

We love our pets



Pages 4-12

Linn County



REPORTER

Northwest Art & Air Festival photos ... Pages 16-17

What's happening in Linn County, Oregon

September 2024

Thank you, Dr. Goby!

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Dr. Gary Goby arrived in Albany in 1973 driving a square back Volkswagen carrying his wife and three young children.

Fresh out of Air Force service in Mountain Home, Idaho, a loan from a local bank helped he and other young doctors form a medical practice and Goby — who grew up in the Midwest — quickly planted roots in his new Pacific Northwest community.

August 14, during a retirement party in his honor at the Expo Center — he has given up the title of Linn County Medical Examiner after 49-plus years — Dr. Goby encouraged those who came to thank him, to do as he has done — help others in the community that has nurtured him and his family.

In the early years, Linn County did not have a medical examiner. Law enforcement would call on local doctors to assist with death cases as needed.

As the number of those deaths increased, the doctors volunteered to handle

cases when they were “on shift”.

In 1975, Dr. Goby became the “go to” doctor and that evolved into the Medical Examiner’s office. Dr. Goby receives a small stipend for his work.

A Medical Examiner is called for cases that are apparently homicidal, suicidal or occurring under suspicious or unknown circumstances; resulting from the unlawful use of controlled substances or the use or abuse of chemicals or toxic agents; occurring while incarcerated in any jail, correction facility or in police custody; apparently accidental or following an injury; by disease, injury or toxic agent during or arising from employment; while not under the care of a physician during the period immediately previous to death; related to disease which might constitute a threat to the public health; or in which a human body apparently has been disposed of in an offensive manner.

Dr. GOBY ... See Page 2



Party decorations, above, and Dr. Goby holds one of the plaques he received from the Board of Commissioners and District Attorney’s Office.

Stand Down for Veterans coming to Fair & Expo Center Sept. 12

ALBANY — Samaritan Health Services’ Veterans Outreach Program will co-host Linn-Benton Veterans Stand Down, an annual event that helps connect veterans with resources for health, housing and employment.



Tucker

This year’s event will be held Thursday, Sept. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center in Albany.

The Veterans Stand Down is a collaboration between WorkSource Oregon, the Veterans Impact Network at HP, Linn County Veterans Services, Community Services Consortium, Portland VA Healthcare System and Samaritan.

“Veteran Stand Downs are a great opportunity for veterans to meet with a diverse group of supporting organizations,” Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker said. “We owe a huge debt to our veter-

ans and to the community groups, federal partners, state and local volunteers who help to support the veterans. This event provides a great connection for all veterans to have.”

The SamCare Mobile Medicine will be parked on site to help attendees with medical needs. Samaritan will also provide vaccines, blood pressure checks and testing for Hepatitis C and HIV. IHN-CCO Population Health Care members will assist veterans with benefit needs.

This year, volunteers from the

Veterans (Samaritan Employee Resource Group) will pass out military surplus items such as field backpacks with frames, poncho liners, boots, canteen cups and three-system sleeping bags.

“These resources and services were provided to veterans and their families with a focus on those who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness,” said Kyle Hatch, Samaritan Veterans Representative and chair of this year’s event.

STANDDOWN ... See P. 15

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



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

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

Call 541-967-3825

Dr. GOBY ... From P. 1

District Attorney Doug Marteeny said Linn County's Medical Examiner's Office is one of the finest in the state, due greatly to Dr. Goby's talents and dedication to the task at hand. And he constantly trains local law enforcement staff.

Marteeny said Dr. Goby not only realizes how important it is to pinpoint the cause of death, but he also has a special way of comforting the families that are left behind.

Marteeny said that Dr. Goby has been called on for at least 10,000 or more death investigations — noting that is the same as the entire population of Sweet Home.

Marteeny said Dr. Goby's expertise and depth of knowledge were invaluable when he was called upon to testify in court.

"He really knows his stuff," Marteeny praised, drawing a chuckle from the crowd.

Marteeny added that drawing blood and urine samples from suspected DUI clients can be difficult at times.

"But Dr. Goby has batted 1,000," Marteeny said. "He would often tell them we can do this the easy way or the hard way."

Marteeny presented Dr. Goby with an engraved plaque.

Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker praised Dr. Goby for his military service and his penchant to wear flannel shirts. He added that Dr. Goby is a master woodworker (he was instrumental in developing the Historic Carousel in downtown Albany).

In addition to his duties as a family doctor, Tucker said Dr. Goby was called on many holidays after the years.

"You have served our community, our region and our country well," Tucker said.

