



There's an app for that at Fair & Expo Center

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — The Linn County Fair & Expo Center is a busy place. On any given day there may be a horse show in the Calapooia Arena, people setting up for a car show in the Willamette Events Center building and several meetings being held in the conference rooms.

Event calendars on the facility's website and the county's website help keep track of activities.

And now, there's even an "app for that".

It's easy to register to receive a weekly text from Fair & Expo staff detailing what's coming up at the popular facility.

"We want to build more awareness of what's happening," Fair & Expo Director Kris Barnes said. "It is easy to sign up."

You can simply scan the QR code with your smart phone or text GOEXPO to 833-412-1021.

"We will keep track of registrations and once a month we will hold a drawing for a gift basket," Barnes said.

Barnes said the goal is to "get more people involved" with the facility. He pointed to the recent Christmas Storybook Land/Pastega Lights event that attracted 50,000 visitors as an example of the community using the facility they pay for.

Staff member Melissa Robinson is in charge of sending out the text messages.

Robinson said there are at least eight large events and many smaller smaller events filling Expo spaces every month.

"It's not just about promoting the Fair & Expo, we also want to help promote our clients' events," Barnes said.

To learn more, call 541-926-4314 or visit [www. https://www.lcfairexpo.com/](http://www.lcfairexpo.com/).

Linn County Expo Center

The Winter Rod and Speed show starts this Friday! This annual event is a must see for car enthusiasts, featuring over 100 vehicles ranging from hot rods and muscle cars to custom bikes and dragsters. 🚗

Friday, January 17:
6pm-9pm
Saturday, January 18:
9am-6pm

https://capitoldragster.com/winter_show.html

Text STOP to end



Melissa Robinson and Kris Barnes promote the new events app for the Fair & Expo Center. Simply scan the QR code to register.

To sign up, text **GOEXPO** to **833-412-1021**
If you opt in, you will incur the costs of using SMS messaging (normal rates apply).

OR SCAN HERE!

LINN COUNTY EXPO CENTER
www.lcfairexpo.com

Linn County helping group homes keep the power on



Left to right: Luke Welch, Excel Adult Foster Home; Jeff Walpole, Linn County Developmental Disabilities Department; Erik Anderson, Linn County Public Health Emergency Services; and Tamra Boyes, 16th Street House.

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

The Linn County Developmental Disabilities Program will provide whole-house generators to 28 local group homes that support individuals with developmental disabilities.

Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger, and Will Tucker have allocated \$150,000 for the initiative.

Additionally, the county received a \$297,000 grant through the American Rescue Plan Act, which will be used to fund individual emergency response equipment and supplies for people in the program.

According to Chrissy Cliburn, manager of the county's Developmental Disabilities Department, the grant is specifically designed to support local County Developmental Disability Programs in distributing emergency equipment and supplies based on individual needs.

The primary goal is to enhance the safety and well-being of individuals

with developmental disabilities during natural disasters, such as last January's ice storm that left many Linn County residents without power for extended periods. Access to emergency shelters can be challenging for some individuals in the program due to a variety of factors. The addition of backup power will enable many to shelter in place during power outages.

"Our focus is on rural homes and individuals who rely on medical equipment," Cliburn said. "We are actively reaching out to families to gather information about their emergency response needs and their power sources."

Linn County has purchased 28 whole-house generators from Lowe's, each capable of producing up to 22kw and powered by either propane, gasoline or natural gas. The generators — valued at approximately \$5,000 each — will be donated to local homes. However, providers will be responsible for the cost of connecting the generators to their homes.

Generators ... See P. 3



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

Would you like to receive the newsletter?

Please send your email address to Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, apaul@co.linn.or.us or call 541-967-3825.

Linn County Board of Commissioners

**Roger
Nyquist**



**Sherrie
Sprenger**



**Will
Tucker**



The Board of Commissioners meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays.

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

Call 541-967-3825

Juvenile Department welcomes Jose Reyes

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — The Linn County Juvenile Department has welcomed Jose Reyes, 38, as the new Community Programs Manager.



Jose Reyes

He succeeds Rob Perkins, who was recently promoted to Deputy Director.

In his new role, Reyes will be in charge of the Juvenile Department's work crew, the intake unit and the school intervention unit.

Reyes brings 12 years' experience working with the Marion County Juvenile Department to his new job.

"We are excited to have Jose join the Juvenile Department team after the most comprehensive and extensive interview process we have ever completed," Juvenile Director Torri Lynn said. "We are looking forward to the perspective and experience that he brings from his previous experience in Marion County and in working in the Salem Keizer School District. He has already shown a great willingness to learn and understand our systems here in Linn County as he is gaining knowledge about his role and responsibilities."

A Salem native, Reyes is the oldest of six children who were reared in a single-parent household. He said that perspective helps him understand the family circumstances some of the young people with whom he works come from.

Reyes graduated from high school in 2004 and had planned to enlist in the Marine Corps, but since he was only 17, needed written permission from his mother. She refused and Reyes enrolled at Chemeketa Community College.

He wasn't sure what career he might pursue, but knew he wanted to get an education.

While attending Chemeketa Community College full-time, he also began working at the Hollywood Video distribution center in Wilsonville full-time in the evenings and in 2009 moved to Nashville, Tennessee with the company, where he was promoted to Operations Supervisor.

He returned to Oregon in 2011, completed his Associates Degree at Chemeketa and enrolled at Western Oregon University.

At the same time, he was hired as an instructional assistant at McKay High School.

By then, he found an interest in criminal justice, in part because he landed a job as a "relief" worker at the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center.



Jose Reyes is the new Community Programs Manager at the Linn County Juvenile Department.

He graduated from Western Oregon in 2014 with a degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice and in February 2015, was hired fulltime as a bilingual probation officer by Marion County.

"The experience I gained in the school system and as a coach, carried over into my job at the Juvenile Department," Reyes said.

Reyes said he was fortunate to learn from several long-term staff members during his time with Marion County.

Reyes said he liked the great diversity of his job.

"Every day was different, every family is different," Reyes said. "Circumstances vary."

Reyes was the lead probation officer for two years.

"I helped train new hires, participated in multidisciplinary meetings that included representatives of school districts, community agencies, and various law enforcement agencies," Reyes said. "We did a lot of brain storming and collaborating about addressing the

increased gang and gun violence issues in the Salem area."

Reyes enrolled at George Fox University in 2020 and earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration in 2022.

Reyes said he applied for the Linn County job because the Juvenile Department has a solid reputation statewide and he wants to continue to learn new things and tackle new challenges.

"I know we have good staff and there are people with lots of experience," Reyes said. "I am coming in humble and want to learn from them."

Reyes and his wife, Vanessa, have two young children, Damian, 7, and Alina, 5. They are a busy sports family — from soccer to basketball, football, baseball and ballet.

"Yes, we stay busy," Reye chuckled. The Reyes family enjoys good food, attending sporting events, and attending church services together.

"I'm excited to be here, it's an excellent opportunity," Reyes said. "I will do my best to represent Linn County in a positive manner."



JUST A REMINDER

4-H is a volunteer led organization. Respect those that give their time and energy to provide learning opportunities for our members.

It is expected that you attend your club meetings and any workshops you sign up for.



A beautiful day at the Oregon coast!

