



Bottle tagging — Don't buy alcohol for minors!

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Dave Worthington, manager of the 7-11 mini market at 222 Main Street in Albany recently took time away from power washing the parking lot of his shop to tell Julie Mercer of Linn To-

bad choices in life down the road.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reports youth who start drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or abuse later in life than those who begin drinking at or after age 21.

Mercer said Linn Together volunteers place tags on alcohol bottles and cans ever other week. The labels read, "If they can't buy it, don't supply it. Preventing underage drinking is everyone's responsibility." A QR code takes the reader to the "Top 10 reasons at linntogether.org."

On this visit, Mercer is joined by Angie Jansen, addictions recovery team coordinator with the Department of Human Services. The two joke that Jansen is one of the fastest volunteer labelers, but she says she will slow down "so the photos won't get blurred." Mercer says Michael Mattingly of the Linn County Sheriff's Office can give Jansen a run for her money in terms of tagging speed.

Jansen said in her work with young people and their families, she finds that adults have a difficult time giving up



Angie Jansen of the Department of Human Services tags bottles of wine at the 7-11 mini market on Main Street in Albany.



Volunteers Angie Duncan and Mecha Larson from the Mid-Willamette Valley YMCA recently helped punch holes in 2,000 bottle tags.

gether that he strongly supports a "Bottle Tagging" program that asks adults to not buy alcohol for underage minors. Worthington said he hopes the program continues to expand. It ties in well with an educational program for his staff members.

"We need to do more," Worthington said. "The more kids see the labels, the more they realize they should not do this."

Worthington said cheating — having someone buy liquor for them — is a bad precedent that can lead to making a lot of

alcohol.

"Alcohol and fentanyl are the two hardest for parents to give up," she said. She said that more and more studies show that alcohol use can lead to many

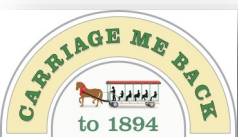
health problems such as cancer.

Linn Together works with about 80 volunteer point-of-sale locations throughout

BOTTLE TAGGING ... See P. 4

Carriage Me Back May 4-5 in Brownsville

BROWNSVILLE — On May 4 and 5 the ever-popular annual fundraiser for the Linn County Historical Museum in Brownsville will return with historic and sometimes hilarious scenes from 1894.



"Join us for a rollicking good time looking back at the highs and the lows of

the gilded age in America, Oregon and Brownsville," said Museum staffer Barbara Andersen. "For the upper classes this was a time of great prosperity and glamour, for the underclasses this was an age of hardship and loss."

Brownsville is growing up with new businesses opening and North Brownsville set to consolidate with Brownsville, originally on the south



Hop on a wagon pulled by an antique tractor this weekend in Brownsville.

side of the river. There are two hotels and the train comes through twice daily.

Spirits are high, but a recession is coming.

Hop on the 20-seat wagon and

cruise around town to learn more about 1894 before being dropped off

CARRIAGE ME BACK ... See P. 3



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Call 541-967-3825

If it's made of wood, Jerry Williams can make it, or mend it

By Alex Paul
Communications Officer

CASCADIA — For someone with a gregarious personality, Jerry Williams spends a lot of time along working in a small workshop at Cascadia County Park.

Williams, 77, spent most of his career working with or managing lots of people in Oregon and California.

In recent years, Williams has devoted about 20 hours a week building or fixing furniture for anything and everything needed by the Linn County Parks & Recreation Department.

For example, on a recent day, his workshop was filled with two decorative wooden pillars that will be installed at the historic Moyer House — part of the Linn County Museum — in Brownsville; a large bookcase, screen doors for Clear Lake Resort and a futon for some of county's popular yurts.

"I guess my love of woodworking started when I was in junior high and high school in Medford," Williams said. Working in his uncle's cabinet shop taught him to be very picky about his work.

"I had to correct the sanding of parts when there were cross grain scratches," Williams said. "If something wasn't right, I got to do it over again."

Williams worked for Montgomery Ward in both Klamath Falls and Jantzen Beach and then supervised insulation crews for a pole building company in Clackamas.

He made a big change in his career as a manager of a bread company in San Fernando, California, that included supplying a major thrift store and 10 routes. Semi-retirement brought him to the mid-valley. One of his sons lived in Bremerton, Washington and his parents lived in southern Oregon.

His involvement with Linn County Parks started when he and his wife, Candace, became camp hosts at Sunnyside County Campground on Foster Reservoir.



New "glamping tent" framework.

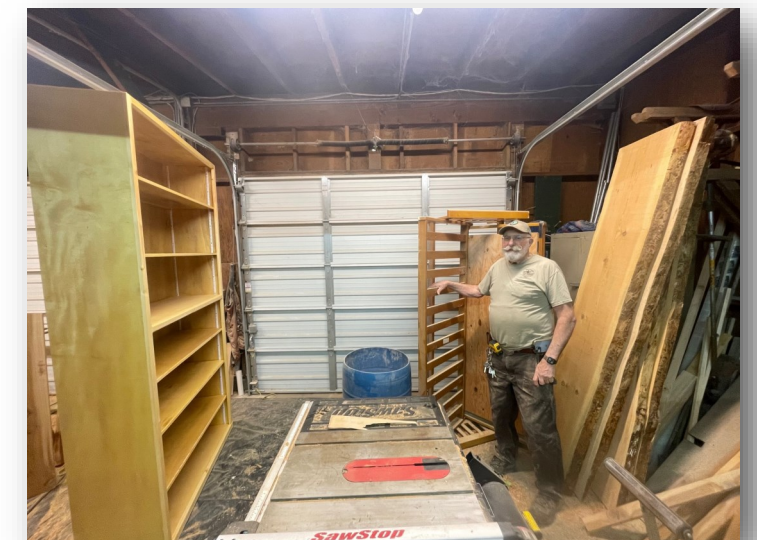
Now, they live in a large RV at River Bend County Campground. It might be easier to talk about what kinds of projects Williams doesn't do, than those he tackles on a regular basis. He has built secure information and



Above: Jerry Williams is proud of two wooden pillars he made recently for the historic Moyer House in Brownsville. **Below:** a sampling of Williams' work.

registration kiosks at several parks and furniture of all types and sizes, from bunk beds to small tables to hold microwave ovens or refrigerators in yurts. He even hand-makes rustic picture frames.