Sheriff Michelle Duncan thanked Dr. Goby for his dedication and his support of law enforcement officers and presented him with challenge coin.

Dr. Goby earned his Bachelor's Degree from Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois and his Medical Degree in



Above: Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker, left, presents Dr. Goby with a plaque in honor of his 49 years service to the people of Linn County. Below left: Sheriff Michelle Duncan presents Dr. Goby with a challenge coin. Below right: Former District Attorney Jason Carlile chats with Dr. Goby at his retirement party.



1968 from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.

He completed a rotating internship at St. John's Mercy Hospital in Creve Coeur, Mo., and a family practice residency from the Community Hospital of Sonoma County in Santa Rosa, California.



He then served in the U.S. Air Force, Mountain Home, Idaho.

Dr. Kenyon succeeds Dr. Goby as Medical Examiner

Dr. Peter Kenyon will succeed Dr. Gary Goby as the Linn County Medical Examiner, but he's not completely new to the position, having assisted Dr. Goby for the past five years.

Dr. Kenyon, 75, is a Chicago area native and came by his medical career quite naturally, since his father was a physician. Although he originally thought his path would be more research oriented, his specialty has been oncology.

"I found that I like working with people," Dr. Kenyon noted.

In addition to his Medical Examiner role in Linn County, he also helps out in Clackamas and Lincoln counties.

Dr. Kenyon completed his undergraduate degree in microbiology at Yale University; earned his medical degree at the



Dr. Kenyon

Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1975; and then completed residencies in Internal Medicine

and Hematology and Medical Oncology at the University of Minnesota. He and his wife, Patti — a forensic nurse — moved to Corvallis in 1984 and Dr. Kenyon practiced with the Corvallis Clinic and Samaritan Health Services.

Although he retired from daily practice

10 years ago, Dr. Kenyon has volunteered with medical groups in other countries, including the Philippines and Guatemala, specializing in nutritional efforts.

The Kenyons moved to the Jefferson area three years ago and Dr. Kenyon has taken up vegetable gardening. The family includes four grown sons and a granddaughter.

"We are very lucky to have Dr. Kenyon," Marteeny said. "Dr. Kenyon has served as an assistant district Medical Examiner for us since 2019."

Marteeny added, "We have had a long history of excellent doctors willing to serve our community and provide this valuable service for us. We are blessed to have someone as high-caliber as Dr. Kenyon and grateful that he is willing to work with us."

HIV Alliance launches new media campaign

Campaign will tackle stigma and communicate about the importance of HIV testing, prevention and education in rural communities

SOUTHWEST OREGON — HIV Alliance (HIVA) and End HIV Oregon launched a new advertising campaign to encourage people in more rural parts of Southwest Oregon and Linn County to get tested for HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI). The campaign will run Sept.-Nov. 2024 in Coos, Douglas, Jackson and Linn counties, and surrounding areas.

The campaign will encourage people in more rural areas to get tested for HIV, and highlight prevention strategies for reducing new infections, including use of condoms and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a daily pill or periodic injection that reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by about 99%.

The campaign will include radio, digital and social media ads, as well as billboards and in-bar advertising. Additionally, ads will be featured in dating apps, including Tinder, Grindr and Scruff.

“We are seeing an increase in new HIV cases in Southern Oregon, Linn County and other parts of the state, including more rural communities, and syphilis is at epidemic levels in Oregon,” said Dane Zahner, Southern Oregon prevention and harm reduction manager for HIV Alliance.

“We all have an HIV status, and we should all get tested, regardless of gender or sexual orientation,” Zahner said. “Through testing, the use of prevention tools like PrEP, and getting people onto HIV treatment, we can prevent new infections. Because people are often co-infected with HIV and syphilis, people testing for HIV should also test for syphilis.”

HIV and syphilis infections in SW Oregon, by the numbers

- Since the beginning of 2023, about 40 new HIV diagnoses have been reported in SW Oregon, mainly in Jackson, Coos and Douglas counties.

- Syphilis is at epidemic rates in Oregon. In 2022, Jackson County reported 60 new syphilis cases, Douglas County reported 36, and Coos County reported 15. These infections are serious and can have long-term effects. People are often infected with both HIV and syphilis or another sexually transmitted infection.

- New cases of congenital syphilis are also on the rise in SW Oregon. Congenital syphilis is when a pregnant person passes syphilis on



to their baby during pregnancy or at birth. In 2022, there were 2 cases of congenital syphilis reported in Jackson County and 2 cases in Douglas County

HIV and syphilis infections in Linn County, by the numbers

- Between 2018-2023, 27 new HIV diagnoses were reported in Linn County. Linn County has the 7th highest rate of new HIV diagnosis

by county in Oregon.