Courtney Leland recently captured this beautiful photo of the Yaquina Bay Bridge at Newport. She said the weather was perfect and her children, Jax and Lainey, had a great time. Too pretty to not share. Did you know that construction on the bridge began in August 1934 and cost \$1,301,000 (\$29 million in today's dollars) and was built by Gilpin Construction Company of Portland. It took 220 people to pour more than 30,000 cubic yards of concrete and fabricate the 3,100 tons of steel. The bridge is almost 3,300 feet long and features art deco and art modern designs on its arches. The main arch is 246 feet above sea level.

LCSO releases 2024 crime stats

As we close the book on 2024 and begin 2025, we wanted to share with you, our crime stats for the year.

2024 was once again a very busy time for our office. From wildfires to car crashes, robberies, burglaries, assaults, and everything in between, the men and women of your Linn County Sheriff's Office was doing our best to "keep the peace with dignity, honesty, and compassion."



All crime stats listed are for areas serviced by the Linn County Sheriff's Office and do not include Albany Police Department, Lebanon Police Department, Sweet Home Police Department, or the Oregon State Police.

Our deputies responded to 35,583 calls for service. Of these calls, 5,297 resulted in reports being taken. Deputies made 5,430 arrests. Of these arrests, 2,540 were for felonies and 5,363 were for misdemeanor crimes *one arrest may be

the result of multiple criminal acts by one person*

We have some highs and some lows with our crime trends. Take a glimpse at some stats of note for 2024.

We had an overall decrease in Property Crimes (-13%) though we did see an increase in burglaries (9.9%) but a decrease in vehicle break-ins (-7.6%). Like last year, we once again saw an increase in Arson (30.8%) and Bicycle Thefts (7.1%). ID Theft cases dropped nearly 50%!

There was once again an increase in littering investigations (37.1%), but this number was much smaller than the 181% increase we saw from 2023. Person Crimes (i.e., Assault, Sex Crimes, etc.) were down nearly 6% as well.

When it came to traffic related offenses, there was a 6% decrease in Traffic Crimes such as suspended driving (at a misdemeanor or felony level) and DUI's. Out on the roads, we responded to 480 injury crashes and 523 non-injury crashes. Deputies issued 2,894 citations and 3,606 warnings to drivers throughout Linn County. These driving crimes are typically detected during proactive traffic enforcement by our deputies, so they are clearly out there doing a great job keeping our roadways safe!

Our dispatch center kept busy all year with a total of 56,458 calls to 911. On top of that, we also took in 93,907 calls from our non-emergency line! That's over 150,000 calls being taken by a dispatch center that is at times only staffed with 2-4 dedicated and hardworking dispatchers! We cannot express enough how much we appreciate all their hard work!

With an average daily population of 174 inmates, our jail processed 4,060 bookings this past year!

Our Civil Division, working out of the courthouse, also had a busy 2024. 5,429 civil papers were processed, they issued 582 new concealed handgun licenses (CHL) and renewed or updated another 3,089 CHL's.



New generators ... From Page 1

In addition, the county is purchasing 141 portable tri-fuel generators and 84 solar-powered battery packs to support individuals who need to shelter at home.

Luke Welch, owner of Excel Adult Foster Home in Crabtree, recently picked up a generator with assistance from Linn County staff members Erik Anderson and Jeff Walpole. "This is a great program," Welch said. "When the

power goes out, this will be extremely helpful."

Tamra Boyes, who picked up a unit for the 16th Street House in Albany, expressed her support, saying, "I love this project."

In total, the initiative will provide supplemental power supplies to over 200 individuals living in family homes and 191 individuals in foster or group homes.

Linn and Benton County sheriffs' offices train for avalanche event

January 11 the Linn County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue team partnered with Corvallis Mountain Rescue and the Mount Jefferson Snowmobile Club for a joint training scenario exercise at Sand Mountain, near Ray Benson Snow Park.

The scenario was a simulated avalanche rescue, designed to test critical skills and strengthen the coordination between our teams. From advanced rescue techniques to effective communication, everyone stepped up to ensure we're ready for the real thing.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated and worked together to make this exercise a success. Special thanks to Big Lake Youth Camp for providing transportation vehicles to help us bring it all together.

This training is a reminder of the importance of teamwork and preparedness when it comes to keeping our community safe in challenging conditions. Stay safe out there and remember: Adventure responsibly!



What Is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud, or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will. Force, fraud, or coercion need not be present if the individual engaging in commercial sex is under 18 years of age.

Human trafficking is a problem all over the world, and Linn County is not immune from it.

Especially with I-5 cutting right through our county, the act of human trafficking is taking place in our very own backyards, though many of us have no idea.

If you see any suspicious behavior that makes you think there may be human trafficking going on, contact your local law enforcement agency right away.

Your actions could help the victims of these horrendous crimes.

To learn more about human trafficking and what to look for, visit <https://buff.ly/2vHGW2w>.



HOSTED BY THE LEBANON NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

FIRST WILLAMETTE VALLEY POWWOW

May 31, 2025

10am-10pm
Boulder Falls Center
Event Center
Lebanon, Oregon
Emcee: Bob Tom
Arena Director: Deitz Peters

JOIN US FOR:
TRADITIONAL AND CONTEST DANCING
DRUMMING AND SINGING
NATIVE ARTS, CRAFTS, AND
FOOD VENDORS

Event Coordinators: Laurie Regalado & Shellie Jackola
Questions, Contact@
Laurie.Regalado@lebanon.k12.or.us



OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY



**MAY 3, 10 TILL 4 &
MAY 4, 12 TILL 5**

JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE THE MANY ADVANCES
HAPPENING IN BROWNSVILLE, THE COUNTRY
AND THE WORLD

The 20 century is well underway and progress is happening everywhere! Brownsville is looking at building a new steel bridge across the Calapooia and big problems arise around the platting of south Brownsville. There is discussion across the state about moving the state capitol from Salem to Portland!
Relative peace in the world allows for the flourishing of arts and culture... Isadora Duncan is dancing, Gertrude Stein is writing, Chagall, Monet and Matisse are painting and Frank Lloyd Wright is designing exciting new houses. A Ford Model T won the Ocean to Ocean Automobile Endurance Contest race across America only to be later disqualified. Robert Perry reaches the North Pole
Enjoy a carriage ride around town while being entertained by skits based on history and flavored with artistic license before being dropped at the Moyer House for more entertainment.

Adults	\$15.00
Children under 12	\$5.00
Full Carriage (20 people)	\$225.00

Reservations are strongly recommended!



Call the Linn County Historical Museum at 541-466-3390
Or stop by the museum at 101 Park Ave, in Brownsville
Open Tues-Sat 11-4 We accept Cash, Check or Credit Cards





It is time to book Linn County Parks’ gazebos, shelters

Do not forget to book your spring and summer gazebos or day use shelters for those graduation parties, weddings, and baby shower celebrations.

To book a gazebo or shelter call our office at 541-967-3917.



Highway 20 now the National Medal of Honor Highway

Courtesy The New Era newspaper — Sweet Home

President Biden on Dec. 17 signed into law a bill sponsored by Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden and U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA) to designate U.S. Route 20 as the National Medal of Honor Highway.

The 3,365-mile Highway 20 (Main Street in Sweet Home) runs from Newport, Ore., to Boston, through Erie County, Pa., which is Kelly’s district. The passage in the U.S. House comes after legislatures and governors in all 12 states along U.S. Route 20 have designated their state Medal of Honor Highways. Highway 20 crosses Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts.