He has helped install the new cement board log-style siding on Clear Lake cabins and is especially proud of the new tables and counter tops he made out of wooden slabs from a danger tree felled at Cascadia County Park. He said Tristan Davis milled the thick slabs that feature a "live edge" — bark — were deep sanded and covered with a thick two-stage epoxy coating.



He calls it a "bar top" finish that highlights the beauty of the wood.

In addition to his hands-on work, Williams also enjoys planning and determining materials needed for the county's yurts and for a new offering, a "glamping" tent that will be set up this year.

He also helps assemble yurts.

"I pre-finished and prepared some of the parts, estimating and purchasing materials for those parts. I also figured out parts needed for the yurts railing and benches when I installed them," Williams said. "I built the framework

for the deck cover on the first yurt built at Riverbend and the railing and step up to the deck. I built the railing and benches on the second and third yurts at Riverbend."

He helped install the laminate flooring in those yurts as well as the finishing, installation and purchase of the molding installed around the edges of the flooring.

Williams said he enjoys woodworking because he can see "something tangible" at the end of a day.

He also enjoys new challenges. For example, the two wooden columns he made for the Moyer House, required turning on a large lathe. He jobbed that out to a company in Eugene.

And he doesn't just do woodworking, he helps pour concrete and even stripes parking areas when needed.

Williams and his wife have been married 59 years and have three grown children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

When he isn't working, he and his wife enjoy visiting family members, attending football games, fishing and traveling around the United States.

Williams will be 77 in November, but has no immediate plans to slow down.

"It's healthier to stay busy," Williams said, adding that although he works alone much of the time, he "never feels lonely."

What's up with Linn County buying buildings?

The issue:

Why is Linn County purchasing two office buildings in Albany?

Answer:

There are two key reasons:

1) Some departments in the Courthouse — such as the District Attorney's Office — are extremely overcrowded and even more staff is needed according to District Attorney Doug Marteeny.

2) Linn County provides space to the State for the Circuit Court. There is an office on the first floor, a jury room in the basement, an administrative office on the third floor, five courtrooms and private offices for judges and their staff. For some time, there has been a concern that increased security measures should be initiated.

But, there also is a concern that Linn County residents who want to conduct business at the Courthouse, say at the second-floor Clerk's Office, with the Planning & Building Department, or with the Board of Commissioners, should not have to pass through metal detectors.

A committee has worked on this issue for several years.

Recently, Linn County purchased the Wheelhouse Building at 421 Water Avenue. It encompasses 24,000 square feet and will provide much needed space for several Linn County offices/departments.

The county is in the "due diligence" phase of purchasing an 11,000 square foot building known as the Seventh Street Medical Building behind Samaritan Albany General Hospital. If purchased, this space will be remodeled and staff, currently in the Courthouse Annex (a building north of the Courthouse) will move there and be used for Health Services functions.

Between the two buildings, offices and departments will be moved, freeing up space in the Courthouse for an enlarged District Attorney's Office and implementation of a single-entrance to the Courthouse with security measures such as metal detectors to meet the Court's needs.

Proposals:

Linn County has looked at several potential solutions to the issues including developing a "Justice Center" a separate building near the Linn County Sheriff's Office, but that was cost prohibitive.

An addition at the current Courthouse that would allow a separate, secured entrance to access the District Attorney's Office, as well as the third-floor courtrooms/offices.

The State offered \$16 million toward the cost of new courtrooms, but the money came with strings



The county-owned Wheelhouse on Water Avenue, above, and below, the Seventh Street Medical Building that will be used for Public Health programs, if the county makes a purchase after its due diligence period.



attached — the money could not be used for an "addition", it can only be used for a "new" building and would only cover 50% of construction for the court facilities.

Linn County also looked at a former church building as a Public Health addition, but zoning was an issue.

Linn County had about \$15 million available in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that could be combined with those funds, but as courthouse addition could cost \$60 million because there are numerous requirements for building new courtrooms. There are many rules about how court facilities are constructed.

Where did the money come from?

Linn County residents will not see an increase in their tax load. The Board of Commissioners and department heads have been frugal in how they have spent ARPA funds from the federal government.

Linn County is paying for both

buildings with ARPA funds. No bond issue, nor additional taxes are needed to accomplish the goals.

What will go in the new proposed buildings?

Several county functions and offices will be relocated. A final determination will be approved by the Board of Commissioners and a final decision will soon be made regarding the purchase of the Seventh Street Medical Building.

Carriage Me Back ... From P. 1

inside. This year the wagon will be drawn by an antique tractor while a new horse is being trained to help pull the wagon next year.

Tickets are \$15 for those ages 12 and older, \$5 for those under 12 and you can reserve the whole wagon for \$225. Tickets can be purchased at the Museum (101 Park Ave. in Brownsville) or reserved by calling 541-466-3390.

"We strongly recommend reservations as the wagons fill up fast," Andersen said. "All proceeds go to the support of the Museum and Moyer House events and programs.

For more information, call the Linn County Historical Museum at 541-466-3390.



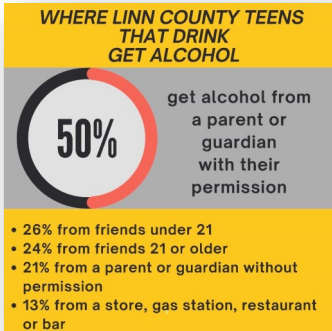
The Linn County Historical Museum and Moyer House are maintained and operated by the Linn County Parks & Recreation Department.

BOTTLE TAGGING

From Page 1

In addition to the bottle tags, decals with similar verbiage are placed on coolers that hold alcohol, Mercer said.

Mercer, an Alcohol Prevention Specialist with Linn County Alcohol & Drug, said bottle tagging dates back many years to the days of the



Linn Together Coalition. It was rekindled by Linn Together in 2022.

“We are very happy with the store participation level,” Mercer said. “We almost never get a ‘no’ response.”