- In 2022, Linn County reported 63 cases of syphilis and 2 cases of congenital syphilis.

People often

are infected with both HIV and another STI. Testing is easy and widely available.

National physician groups recommend that everyone be tested for HIV at least once. But most adults in Oregon have never been tested for HIV. People in more rural parts of the state are even less likely than people living in urban areas to be tested in a timely manner.

Early testing allows people to get the health care they need to prevent HIV – or, if they are already infected, to get treatment, protect their sex partners, and live long, healthy lives.

Oregon’s goal as a state is to reach zero new HIV transmissions. There are more than 8,000 people living with HIV in Oregon.

“We have come a long way in addressing HIV—we now have much better testing, prevention and treatment resources to help prevent new cases,” said Renee Yandel, Executive Director of HIV Alliance. “I’m thrilled to see this me-

dia campaign launch in our region to communicate about the importance of HIV testing for every adult, and to continue building healthier communities.”

Oregon’s latest home-based and clinic-based HIV testing data can be found online.

HIV Alliance serves more than 1,200 people living with HIV across 15 counties. The agency has grown to offer a range of programs that respond to unmet health needs of people living with and at-risk for HIV in Oregon.

The new era in HIV advancements:

- Home Testing: Free, rapid at-home HIV testing kits take only 20 minutes and can be delivered confidentially right to your door. A free HIV test can be ordered through TakeMeHome.org.

- Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP): PrEP is a daily pill or periodic injection that reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by about 99%. Most private health plans and all Medicaid-expansion programs must cover PrEP services free of charge, including: Medication, Office Visits, HIV/STI screenings, Labs, Adherence and STI Counseling. Some pharmacists can also prescribe PrEP

- Undetectable = Untransmittable: People living with HIV who are on effective treatment and maintain an undetectable viral load, cannot transmit HIV to their sexual partner(s). “Undetectable” means there is not enough of the virus in a person’s blood for it to be transmitted through sex.

- People are living longer, healthier lives thanks to advancements in HIV treatment medications. For people in Oregon who do learn they have HIV, there are many free resources available to help them get the medical care, support and medications they need. HIV can be managed, just like other diseases such as diabetes or heart disease. Campaign research

Extensive research and testing went into development of the cam-

paign messaging and creative materials. That included four focus groups with men and women (24 people in total) living in more rural parts of Oregon that were conducted in September 2020.

Oregonians living in rural areas in February 2021 to test concepts and messaging. The focus groups and online survey were conducted by DHM Research. The campaign originally ran in Eastern Oregon in Spring/Summer 2022, and again in parts of rural Clackamas County in Summer/Fall 2023. This is the third iteration of the campaign.

About HIV/AIDS

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is the virus that causes HIV infection. AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) is the most advanced stage of HIV infection. HIV attacks the infection-fighting cells of the immune system. The destruction of these cells makes it difficult for the body to protect against infections and certain cancers. Without treatment, HIV can gradually destroy the immune system and progress to AIDS.

About HIV Alliance

HIV Alliance was founded in Eugene, Ore., in 1994 with a mission to support individuals living with HIV/AIDS and prevent new HIV infections. Over its 28 years, the agency has grown to offer a range of programs that respond to unmet health needs of people living with and at-risk for HIV in Oregon. HIV Alliance now serves more than 1,200 people living with HIV across 15 counties.

About End HIV Oregon

End HIV Oregon is Oregon’s initiative to end new HIV infections in our state. It is a collaborative effort between the Oregon Health Authority, the End HIV/STI Oregon Statewide Planning Group (OSPG), including people living with HIV and at risk of HIV infection, and a variety of public and private agencies and community groups across our state. www.endhivoregon.org

We I ve our pets



Angelica Sanchez, Linn County Public Health, says her dog Luna, was adopted last year in La Paz, Mexico and her cat, Twinkie is 11 years young and also a rescue. The fish are named Moon, Water Dog, Burbujas and Fire. The names were chosen by her sons.



Ani Yardumian of the District Attorney's Office, says her cat, Raven is convinced he's a human that God accidentally pressed the wrong button and stuck in a cat's body. "He sits like this every single day when I get home and I'm sitting on the couch next to the chair he's on. He looks at me just like this as if we're supposed to have a philosophical discussion," Ani says. "Every single day!" In the background is Cuddles.



Dina Dysiner of Accounting, says Bella, her 6 1/2-year-old Havanese, "Is a little on the spoiled side, but she loves to dance for treats."