“This designation covers more than 3,000 miles through Erie County and along U.S. Route 20, America’s longest highway. By designating U.S. Route 20 as the ‘National Medal of Honor Highway,’ we commemorate all 3,519 recipients of the award, both living and passed,” Kelly said.

“It’s my sincere hope that the millions of Americans who travel the highway each year – from Bend to Chicago to Erie to Boston – will take a moment to reflect on the extraordinary sacrifice, courage, and devotion exhibited by every single Medal of Honor recipient. We owe them a debt we can never repay. Designating this highway is just one way and we can cement their legacy in American history.”

You can watch Rep. Kelly’s speech on the House floor about the legislation at www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQXN7tXOKdg.

The Medal of Honor is the nation’s highest military award for valor, presented by the president in Congress’s name. U.S. service members who distinguish themselves “through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty” can receive the medal.

Redesignating U.S. Highway 20 — the longest continuous highway in the United States — as the “National Medal of Honor Highway” would honor each state’s current and future Medal of Honor recipients and recipients from any state who travel on it, according to a statement from Kelly’s office.

The 12 states along U.S. Highway 20 account for about 62 percent of all 3,519 Medal of Honor awards presented since the Civil War.

The legislation is supported by the Bend Heroes Foundation, Military Officers Association of America, American Legion, Legion of Valor, Military Order of the Purple

Contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email: apaul@co.linn.or.us

Public Notice: Confidential Personal Property Tax Returns Are Due

Persons in possession of **TAXABLE BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY** located in Linn County as of January 1, 2025, are required by Oregon law to file a Confidential Personal Property Return with the Linn County Assessor’s Office.

This is a reminder to file your business Personal Property Tax information. Additional penalties will be incurred after March 17, 2025.

Examples of personal property to be reported, but not limited to Furniture/fixtures/equipment/supplies/hand tools/ etc. utilized for

- Retail/wholesale
- Professional services
- Fixed load/mobile
- Paint/repair/remodeling
- Restaurant/tavern
- Apartments/hotels/motels
- Barber/beauty shops
- Logging/road constructions

It is the responsibility of persons in possession of taxable personal property to file a return, even though they may not have received a personal property return. Failure to file may subject them to penalties mandated by law.

The Linn County Assessor’s office is available to assist with the proper filing of the return.

Phone 541-967-3808 extension 2561

tsthompson@co.linn.or.us



STAND student ambassadors preview their presentation.



Above: Dar Merrill talks about the history of Linn Together.

Linn Together celebrates 2024 successes; future plans

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Linn Together volunteers held 25 community outreach events in 2024 and made more than 4,400 contacts, Dani Crabtree of Linn County Public Health said on January 15, during the organization's annual meeting/celebration at the Old Armory.

Linn Together is a community coalition that equips organizations, parents and teachers with information and tools to guide positive youth choices around substance use and behavioral health. It supports: community education and training; school-based activities; parent education; media campaigns; youth council.

Linn Together Members include: educators; parents; business leaders; health professionals; retirees; youth; local government; law enforcement; civic groups; faith community; youth-serving organizations; and media outlets.

Long-time volunteer Dar Merrill talked about the history of the organization and said its purpose is "provide information to keep kids away from harmful issues" ranging from drugs and alcohol to the Internet.

Merrill said Linn Together volunteers reach out in a variety of ways — from school programs to hosting information programs at community events, such as the Linn County Fair.

Michael Mattingly, Community Service Specialist with the Linn County Sheriff's Office, said there is an emphasis on youth marijuana use and highlighted the current youth marijuana prevention campaign that has been distributed in local middle schools.

Linn Together members also make the campaign materials available to local healthcare agencies.

"Our materials are printed in both English and Spanish," Mattingly said.

Mattingly said he has enjoyed participating in Linn Together's 'Bottle Tagging Campaign' that includes 61 Linn County alcohol retailers. Linn Together has partnered with the retailers to provide point-of-purchase reminders for adults that it is against the law to provide alcohol to minors.

Members of the STAND youth council (Students Taking Action Not Drinking) talked about their activities. They volunteered more than 400 hours last year and are in the process of producing three short educational videos for parents on the importance of "small talks."

Student members from Harrisburg and West Albany high schools were represented at the annual celebration

The group's next meeting will be at Lebanon High School. A goal is to expand membership to as many high schools in the county as possible.

Julie Mercer of Linn County Alcohol and Drug Department, said Linn Together posted 114 Instagram messages and had 528 new newsletter subscribers.

Linn Together has more than 8,500 email newsletter subscribers and added more than 528 new newsletter subscribers.

Mercer presented an engraved plaque to Linn County Reporter editor Alex Paul for "advancing the mission of Linn Together through excellence in media outreach."

She said Paul publicizes Linn Together activities on the county website, social media pages and month newsletter, the Linn County Reporter.

"Future Plans for Linn Together include partnering with Linn County Alcohol and Drug program to develop a 3-year opioid awareness plan to increase awareness of the problem and reduce opioid misuse.

Linn Together is completing a community assessment by gathering local data and reaching out to community agencies interested in hosting a focus or discussion group.

Learn more about Linn Together at www.linntogether.org, visiting "Linn Together" on Instagram, or calling 541-967-3819.



Scan to learn more about Linn Together.



Right: Michael Mattingly shared information about the youth marijuana prevention campaign.



Dani Crabtree tells about outreach efforts in 2024.



Julie Mercer talks about how Linn Together's messages got out last year.



OSU Extension Service



Laurie Gibson receives ORGA service award

This year's award goes to someone who has served Willamette Valley agriculture and the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association from behind the scenes for three decades. This awardee has been the logistical support behind nearly half of all ORGA meetings ever held.

First hired by OSU in March 1990, Laurie Gibson has been providing administrative support for ag Extension programs in Linn County since the Mid 90s. Since then, she has kept the ORGA board organized by doing correspondence, typing up draft programs, collecting registrations, keeping records, and helping host evening board meetings if the ag agent was gone. While the board decided on speakers and often gets the credit for these meetings, she was the one who made sure the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association Annual Meetings actually happened and ran smoothly.

Supporting ORGA is just one small slice of the work she does. As the administrative support for ag extension programs, she has been an invaluable partner for Extension agents in Linn County. She reserves meeting space, organizes refreshments, advertises Extension events, and handles meeting registrations. Technology has changed rapidly over the last 30 years. She not only keeps up with these changes, but she also goes the extra mile to make sure



Ethan Brock of the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association presents the Service Award to Laurie Gibson of OSU Extension-Linn County.

things run smoothly for those around her. She is always happy to sign folks up for meetings over the phone.

For a period of years, the Marion County ag agent Gale Gingrich and Linn County agent Mark Mellbye both relied on Laurie to help them with field plot data analysis. Mark Mellbye remarked that "Laurie was always willing to take on tasks outside of her job description.

For example, when we were short of seed samplers one sum-

mer, she pitched in for a couple weeks and learned to probe and sample seed lots. On a couple occasions she helped with field work. I think she just liked getting out of the office once in a while!"

Within OSU, Laurie has served in the search advocate role on numerous search committees and helped fill many critical OSU positions. Laurie was on the searches for all three current Willamette Valley field crops extension agents, four recent assistant profes-

sor positions in the Department of Crop and Soil Science, and a cluster hire for four organic agriculture extension positions. Laurie was one of the first people to welcome these job candidates to OSU.