Mercer said she and other volunteers try to make visitations every other week. Her goal is to get into each participating store in the county at least twice a year.

“She said the program ties in nicely with the Responsible Sales Trainings offered by Linn County Alcohol and Drug. The trainings are for employees of Linn County alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana retailers. Employees learn how to identify fake ID’s and get the latest information on Oregon laws regarding sales of age-restricted products.”

10 Reasons to Prevent Underage Drinking

Preventing underage drinking is everyone’s responsibility. Youth who drink are more likely to experience:

- School problems, such as higher rates of absences or lower grades
- Social problems, such as fighting or lack of participation in youth activities
- Physical problems, such as hangovers or illnesses
- Unwanted, unplanned, and unprotected sexual activity
- Physical and sexual violence
- Increased risk of suicide and homicide
- Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes and other unintentional injuries, such as burns, falls, or drowning
- Memory problems
- Misuse of other substances
- Changes in brain development that may have life-long effects
- In addition, early initiation of drinking is associated with the development of an alcohol use disorder later in life.



Dave Worthington, manager of the 7-11 mini market on Main Street in Albany, talks with Julie Mercer of Linn County Alcohol & Drug.



Participating stores ...

Albany

- 7-11, 300 Queen Ave SE
- 7-11, 222 Main St SE
- 7-11, 1815 Queen Ave SE
- 7-11, 333 34th Ave SE
- 7-11, 6190 Pacific Hwy SW
- Albany Food Market, 3135 Santiam Hwy
- ARCO AM/PM, 33200 SE HWY 34
- Center Market, 4050 Old Salem Rd NE
- Circle K, 36685 Hwy 99E
- Cottonwoods Market, 35867 Know Butte Rd
- Dari Mart, 1005 w Queen Ave
- Dari Mart, 105 Clover Ridge Rd
- Fast Break Market, 1203 Century Dr NE
- Geary St Market, 2805 Geary St
- GPS Market, 1655 Queen Ave SW
- HWY 34 Market, 33166 Hwy 34 SE
- Jack’s Truck Stop (Hwy 20 Truck Stop), 4196 Santiam Hwy SE
- Stop and Save, 423 SW 2nd
- Tri Valley Food Mart 628 Ellsworth Ave
- Tri Valley Food Market 2703 Santiam HWY SE
- US Market, 2211 Waverly Dr
- West Albany Towne Pump, 522 Pacific Blvd SW
- Stop n Save, 1737 Salem Ave SE
- Tom Tom Deli & Market, 321 Airport RD

- U.S. Market, 1709 Hill St
- U.S. Market, 1012 34th Ave SE

Brownsville

- Jery’s Gas & Food Mart, 203 E Bishop Way

Halsey

- 7 Star Convenience Store, 360 W 2nd St
- Halsey Shell, 32980 Hwy 228
- Pioneer Villa Truck Stop, 33180 Hwy 228

Harrisburg

- American Market, 103 S 3rd
- EZ Stop Market & Deli, 190 N 3rd St
- Harrisburg Station Eagle Mart, 309 N 3rd St
- Harrisburg Liquor, 230 N 3rd St #102

Lebanon

- 7-Eleven, 1490 Main St
- 7th Street Mart, 590 Tangent St
- Crowfoot Grocery, 115 Central Ave
- Chevron Food Mart, 805 Park St
- Everyone’s Market, 1225 E Grant St.
- Lacomb Grocery, 34076 E Lacomb Rd
- Lacomb Station, 41494 Lacomb Dr.

- Knot Hole Market, 2412 S Santiam Hwy
- Lebanon Market, 1695 S Main St
- Oregon Mini Mart, 2684 S Santiam Hwy
- US Mini Mart, 290 W Oak St
- US Mini Mart, 2010 Stoltz Hill Rd
- River Park Market, N. Main St

Mill City

- 7-Star Conv. Store, 829 SW 1st
- 7-Eleven, 200 NW Santiam Blvd
- Stop n Save, 250 NW 9th Ave

Scio

- Stop N Save, 38777 N Main St
- West Scio Grocery & Deli, 38152 Jefferson-Scio Dr.

Sweet Home

- Speedee Mart, 1601 Main St.
- 7-Eleven, 2405 Hwy 20
- Foster Lake Market, 5401 Hwy 20
- Hilltop Market, 4824 Hwy 20
- Main St Market, 1810 Main St.
- Main St Market, 1306 Main St.
- Speedee Mart, 1501 Main St.
- US Mini Mart, 890 Main St.
- Midway Market, 3239 Hwy 20

Ready! Set! Plant!



New Beginnings Garden

<https://new-beginnings-garden.myshopify.com/>

Parking lot sale:

**Thursday,
May 9
10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Linn-Benton

Juvenile

Detention Center

4400 Lochner
Road SE, Albany



Assorted colors, 4" flowers ... \$3

Please check website periodically as other plants become ready, more will be posted to Shopify."



12" hanging flower baskets ... \$30

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



OSU Extension Service



Adulting 101 program was a smash hit!

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

TANGENT — When Cassi Hyde talks about the recently completed Adulting 101 program sponsored by Linn

County 4-H, her face breaks out into a huge smile.

She admits it was as much fun for her as the more than 20 young people from all corners of the county.

“Andrea Leao and I were talking one day and we wanted to do something

special,” Hyde said. “It came down to, let’s just do it.”

Hyde, 24, is a part-time 4-H/Extension staff member and will complete her degree in ag science at OSU this summer. She has known since she was in grade

school that she wanted a career in teaching. So Adulting 101 fit her skills to a T. She grew up in the Scio area and was a member of the Santiam Wranglers 4-H Club and Scio FFA. She enjoyed showing pigs, goats and cows at the Linn County Fair, but admits pigs are her favorite.

The project was almost too successful, Hyde said.

