



Miracle Baby!

2 lbs. 4 oz. at birth, Thomas Rex Leahy defied the odds

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — What kid wouldn't want two birthdays per year? Thomas Rex Leahy does. The day he was born, Dec. 3, 2022 and the day he was supposed to be born, March 3, 2023. The son of Josh Leahy, 27, and fiancé Miranda Underwood, 26, of Albany earned it after beating the odds of survival, entering this world three months early and weighing just 2 pounds 4.9 ounces. He was only 13 ½ inches long. In the United States, the average baby weighs between 5 pounds 11 ounces and 8 pounds 5 ounces and 19 ¾ inches long.

Josh has worked as a custodian for Linn County for almost eight years.

Looking at the blue-eyed young man, it would be difficult to believe his arrival was so traumatic.

Born at 11:55 p.m. on December 3, 2022, Thomas was supposed to arrive on March 3, 2023.

The story begins on November 18.

"I was 25 weeks pregnant and my water broke," Miranda said. "I went by ambulance to the Good Samaritan Albany Hospital and they sent me to River Bend in Springfield, which has a high-level NICCU (Newborn and Infant Critical Care unit. I didn't go into active labor."

Miranda remained at River Bend for two weeks, confined mostly to one room.

About 8 p.m. December 3, Miranda "felt crampy" but contractions weren't showing up.



Looking at him now, it's hard to believe Thomas Rex Leahy was born weighing just 2 pounds 4.9 ounces. He is pictured with his parents, Josh Leahy and Miranda Underwood.

MIRACLE BABY ... See Page 5

Big boost to child care coming to 3 Oregon counties

ALBANY — There is a drastic shortage of regulated child care for children aged birth-to-five years old in Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties, with a shortfall of approximately 4,500 child care slots, according to recent data collected by the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments.

That shortage leads to problems for employers in workplace staffing, community challenges with economic development and negative effects for residents leaving parents struggling with a lack of child care availability and high cost.

To address this, Family Connections-the Child Care Resource and Referral agency of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties-is spearheading *Growing Care*, a new initiative to increase the capacity of licensed child care by expanding opportunities to start a child care business out of one's home.

"This is a win-win situation for everyone," said Bryan Steinhauser, the project manager of *Growing Care*. "We're creating more child care programs, which the community desperately needs. But we're also supporting motivated entrepreneurs to start their own small businesses. And Family Connections is going to set these new child care businesses up for success

with everything needed to create a high quality, profitable child care program."



Bryan Steinhauser

As the father of four-year-old twins, Steinhauser and his wife, Chelsie, understand the need for child care on a personal level.

"My wife and I make pretty good money but child care is still ridiculously expensive," Steinhauser said. "Despite me working within the system and knowing exactly where to look, we will struggle with finding child care. We spend \$18,000 a year for our twins, but knowing how the system works, I still consider us lucky. Most

other families have it a lot worse than us."

In Linn County, only 7 percent of children up to age two have potential access to regulated child care and 19% of 3-to-5-year-olds. In Benton County that is 21% and 45% and Lincoln County 4% and 29%.

In Linn County, there is a 3,773 child care slot shortfall, 850 in Benton County and 775 in Lincoln County.

The average cost of child care in Oregon is \$13,000 per year.

All 36 Oregon counties are classified as "child care deserts."

According to Steinhauser, a "child care desert" exists where there are at least three times as many birth-to-age-five children or more for every regulated child care slots in local child care programs.

Nation-wide, businesses lost \$3 billion annually due to employee absenteeism due to child care issues.

In each year between 2016 and 2018, more than two million parents of children ages five and younger had to quit a job, not take a job or greatly change their job due to child care issues.

Growing Care wants to recruit anyone

with a suitable residence who loves children and wants to work from home, especially among existing unregulated, licensed-exempt child care providers, new parents planning a leave of absence from their professional careers to raise their own children, and retirees wanting to earn extra income.

"With *Growing Care*, getting licensed is easier than ever before," explains Lynnette Wynkoop, the Director of Family Connections. "We're going to walk everyone through the process to make it as pain-free as possible. We will support new businesses to access grants of up to \$15,000 to cover startup costs. We are providing formal business training and scholarships for education. A support network will be available to mentor new providers on a personal level. We want our potential child care providers to know they're not alone out there, this choice won't be a gamble for them, we're doing everything we can to remove barriers so they can create a new, thriving, successful business, free of debt."

For more information, contact Family Connections. Call 541-917-4899, email connect@linnbenton.edu, or visit the website at www.growingcare.org.



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 and at the same time on Wednesday if needed.

You can listen to the meetings by calling 541-704-3003 PIN 8442.

Call 541-967-3825



Mind those terrazzo steps, boys

By Hasso Hering
HH Today

That sign on the left — no skating etc. — didn't seem to have an effect in this case.

Those beautiful steps in front of the Linn County Courthouse may just be too tempting if you're a kid with a skateboard.

That's the impression I got when I happened to pass the courthouse last Wednesday evening and snapped the photo above. It reminded me of the times the county commissioners

spent some money refurbishing those steps.

I looked it up at newspapers.com, where I found a story by Alex Paul of the Albany Democrat-Herald that appeared in the paper on Sept. 29, 2010. (I still worked there too at the time.) Alex works for the county now. The story he wrote as a news reporter 13 years ago reported on the work done by two experts in repairing and cleaning the terrazzo tiles that make up the steps.

The refurbishing job took two weeks, during which the steps were closed to the public. The work cost the county

\$15,350.

Similar work had been done about 15 years before. If that is about the normal interval for terrazzo maintenance, the county may have to retain those expert craftsmen again in another couple of years.

The steps, by the way, are original from when the courthouse was completed in 1940. No wonder the county would like to keep skates and bicycles from damaging those tiles. Just to remind everyone, here are a couple of photos I took in front of the courthouse in 2021. (hh)

Warm weather is here, focus on children, pets in vehicles

Linn County Sheriff's Office

With the warm weather here, we want to remind you to not leave your child in the

backseat of a car, even for a minute.

It may be hard to believe, but the truth is that according to the National Safety Council, on average, 38 children under the age of 15 die each year from heatstroke after being left in a vehicle. This is something that is entirely preventable and here are just a few things to keep in mind to help keep this tragedy from happening.

- Always check the back seat and make sure all children are out of the car before locking it and walking away.
- Be extra alert when there is a change in your routine, like when someone else is driving your child or you take a different route to work or childcare.
- Put your cell phone, bag, or purse in the back seat, so that you check the back seat when you arrive at your destination.
- Keep your car locked when it is parked to prevent a curious child from entering when no one is around. Many hot car deaths have occurred when a child mistakenly locks themselves inside. If you come across a vehicle with a child locked inside, Oregon is one of a few states that does have a "Good Sa-



maritan Law". This law states that you may enter a motor vehicle, "by force or otherwise," to remove an unattended child without fear of criminal or civil liability, as long as certain requirements are met. These requirements are:

- have a reasonable belief that the child is in imminent danger of suffering harm;
- notify law enforcement or emergency services either before or soon after entering the vehicle;

- use only the minimum force necessary to enter the vehicle; and
- stay with the child until law enforcement, emergency services, or the owner or operator of the vehicle arrives. You may think that it will never happen to you, but we hope that keeping these things in mind will help you MAKE SURE it never does.