Perhaps the most significant contribution Laurie made was working on the Linn County Extension monthly newspaper "UPDATE." For a period of over 25 years, the Extension paper UPDATE was the longest running monthly newspaper of its type in the entire US.

In 2014, Linn County joined forces with Benton County and UPDATE was reborn as GROWING. It takes a lot of time and effort to coordinate article submissions from a diverse group of extension agents and the Linn SWCD. Laurie gathers submissions, many of which are completed at the last minute and ensures that everything is formatted, edited, and published by the printing deadlines. GROWING is inserted into the Albany Democrat Herald and the Gazette Times, and direct-mailed to an additional 3000 households.

Laurie Gibson has spent a career providing service to the agricultural community. It is my pleasure to award the 2025 Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association Service award to Laurie Gibson.

OSU Extension Service Linn County:

"Adulting 101"

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

Class Topics Include:

- Resume Building/Mock Job Interviews
- Budgeting Basics
- Mental Health Wellness
- Self-Defense
- Emergency Preparedness
- CPR/First Aid Training
- Food Safety/Nutrition
- Basic Car and House Maintenance

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

This is a seven session series.

Location: 33630 McFarland Rd., Tangent, OR 97389

Dates: 2/26, 3/1, 3/3, 3/8, 3/12, 3/15, and 3/19

Weeknight classes are from 6pm-8:30pm. Saturday Classes begin at 10am and end in the early afternoon.

Class registration costs \$50 for Linn County 4-H members, \$75 for non-members.

Register at: <https://beav.es/GbW> (case sensitive)

For more information, contact Cassi Hyde by email at Cassi.Hyde@oregonstate.edu



Oregon State University Extension Service strives to ensure that all educational publications, programs, services, and activities are accessible. All announcements for programs, services, and activities must include a statement describing how to request accessibility accommodations. If you have any accommodation request, email Andrea Leao at andrea.leao@oregonstate.edu.



Mid-Willamette Valley

Critter Campus

February 22 9 am-3 pm

Polk County Fairgrounds

OSU EXTENSION 4-H



Cost: \$10 per person

Register Today!

beav.es/GWg



You do NOT have to be a 4-H member to participate

Choose from over 35 workshops on small animal science!

- ✓ Bring your critter! (Leakproof carrier required)
- ✓ Spend time with Poultry, Cat, Rabbit and Cavy Judges working on Showmanship!
- ✓ Sessions on rabbits, cats, cavies, and poultry with judges, local industry leaders, veterinarians and more!
- ✓ Two YQCA sessions will be offered!

Questions? Contact:

Polk County 4-H Coordinator, Andrea Hunter
andrea.hunter@oregonstate.edu | 503-623-8395



4-H in Oregon is part of Oregon State University's Extension Service. OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities and materials. Accessibility accommodations will be made upon request. Please contact us at andrea.hunter@oregonstate.edu or 971-632-0029.



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



OSU Extension Service



— OSU Extension Service



— Shawn Linehan Photography

OSU Small Farms Conference coming Feb. 15

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

TANGENT — There is still time to register for the 25th annual OSU Small Farms Conference to be held on Saturday, Feb. 15 at the OSU Alumni Center, according to Teagan Moran, Small Farms Specialist at OSU Extension — Linn, Benton and Lane counties.



Teagan Moran

Nearly 1,000 people attend this event that offers an excellent opportunity to network with other farmers and to hear from knowledgeable guest speakers. People come from all across Oregon and beyond. Registration is \$85 until February 3 and \$100 per person after that date. At-the-door registration is dependent on whether the event as reach capacity.

Moran said she didn't know anyone when she attended her first conference 11 years ago as a beginner farmer, but each year her circle of contacts has grown.

"I was intimidated at first," Moran said. "I didn't know any people and I didn't know terms being used, but that was actually OK and it didn't take long for that to change. Now, it's like a family reunion. People attend to go see people they might only get to talk to once a year."

Moran said that in addition to the guest speakers, there is a lot of "peer to peer education" that goes on.

This year's overall theme is farm resilience, Moran said.

Some featured speakers include: Melina Barker, Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Network; Ed Easterling, Crestmont Farm Family; Jeremy Mueller, Commonplace Farm; Jared Gardner, Nehalem River Ranch; Jossy Hidrobo-Chavez- is a Graduate Re-

search Assistant in the Horticulture Department; Kara Huntermoon, Heart-Culture Farm Community; Ben Larson, My Brothers' Farm; Brigid Meints- Brigid is an Assistant Professor, Senior Research; Andrea Retano: Ph.D student, Oregon State University; Matt Unger— is a retired berry farmer.

A special feature this year is that 20 Albany farmers market vendors have the opportunity to receive scholarships to attend the conference, paid for by a \$2,500 grant from the Oregon Farmers Market Association.

Moran said the participants then have the opportunity to receive Soil Moisture Sensors and Readers paid for by another grant's funding and that they will receive hands on training for installation and use.

The equipment helps farmers maximize water efficiency.

To learn more about the Farmers Market Association grant, visit: <https://www.oregonfarmersmarkets.org/grants>.

Moran said that although 1,000 people may seem like a crowd, the event provides many opportunities for social connections in a welcoming space and quieter break out spaces available.

"Often, participants return as guest speakers or panelists," Moran said.

Another special feature before this year's conference will be a service provider meeting "Building Support for Oregon's Military Veteran Farmers."

This is for organizations and agencies

that work with military veterans and/or farmers. Please RSVP <https://beav.es/GG2>

This program will be held from 2-4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14. Note that it will be held off campus at the Benton County Extension meeting room, 4700 SW Research Way.

This is an opportunity to connect with other service providers, learn of current efforts, and identify opportunities to collaborate and strengthen work moving forward. This meeting will be hosted by OSU Extension Small

Farms Program, American Farmland Trust and representation from the forming Oregon Chapter of the National Farmer Veteran Coalition. Snack and refreshments will be provided.

Dr. Gabrielle Roesch-McNally and American Farmland Trust will present lessons learned from research, evaluation and programmatic work done with women veterans in agriculture across the last three-plus years and learn what is being planned in the future.

West Lambert and National Farmer Veteran Coalition will provide an update on the status of the forming Oregon Chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition and share opportunities for support and engagement. Teagan Moran and OSU Extension Service Small Farms will provide an update on the Oregon Military Veteran Network.

At the conference there will be a dedicated room for veteran farmers and service providers as well as a facilitated networking session during the 'think with a drink' time at the end of the day.

Conference Schedule February 15, 2025

7:30-9 a.m.: Sign-in and packet pick-up (LaSells Stewart Center)

8:50-9 a.m.: Welcome and Announcements

9:45 a.m.: Plenary session

10-11:15 a.m.: Session 1

11:15-11:35 a.m.: Break

11:35 a.m.-12:30 p.m./1 p.m.: Session 2

12:30-2:10 p.m.: Lunch, optional roundtable sessions

2:15-3:30 p.m. or 4 p.m.: Session 3

3:30-4:5:30 p.m.: Think with a Drink Networking Session

5:30 p.m.: Conference Conclusion

*While we are not limiting the 2025 event, our venue and class sizes will be considered when determining registration closure.

Registration helpline — 541-713-5009 or smallfarmsprogram@oregonstate.edu.