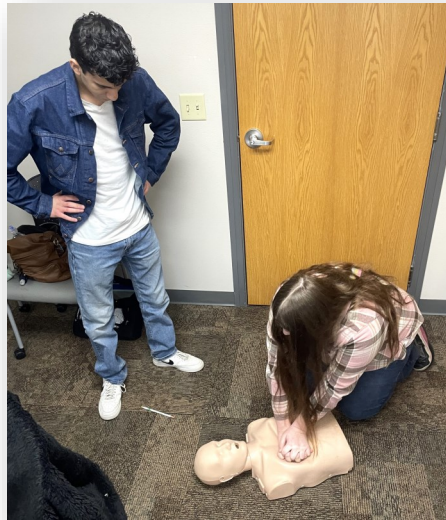
“Once word got out on social media, there were like 800 shares and we knew we could only service so many kids,” she said. “This was open to all high school age kids and they didn’t have to be involved with 4-H.”

Cost was \$50 for 4-H club members and \$75 for non-members.

Classes lasted from 2 to 2 1/2 hours and met once a week at the 4-H/Extension office in Tangent.

“It worked out perfectly,” Hyde said. “We are still getting lots of productive feedback.”

Hyde said that due to the program’s popularity, there will likely be two ses-



CPR class

sions next winter.

This year’s program ran from January 31 to March 20.

Hyde said she and Leao jotted down ideas for class topics on a white board with the theme, “What do kids need to know?”

“We talked with other staff members and with our 4-H Ambassadors,” she said. “We knew we would need partnerships with community members.”

The first session was resume’ building and the final session was a mock job interview.

“The kids really enjoyed the mock interview session,” Hyde said. “They were beaming afterwards. They really enjoyed meeting new people. Several kids stayed late after the last session to just talk.”

Although all of the sessions were well received, she

said the kids especially liked the “hands on” trainings such as CPR and personal safety. They also enjoyed the food safety and nutrition information.

Hyde said student ages and schools were spread out.

“We had one session on how to do home maintenance such as plunging a toilet and fire extinguisher safety,” Hyde said. “We even had them draw up an emergency plan for their individual homes.”

Hyde said she hopes to expand the Youth Mental Health session next year.

“I’m so excited about this program,” Hyde said. “I’ve had other 4-H folks reach out and ask how we did it. It really is a great program.”

Hyde said she also appreciated partnering with Lane County 4-H on the project.



Self defense class



Auto repair and fix it class.



Food safety class.

OSU Extension Service Linn County Presents:

“Adulting 101”

This class focuses on teaching high school aged students skills that will help them as they transition into adulthood!

Class topics include:

- Resume Building
- Budgeting Basics
- Mental Health Wellness
- Self-Defense
- CPR/First Aid Training
- Food Safety/Preservation/Nutrition
- Basic Car and House Maintenance

This workshop series is open to high school students in Linn County (grades 9-12).

This is an 8 session series that starts January 31st and ends March 20th.

Location: 33630 McFarland Rd, Tangent, OR 97389

The dates are: 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 3/2, 3/13, and 3/20.

All class times are from 6-9:30pm with the exception of our two Saturday classes.


Registration is \$50 for Linn County 4-H members, \$75 for non-members.

Register at: <https://beav.es/q85>

For more information, contact Andrea Leao by email at Andrea.Leao@oregonstate.edu.

Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all programs, services, activities, and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by January 20th to Andrea Leao at andrea.leao@oregonstate.edu.



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

2024-'25 Budget Hearings are underway

The Linn County Budget Committee began its 2024-'25 Budget Hearings Monday morning. They will continue Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

The committee is composed of Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker and at-large community members Jennifer Stanaway, chair; Kerry Johnson, vice-chair; and new member Rex Watson.

Summary of budget message

Commissioner Nyquist delivered the annual budget message before department heads and elected officials talked about their proposed budgets.

Nyquist said state and federal money associated with COVID-19 programs is nearly all gone and Linn County staff members use that one-time funding wisely, not adding long-term staff on short-term income.

Nyquist said crafting a workable budget is a challenge, since county income from property taxes is capped at 3.5%, but personnel costs continue to increase from 5 to 7% due to increases in things like health insurance, expected to increase 11% this year.

He said this is a balanced budget. Funds available include increased revenue from higher property values, fees and grants, which result in a General Fund contingency of \$937,753 (increased \$710,405 from the 2023-2024 adopted budget).

The proposed budget is a slightly increased "status quo" budget of \$240.9 million compared to the current \$233.3 million.

The proposed General Fund total \$51.9 million; with the other major fund totals being Roads at \$34.3 million, Law Enforcement at \$50 million and Health Services at \$76.8 million. All funds total \$240.9 million with an actual spending level of approximately \$185.9 million after internal transfers and contingencies are deducted.

Linn County's four-year local option law enforcement levy, a critical revenue stream for the county, was renewed in November 2021. The four-year renewal included a rate increase from \$2.83 to \$2.98 per thousand and continues to June 30, 2026.

The county's total property valuation growth is expected to be about 3.5%. Major ongoing impacts on expenditures continue to be the increasing cost of PERS, the cost of providing health insurance benefits and inflation.

Overall, the goal of the proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget continues to be maintaining and improving services to Linn County Citizens.

Other revenue sources include SRS Federal Forest payments, the last payment under the current extension is due to be received in May 2024, Congress has not yet passed a reauthorization.

We anticipate a continued reduc-



Linn County Assessor and Tax Collector Andy Stevens and his Chief Deputy Matt Pitcher, seated, present their office's proposed budget to the Linn County Budget Committee Monday morning. Other meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

tion in fee revenues for the Planning and Building Department, GIS, Surveyor's Office and Clerk's Office due to rising interest rates and their effect on recording and permitting transactions. The Road Department has been a stable funding area where prudent management and long-range planning have kept the Road Fund healthy to allow adequate spending to maintain the County's road system. The Road Fund's revenues are constantly strained due to increases in the cost of labor, materials and equipment. This, coupled with the uncertainty of federal SRS payments, requires close monitoring.

Measure 47/50 limits growth in property taxes for the General Fund from the county's permanent tax rate to 3%, or Fair Market Value if lower than assessed value, plus new construction. The projected property valuation growth for 2024 is 3.5%, which will provide an estimated grand total of \$15.6 million in net property tax revenues, an increase of approximately \$800,000. The General Fund beginning balance on July 1, 2024 is estimated to be \$7,342,174 (July 1, 2023 actual was \$7,634,320).