Blake Wetzel's 9-year-old cat, Atlas, plays a mean game of Uno. Blake is with Developmental Disabilities.



We I ve our pets



B.J. France with the Sheriff's Office, said this is his seven-year-old pug, Ruger, "Rue Rue". She has enjoyed paddle boarding her whole life. This photo was taken while they were exploring Clear Lake.



Bleu, Chrystal Parker's 11-month-old Great Dane. Chrystal is with Developmental Disabilities.

Cathy McGinnis, Accounts Payable, says, "This is my boy Bob Marley (we call him Marley for short). He's 7 1/2 now and he tops out at 183 pounds. He loves people and is just a happy-go-lucky boy! He loves to go to Ankeny Boarding and loves his nature walks with his three best pug friends (Bear, Bubbles and Buttons). What a joy he has been in our live — such a ham!"



Above: Carol Gordon, Code Enforcement, says Bodhi, a Tibetan Mastiff, is six years old. He is a guardian breed and can go from being sound asleep to a fierce guard dog in a split second. "They are also thinking dogs and you don't train them, you reach an understanding," Carol said.

Below: Carol socializing five-month-old Devi at a farmers market. "It is a great place to meet people and other dogs and gain confidence in new experiences," Carol added.



We I ve our pets



Hannah McCallister, Alcohol & Drug, says, "This is our sweet girl Coco. She is an almost 2-year-old Cardigan Welsh Corgi and Pembroke Corgi. She loves the challenge of destroying her dog toys that are 'indestructible' and going for car rides."



This beauty is Cheryl Peterson's 9-month-old Husky puppy, Stella. Cheryl is an LCSO dispatcher.



Cyndy Carmichael of Mental Health says, "My fur-grandson 'Louie' and my two chis 'Lilly and Pippy' and my Lab and Beaglier (half beagle half King Charles spaniel) 'Maggie and Lucy'."



- Did you know that there are almost 340 dog breeds in the world?
- Cats spend 70% of their lives sleeping – what a relaxing way to live!
- Dogs have a smell power that is 40 times more sensitive than ours.
- Cats have a dominant paw.
- Some dogs are used to sniff out cancers with an accuracy of 97%.
- A dog's nose is like a human's fingerprint. No two noses are similar; each has a unique pattern of ridges and creases.
- 32 muscles in each ear of a cat help them to rotate their ears 180°.



Milo, a handsome Dachshund, is part of the Courtney Hendrix family. Courtney is with the Sheriff's Office.

We I ve our pets



Dani Crabtree, Public Health, notes that Koa, 1, is a border collie. "His best friend is his littermate Payton," Dani says. "He loves to dig holes to bury my Australian Shepherd's toys and gives the best hugs."

Payton, 1, is Koa's littermate/sister. She loves playing in water and has adopted kitten Goose, 14 weeks, as her baby. Goose loves car rides and sitting on shoulders.



Dawna Steele, Linn County Attorney's Office says, "This is my sweet baby boy Dash, just like the movies the Incredibles, the name suits him well!"



Mental Health specialist Dave E. Crockett said, "This is Dallas, my 4-year-old Lab."



Veterans Services Officer Dee Baley-Hyder says, "Here is Flash (on the bed) and Scout. Flash is a 5-year-old golden retriever, who loves to play fetch. Scout is a 7-year-old golden retriever, who just loves everyone," Dee says.

- Horses rest while standing up by locking their joints.
- Foals can run and walk within a few hours of birth.
- Horses cannot burp or vomit.
- You can estimate a horse's age and gender by its teeth.

We I ve our pets



Jack Wagner, IT Department, says his cats, Squeak, Finn and Peanut were enjoying a sunny Fall day.



Jessica Palmer, Public Health, sent in photos of her chicken, "Chicken Scampi", and Kyra, her best friend of 14 years.



Julie Ganta, Clerk's Office, says she enjoys dressing up her fur babies for holidays. Bella in on the left and is an 8-year-old mini yorkie; Gurdy is in the middle and is a 2-year-old English Bulldog and Scout is a 4-year-old Australian Silky Yorkie.



Kalee West, LCSO Accounting Clerk, sent in a photo of her 5-year-old daughter, Lucille holding their chicken, Raven. "We hatched Raven and the rest of our 32 chickens at home in our incubator," Kalee said. Lucille is also shown with the family's 11-year-old Border Collie/Lab, named Chester. She says he is the "best camping buddy and doesn't look a day over five. He plays fetch and loves swimming and taking naps on the front porch."