Building Support for Oregon's Military Veteran Farmers

2-4 p.m., Friday, Feb. 14

Benton County Extension
meeting room

4700 SW Research Way

FREE

Please RSVP <https://beav.es/GG2>



JOIN US FEBRUARY 15TH - \$85 PER PERSON

Register for the OSU Small Farms Conference

[HTTPS://BEAV.ES/UVK](https://beav.es/UVK)



Oregon State
University

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

Feel the love with Valentine's Day trivia questions & answers

Courtesy Parade Magazine

Valentine's Day Trivia Questions and Answers

Question: Before "X" stood for a kiss, what did it represent at the end of a letter?

Answer: The cross

Question: Cupid has what name in Greek mythology?

Answer: Eros

Question: In Roman mythology, Cupid is the son of whom?

Answer: Venus

Question: In Roman mythology, with whom does Cupid fall in love?

Answer: Psyche

Question: What Valentine's Day candy was first created on equipment made for lozenges?

Answer: Sweethearts

Question: When did Sweethearts first get their shape?

Answer: 1901

Question: "Wearing your heart on your sleeve" has origins from honoring which Roman goddess?

Answer: Juno

Question: In the Victorian era, mean-spirited Valentine's Day cards were called "___ Valentines."

Answer: Vinegar

Question: Another Victorian-era term for a mean and comically mocking Valentine's Day card shares a name with what TV show?

Answer: *Penny Dreadful*

Question: Who wrote the oldest-known Valentine's Day message?

Answer: The Duke of Orleans

Question: From where was the oldest-known Valentine's Day message sent?

Answer: Prison

Question: When was the oldest-known Valentine's Day message written?

Answer: 1415

Question: Sweethearts production was temporarily suspended in which year?

Answer: 2019

Question: About how many roses are sent for Valentine's Day each year?

Answer: 50 million

Question: Valentine's Day celebrations may be traced back to what Roman holiday traditionally celebrated on February 15?

Answer: Lupercalia

Question: Who invented the first Valentine's Day candy box?

Answer: Richard Cadbury

Question: On average, how many marriage proposals are there on every Valentine's Day?



Answer: 220,000

Question: A single red rose surrounded by baby's breath is called what by florists?

Answer: A signature rose

Question: Letters to Juliet are sent to what city every year?

Answer: Verona, Italy

Question: What do yellow roses symbolize?

Answer: Friendship

Question: Kissing increases most people's heart rate to how many beats per minute?

Answer: At least 110

Question: William Shakespeare mentions Valentine's Day in which of his plays?

Answer: *Hamlet*

Question: Good Charlotte's "My Bloody Valentine" was inspired by what story?

Answer: *A Telltale Heart* by Edgar Allen Poe

Question: How many heart-shaped boxes of chocolates are typically sold each Valentine's Day?

Answer: 35 million

Question: What brain chemical is known as the "cuddle" or "love hormone"?

Answer: Oxytocin

Question: What insanely popular website debuted on Valentine's Day in 2005?

Answer: YouTube

Question: Saint Valentine was said to be martyred in what year?

Answer: 269

Question: Who is known as the Mother of Valentine's Day?

Answer: Esther Howland

Question: The love goddess Aphrodite was said to be born from what?

Answer: Sea foam

Question: When was February 14 first declared to be Valentine's Day?

Answer: 1537

Question: In what country is Valentine's Day known as "Friend's Day?"

Answer: Finland

Question: Besides Valentine's Day, for which holiday are the most flowers sent?

Answer: Mother's Day

Question: How many people typically buy Valentines for their pets?

Answer: 9 million

Question: Why did women and girls eat bizarre foods on Valentine's Day in medieval times?

Answer: To dream about their future spouses

Question: What state produces most of America's red roses?

Answer: California

Question: The gentlemen of Jersey Shore refer to a great catch as what?

Answer: "The rarest of roses"

Question: What notorious gangster orchestrated the St. Valentine's Day massacre?

Answer: Al Capone

Question: What emperor called for St. Valentine's execution?

Answer: Claudius II

Question: How much money do Americans spend on chocolate for Valentine's Day each year?

Answer: \$1 billion

50 Unspoken Social Rules

1. Don't interrupt someone mid-sentence.
2. Always say thank you.
3. Don't comment on someone's appearance unless it's positive.
4. Respect the line, no cutting.
5. Text before calling.
6. Don't overshare personal details at work.
7. If you borrow something, return it promptly.
8. Don't double dip in shared dips.
9. Say "excuse me" when passing through.
10. Don't stare at people in public.
11. Use headphones for personal audio.
12. Flush in public restrooms.
13. Give up your seat to someone who needs it more.
14. Don't leave someone hanging in a handshake.
15. Always ask before bringing a guest.
16. If you break it, replace it.
17. Don't leave hair in the shower drain.
18. Let people exit an elevator before entering.
19. Clean your crumbs after eating.
20. Don't hover over someone's phone screen.
21. Respect others' time; don't be late.
22. Say "bless you" when someone sneezes.
23. Don't whisper secrets in group settings.
24. Give people space in line.
25. Respect the "do not disturb" sign.
1. Don't talk during a movie.
2. Cover your mouth when coughing.
3. Don't hog the armrest on planes.
4. Always signal when changing lanes.
5. Respect shared workspaces.
6. Don't block the sidewalk when chatting.
7. Knock before entering a closed door.
8. Always return borrowed books in good condition.
9. Don't leave your trash in someone else's car.
10. Be honest about allergies or dietary restrictions.
11. Offer to split the bill fairly.
12. Don't gossip about someone who isn't present.
13. Avoid loud speakerphone conversations in public.
14. Let others off public transport before boarding.
15. Use "please" when asking for something.
16. Don't scroll through someone's phone gallery.
17. Keep your phone on silent during meetings.
18. Respect someone's decision to say no.
19. Never assume a friendship means free favors.
20. Don't interrupt someone's workout to chat.
21. Share the remote in shared spaces.
22. Be mindful of personal space in small rooms.
23. Don't brag excessively in conversations.
24. Always thank the host before leaving.
25. Treat service staff with respect at all times.



Image of smoke plume from a wildfire over rangelands

New Oregon climate assessment documents continued warming and signs of adaptation

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Oregon is becoming warmer and more prone to drought and will see less snow due to climate change, but people and businesses are also adapting to the challenges of a warming planet, the latest Oregon Climate Assessment indicates.

The assessment, released recently by the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute at Oregon State University, shows that Oregon's annual average temperature increased by 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit over the last century and is likely to become as much as 5 degrees Fahrenheit warmer by 2074.

Oregon's precipitation was below average for 18 of the last 24 water years. A water year is the period that hydrologists use to measure precipitation totals. And the state is likely to see significant changes in precipitation type in the future, with snowfall projected to decrease by as much as 50% by 2100, and more precipitation falling as rain.

The 300-page assessment, now in its seventh iteration, provides policymakers and the public with an overview of Oregon-related climate change science and the opportunities and risks that climate change poses to the state's natural and human systems.

"Knowledge of the biological, physical and social impacts of climate change better informs society's decisions about how to respond," said Erica Fleishman, director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, which produces the biennial assessment. "The assessment, which is mandated by state law, underscores that understanding, mitigating and preparing for climate change is a priority for the state of Oregon."

The assessment is divided into three



sections: trends and advances in climate science; climate-related natural hazards; and adaptation sectors, including the intersections of climate change and the economy, public health and the built environment. The assessment is primarily based on peer-reviewed research.