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

The guidance provided to Elected Officials and Department Heads for FY 2024-2025 Budget development directed no increase in General Fund expenditures from FY 2023-2024 budgeted amounts except for a 5% increase in personnel cost.

County leaders were asked to justify any proposed increase to other budget categories. The county's personnel costs are tied



Linn County Administrative Officer Darrin Lane presents the General Administration proposed budget.



Linn County Surveyor Tom Casey gathers paperwork before the Budget Hearing started Monday morning.

to retirement and health insurance cost increases with employee salary changes mainly based on union contracts.

(COLAs: SEIU 3.3%, DSA 3.3%, Teamsters 2.25%, JDA 3.3%). Health insurance costs are increasing

next year by approximately 11.7%. The proposed Budget has a net increase of 19.19 FTE positions for a proposed total of 739.18 FTE County employees with the increase spread across multiple areas including 13.44 in Health Services because of targeted funding.

Clear Lake Resort lodge gets a facelift

By Alex Paul

Communications Officer

CLEAR LAKE — It was a fortuitous day in April 2007 when Linn County Commissioners agreed to pay the Santiam Fish & Game Association \$100,000 for the assets of Clear Lake Resort.

The aging members of the Association had agreed to disband after many decades of operating the resort with its small lodge/restaurant and numerous cabins — many of

which were showing their wear.

Association members hoped to get \$10,000 for the buildings and planned to create a scholarship for outdoors/fisheries students at Oregon State University. The property is leased from the U.S. Forest Service.

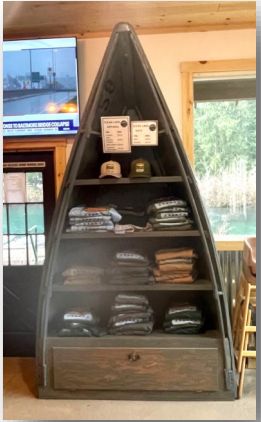
There was the possibility that private enterprises could snap up the popular fishing and hiking spot about three miles south of the Highway 20 and Highway 126 intersection, until Board Chairman Roger Nyquist said, “Add a zero to this and let’s get it done.”

And so, it was.

Within days Linn County was getting the resort ready for what would be a busy summer season.

Linn County operates the facility thanks to a land lease with the U.S. Forest Service. The list of improvements made over the last 17 years is long.

- Move the fuel tanks used to operate generators farther away from the lake.



Clear Lake Resort Ranger Devin Kress shows off the newly remodeled, brighter restaurant interior that features new knotty pine ceiling, epoxy floor, live-edge tables made from a park hazard tree, corrugated metal wall covering and pine

- Remodeling of several cabins inside and out.
- Selling off the old wooden boats and replacing them with aluminum models to decrease pollution.
- Working with a national preservation group to renovate the log picnic shelter constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.
- Adding kayaks and paddle boards to the rental fleet.
- Installing very popular yurts as boarding options.

And now, spiffing up the resort lodge with hands-on from many staff members.

Jerry Williams worked out of the county’s Cascadia County Parks shop to craft all new tables and counters for the reception and food service areas.

He worked with thick slabs of wood that Tristan Davis milled from a hazard tree felled at Cascadia County Park.

After much sanding, Williams left a “live edge” — bark — on each of the slabs. They also received a thick coating of a two-stage epoxy to create a durable clear finish that allows the beauty of the woodgrain to show.

Both restrooms have been updated and corrugated metal sheets are used to create wall covering about three

tall. All of the wood trim is coated but has a natural look and there are new interior doors and hand-made screen doors. The concrete floor was sanded and a durable coating applied.

And to cap off the project, 1,100 square feet of knotty pine tongue and groove planking was applied to the ceiling.

In a few words, the new look is “clean” and “bright”.

Clear Lake Ranger Devin Kress said the new look is much appreciated.

Guests such as Nick Green and his wife Ariana Altieri and their daughter Gigi, 7, from Portland were pleased that the new tables and counter tops utilized local wood. They were enjoying a hearty

CLEAR LAKE ... See P 11



A lighted inlay on one of the new countertops features the outline of Clear Lake and can be outlined in a variety of LED lighting colors.



One of the new tables made of live-edge wood offers a comfortable place for a game of chess and a nice view of the lake.

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

Smokefree Oregon: Imagine life free from harms of tobacco

Programs and organizations develop tobacco prevention campaign that inspires community action

Albany, Ore. — A new campaign from the Oregon Health Authority’s (OHA’s) *Smokefree Oregon* invites community members to imagine what Oregon could look like free from the harms of tobacco and provides actions they can take to create that reality for



Dani Crabtree

Linn County.

The campaign was designed in collaboration with community-based organizations and local public health authorities who have been working to address tobacco use across Oregon.

Dani Crabtree, the tobacco prevention and education coordinator for Linn County, was part of the Addressing Commercial Tobacco (ACT) Advisory Committee that developed this campaign.

“I joined the committee because I want to be part of telling the story about what tobacco does to Oregon communities and how, together, we can turn that around,” Crabtree said. “Everyone on the committee has their stories, their reasons why this work is so important to them. We built those shared experiences and stories into the campaign as a way of recognizing those differences.”

In Linn County, 16% of adults still regularly smoke cigarettes and roughly 1,680 people annually are



diagnosed with a tobacco-related illness (Oregon Health Authority, 2024). The impact of tobacco can be even worse people struggling with mental health, who have lower incomes; children and young people; people of color; and people trying to quit (The Truth Initiative, 2017).



Tobacco prevention campaigns, like Imagine, are meant to help people quit and prevent tobacco use in the first place.

“With this campaign, our goal is to bring people together, to show how tobacco affects us all, and to acknowledge we all have a way to do something about it,” Crabtree said. “Instead of saying, ‘If you smoke, quit,’ we’re saying, ‘if you love your community, imagine it without tobacco—and create it together.’ We need to come together

as a community and say: We don’t want our community to look like X, and instead we are going to support each other in ways that make us feel like part of the community.”