We I ve our pets



IT Director Karen Guilford says 1-year-old Harley Quinn spends a majority of her time napping or snuggling her favorite people. She also loves glamping and getting outdoors for adventures on the dunes, especially running on the beach.



Kara Wentland, a paralegal in the District Attorney's Office says Katniss excels in being "obscenely beautiful and supervising all house and garden projects from afar."



Landri Sassman, District Attorney's Office, poses with Kiwi, a 9-year-old Russian Blue, who "doesn't like being touched, but enjoys sitting on my shoulders like a scarf. She is the sweetest kitty you will meet."



Mandi Funk, WIC Nutrition Educator, is proud of her 1-year-old Pomsky, Bogey, and her 2-year-old Corgi, Ryder.



Also shown is 9-year-old Chubbs, another Russian Blue. Landri says, "Her favorite things to do are sunbathing

and yell while you're trying to sleep at night. She is definitely a brat, but will give the best cuddles."

Marci Mascarenas, District Attorney's Office, writes: "Please find attached a few photos of my sweet little Ribi (Rib-eeee) Here are a few fun facts about her:

We are a baseball loving family and Ribi is named after the abbreviation for "Runs Batted In or RBI"

She is a 10-year-old Yorkie with the spirit and energy of a 2-year-old puppy. She will play ball from sun up to sun down if she can find someone to play with her that long. The vet promised me when she was two she would eventually start to slow down but here we are eight years later still with the energy of a 2-year-old. I wouldn't have it any other way!



You will never see her without a ball in her mouth. She even sleeps with a ball in her mouth every single day. When she's eating, she drops the ball in her food bowl so that it is never out of sight. It is safe to say she is a ball fanatic!

One more fun fact! She is Miss February in the 2024 Oregon State Benny's Buddies Calendar!



We I ve our pets



Rebel



Gizmo



Michelle Hunter, Health Department billing says, "This is Lulu Hogg Hunter, she is a South African Boerboel Mastiff. She belongs to me and my Husband, Mike, who works for the Road Department's Halsey Division."



Chicken Nugget

Megan Sharp, Planning & Building, has a menagerie and notes:

Rebel Sharp — The Great Dane of Planning and Building – will be 5-years-old in October. Hates Amazon truck guy, trash truck days (Wednesday), and anyone that walks on his block! He is known as the 10-pound Great Dane in his neighborhood. He loves kayaking, walks, watching TV, eating steak and cheese sticks, and he sleeps with his duck and mom and dad every night. His best friend lives five houses down, Rebel and Buckwheat have been best friends for three years. They keep us all safe in the neighborhood.

Shadow Sharp — the 27-pound Main Coon of the Planning and Building Department. He is 9 years old. Shadow is our family's first cat. To our surprise, he kept growing after a year old and now holds a steady weight of 27 pounds. He loves to sunbathe, de-fluff on the furniture, he likes his mom to touch his food before she leaves for work every day, he does not like cheap cat food, loves to eat pop-tarts, I lick the ice-cream bowls clean when mom is not looking. He hates his dad and especially hates baths. He sleeps with his mom every night and reminds his dad not to touch her while she sleeps.

Gizmo Sharp — A Pink Cat- 2-3 years old. He is a daddy's boy. He loves to hunt, and brings anything from birds to really big leaves thru the cat door. He might be pink, but he will defend everyone in his family against the stray cats in the neighborhood. When his dad is in his gaming room, he demands to be in the room for technical support. He likes to make sure his dad's xbox, head set, and TV cords are working correctly. He sleeps with the youngest boy in the house, my son Branson.

Chicken Nugget Sharp — The Hamster, 1. Chick Nugget is my youngest son's girlfriend. She loves long walks in the back yard while tasting the clover patch. She loves cherries, strawberries, does not care for her normal hamster food. Her boyfriend picks blackberries for her on his bike rides. In her light up ball, she gets going pretty good, and likes to run into the Rebel, Shadow, Gizmo. However, Scarlett likes to "bat" around her and the ball around.

Scarlett Sharp — is our newest family member. Someone dumped her in our neighborhood and we found her in our driveway the Tuesday before Thanksgiving 2023. She is SASSY, but so loveable. She hasn't chosen her human yet, however she does whatever she wants. Being in a house full of boys, Scarlett, has her mom on her side. This is her first summer, and wow has she loved it. She likes to watch the birdfeeders every day. She lays outside all day until her family comes home. She and Gizmo are an item, and are deeply in love with each other. Her and Shadow do not see eye-to-eye, but she does care, she is Queen. We are watching her develop her own personality and experience life events for the first time. Whoever dumped her on 10th St. in Lebanon, know you are missing out! She is absolutely beautiful inside and out — and don't worry — she is living the high-life with rhinestone studded collars, fancy beds, and tuna on Sundays!