Included in this year's adaptation section is an overview of Oregon-based businesses' response to climate change, including voluntary efforts by companies to mitigate associated risks. Oregon has the third highest number of B Corporations in the United States. These companies are certified as upholding high standards of social and environmental performance, accountability and transparency.

"Those are indications that businesses are seeing diverse advantages to mitigating and adapting to climate

change," Fleishman said.

The state also has more B Corporation-certified wineries than any other state or country, and additional research suggests that Oregon's wine industry has been able to adapt so far to climate change and its impacts, Fleishman said.

"There is a lot of reason to be hopeful that the climate change adaptation efforts being undertaken by businesses such as vineyards will allow them to continue thriving," she said.

Other findings of the assessment include:

- A single, significant wildfire smoke event in Oregon could lead to localized and industry-specific economic losses and reduce the state's annual gross domestic product by at least \$1 billion.
- The number of short-term health impacts of wildfire smoke is likely to increase considerably over the next 25 years, especially among older adults. Drought also is associated with negative physical and mental health outcomes.
- Reforestation in Oregon could play a key role in carbon storage, with potential sequestration of 3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2030 and 16 million tons by 2050.
- Floating offshore wind energy could contribute to Oregon's clean energy goals but faces a range of questions and concerns from Ore-

gonians and Tribes. The assessment includes a comprehensive overview of existing science related to offshore wind energy, its benefits and impacts, and how the industry is responding to challenges.

- Strategically planting more urban trees can help reduce temperatures in buildings, lowering energy costs, increasing air circulation and providing other public health benefits. But maintaining urban trees can also be demanding, with potential increased maintenance costs, exacerbation of seasonal allergies and roots impacting sidewalks and sewers.
- As impacts of climate change are increasingly felt, demands on the legal system have grown and climate change-related litigation at the state and national levels has increased sharply over the last 20 years.

The Oregon Climate Change Research Institute is housed in Oregon State University's College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences. More than 65 collaborators affiliated with OCCRI, including researchers with OSU, Oregon Health & Science University and Portland State University; and numerous state and federal agencies, contributed to the Oregon Climate Assessment.

The full assessment is available online at <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/occri/oregon-climate-assessments/> or <https://doi.org/10.5399/osu/1181> (Link is external). A complete list of contributing authors is also available online.



Carol Hood was honored for 10 years of magically decorating the Storybook Land Santa House.



Larry Burke was honored for all-around achievement--Forklift Master, Go-To Guy for Help, and Best Ho HO Santa Ever!



Board Member, Rhonda Gierke, organizes the Bingo gift table, below right.



Neil Johnson accepted a certificate for East Albany Lions Club's many years of volunteer support.

Christmas Storybook Land thanks volunteers

(Editor's Note: The Linn County Fair & Expo Center has hosted Christmas Storybook Land for decades. This year the display added the popular Pastega Christmas Lights as well.)

Ninety-two Christmas Storybook Land volunteers and guests celebrated the enormously successful season and honored outstanding volunteers at the annual Winter Gathering held January 18 at the Fair & Expo Center.

The Christmas Storybook Land and Pastega Lights event entertained 50,607 visitors in December and gathered 33,419 food items from generous visitors for the Fish of Albany food pantry for local distribution.

Photos by Julie-Marie Krussow



Yummy snack and dessert packs!



Teen volunteer, Koen Crumal, wins a bingo prize with dad, Mark Crumal, left.



Father and son, Randy and Ryan Sheffield, received outstanding model train operators certificates.



What is justice?

The Leadership Albany class sponsored by the Albany Chamber of Commerce, dropped by the Linn County Courthouse on January 16 to learn about local government. District Attorney Doug Marteeny is shown talking with the class about what the term "justice" means in our legal system.

Parents should monitor kids' online activities

Linn County Sheriff's Office

Every holiday season, more and more kids are being gifted smart electronics with online access.

It also seems that kids are being given these items at a younger age than ever before. Whether it be a cell phone, tablet, or laptop, these can all be fun and useful items, but they can also lead to danger for our kids.

Adult predators are using the same apps your kids use, looking to lure them into being their next victim. Do you know who your kids are gaming with? Do you know if and what information, photos or other content they are exchanging on Snapchat, Instagram, Fortnite, TikTok, or Roblox?

Parents:

- Limit your kids "screen time"
- Talk to your kids about never sharing passwords, account information, home address or photos (that are not approved by you) with others

- Don't let, especially your younger children, have "friends" online that you don't know or haven't vetted

- Make sure you know their passwords and make frequent checks to ensure the content is appropriate and safe

- Make sure your kids have their privacy settings secured down so predators can't find them on public views

- Have the conversation with your kids about the expectations and these safeguards you are putting in place ahead of time to minimize misunderstandings and frustrations. Explain to them it is about their safety, not your lack of trust.

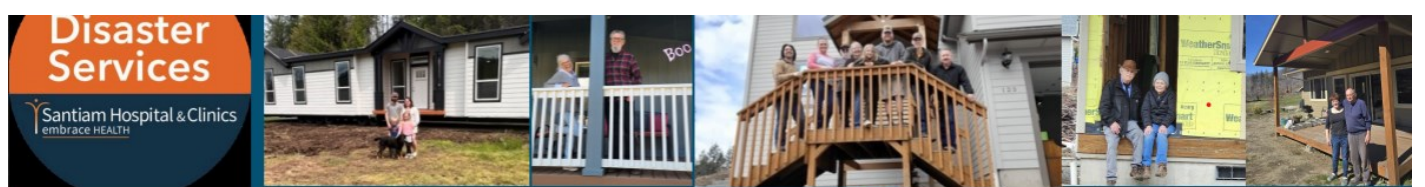
The ABC House in Albany, offers free Smart Cyber Choices training that will show adults how to empower children and teens to use technology safely and wisely.

We encourage you to sign up for these trainings by visiting: <https://buff.ly/3y1vSMc>.



Making a difference in the Santiam Canyon recovery effort!

Melissa Baurer, Director of Integrated Health and Outreach at Santiam Hospital and Clinics, recently provided an update on how folks in the Santiam Canyon are being helped after the September 2020 wildfires.



1221 Families Assisted since 2020
470 Primary Homes Destroyed in Santiam Canyon Beachie Creek Lionshead Fire
331 Household's Recovery Plan Achieved
30 30 Households Currently Supported by Disaster Case Managers - 7 Renters and 23 Homeowners
\$4,479,553 Funds Raised for Santiam Canyon Wildfire Relief Fund

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Collaborated and Partnered with Christian Aid Ministries to have 23 homes built from 2021-2024, in addition, 7 more were approved for 2025.

\$4.48 Million, raised and distributed by Santiam Canyon Wildfire Relief Fund. SCWRF was the catalyst of recovery efforts in the Santiam Canyon.

Santiam Disaster Services formed in September 2020 and has been providing Case Management and recovery support and now ReOregon Intake and Outreach. Funded by ODHS-OREM, Oregon Community Foundation, and OHCS.



<https://www.facebook.com/santiamdisasterservices>
 Email: santiamdisasterservices@santiamhospital.org

Updated: 12/31/2024

Now is the time to prepare for possible summer wildfires

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

Firefighters from across Oregon — including the mid-valley — were dispatched to the Palisades Fires in southern California in recent weeks.

Ric Lentz, Linn County's Emergency Manager, says summer may seem like a long time off, but now is the time to prepare your home and family for possible wildfires in our own backyards.