Summer, time for parades, festivals



Native Encampment volunteers had an award-winning float at the Lebanon Strawberry Festival parade.



Always faithful Linn County Veterans Services staffers — Rob McKibben, Jess Valenzuela and Dee Baley-Hyder — participated in the Lebanon Strawberry Festival parade.



Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan and her Posse at the Lebanon Strawberry Festival parade.



Goff family fun at the Pioneer Picnic



The Goff kids (their dad Rick is the county building official) had a great time at the annual Pioneer Picnic in Brownsville last weekend. Cassidy won two first place ribbons for her homegrown flower arrangements, Brady got a first place for his and Wesley earned a first and second place for his arrangements. Wesley also got third place in the 5K Pioneer Dam Run for the 19 and under age group. Looks like they also enjoyed some shaved ice treats for their hard work.



Enjoying the Pioneer Picnic Parade. Angie Debban, Conner Debban (driver), Katie Leigh, Morgan Leigh and baby Carson in the Pioneer Picnic Parade Saturday. Angie and Katie work for the Linn County Justice Court.



Why we initiated day parking fee at Sunnyside County Park

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

SWEET HOME — A \$7 day use parking fee will be charged at Sunnyside County Campground effective June 9, according to Linn County Parks Director Stacey Whaley.

Lewis Creek Day Use area has had a similar fee in place for several years, Whaley said. A seasonal pass that covers Lewis Creek and Sunnyside County Campground can be purchased for \$60.



Stacey Whaley

Whaley said the fee is being implemented because Linn County Parks & Recreation does not receive tax money from the County's General Fund and the costs of maintenance, supplies and labor continue to increase, just as they have for Linn County residents at their own homes.

"Linn County tax dollars do not support Linn County Parks and haven't for several years," Whaley said. "Our operations are funded by guest fees such as camping, day use, RV dumping and we sell some firewood and ice. We also receive some Transient Lodging Tax funds and a portion of Oregon State RV licenses."

Linn County Parks has also received several grants from the Oregon State Marine Board over the years.

Linn County Parks & Recreation is a large operation, from boat ramps on the Willamette River on the west side of the county to Clear Lake Resort on the far eastern side of the county. There are more than 600 camping slips and 33 total properties.

Yet, even though the parks system has grown considerably over the last 25 or 30 years, full-time staffing is just 13 people assisted by 35 to 40 seasonal staffers.

They are responsible for booking campsite reservations, cleaning restrooms, cabins and yurts, building and remodeling facilities and maintaining park spaces.

"Our staff are also called on to monitor

and enforce issues at day use areas, which costs us resources and affects the experiences of other parks users," Whaley said. "The fees will help offset the operational costs associated with keeping our parks clean and safe."

Whaley noted that other government-run facilities including the Bureau of Land Management, State Parks and U.S. Forest Service, already charge daily fees.

"For a long time, the Parks & Recreation Department has operated primarily on camping fees and the Board of Commissioners would like to see that more diversified," Whaley said. "We are trying to spread the cost of operating the parks more equitably across all user groups."

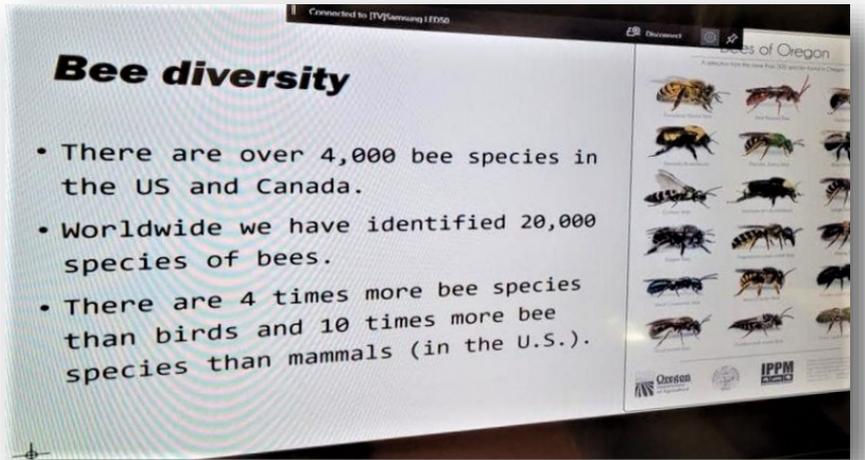
Whaley said that the parking fee is included when someone rents moorage at the Sunnyside Campground.

She noted that the \$7 fee is the same as someone paying for an additional vehicle at a camping space. Group shelter reservations will include 20 guest parking passes.

"The fees can be paid at entrance booths at either Sunnyside or Lewis Creek and if the booth isn't open, there will be a card-pay kiosk so guests can pay and receive a ticket to place on their vehicle's dashboard," Whaley said.

Whaley added that people can also park outside of Sunnyside County Campground and walk in without paying a fee and there is no fee for people who want to use the dog park or access the fishing pond, which are outside the park proper.

If you would like to learn more about Linn County Parks & Recreation, please see our annual summer visitors guide at <https://www.co.linn.or.us/parksrec/page/linn-county-parks-visitors-guide-2023>.



Learning about bees at Juvenile Detention

A recent class at the Juvenile Detention Center focused on the importance of bees in the world.



Thanks for reading the Linn County Reporter.
Please call 541-967-3825 with story ideas.

Don't forget!

The Mad Platter Café is now open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

*In a hurry?
Order ahead:
541-967-3877*





Josh and Miranda are enjoying the daily changes they see in their son, Thomas.

Miracle baby ... From P. 1

“A labor and delivery nurse told me, ‘You are having this baby tonight,’” Miranda said. Thomas was born Caesarian and for a bit, things were traumatic. He was so small and he wasn’t breathing. A nurse manually resuscitated him.

“He was intubated the first night and then he used a CPAP machine for 10 weeks,” Miranda said.

Because he was born so early, Thomas spent 80 days in the NICCU unit, where his lungs and skin fully developed.

QUOTABLE

“It was dramatic, rough,” Josh said. “We look back on it now and realize it could have gone in any direction.”

— Josh Leahy

He gained 6 pounds 5 ounces.

During that time, Josh and Miranda lived at the Ronald McDonald House and Josh commuted to work at the Courthouse. Linn County employees chipped in to fund a gas card for the family.

Thomas came home to Albany on February 23 and is now weighing in at 13 pounds 9 ounces, still a bit small, but he’s eating well and gaining weight steadily.

His dad says he is amazingly strong and aside from some issues with acid reflux he’s doing great.

“He mostly sleeps OK,” Josh said.

Josh said he and Miranda feel blessed to have their son, but admits it was “really hard”



Above: Miranda gets to touch her son for the first time after his birth. Below: Thomas wasn’t breathing when he was born and needed a little assistance.



for a while.