Shadow



Scarlett



Malory Laflamme-Laws, Developmental Disabilities says, this is Palmer, her 4-year-old greyhound. Malory says Palmer, "love to adventure, soak up sunshine any chance she gets and cuddle like a small lap dog."

We I ve our pets



Princess 

Rebecca Torres, Public Health, sent in these photos of Mini and Bella and her horse, Princess.



Rachel Lytle, Fair & Expo Center, says the bunny in the chair is Ash and he "likes to explore." Gandalf is the cat and the other bunny is Hanna, "who likes to chase Gandalf."



Courtney Leland, Board of Commissioners office, sent these photos of her son Jax, with their Rottweiler "Rogue" and Jax and her daughter, Lainey, with their cat, "Goose."



Jesus "Jesse" Zamora II, General Services, says Rook "Rookie" Zamora, is a half-Boxer, half-English Mastiff and will turn 2 in October.



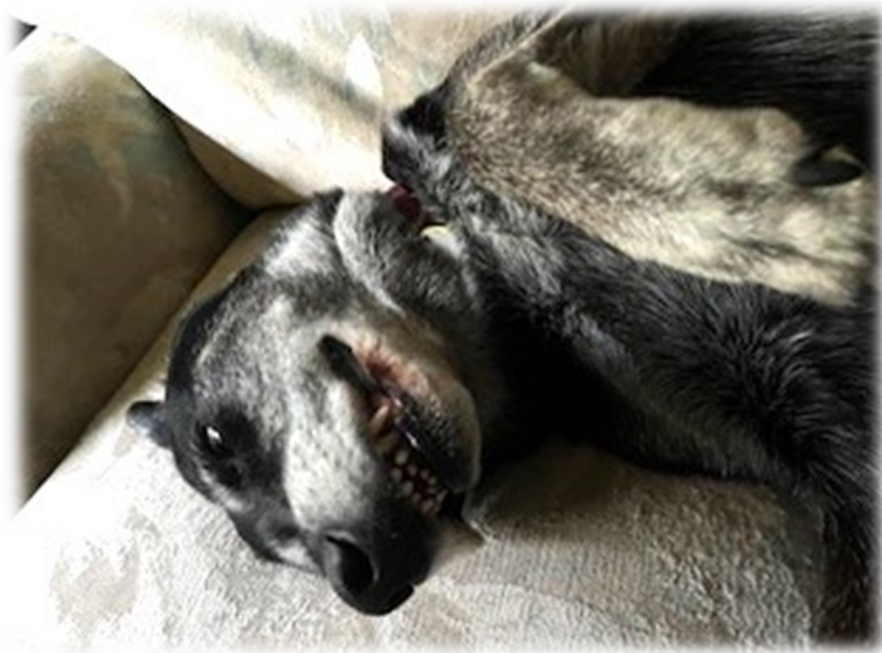
We I ve our pets



Steve Wills, Planning & Building, says Toby is an 8-month-old Golden Doodle, who enjoys socializing with the neighbor's horses.



Paul Hermens, Printing Department, says "This is Roxy. She is 10 and enjoys long walks on the beach, her couch time and anything out of the human hand."



Tracy Rieker, Juvenile Department, says, "This is 'Piper', our 7-month-old Yorkie who is full of life and very active — we call her 'Hyper Piper'. She is the love of our lives (next to our human children of course)!"

Lara Sloan, Public Health says, "This is Wip our 8-year-old Blue Heeler. She is smart, stubborn, goofy and hitgh-strung. She is a Frisbee nut."





OSU Extension Service



Above: Regional livestock/pasture farm tour featuring veteran farmer. **Right:** Women's tractor safety workshop.



OSU Extension offers many ways for farm folks to connect

TANGENT — Are you a land steward or farmer who is new to this region or new to farming? Are you an experienced farmer exploring a new crop or production method? If you want to connect with others doing similar things, a good starting point is to give Teagan Moran or Crystal Kelso, OSU Extension-Linn County Small Farm Programs staffers a call. And quite likely, they will use their various connections to hook you up with other folks who share similar interests and perhaps, also share similar backgrounds. For example, being a military veteran, or a woman in agriculture or those interested in bringing town folks to their farms through agritourism programs. One of the services they provide is the facilitation of farmer-to-farmer networks and often one on one introductions.