Ads from the campaign feature original illustrations by Oregon artists and will run on billboards, television, digital media and other channels across the state from April 2 through July 30, 2024. The campaign directs people to visit SmokefreeOregon.com/Imagine, where they can get involved in tobacco prevention work, get help quitting tobacco or support someone trying to quit, and or find ideas on what others have imagined for a tobacco-free Oregon.

“If you’re not sparked by what’s on the Smoke Free Oregon website, and there’s something else you’d like to do to create a tobacco-free Oregon, do it!” Crabtree said. “Just because something is being done, doesn’t mean we

can’t imagine something different for our communities.”

The Linn County tobacco prevention program partners with and provides resources for community members and county organizations related to tobacco prevention education and local cessation opportunities.

If you need help quitting tobacco, free support and resources are available through the [Oregon Tobacco Quit Line](https://www.quitnow.net/oregon):

- For services in **English**: Visit www.quitnow.net/oregon or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.
- For services in **Spanish**: Visit www.quitnow.net/oregonsp or call 1-855-DEJELO-YA.
- For services tailored to **American Indians and Alaska Natives**: Visit <https://smokefreeoregon.com/native-quit-line/> or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW and press 7.

LCSO’s Kelsey Morrison honored by Oregon National Guard

Linn County Sheriff’s Office Civil Clerk Kelsey Morrison was honored recently by Captain Cody Comerford and Sergeant First Class Bejan Rejaian of Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment of the Oregon Army National Guard.

Kelsey was inducted into the Order of Saint Joan D ‘Arc of the United States Cavalry and Armor Association, and received a certificate and medallion.

Kelsey was nominated for having significantly contributed to the health, welfare and morale for armor and infantry soldiers and their families in the 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment of the Oregon Army National Guard.

Kelsey voluntarily served as the Family Relief Group leader for Alpha Troop 1/82 CAV for two years. For the last year, Kelsey has served in the same capacity with Delta Troop 1/82 CAV out of The Dalles, and continues to serve those families today.

Kelsey has put in more than 300 hours assisting families with their needs while loved ones were deployed overseas, as well as organizing family events, helping with information dissemination and contributing directly to a robust, viable family support system for all associated to the Squadron.

Kelsey’s selfless nature, positive attitude, and willingness to help



Kelsey Morrison of the Linn County Sheriff’s Office, with her husband, David, left, and Captain Cody Comerford and Sgt. First Class Bejan Rejaian of the Oregon Army National Guard.

anyone she meets continues in her role each day as a Civil Clerk at the Sheriff’s Office.

Kelsey’s husband, David Morrison, who serves in the 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry, is also a Patrol Deputy Sheriff with the Linn County Sheriff’s Office.

Join us in celebrating Civil Clerk Kelsey Morrison, and her induction into the Order of Saint Joan D ‘Arc of the United States Cavalry and Armor Association!



Honor Flight ... Thank You Veterans!

Pesky rain that blanketed the mid-valley Thursday, April 25, held off for an hour or so as dozens of veterans, their helpers and community members gathered on the north side of the Linn County Courthouse to give them a proper send-off for their South Willamette Valley Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

After a short ceremony that included a welcome by Linn County Commissioners Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker, the veterans and their guardians hopped on buses carrying fellow veterans from the Eugene-Springfield area and headed for the airport in Portland, the first leg on their adventure-filled journey.

The group totaled 131 people.

Commissioner Tucker said he has been a guardian on an Honor Flight and told the group they were about to embark on an great adventure. He said they will be treated like royalty all along the way and especially in Washington, D.C., where law enforcement officers will clear the way for their buses.

“You are going to have a fantastic trip,” Commissioner Tucker said. “The WWII memorial is breath taking.”

Commissioner Sprenger praised the veterans and said the trip is a sign of a “grateful country, a grateful nation.”

Linn County Veterans Services played an integral role in Thursday’s ceremony and coordinating the local veterans with their Eugene-Springfield counterparts.



Oregon Heritage Tree dedicated at historic Moyer House

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

BROWNSVILLE — A crowd of cheering guests braved a cool breeze and intermittent raindrops April 26 to celebrate the induction of the 143-year-old linden tree and braided wisteria vine into the Oregon Heritage Tree program, sponsored by the state's Travel Information Council.

It is the first designation in Linn County, but there are two honored trees in Benton County, including one on the Oregon State University campus, according to Craig Leech of the Oregon Heritage Tree program.

He said Oregon was the first state to support a Heritage Tree program — founded in 1995 — and there are now 83 trees so designated.

He said the linden tree is hearty and flexible and provided a strong support for the braided wisteria, which is both intricate and gnarly. The partners have grown quite large over the decades, present as the community that was once the Linn County seat, grew and changed.

Leech said wisteria is part of the legume family and versions flourish everywhere from China and Japan to the eastern United States.

The Moyer House is at 204 North Main Street.

Leech said the largest wisteria vine in the U.S. encompasses more than one acre and weighs about 250 tons. It was planted in 1889 in Sierra Madre, California.

Leech encourages the public to visit the Moyer House Linden and wisteria.

“Visiting an Oregon Heritage Tree is a chance to learn localized Oregon history and honor the vital role trees play in giving character to our urban spaces and building community pride,” Leech said. “The Moyer House Linden / Wisteria has become a landmark in Brownsville and a unique addition to the Oregon Heritage Tree Program.”

Elizabeth Brown (1841-1922) arrived in the Calapooia Valley via the 1846 Blakely-Brown wagon train, captained by her uncle James Blakely. The trip took months.

John Moyer (1829-1904), a carpenter from Ohio, arrived by horseback in 1852 after a journey of just three months. The two married in 1857 and raised their children in a more humble home on the property where the much grander Moyer House now stands

The tree/vine were planted in the front yard of their Italianate mansion in downtown Brownsville about 1881. John Moyer was an entrepreneur who made a fortune turning logs into lumber, selling cattle to gold miners, operating a woolen mill and investing in the local bank.

The Moyer House is managed and maintained by the Linn County Parks & Recreation Department as part of the Linn County Historical Museum.

Mandy Cole, a museum staff member, submitted the application paperwork.

She said a Kalapuya woman, Eliza Young, is credited with braiding the once supple wisteria vine that is now massive.