“It was dramatic, rough,” Josh said. “We look back on it now and realize it could have gone in any direction.”

The family’s \$655,000 hospital bill was covered by the Oregon Health Plan.

“He makes us laugh and smile every day,” Josh said of his miracle son.

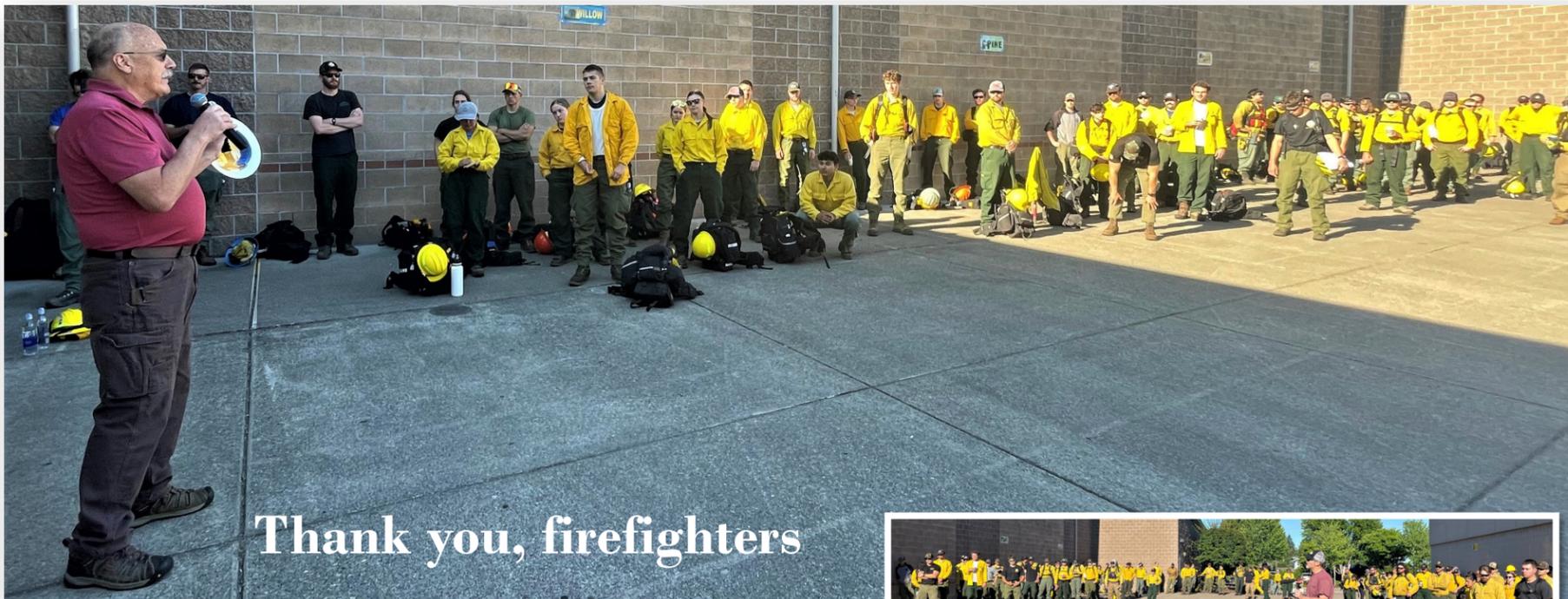
Miranda said she hopes Thomas will continue to show the “resilience he has shown so far” as he proceeds through life.

“He has already gone through so much, it’s been intense,” she said. “I want him to show the world he is ready to go.”

Josh said he hopes Thomas always has his fighting spirit.

After this experience, would Josh and Miranda like more children?

“At first, I would have said no,” Miranda said. “But now, yes.”



Thank you, firefighters

Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker welcomes more than 200 wildland firefighters in training Friday morning at the Oregon Department of Forestry’s Wildland Fire School in Sweet Home. Tucker thanked the team members for what they do and admonished them that no matter what, their personal safety is the number one goal. The team members then headed out for live-firing training.





ABOVE: Jennie Gilbert coaches a workshop participant on making sauerkraut in Halsey at the first in person workshop since before COVID. **RIGHT:** Gilbert served custom trail mix to more than 200 children who participated in the free fishing day at Peavy Arboretum on Get Outdoors Day. **CENTER RIGHT:** A workshop participant fills jars with fresh pineapple for steam canning class in Halsey. **INSET PHOTO:** Gilbert coaches a workshop participant in loading her jar with sauerkraut at the OSU Linn Extension office workshop.



Teaching folks how to preserve food is a joy for Jennie Gilbert

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

TANGENT — If anyone was meant to head up the food safety and security and Master Food Preserver programs for OSU Extension, it is Jennie Gilbert.

She grew up in Halsey in a family that canned and preserved food for generations.

“I love my job,” Gilbert said. “It’s what I was meant to do. People are so excited to learn how to can and preserve food today.”

Gilbert has held her new position for six months and comes to the role with about 10 years’ experience as a special education teacher in Salem, Central Linn and Sweet Home schools. She graduated from Central Linn High School in 1985, lived in Florida for several years. She spent 15 years working in a mid-valley seed lab and then earned a Bachelor’s Degree in psychology and a Master’s Degree in education from Western Oregon University.

Her husband, Rich, works for the Linn County Road Department. Although Gilbert is excited to see a renewed interest in food preservation, she also warns that families need to realize they can’t just use old family recipes or methods.

“Our foods have different compositions today than 100 years ago,” Gilbert said. “For example, tomatoes in my grandmother’s day had a lot more acidity than tomatoes today.”

Gilbert said her goal is to take classes out into communities in Linn and Benton counties. For example, on the day of this interview, she had a water bath class planned at Halsey City Hall in the evening.



OSU Extension — Linn County

Gilbert said many people associate pressure canning with the term food preservation, there are actually several methods of food preservation: dehydration, freezing, pressure

canning, water bath canning, fermentation and pickling. And, Gilbert emphasizes, safety is paramount in every method.

That’s why she is also leading introductory classes to help people learn about equipment used in canning and to get them familiar with it. “I want to be a resource for the community,” Gilbert said.

“I also want to focus on finding out what people want to learn about.”

Gilbert said she enjoys working with the Master Food Preserver program as well. “Master Food Preservers donate time back to the program,” Gilbert said. “We have about 16 in Linn and Benton counties and I can call on them to help me with classes and programs. They are wonderful people, so knowledgeable and they love helping educate others.”

Gilbert encourages anyone with a pressure canner to have their pressure gauge tested free at the OSU Extension Offices in Linn and Benton counties.

“We also have a phone hotline during canning season,” Gilbert said.

Gilbert said donated canning jars are also appreciated and directed to local food pantries.