Moran says OSU Extension has always “connected” farmers in many ways, but now, it is possible to pinpoint those connections by creating email list serves, electronic “community bulletin boards.” and to cater resources for specific needs. The networks also create a welcoming open door, especially for beginner farmers or those who don’t have any ties to farming in Oregon. Those connections range from place based — a generalized regional farmer network— to more specifically tailored spaces based on interests or social situations.

“We know that university research can take a long time to reach the community, but farmers are adaptive, they share real-time resources and results,” Moran said. “They can share information and make recommendations on how to solve a shared problem.”

Moran said through their new “connections” farmers can “get recommendations, see first hand what a particular farming venture looks like, advocate

for purchases and share equipment.” Moran said the OSU Extension farmer networks were invaluable during the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires. Moran said the networks also provide a way for OSU Extension staff to “establish trust and build relationships.”

“Farming is deeply personal,” Moran said. “It is relationship-based. Through these connections, we become a trusted part of the farming community and in real-time learn how we can best support.”

The connections also provide valuable resources to assist people with the more personal challenges associated with farming, such as mental health stresses, suicide, burn out, relationships collapsing and the decision to leave farming.

The farmer networks provide an efficient method of getting information out in a way that best meets the needs of it’s participants. Small Farms then collaborate with network farmers to host on-farm tours and workshops that create face-to-face learning opportunities. “We help coordinate and get the word out,” Moran said. “We want to make it easier for farmers to open up to each other.”

Crystal Kelso said that often, farmers don’t believe they have anything worth sharing and after attending other tours, find out they do and get great benefit from the support and enthusiasm of those who attend.

Kelso said she recently worked with a man who purchased a small farm and was new to the area.

She connected him to both the regional small farms network, the Military Veterans Network, OSU Forestry specialists and OSU grains experts. He was then introduced to a seasoned



Regional on-farm fruit tree pruning workshop.

farmer who invited him to their farm, where he was able to get some hands-on experience with grain harvesting equipment.

“He’s now interested in learning more about a ‘Farm to Fork’ program and new introductions are being made,”

Kelso said. These connections help farmers explore what is possible.

“Every farmer is unique,” Kelso said. “We want to meet them where they are. What environment is most comfortable for them?”

Here are ways to connect with your regional Small Farms Program.

Interested in joining? Contact Teagan Moran Teagan.moran@oregonstate.edu
541-713-5011

Small Farms E-Newsletter: Resources, upcoming workshops, even classified ads.

Regional Small Farm Events: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/southern-willamette-valley>

Statewide Small Farms Quarterly News: Free on-line newsletter for commercial, small farm land stewards.

Farmer Networks

Regional Small Farmer Network: Linn, Benton and Lane counties

Willamette Women’s Farm Network

Statewide Military Veterans Network

Dry Farming Collective Network

Small Ruminant Network: For sheep and goat owners in Linn, Lane and Benton counties.



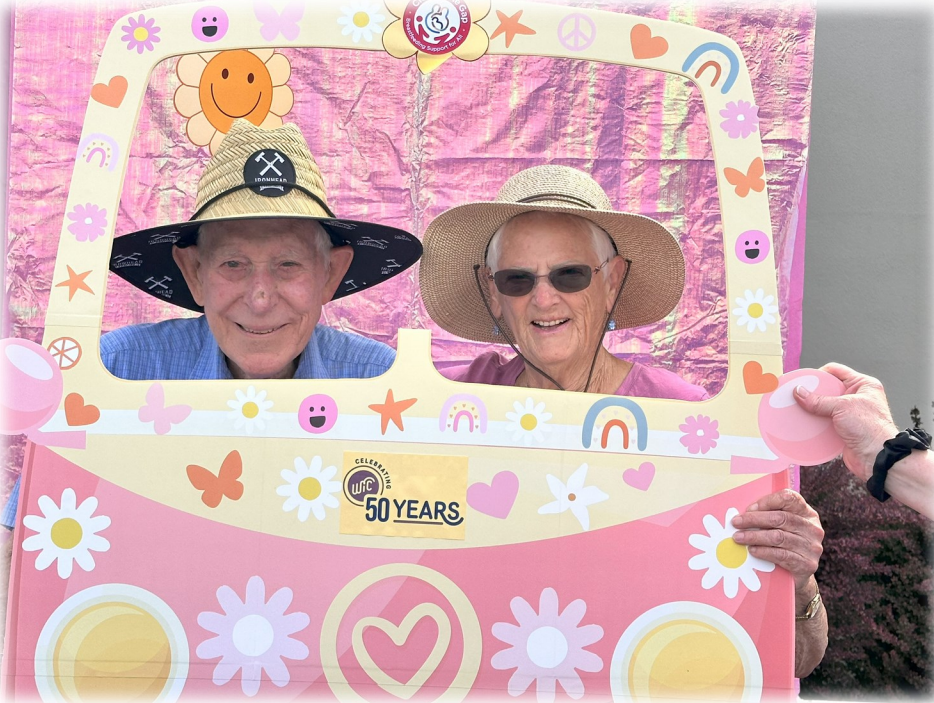
Regional self sufficiency farm tour.