Linn County Parks & Recreation Department Director Stacey Whaley thanked all who were involved in making the event happen, including parks staff and volunteers.

“This tree and vine have been witnesses to Brownsville’s history for decades,” Whaley said.

The Moyer House Linden / Wisteria — scientific name *Tilia americana/ Wisteria floribunda* — is the 83rd Oregon Heritage Tree, a designation that recognizes trees with statewide or national significance. The linden tree is 90 inches in circumference and the wisteria vine 135 inches. The pair is approximately 55 feet tall and estimated to be 143 years old.



Above: the 142-year-old wisteria vine/linden tree in the Historic Moyer House front yard was inducted into the Oregon Heritage Tree program April 26. **Right:** the braided wisteria vines.

The tree and vine are entwined in one another with the wisteria relying on the linden for support. In the spring, wisteria blossoms are profuse, popping out everywhere amongst the linden branches.

For more information regarding the Heritage Tree program visit www.oregontic.com/oregon-heritage-trees.



CLEAR LAKE From Page 8

breakfast during their first visit to Clear Lake. After breakfast they were headed out for an afternoon of boating and fly fishing.

In addition to a new look, staff have added new menu items including a chicken pesto sandwich and cookies baked on-site.

The retail inventory — from food items to fishing supplies — has been expanded and there is an ample supply of Clear Lake clothing available.

Even though it was raining steadily on a recent visit, several people were milling about the lodge and asking about summer rentals.

Cabin and boat rentals are available year-round said new Ranger Devin Kress, who spent his first winter at the lake and is looking forward to summer work.

Kress comes to Linn County Parks & Recreation after earning a degree in



Portland residents Ariana Altieri, Nick Green and their daughter, Gigi, 7, recently enjoyed a hearty breakfast at Clear Lake Lodge restaurant and then headed out for a morning of fly fishing and boating. It was their first visit to Clear Lake.

geology from San Diego State University.

“I have always wanted to be a ranger and I love the beauty of Oregon,” Kress, 23, said.

He and his Australian Shepard Buck enjoy taking hikes around the lake when they can. He also enjoys playing his double bass on his days off. And he’s getting in some

fishing time as well.

“I have to admit I have never been around that much snow,” the southern California native said.

Now that Linn County Parks & Recreation has added numerous campgrounds owned by the U.S. Forest Service, the Clear Lake staff will also maintain the Cold Water Cove campground on the southern edge of the lake.

Reserve online at www.recreation.gov or phone 1-877-444-6777.



Yummy cinnamon rolls!

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

Commissioners again support First-Time Youth Wage Grants

ALBANY — Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker have again unanimously approved the annual First-Time Youth Wage Grant program for its 18th year.



Courtney Leland

Linn County uses economic development funds generated by the Video Lottery to subsidize \$3 per hour of wages for first-time teen employees, 14 to 19 years of age.

The program has been highly successful, with dozens of teenagers employed each summer. Last year, 21 employers hired 46 young people who worked almost 10,800 hours.

To qualify, businesses must hire eligible employees between May 1 and September 30. The employee must be legal to work in the United States and a resident of Linn County.

Qualifying businesses must employ 35 or fewer employees and the young people must be first-time employees, who have not previously worked for the individual business. An employer can hire up to three youth at any given time and receive a maximum of \$1,500 per new hire, or \$4,500 total. Employers have until November 15, 2024 to submit a request for reimbursement.

For additional information, call the Linn County Board of Commissioners office at 541-967-3825 or visit www.linncountyor.gov.

WANTED

JOBS

\$3 per hour subsidy
First-Time Youth Wage Grant

Linn County
Board of Commissioners
Call 541-967-3825 or visit:
www.linncountyor.gov/businessdevelopment/page/youth-wage-grant



Above: Food and Nutrition demo – avocado quinoa salad.

Teaming up for prenatal health

Linn County Public Health WIC and Maternal Child Health team partnered with Casa Latinos Unidos to offer a Prenatal Health Expo at Colonia Paz in Lebanon.

Linn County WIC offered bilingual information on WIC services, lactation support and referrals. They featured demonstrations on breastfeeding, breast pumps and nutrition education for prenatal/postpartum women. Linn County Maternal Child Health home visiting team joined efforts to promote programs and outreach to clients in their preferred Language.

Nurses weighed and measured babies and children while answering questions about general health and took referrals for programs of interest.

This will be a reoccurring event and our next expo will be May 31.



Left to right: Tania Bailey, Diego Nieto, Juana Lopez-Gonzalez, Monica Boylan, Nadir Pinto, Reina Mendoza, Serena Stearns-Garland, Cristal Ponce Palomera and Rebeca Moreno.





Making new friends at the Lebanon Biz Expo

The Linn County Fair & Expo Center and OSU Extension — Linn County were among the many businesses and organizations represented at the annual Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Biz Expo held April 18 at the River Center in Lebanon. **Top left:** Melissa Davidson, Kris Barnes and Rachel Lytle promoting the Fair & Expo Center. **Above right:** Michele Webster promotes the many programs offered by OSU Extension — Linn County.

OSU study: Agritourism a billion dollar biz in Willamette Valley

CORVALLIS, Ore. — A new, first-of-its-kind economic analysis finds that the annual economic impact of agritourism in Oregon’s Willamette Valley is nearly \$1 billion.

The Oregon State University Extension Service and the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences produced “An Initial Economic Impact Estimate of Agritourism in Oregon’s Willamette Valley,” which quantifies the economic effects of agritourism on the region’s farms and communities.

In agritourism, producers combine farming with aspects of tourism. Agritourism can take the form of farm-direct sales, education, entertainment, outdoor recreation and hospitality.

When the report’s co-authors totaled the economic effects of agritourism sales — spending by both daytime and overnight visitors — direct sales annually exceed \$985 million. Value-added sales, which are sales minus outside supply or production costs, exceed \$572 million.

“By researching agritourism’s economic effects on Oregon farms and our communities, this study explores how agritourism can diversify farming businesses,” the co-authors wrote in the study. “Our goal is not to promote agritourism as an industry or suggest that any particular farm should adopt any specific agritourism practices. Rather, we aim to provide economic and other information that may shape and inform both current and future policy debates around agritourism.”