OSU Extension Service

Summer 2023

Linn & Benton County Food Preservation Classes

July 18 - Pickle Class, Halsey Community Center, 6pm

July 25 - Pressure Canning, Linn Extension Office, 6pm

Aug 12 - Pressure Canning, Halsey Community Center, 9am

Aug 16 - Salsa Class, Linn Extension Office, 6pm

Aug 24 - Salsa Class - Halsey Community Center, 6pm

Aug 30 - Pickle Class, Linn Extension Office, 6pm

To register or for more details:
Halsey Community Center: 541-369-2522
Linn Extension Office: 541-967-3871

\$10 per class
Space is limited to 12 people per class.



OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made prior to the class to Jennie Gilbert, 541-967-3871, or jennifer.gilbert@oregonstate.edu

LCSWA seedling sale sees leadership change

Upgrade for ordering and payment process is task for retired ODF official

Big changes are coming to the Linn County Small Woodlands Association's Seedling Sale for 2024.

After seven years of nurturing and growing the seedling sale for the LCSWA, Lance and Bonnie Marshall are turning over the reins to Lena Tucker.

Tucker — a Sweet Home-area resident — retired from the Oregon Department of Forestry in fall 2021 as deputy state forester. Her extensive career at ODF began in 1994 where she served many leadership roles, including Private Forests Division Chief. Tucker has been involved nationally with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and is also a Certified Forester through the Society of American Foresters.

Tucker has also volunteered locally while serving as a member of Sweet Home's Tree Commission. She has logged many hours within the city to plant, identify and inventory the tree population. She has also participated in multiple Arbor Day events locally to promote and distribute trees and shrubs for planting.

"Her organizational skills and strong leadership will help take the 29th annual seedling sale to a new level as it moves from paper ordering to online ordering and payment," Bonnie Marshall said.

Sales and net profit have increased dramatically in the past seven years, even as the COVID-19 pandemic created challenges for the group. The 2023 sale netted more than \$19,000. Bonnie and Lance Marshall were named as LCSWA "volunteers of the year" in 2020.

The seedling sale provides money for LCSWA to offer college scholarships to Linn County students with forestry



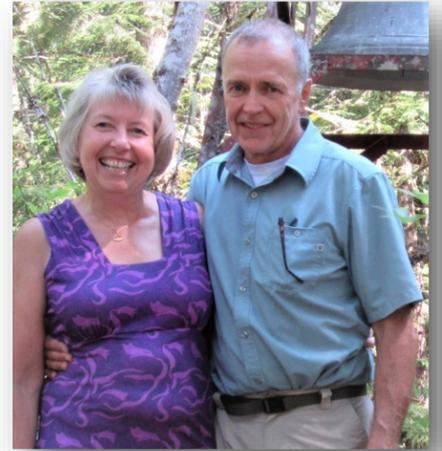
and conservation majors. It also provides annual funding for 4-H scholarships. 4-H students, their parents and LCSWA members provide a volunteer workforce to make the sale a success.

In 2022, \$5,600 in scholarship money was awarded.

With the guidance of the LCSWA Webmaster Nancy Hildebrandt, Tucker is doing research and preparation to make the transition to an online seedling "shop" — located on the LCSWA website — as seamless

as possible. With real-time pre-ordering, customers will know how many seedlings are available or if they are sold out. Sales will be conducted through a safe platform using a credit card. The LCSWA will still be able to provide refunds if our nurseries have changes in supply after you place your order.

"The tools to build a typical online store are free, but the challenge is to customize the functionality to meet LCSWA require-



ments by using free or low-cost additional tools to minimize the need for custom code," said Hildebrandt. "So far we're making great progress because Lena is really good at spelling out requirements, entering data, and testing."

Tucker previewed the online seedling sale "shop" to the LCSWA board of directors June 8. The response was positive.

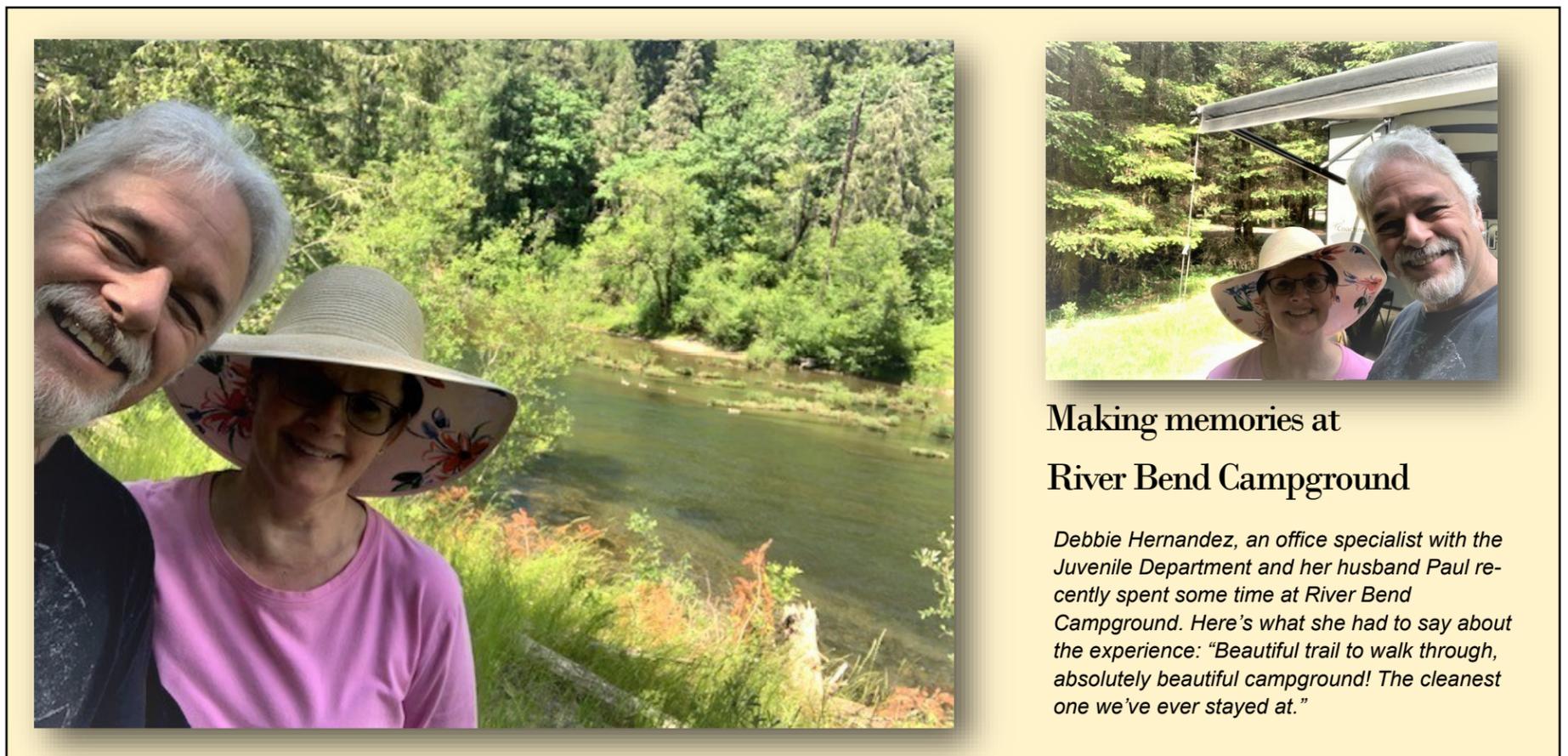
"I like it. I'm trying to make it clean and simple. I'm excited. I don't see anything that's a deal breaker," Tucker told the board.