Linn County WIC staff and breastfeeding peer counselors

WIC celebrates 50th anniversary

Over the last 50 years, WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) has focused on delivering comprehensive breastfeeding, nutrition education and resources. August 3rd we celebrated a legacy of empowering mothers and promoting lifelong health for families in the Linn County Public Health parking lot. We joined forces with partners from the community, Caesar the Llama, Go Giddy Pops and The Wailing Tides band to help us celebrate. Families and members from the community enjoyed giveaways, games and music. The event was open to all community members.



Fall Citizen's Academy

Wednesdays, September 18-November 13
6PM-9PM

#dignityhonestycompassion



MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY
VET-NET & THE LINN COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS PRESENT

★ ★ ★

LINN-BENTON VETERANS' Stand Down

A resource event for veterans
and their families

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Potential services offered:
Disability and Social Security benefits, Employment
services, Housing and utility assistance, Alcohol and drug
treatment, VA Medical benefits, VASH/Section 8
assistance, SSVF Housing assistance, Medical resources,
VA outreach, Dental Van, Medical Van, and more...

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THURSDAY
12 SEPTEMBER 2024
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.



Linn County Fairgrounds
3700 KNOX BUTTE ROAD E, ALBANY, OR
97321
★ ★ ★

FOOD & DRINKS WILL BE SERVED.



Alcohol and Drug Booth Eva Arndt ,A&D Counselor, Brian Mayta, A&D Counselor and Sophie.

Linn County participates in Sweet Home Health Fair

Sydney Klotzer (COP Therapist) and Jessica Burris, East Linn Office Manager, participated in the Sweet Home Linn Health Fair. More than 30 vendors attended, Along with Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug services (Eva Arndt A&D Counselor) and Brian Mayta (A&D Counselor). Meghan Oliver (Crisis Team) came out with the Linn County Van. The Mental Health Advisory Board was there also.

Mental Health discussed our services and let the Sweet Home community that we are offering services. We handed out flyers and cards, along with little goodies for the kids. The outcome was great, and we look forward to attending the next one.



Fair participant and Meghan Oliver, Crisis Team.

VETERANS STANDDOWN ... From P. 1

The Veterans Stand Down will feature more than 25 organizations offering services from health care and mental help to college recruitment.

“Organizing Stand Down events for homeless veterans is incredibly rewarding,” Hatch said. “These events provide essential services like medical care, housing assistance and job placement, all in a welcoming environment. It’s inspiring to see veterans regain hope and stability, knowing we’re making a real difference in their lives. The camaraderie and gratitude are unforgettable.”

The event will also include assistance with Social Security benefits, employment services, housing and utility assistance, alcohol and drug treatment, VA medical benefits, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing/Section 8 assistance, Supportive Services for Veterans Families housing assistance, VA outreach and a dental van.

“I would hope there will be a large showing of veterans taking advantage of this opportunity to meet with the service organizations. It is also a chance to meet with fellow veterans, find old friends, make new friendships and renew friendships,” Commissioner Tucker said.



Thank you Knife River Training Center for letting the Juvenile Department use your fantastic facility for our department’s yearly all staff meeting. Some professional development training and team bonding with a corn hole tournament.



Mental Health Tent: Sydney Klotzer, COP Therapist; Meghan Oliver, Crisis Team and Jessica Burris, East Linn Office Manager.

Up, up and away!



At the Northwest Art & Air Festival



Photos courtesy
Courtney Leland
and Rachel Lytle





Photos courtesy
Laurie Gibson



Hands On History in Brownsville

Fun learning event was at Linn County Historical Museum Aug. 24



Fine-tuning blacksmithing skills.



Above: Learning to use a cross cut saw. Right: When he isn't selling fine clothes, Oscar Hult tells embalming tales. Below: Pressing apple cider.



Making corn husk dolls.



Planning committee members Connie Bull, Kathy Otis, Mandy Cole and event founder Wendolyn Molk.