The study found that approximately 22% of the 18,679 farms in the region might be engaged in agritourism. It also found that agritourism sup-

ports, in full- and part-time jobs, approximately 9,000 jobs on farms and contributes to approximately 2,000 jobs in both rural and urban communities in the region.

The study estimated that between 3.7 million and 13.7 million people visit agritourism farms annually in the valley.

The study findings were based on 162 farmer survey responses in 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Census of Agriculture data from 2017 and an economic modeling software program.

The farms are in nine counties — Benton, Clackamas, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington and Yamhill. Most of the farms are considered small to mid-sized in terms of acreage.

According to the study, agritourism in the Willamette Valley is diverse, ranging from selling produce at farm stands to on-farm lodging and school visits to farms. Based on the survey responses, farmers offering agritourism might earn 50% of their gross revenues and 50% of their net revenues or profits from agritourism.

Survey participants overwhelmingly indicated that agritourism was important to their financial viability and their efforts to help people learn the importance of farming.

The study co-authors are Bruce Sorte, professor emeritus in the Department of Applied Economics in the College of Agricultural Sciences; Audrey Comerford, Extension’s agritourism coordinator for Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties; and Melis-



U-Pick flowers at a Willamette Valley farm. In agritourism, producers combine farming with aspects of tourism.

Linn County 2024-'25

Budget Hearings Schedule

Linn County Fair & Expo Center

3700 Knox Butte Road,



Monday, April 29: 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 1: 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 2: 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Friday, May 3: 9:30 a.m., decision making

For individual office/department times, visit:

<https://www.linncountyor.gov/treasurer>

Open to the public.

Community remembers retired LCSO Deputy Jim Search — always smiling!

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

SWEET HOME — Former Linn County Sheriff Tim Mueller called Jim Search his “best friend” during a memorial service Sunday for the retired Linn County Sheriff’s Office Deputy.

He added that Search, “always made people smile and laugh.” That comment was backed up by the fact that hundreds of people



Jim Search

filled the Community Chapel outside of town and the line of cars coming to the memorial strung out for several blocks, leading to a delay in the event’s starting time and necessitating traffic police assistance at intersections.

Mueller said he and Search began their law enforcement careers at the same time. They were rookies and in addition to their regular jobs, were heavily involved with the Search and Rescue team.

Mueller told about some of their rescue adventures and how Search was always cheerful, no matter how arduous the terrain was.

Mueller also told about pranking

Search one time, filling his patrol vehicles with coffee creamer so that when Search punched the air conditioning on, a huge cloud of white powder surrounded him. Search knew immediately who was behind the prank, although he gloated about enjoying a Big Gulp soda, until he learned that Mueller had filled it with salt. Search still found humor in the moment, Mueller said.

Mueller said Search was more like a brother than a friend. Their families shared many adventures and the two men enjoyed shooting black powder rifles and attending pioneer-style shooting events.

Brownsville business owner Steve Schilling said he came to know Search because their sons wrestled at Sweet Home.

“We became great friends and one time, after we attended the national wrestling tournament in Utah, we decided to camp our way back home, but without any route planning,” Schilling said. It was one of the most fun camping trips in his life, Schilling said.

After Search retired from the Sheriff’s Office in 2016, he came to work for Schilling, even though Schilling tried to discourage him.

“He became a friend to all and did a



Former Linn County Sheriff Tim Mueller, left, called Jim Search his “best friend” more like “brothers” during a memorial service April 21 at the Community Chapel outside of Sweet Home. Also pictured is Mark McCartin, whom Search called “preacher.”

great job,” Schilling said. “I fished a little, but Jim really got me into fishing. He would schedule fishing trips and tell me to put it on my calendar. I’m glad he did.”

Schilling said that Search “always found time for his family. He loved everybody and everybody loved him.”

Scott Melcher said his friendship with Search began when his wife Wendy and Heather Search became friends, the “daring

duo”, working on projects such as the annual Boys and Girls Club auctions.

“We worked on the auctions, Chips ‘n Splinters and the Oregon Jamboree together,” Melcher said. “He was always willing to lend a helping hand. After we all became empty nesters, we took cruises together.”

Search firmly believed in Big Foot (Sasquatch), several people said, and the couples even took a Big Foot themed cruise to Alaska, where Search was among like-minded people and loved it.

Ian Search called his dad “his first super hero.”

He said that no matter how rough a day his dad may have had as a civil deputy, he turned off a switch when he came home and “never brought those problems home.”

He said no matter where they traveled, his dad seemed to run into some-



Search and Rescue honor guard left and above, prepared the flag, which was presented to the Search family by Sheriff Michelle Duncan.

one he knew.

“No matter if it was night or day, he would show up with the right tools,” he said. “He always gave everything he had.”

Search said that “making someone else feel good, made him feel good.” Search called Community Chapel pastor Mark McCartin “preacher”.

McCartin said there could be no truer testimony of how Search impacted the community than the overflow group of people from all walks of life who came to the memorial.

Members of the Linn County Sheriff’s Office Search & Rescue presented the colors and prepared the folded flag for Sheriff Michelle Duncan, who presented them to the Search family. **James Boyd Search**

Obituary published on Legacy.com by Sweet Home Funeral Chapel on

April 15, 2024.

James Boyd Search, 58, of Sweet Home passed away April 14, 2024. He was born on March 2, 1966 to Thelma D. (Faulkner) and Mark Search Sr. in Klamath Falls.

Jim retired in 2016 from the Linn County Sheriff’s after 25 years of service. He was currently employed at Advanced Mechanical Inc. in Brownsville as a maintenance supervisor.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Heather Search, two children: Ian and Ashley Search, both of [Shelbyville, Tennessee](#), and his brother Mark (Lawona) Search.

He is preceded in death by his parents and older brother.

Donations may be made in Memory of Jim Search to: Linn County Search and Rescue, 1115 Jackson St. SE, Albany OR 97322. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel handled arrangements www.sweethomefuneral.com.



LCSO Search & Rescue Honor Guard.