The 2024 sale will be held at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center Saturday, Feb. 3.

The sale offers conifers, hardwoods and shrubs to small woodland owners and back yard gardeners — with plants coming from area nurseries.

The timetable for the seedling sale will be similar to previous years with information e-mailed out to previous customers and online ordering available in early December. The deadline for pre-ordering seedlings will be two weeks before the sale date.

Feb. 3 sales may be paid with cash or check. For more information, please contact Tucker at Itsken-dall@centurytel.net or 541-570-5250.



Making memories at River Bend Campground

Debbie Hernandez, an office specialist with the Juvenile Department and her husband Paul recently spent some time at River Bend Campground. Here's what she had to say about the experience: "Beautiful trail to walk through, absolutely beautiful campground! The cleanest one we've ever stayed at."

Please celebrate the 4th of July safely

It's that time of year when Americans everywhere will be celebrating the Fourth of July holiday with family, friends, and fireworks. Unfortunately, over the past 15 years, there has been an increase in the number of people injured during this festive time.

A new report by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) finds a significant upward trend in fireworks-related injuries. Between 2006 and 2021, injuries with fireworks climbed 25% in the U.S., according to CPSC estimates.

Last year, at least nine people died, and an estimated 11,500 were injured in incidents involving fireworks.

"It's imperative that consumers know the risks involved in using fireworks, so injuries and tragedies can be prevented. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch the professional displays," said CPSC Chair Alex Hoehn-Saric. In addition, he said, "CPSC's Office of Compliance and Field Operations continues to work closely with other federal agencies to prevent the sale of illegal consumer fireworks."

CPSC's report shows:

- Of the nine U.S. deaths, six were associated with firework misuse, one death was associated with a mortar launch malfunction, and two incidents were associated with unknown circumstances.
- There were an estimated 11,500 emergency room-treated injuries involving fireworks in 2021—down from the spike (15,600) experienced in 2020, during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many public displays were cancelled.
- An estimated 8,500 fireworks-related injuries (or 74 percent of the total estimated fireworks-related injuries in 2021) occurred during the



1-month special study period between June 18 and July 18 last year.

- Young adults 20 to 24 years of age had the highest estimated rate of emergency department-treated, fireworks-related injuries in 2021.
- In 2021, there were an estimated 1,500 emergency department-treated injuries associated with firecrackers and 1,100 involving sparklers.
- In 2021, the parts of the body most often injured by fireworks were hands and fingers (an estimated 31 percent of injuries) along with head, face, and ears (an estimated 21 percent).
- About 32 percent of the emergency department-treated fireworks-related injuries in 2021 were for burns.
- In 2021, approximately 31 percent of selected and tested fireworks products were found to contain noncompliant components, including fuse violations, the presence of prohibited chemicals and pyrotechnic materials overload.

CPSC urges consumers to celebrate safely this holiday by following these safety tips:

Tips to Celebrate Safely

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit—hot enough to melt some metals.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy, in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then



move quickly away from the fireworks device.

- Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Move to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never point or throw fireworks (including sparklers) at anyone.
- After fireworks complete their

burning, to prevent a trash fire, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding the device.

- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area, and only purchase and set off fireworks that are labeled for consumer (not professional) use.
- Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

For more fireworks safety tips, visit [Fireworks.gov](https://www.fireworks.gov) | [CPSC.gov](https://www.cpsc.gov)

Linn County sponsors its 17th annual Summer Youth Wage Grant Program

ALBANY — It is time to apply for participation in the 17th annual Summer Youth Wage Program sponsored by Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker.

Linn County uses economic development funds generated by the Video Lottery to subsidize \$2 per hour of wages for first-time teen employees. The program has been highly successful, with dozens of teenagers employed each summer. Last year, 73 youth were employed in jobs that included everything from local restaurants to farming. To qualify, businesses must hire eligible employees between May 1 and September 29. The employee must be legal to work in the United States and a resident of Linn County. Qualifying businesses must employ 35 or fewer employees and the young people must be first-time employees, who have not previously worked for the individual business.

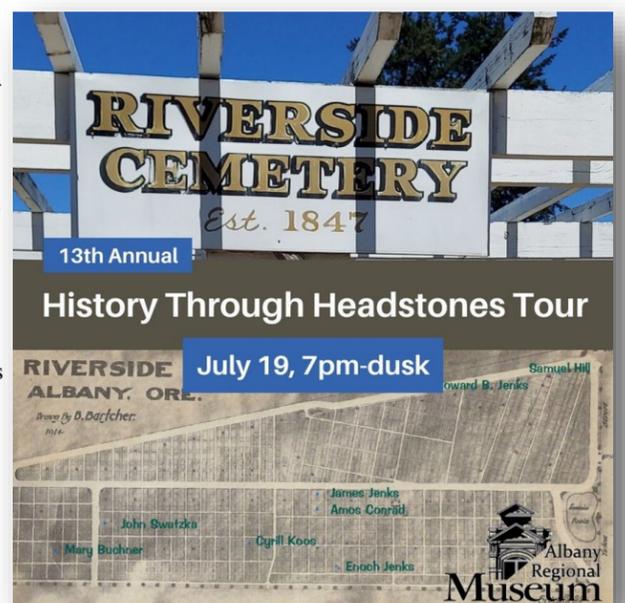
Maximum reimbursement is \$3,000 per employer and businesses can hire up to three qualifying young people at a time. Maximum subsidy per young person is \$1,000.

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

HELP WANTED

History Through Headstones tour July 19

The 13th annual History Through Headstones Tour returns next month to Albany's Riverside Cemetery on Wednesday, July 19, sponsored by the Albany Regional Museum and the Riverside Cemetery Board of Directors. The event is free and goes from 7 pm until dusk. This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Agricultural Heritage" featuring the stories of 11 people associated with the area's agricultural community, including six members of the Jenks family. Visitors can begin the tour at either entrance as docents tell the stories of those featured this year. This is a unique look at early Albany history.



Parking is available on either side of 7th Avenue west of Albany General Hospital. Light refreshments will be served.



Hands-on learning at Juvenile Dept. Recently, some of our youth and others from the community, had the opportunity to earn their certification to operate heavy equipment. Thank you Baker Technical Institute for giving our youth this opportunity!



LCSO staff help at Cast With a Cop

The Linn County Sheriff's Office again joined the Lebanon Police Department at their annual Cast With a Cop event held at Camp Tadmor.

Cast With a Cop brings law enforcement together with children from the community and gives them a fun morning of fishing and conversation.

We had a great time with everyone, saw some pretty awesome fish caught and are already looking forward to next year's event!

Thank you to LPD for hosting and inviting us to be a part of this wonderful tradition!