Lentz suggests the first thing families should do is to sign up for the We encourage all residents to sign up for the Linn Benton Alert system:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085613276#/signup>.

Lentz suggests developing an emergency "Go Bag" filled with essential documents as well as medications, food and water to last three to five days.

"In the event of an earthquake, you may need to shelter-in-place for two weeks to a month," Lentz said.

Acquiring provisions to last a month can be done a little at a time over several months, Lentz said.

"It's important that people be prepared and realize that disasters can happen anywhere," Lentz said. "We need to plan for disasters and hope they don't happen."

In addition to material items, Lentz said it is important to build up a sense of community, of knowing your neighbors.

"Having a strong community group to support each other is important," Lentz said.

Here are some tips to help in the event of a natural disaster in the mid-valley:

Make an Emergency Plan

- Make sure everyone in your household knows and understands what to do if you need to quickly evacuate.
- Don't forget a plan for the office, kids' daycare and anywhere you frequent.

Review Important Documents

- Make sure your insurance policies and personal documents, like ID, are



Ric Lentz

Emergency Manager

up to date.

- Make copies and keep them in a secure password-protected digital space.

Strengthen your Home

- Use fire-resistant materials to build, renovate or make repairs.
- Find an outdoor water source with a hose that can reach any area of your property.
- Create a fire-resistant zone that is free of leaves, debris or flammable materials for at least 30 feet from your home.
- Designate a room that can be closed off from outside air. Close all doors and windows. Set up a portable air cleaner to keep indoor pollution levels low when smoky conditions exist.

Know your Evacuation Zone

- You may have to evacuate quickly due to a wildfire. Learn your evacuation routes, practice with household, pets and identify where you will go.

- Follow the instructions from local authorities. They will provide the latest recommendations based on the threat to your community and appropriate safety measures.

Gather Supplies Early

- Have enough supplies for your household, including a first aid kit, in your go bag or car trunk.
- Being prepared allows you to avoid unnecessary excursions and to address minor medical issues at home, alleviating the burden on urgent care centers and hospitals.
- Remember that not everyone can afford to respond by stocking up on necessities. For those who can afford it, making essential purchases and slowly building up supplies in advance will allow for longer time periods between shopping trips.
- Be cautious when carrying flammable or combustible household products that can cause fires or explosions if handled wrong, such as aerosols, cooking oils, rubbing alcohol and hand sanitizer
- If available, store an N95 mask to protect yourself from smoke inhalation.
- Keep your cell phone charged when wildfires could be in your area. Purchase backup charging devices to power electronics.

Stay Safe During a Wildfire

- Pay attention to emergency alerts and notifications for information and instructions.
- Evacuate immediately if authorities tell you to do so!
- Check with local authorities for

the latest information about public shelters or check open locations on the FEMA app. You can also download the free Red Cross Emergency app for a list of open Red Cross shelters in your area.

- Linn County GIS has developed a shelter locator tool that will post open shelters during disasters.
- Shelter locator link - <https://linngis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/insant/nearby/index.html?ap=pid=c961f6bd503f47ce9db4c0b014daaf8d&find=97355&sliderDistance=15>
- Linn County Wildfire Map (also will post shelter locations) - <https://gis.co.linn.or.us/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d6e004605543438b8a4036d6e8e30d52>
- Consider making plans with friends or family to shelter with them where you may be safer and more comfortable.
- If trapped, call 9-1-1 and give your location, but be aware that emergency response could be delayed or impossible. Turn on lights to help rescuers find you.
- Use an N95 mask to protect yourself from smoke inhalation or limit your exposure to smoke by doing the following:
- Choose a room to close off from outside air and set up a portable air cleaner or filter to keep the air in this room clean even when it's smoky in the rest of the building and outdoors.
- Use high efficiency filters in your central air conditioning system to capture fine particles from smoke. If your system has fresh air intake, set the system to "recirculate" mode and close the outdoor intake damper.

EMERGENCIES ... See P. 14



Preparedness Calendar for 1 Person

Family Disaster Supplies & Preparedness Activities

This is a 12-month Preparedness Calendar for a 2-week (minimum) kit to help you prepare for disasters before they happen. After you purchase an item or complete an activity, check the box () next to it so you can see your progress.

Your supplies may be stored together in one large container, such as a garbage can on wheels, large suitcases, or several small plastic containers. Food items could be kept on a specific shelf in the pantry.

Month	Purchase:	Activities:
Month #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Water – 14 gallons per person & pet (if you fill them yourself, mark expiration for 6 months) <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-operated can opener & bottle opener <input type="checkbox"/> Instant drinks (coffee, tea, powdered soft drinks) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 flashlights with batteries	<input type="checkbox"/> Make your family disaster preparedness plan <input type="checkbox"/> Inventory disaster supplies already on hand, especially camping gear <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a home hazard hunt
Month #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Canned meat, stew, or pasta meal – 20/person <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary napkins <input type="checkbox"/> Camera or cell phone to make a video <input type="checkbox"/> Family-sized 1 st Aid kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a home fire drill <input type="checkbox"/> Video your home, including contents, for insurance purposes (store with someone who lives out of town – keep an additional digital copy in a safe place)
Month #3	<input type="checkbox"/> Canned fruit – 14 cans/person <input type="checkbox"/> Foods for special dietary needs (enough for 2 weeks) <input type="checkbox"/> 10 rolls of toilet paper/person <input type="checkbox"/> Crescent wrench or utility shutoff tool	<input type="checkbox"/> Test smoke detector (install detector if you do not have one), change battery if needed <input type="checkbox"/> Check expiration dates for all water, food, batteries, & medications <input type="checkbox"/> Locate gas meter & water shutoff – attach tool
Month #4	<input type="checkbox"/> Canned vegetables – 14/person <input type="checkbox"/> Extra baby bottles, formula, & diapers, if needed <input type="checkbox"/> Extra pet food, collar, & leash, if needed <input type="checkbox"/> Large storage containers for preparedness supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Quick-energy snacks (granola bars, raisins, peanut butter)	<input type="checkbox"/> Place a sturdy pair of shoes & flashlight under your bed for use during a disaster <input type="checkbox"/> Place a supply of prescription medicines in storage container <input type="checkbox"/> Start putting supplies in storage containers & include blankets or sleeping bags for each family member
Month #5	<input type="checkbox"/> Canned, ready-to-eat soup – 7/person <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid dish soap <input type="checkbox"/> Plain liquid bleach (no perfumes) <input type="checkbox"/> Portable am/fm radio including batteries <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-bacterial liquid hand soap <input type="checkbox"/> Disposable hand or baby wipes	<input type="checkbox"/> Make photocopies of important pages & put in storage container <input type="checkbox"/> Talk with neighbors about special skills or training (CERT, 1 st Aid, child care, amateur radio, tree removal, small engine repair, heavy equipment operations, construction skills, wilderness survival, light search & rescue, carpentry)
Month #6	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair heavy work gloves/person <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box of disposable dust masks <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair safety goggles/person <input type="checkbox"/> 5 bottles of antiseptic	<input type="checkbox"/> Check on child day care or school disaster plans <input type="checkbox"/> Establish an out-of-state contact to call in case of emergency <input type="checkbox"/> Take a 1 st Aid/CPR class

Preparedness Calendar

Family Disaster Supplies & Preparedness Activities

- Examples of Food Items:
- Select foods based on your family's eating preferences
 - Pick low-salt, water-packed varieties when possible (helps avoid undue thirst)
 - Comfort foods: a little bit can help relieve stress
 - Canned meats: tuna, chicken, raviolis, stew, Spam™, corned beef, etc.
 - Vegetables: green beans, corn, peas, beets, baked beans, etc.
 - Fruits: pears, applesauce, mandarin oranges, pineapple, etc.

