan which ensures accountability, responsibility, consequences and respect for both the adult and juvenile justice systems; and 3) to encourage effective, coordinated, and balanced approaches to the prevention of crime, the reduction of recidivism and the creation of safe communities in Linn County. Term: 2 years.

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD:

The Board shall consist of up to fifteen (15) members. The purpose of the Board shall be to advise the Linn County Board of Commissioners and the Linn County Department of Health Services of the county's mental health related activities, programs and policies. Term: 3 years. Meets every other month on the 4th Tuesday.

NOXIOUS WEED ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The committee researches areas within Linn County to address the issue of noxious weeds and provide guidance and recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. Term: 3 years. Meets quarterly.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION:

The commission assists and advises the Linn County Parks & Recreation Director in the planning and operation of the county's Parks and Recreation Program. The Linn County Board of Commissioners establishes all major policies governing the Parks and Recreation Program. Term: 4 years. Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday every other month beginning in January (meets as needed during the summer months).

PLANNING COMMISSION:

The Commission holds public meetings and reviews land use planning issues on the second Tuesday of each month. The Commission conducts public hearings and makes decisions on land use applications such as conditional use permits and variances and makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding Comprehensive Plan and Development Code map and text amendments and other land use policies. Term: 4 years. Typically meets once per month.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

To assist the Board of Commissioners in critical planning and implementation in solid waste management. First priority shall be given to those areas assigned by the Board and otherwise to recycling and refuse and matters related to those fields. Term: 3 years. Meets 4th Tuesday in May.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The Transportation Advisory Committee advises the Linn County Board of Commissioners regarding public transportation activities, programs, policies and allocation of funds. This includes transportation services provided by public agencies, as well as, non-profit organizations which receive public funds for transportation operations and capital. Term: 3 years. Meets a minimum of twice a year and as needed.