Know the wildfire evacuation warning levels

As we continue to get more and more into wildfire season, we wanted to remind everyone of the evacuation levels and what they mean. These evacuation levels were used extensively during the wildfires of 2020 and are important to know in case you or someone you know needs to evacuate.

Oregon follows a three-level evacuation notification system, each structured around the readiness need and threat level. Oregonians should become familiar with "Be Ready, Be Set, Go!" evacuation levels to make informed decisions when receiving evacuation notices. OEM urges people to evacuate any time they feel unsafe, as conditions can change rapidly. Individuals should always make the best decision for their safety.

- **Level One** (colored green on a map) means "BE READY" to evacuate. Community members should be aware of the danger in their area and stay informed. Check county, city and emergency services websites and local news for information. This is the time to pack and prepare to leave. Check with loved ones and emergency contacts. Reach out to neighbors, share information and ask for help if needed. Some people should consider leaving early if they can't move quickly

BE READY.
BE SET.
GO NOW!

Know evacuation levels and follow advice of emergency officials.
Make the best decision for your safety. Don't wait to evacuate if you feel unsafe!

<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">LEVEL 1</div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">BE READY</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; font-weight: bold;">PREPARE TO EVACUATE BE AWARE OF DANGER IN THE AREA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stay informed. ✓ Have your plan & go-kit ready. ✓ Act early if you or your loved ones can't move quickly. 	<div style="background-color: #FFD700; color: black; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">LEVEL 2</div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">BE SET</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; font-weight: bold;">BE SET TO EVACUATE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE SIGNIFICANT DANGER IN THE AREA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚠ Follow your evacuation plan & grab your go-kit. ⚠ Check news & radio for updates. ⚠ Conditions change rapidly. Leave if you feel unsafe. 	<div style="background-color: #CC0000; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">LEVEL 3</div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">GO NOW!</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; font-weight: bold;">LEAVE IMMEDIATELY! EXTREME DANGER IN THE AREA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🚫 Leave without delay. It is unsafe to stay. 🚫 Do not stop to gather belongings or protect your home. 🚫 Do not return until officials announce the area is safe.
--	---	---

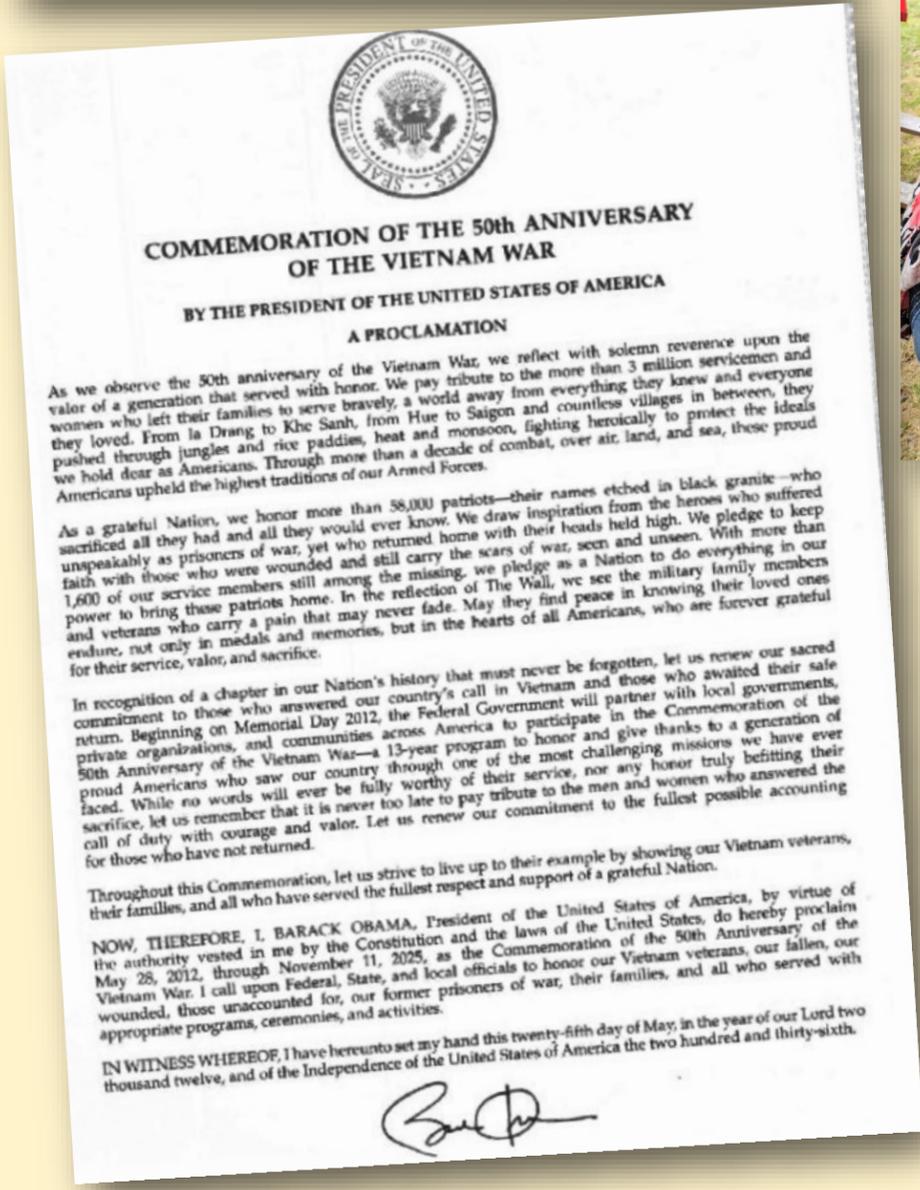
and need more time to evacuate, including older adults, families with children, people with disabilities, livestock and pet owners, and those with limited access to transportation.

- **Level Two** (colored yellow on a map) means "BE SET" to evacuate. This level indicates there's significant danger in the area and community members should be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. Voluntary evacuation at Level Two is recommended, especially if people need extra time or have livestock to move. Be prepared to

relocate to a shelter or with family or friends outside of the affected area. Don't wait for another evacuation notice if it doesn't feel safe to stay.

- **Level Three** (colored red on a map) means "GO." Leave immediately! This level indicates there's extreme danger in the area and it's unsafe to stay. Emergency services may not be available to offer further assistance to those who choose to stay. People should not stop to gather their belongings or make any efforts to protect their homes or shelter. Leave without

delay. The Linn County Sheriff's Office uses radio, tv, social media, Linn-Benton Alert and our website to notify the public of any current evacuation levels. Following an evacuation, people should not return to the area until public safety officials announce it's safe. For more information on evacuation levels, as well as a list of the most up to date evacuation levels in Oregon, visit <https://wildfire.oregon.gov/evacuations>.



Honoring those who served in Vietnam

June 17 was a special day for Cathy Kennedy with Developmental Disabilities Services at the Pioneer Picnic in Brownsville. She and her mother, Jerri Marler of Corvallis, received lapel pins presented by the NW Scots Honor Guard in honor of her father's service in Vietnam. Her father, veteran Michael Ditterick, lives in New Mexico. "It was a really touching moment, especially to have my mom honored for everything she went through. Just amazing," Cathy said.