Month	Purchase:	Activities:
Month #7	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 rolls of paper towels & 2 package napkins <input type="checkbox"/> 5 boxes of facial tissue <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-diarrhea medicine <input type="checkbox"/> Nitrile gloves (20 pairs for 1 st Aid kit)	<input type="checkbox"/> Put an extra pair of eyeglasses in the supply container <input type="checkbox"/> Store a roll of quarters in the supply container & locate nearest pay phone to your home <input type="checkbox"/> Find out about your workplace disaster plans
Month #8	<input type="checkbox"/> Whistle 1/person <input type="checkbox"/> ABC fire extinguisher <input type="checkbox"/> 10 large can of juice/person <input type="checkbox"/> Adult & children vitamins <input type="checkbox"/> Pair of pliers or vise grips	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify neighbors who may need help in an emergency (limited mobility, health problems, & children home alone after school, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Show family members where & how to shut off the utilities
Month #9	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 boxes of crackers or graham crackers <input type="checkbox"/> Dry cereal <input type="checkbox"/> "Child proof" latches or other fasteners to secure cabinet doors and drawers <input type="checkbox"/> 5 box of large, heavy-duty garbage bags <input type="checkbox"/> Camping or utility knife	<input type="checkbox"/> Secure shelves, cabinets, & drawers to prevent items from falling or opening during earthquakes <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with neighbors to inventory expensive equipment that could be shared in an emergency (chain saws, chippers/shredders, utility trailers, snow blowers, & 4x4 vehicles, etc.)
Month #10	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 packages of paper plates <input type="checkbox"/> 2 packages of eating utensils <input type="checkbox"/> 2 packages of paper cups <input type="checkbox"/> 3 box kitchen-sized garbage bags <input type="checkbox"/> 2 sewing kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Test smoke detector (install detector if you do not have one), change battery if needed <input type="checkbox"/> Check expiration dates for all water, food, batteries, & medications <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange work/home/emergency contact phone numbers with neighbors for use during an emergency
Month #11	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries for flashlights, radio, & hearing aids <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy rope <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape & masking tape <input type="checkbox"/> Crowbar	<input type="checkbox"/> Make a small preparedness kit for your car (food, water, blanket, small 1 st Aid kit, list of important phone numbers, & quarters for a pay phone) <input type="checkbox"/> Secure water heater to wall studs, if not already done
Month #12	<input type="checkbox"/> Hammer & assorted nails <input type="checkbox"/> Screw drivers and assorted wood screws <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy duty (6 mil) plastic tarps or sheets <input type="checkbox"/> Extra toothbrush & toothpaste/person	<input type="checkbox"/> Make arrangements to have someone take care of your children & pets, if you are at work during an emergency <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct an earthquake drill at home

EMERGENCIES ... From P. 13

- If you are not ordered to evacuate but smoky conditions exist, stay inside in a safe location or go to a community building where smoke levels are lower.
- If you are sick and need medical attention, contact your healthcare provider for further care instructions and shelter in place, if possible.

Returning Home After a Wildfire

- Do not return home until authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris and live embers. The ground may contain heat pockets that can burn you or spark another fire.
- When cleaning, wear protective clothing – including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, work gloves and sturdy thick-soled shoes – during clean-up efforts.
- Use a respirator to limit your exposure, and wet debris to minimize breathing dust particles. People with asthma, COPD and/or other lung conditions should take precautions in areas with poor air quality, as it can worsen symptoms.
- Document property damage with photographs. Conduct an inventory and contact your insurance company for assistance.
- Send text messages or use social media to reach out to family and friends. Phone sys-



DO YOU KNOW



DEFENSIBLE SPACE TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE

- 1 Remove dead and combustible vegetation, mulch, and other materials, especially within the first several feet from the home. Replace with decorative rock or gravel.
- 2 Remove leaves, pine needles, and other debris from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck to help prevent embers from igniting the home.
- 3 Cover exterior attic vents, soffit vents, and areas below decks and patios with 1/8" metal wire mesh to help prevent sparks from entering the home.
- 4 Replace combustible plants, furniture, and cushions on decks with non-combustible types.
- 5 Enclose eaves to help prevent ember entry. Remove any vegetation growing directly under your eaves.
- 6 Inspect the roof and replace missing shingles or tiles, make sure the valleys are in good repair.
- 7 Keep lawns mowed and all plants watered. Keep it "Lean and Green".
- 8 Move construction material, trash, and woodpiles at least 30 feet away from the home and other outbuildings.
- 9 Trim trees and remove or trim brush/bushes and ground cover plants under trees or next to structures or decks.
- 10 Chip, compost, or haul yard debris to a recycling center. Follow local fire regulations if burning yard debris.

For questions or more information about defensible space, contact the Office of State Fire Marshal at oregon.sfm@osp.oregon.gov.

tems are often busy following a disaster. Make calls only in emergencies.

From the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office

Creating defensible space can help all Oregonians be prepared for wildfire.

Defensible space is the buffer you create between your business or home and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surrounds it. Proper defensible space can slow or stop the spread of wildfire and help protect your home or business.

This checklist provides recommendations for getting started and includes actions you can take in the short term, such as over a weekend, and options to consider when upgrading your home or landscape.

Tips to Create Defensible Space

- Clear out dried leaves and pine needles from gutters, eaves, and around your chimney.
- Trim the lower branches of trees so they don't act as a ladder for fire to reach the treetops.
- Keep patios free of dry materials, like leaves or old wood, especially in the summer.
- Store firewood and leftover construction materials at least 30 feet away from your house.
- Trim bushes near your house so they don't touch the walls or siding.
- Clean leaves, needles, and debris off your roof and out of gutters regularly.
- Remove plants and bushes growing directly under the eaves of your house; leave at least a five-foot gap.
- Use 1/8-inch metal mesh to cover attic vents, soffit vents, and open spaces under decks and patios.

Clear leaves, dead wood, mulch, and other debris from on, under, and around decks and fences.



Mid-valley firefighters return home from California

Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office

January 25, two more of the Oregon strike teams headed home from Southern California.

The two teams assigned to the Eaton Fire are going through the demobilization process and will then begin their journey back to Oregon. We are still awaiting updates on the remaining two strike teams.

We cannot say it enough—how proud we are of the Oregon fire service for their incredible response.

It has been tremendous.

A total of 96 local fire agencies, along with our department, supported this ef-

fort. These 21 strike teams, consisting of 370 firefighters and 105 fire engines and water tenders, represent 23 of Oregon's 36 counties.

Many have asked how Oregonians can support the Oregon fire service and say thank you. Here are a few ways to do just that:

- Learn more about your local fire agency.
- Attend their community events - like breakfasts, bingo, and open houses.
- Ask about volunteer programs and consider signing up to serve.

The Palisades Fire destroyed 6,837 homes/buildings and burned 23,448 acres. It started on January 7 and was propelled by high winds.



A water tender from the Lebanon Fire and Ambulance District.

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