Jodi Jorgensen is County Fair T-shirt design contest winner



Congratulations to Jodi Jorgensen, the winner of our 2023 T-Shirt Design Contest. Jodi worked with a professional designer from NoDinx to finalize the design in preparation for printing onto the 2023 shirts, generously donated

again by Coastal Farm. Congratulations, Jodi!





Linn County Fair 2023

July 13-14-15

Linn County Fair & Expo Center, Albany, Oregon

HEADLINE ACTS



CLINT BLACK

8:30 p.m., July 13

Trevor Tagle, 7 p.m.



SMASH MOUTH

8:30 p.m., July 14



GRANGER SMITH

8:30 p.m., July 15

Calapooia Arena events:

- **Hell on Hooves** — 6 p.m., July 13
- **Mutton Bustin'** — 6 p.m., July 14
- **4-H & FFA livestock auction** 12-noon, July 15



Family Land — Daily



Carnival Fun! — Daily



4-H & FFA Fair — All week long!

FREE

Family



LOUIE FOX

Audiences across the USA love Louie Foxx's One-Man Side Show and you will too! Howie Mandel called Louie's performance on NBC's America's Got Talent "Fantastic" and the International Brotherhood of Magicians said Louie is "Incredible".

You may have seen Louie from one of his many appearances on New Day NW, Tru TV's Guinness World Records Unleashed, Otra Movida TV in Spain, the Nationally syndicated television show How 'bout That or on NBC's America's Got Talent.



JEREMIAH JOHNSTON

Action-packed live entertainment at it's best! Experience Jeremiah's innovative juggling mastery through a variety of stunning styles and combination tricks alongside sidesplitting dialogue and hilarious audience interactions.



PLAY WITH GRAVITY

Play With Gravity is a progressive Mototrials team based out of Casper, Wyoming. The company was formed in 2003 by Shad Petersen and Jon Fankhauser as a way to promote the sport of Mototrials.



MATT BAKER SHOW

"Hilarious and amazing", Seattle Times Matt Baker's show is a unique combination of a hilarious stand-up comedy and amazing stunts. His diverse skill set has landed him

5 Guinness World Records and appearances on The Late Late Show with James Cordon, Tosh.0, America's Got Talent, and Last Comic Standing.

PEPPY'S WATER PALOOZA

At Peppy's Water Palooza we encourage imaginative and educational play through water. We provide a safe and engaging space for kids and parents alike to take a break, cool down, and prepare for hours more of fair fun!



BRAD'S REPTILE WORLD

Come see snakes, bearded dragons, tortoises, alligators and so much more!

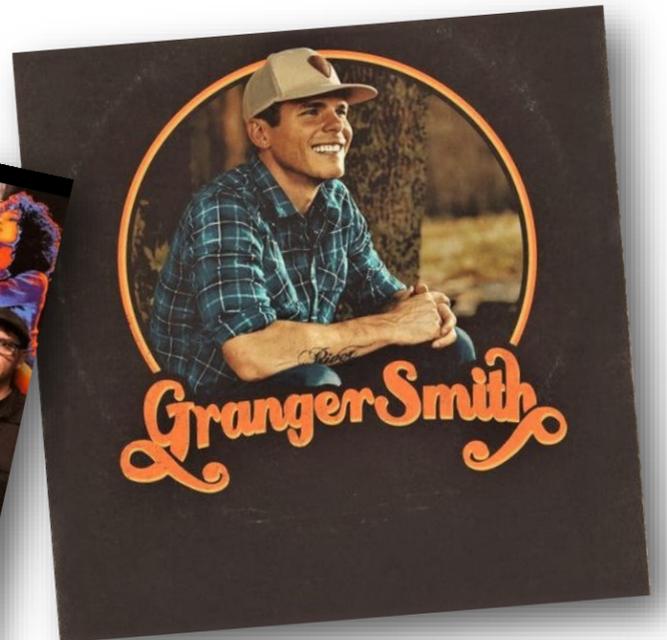
PUZZLEMANIA

Okay, brainiacs! Puzzlemania is an all-day, hands-on attraction for the entire family including brain teasers to classic games - there is something for everyone.





MAIN STAGE



CLINT BLACK — SMASH MOUTH — GRANGER SMITH

ALBANY — Clint Black, Smash Mouth and Granger Smith will headline the Main Stage entertainment at the Linn County Fair July 13-15, 2023 at the Fair & Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road.

Opening Acts
7 p.m.
July 13: Trevor Tagle
July 14: The Junebugs
July 15: Cascade Rye

“This is an extremely talented and popular lineup,” said Fair Board member and Linn County Commissioner Roger Nyquist. “We hit

all of the demographics with this trio, they are all great performers. I can’t wait for the fair to get here.”

Main Stage acts start at 8:30 p.m. with opening acts at 7 p.m. each night.

Black — who has sold more than 20 million records — will get things rolling in his traditional country style on Thursday, July 13.

He will bring more than three decades of hits to the Main Stage, including his first smash hit, “Killin’ Time.” He has recorded a dozen studio albums, his latest “Out of Sane” will debut June 19.

Black’s musical career includes 22 number one singles, nearly two-dozen gold and platinum awards in the United States and Canada, a Grammy award, numerous CMA, ACM and American Music Awards. And if that isn’t enough, he has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

A Houston, Texas native, Black’s music remains true to his Texas roots.

“I try to make records that don’t fit into a trend,” Black said of Out of Sane. “I never wanted to start a trend, and I’m not going to chase a trend, either. To me, a great band will always sound great, today and in ten years. If you listen to this record, it’s not about fitting into today’s country, or yesterday’s country, or tomorrow’s country, it just is.”

San Jose rock band Smash Mouth takes the stage Friday, July 14 and brings nearly 30 years of making music to Linn County.

The group is well known for “Walkin’ on the

New this year ... it's the Courtyard Stage!

Located within the food & beverage pavilion, centered in the courtyard is a NEW stage featuring local artists from across the region. Schedules will be posted every morning highlighting the music...comedy...magic and so much more. Enjoy the entertainment, relax under the shade, sip a beverage and eat a plate of delicious food. Its all here in one place...so come on out there's something for everyone!

Interested in performing at the Linn County Fair? We are proud to showcase local talent and want you to be a part of all the best Linn County has to offer.

Linn County Fair

July 13-14-15, 2023

General admission: Adults: \$9 on-line; \$10 at gate; seniors; \$7/\$8; children 12 and under, free. Parking, \$5/day.

On-line tickets: www.linncountyfair.com. (Starting May 1.)

Concerts: Free with paid general admission: starting at \$25 for reserved seating.

Sun,” 1997; “All Star,” 1999; “Then the Morning Comes,” 1999; and a cover of the Monkees’ smash hit, “I’m a Believer,” 2001.

In their early days Smash Mouth was associated with the punk music scene, but after nearly 30 years, their style has evolved into pop or alternative rock.

Like Clint Black, Granger Smith is a born and bred Texan and although his career has been relatively short, he is on his 10th studio album.

Smith will close out the fair with a Saturday, July 15 concert.

His fans are part of what is called the “Yee Yee Nation” and he enjoys a social media following of more than 12 million fans. His videos have topped one billion views.

His first album, “Backroad Song” ran to number

1 on the charts — one of the Top 10 most played country singles in 2016 — followed by “If the Boot Fits,” a top five hit.

His album, “When the Good Guys Win” spawned the hit “Happens Like That” that was certified RIAA Gold.

His new book, “If Your’ City, If You’re Country,” hit number one on the Amazon best-selling list.

Smith has an alter ego called “Earl Dribbles Jr.,” who anchors the You Tube series, “The Smiths”. His family also operates an outdoor clothing company called, “Yee Yee Apparel.”

Smith has also entered the acting world, debuting in the Pureflix film, “Moonrise” which is available for streaming.

In 2020, Smith received the CMT Award for Quarantine Video of the Year.

Important Information

SHUTTLE SERVICE: Free parking lot shuttles to and from the Main Gate and parking lots will be available from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

ATM: Our ATM is conveniently located inside the Willamette Building lobby

LOST CHILD SERVICES

Fair Information Tent - Located just inside the main entrance to the fair.

Main Office - Located inside the Willamette building lobby.

PETS: Only service animals are allowed on the fairgrounds.

LOST & FOUND: Lost items will be brought to the Fair Office located inside the Willamette Building lobby.



4-H & FFA Schedules

Schedule of Events – 2023 Linn County Fair

Monday, July 10

- 8:00 am - 8:00 pm:** Livestock and Small Animal Move-in & Vet Checks (Cascade Barn & Santiam Bldg)
- 8:00 am – 9:00 am:** Beef Weigh-in (Cascade Barn)
- 9:00 am - 12:00 pm:** Sheep, Swine, & Goat Weigh-In (Cascade Barn)
- 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm:** Static Exhibits Interviews and Judging (Willamette Bldg)
- 5:00pm - 8:00 pm:** Sheep, Swine, & Goat Weigh-In (Cascade Barn)
- 8:30 pm – 9:15 pm:** Beef Weigh-in (Cascade Barn)

Tuesday, July 11

- 7:30 am:** Livestock/Small Animal Exhibitors Meeting (Swine Ring)
- 9:00 am:** Poultry; Market, Showmanship, Breeds (Santiam Bldg)
- 2:00 pm:** Meat Goat; Market, Breeds (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 3:00 pm-5:00 pm:** Horticulture drop-off
- 5:00 pm:** Swine; Breeds (Swine Ring)
- 5:00 pm:** Beef; Market (Beef Ring)

Wednesday, July 12

- 7:30 am:** Livestock/Small Animal Exhibitors Meeting (Swine Ring)
- 9:00 am:** Rabbit/Cavy; Market, Showmanship, Breeds (Santiam Bldg)
- 9:00 am:** Swine; Market (Swine Ring)
- 9:00 am:** Dairy/Pygmy/Fiber Goat Showmanship (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 1:00 pm:** Sheep; Market (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 4:00 pm:** Meat Goat; Showmanship (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 4:00 pm:** Beef Showmanship (Beef Ring)

Thursday, July 13

- 7:30 am:** Livestock/Small Animal Exhibitors Meeting (Swine Ring)



- 9:00 am:** Swine; Showmanship (Swine Ring)
- 9:00 am:** Dairy/Pygmy/Fiber Goat Breeds (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 9:00 am:** Honey Bunny Quiz (Santiam Bldg)
- 10:00 am:** Poultry Testing (Santiam Bldg)
- 1:00 pm:** Rabbit Agility (Santiam Bldg)
- 2:00 pm:** Sheep; Showmanship, Breeds (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 3:00 pm:** Small Animal Costume Contest (Santiam Bldg)
- 4:00 pm:** Flower Arranging Contest (Willamette Bldg)
- 4:00 pm:** Dairy Cattle; Showmanship, Breeds (Swine Ring)
- 4:00 pm:** Beef; Breeds (Beef Ring)
- 5:00 pm:** Cloverbud Show and Tell (Santiam Bldg)
- 7:00 pm:** Static Awards Ceremony (Willamette Bldg)
- 7:30 pm:** Barnyard Olympics (Beef Ring)

Friday, July 14

- 7:30 am:** Livestock/Small Animal Exhibitors Meeting (Swine Ring)

- 8:00 am:** Chug-A-Lug Contest (Swine Ring)
- 9:00 am:** Open Class Beef Show (Beef Ring)
- 9:00 am:** Open Class Sheep Show (Sheep/Goat Ring)
- 9:00 am:** Livestock Judging (Swine Ring)
- 10:00 am:** Small Animal Master Showmanship (Santiam Bldg)
- 10:00 am:** Cupcake Wars (Willamette Bldg)
- 3:00 pm:** FFA Large Animal Master Showmanship (Swine Ring)
- 5:00 pm:** 4-H Large Animal Master Showmanship (Beef&Sheep/Goat Rings)
- 6:30 pm:** FFA Awards Ceremony (Swine Ring)

Saturday, July 15

- 8:30 am:** 4-H Award Ceremony (Calapooia)
- 12:00 pm:** Market Livestock Auction (Calapooia)
- 9:00 pm:** 4-H and FFA Member Dance (Beef Ring)

Sunday, July 16

- 9:00 am:** Animals/Static Exhibits released



4-H & FFA Auction Info

12-noon
Saturday, July 15
Calapooia Arena



Thank You

Linn County Fair July 13-15, 2023

To Our Sponsors

2023 Linn County Fair Sponsors

1847 Bar & Grill	Garland Nursery	Nutrien Ag
Boulder Falls Inn	George Van Dyke Trucking	Olsson Industrial Electric
AA Towing	HOPE Radio	OMS-Howerton, Hopkin, Kenney & Clark
Advanced Mechanical	John Dourin Country Finan- cial	Pacific Contractors Supply
Alpine Pressure Washing	JTI Supply	People's Bank
American Rooter & Sewer	K2 Creative	Phoenix Inn & Suites
Arauco	KGAL/KSHO Radio	Pizza Hut
ATI	Kiefer Nissan	Poe's Backhoe Service
Best Western/Quality Inn	Knife River	RAM Trucking
KRKT-KLOO	KWS Seeds	Rite-Way Electric
Boshart Realty	Lakeshore Lanes	Samaritan Health Services
Boshart Trucking	Leah Olson Realty	Santiam Tree Services
Carino's	Les Schwab Tire Center	South Commercial Auto Sales
Clayton Homes	Linn Benton Tractor	South Paw's Pizza
Coastal Farm & Ranch	Linn-Co Federal Credit Union	The Branding Stitch 'n Print
Columbia Distributing	Loafer's	Umpqua Dairy
Country Financial	Marx Hot Rods	Weyerhaeuser
Deford Heating & Cooling	Murray Farms	Wilco Farm Stores
Douglas Johnson DMD	No Dinx	Xtreme GrafX
Entek International	N'Reeners	



See you at the fair!

www.linncountyfair.com

