

Linn County



REPORTER

What's happening in Linn County, Oregon

October 2024



Linn County residents provided \$13 million in support ...

Edward C. Allworth Veterans Home celebrates 10th anniversary

By Alex Paul
Linn County Reporter

LEBANON — In November 2010, the unemployment rate in Linn County was about 13%.

But that didn't stop local residents from approving a 19-cent local option tax on their properties to support construction of a 154-bed veterans' home to be constructed in Lebanon.

The levy was supported by 66% of voters.

Linn County paid off the levy early with a check for \$912,792 in January 2021. In all, the \$12 million levy cost taxpayers \$13,299,675 with interest.

Friday, community members helped staff and residents of the Edward C. Allworth Veterans Home celebrate its 10th anniversary.

The celebration commemorated a lot of hard work by staff from Linn County, Samaritan Health Services and the City of Lebanon.

There was stiff competition statewide to site the facility in a variety of communities, but the 10-acre Lebanon site was so well situated — it is across Highway 20 from Samaritan Lebanon Community College and abuts the Western University school of osteopathic medicine.

It is also adjacent to the Pioneer Elementary School. There is a bridge and gate that allows students and staff to visit veterans home residents.

Former Linn County Administrative Officer Ralph Wyatt was instrumental in the project from concept to completion.

Former Linn County Public Health Director Frank Moore delivered a 208



Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker received the Public Servant award at the 10th anniversary party for the Edward C. Allworth Veterans Home on September 20 in Lebanon.

-page application to the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs in February 2010. Ann Steeves of Samaritan Health Services was an integral partner in

completing the application.

"I don't think they can find a better

VETERANS HOME ... See P. 7

Linn County offers free HIV testing

ALBANY — Linn County Public Health is offering free HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis C rapid testing from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday at several public health sites throughout the county.



Between 2018 and 2023 some 27 new cases of HIV were reported in Linn County, the seventh highest rate of new diagnoses in Oregon. In 2022, Linn County reported 63 cases of syphilis and two cases of congenital syphilis.

The confidential and HIPAA-compliant testing requires a quick finger poke and results will be known to the individual within 15 minutes. Through the county health staff, individuals who test positive are supported in getting into treatment and support services.

There are three options for testing through Linn County Health Services:

- Get a rapid test during one of the county's off-site events. Linn County has a mobile van which goes out to sites through the county to offer accessible testing.
- Call for an appointment for a rapid test. Testing sites could be at any of our three locations (Albany, Sweet Home, Lebanon), a partner facility, or in the testing van.
- Order a Take-Me-Home test which can test for HIV, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and Hepatitis C. These tests are swabs, finger sticks and urine samples conducted by the individual in the privacy of their home or testing location. The tests are ordered directly by the individual and sent to their mailing address in a discreet, non-descript package. Results are sent to your personal email.

Anyone interested in being tested or receive information about testing, can contact Linn County in any of the following ways:

Call (541) 760-1440

Email hivstesting@linncountyhealth.org at

Visit the county website at: <https://www.linncountyor.gov/public-health/page/hivsti-testing-prevention> or scan:

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



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



Photos from Veterans Stand Down Sept. 12 at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center



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

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

Call 541-967-3825

Peaceful day at Clear Lake

Christine Forbes was out enjoying kayaking on Clear Lake September 12.

What a beautiful day to go kayaking! Come on up to Clear Lake for fishing, hiking or grab a cabin or yurt and stay a few days. Remember, there is now a \$10 parking fee at Clear Lake.

If you have any questions or need help making a reservation please call the office at 541-967-3917. Or go online at: linnparks.com/parks/clear-lake-resort/



Linn County Patriot Day, 9-11 2024

Speech by Sheriff Michelle Duncan

First, I want to thank the American Legion for keeping this ceremony going. I would also like to give special recognition to the first responders and our military, both past and present. Thank you all for your service.

We all remember where we were on this fateful day, so many years ago. For me, I had worked patrol the night before and was having a normal “mom” morning, having breakfast with my 2-year-old son, cleaning up the kitchen, putting away toys and doing all those normal things. Then I got the call telling me to turn on the TV because a plane had just hit the twin towers. I remember thinking to myself, “that’s terrible” but still not fully realizing the devastation that was happening to our country. Then I watched, as many of you did the second plane hit, the towers collapse and then the pentagon getting struck.

As the news unfolded, we all started realizing how serious this was. An event like none of us had ever seen. Our country was under attack. And it was the first responders of Fire, EMS and Police that were on the frontlines of this attack, sacrificing their lives trying to save others.

We should never forget that gravity of 9-11; the devastation we all felt, the innocent victims who were taken, and the heroes that gave their lives.

Here is something else I remember that I believe we should also never forget: We should never forget the way these tragedies brought us together. Both as a community and a nation. We were all on one side no matter our political affiliation.

But there are children and some young adults today that do not remember the devastation. They don’t know the immediate vulnerability and fear we initially felt for the first time as a nation. They don’t remember the way we came together as Americans, setting politics aside to protect our country. They also don’t know the immense pride we all felt to be an American as our courage and willingness to protect our freedoms quickly kicked in.

We are fortunate here in Linn County. We live in a community that has always shown respect to those that serve. However, in the immediate years after 9-11 we recognized our military, firefighters and law enforcement as the noble and selfless professions they are more than ever. As a nation we watched as so many signing up with a desire to serve. They joined the military and became first responders.

Today I hear too often, even some in my own profession, how they would never encourage their children to join the military, or especially serve as a deputy or police officer. I hear how it is “too hard”, “too dangerous”, “too many politics”, “too much of hands being tied behind your back”, “not enough pay”. The list goes on.

I challenge you to remember 9-11 and the renewed pride we all served with. Encourage the next generations to serve as they were encouraged in 9-11 to join the military, become a firefighter or deputy. Prepare them to be willing to make these courageous sacrifices we revered on and after that terrible day. If we don’t have people willing to serve as they did back then, who will be left to run into the buildings to help others, who will protect our communities and our nation next time. We may not be able to have our children remember how it truly felt to live through an event like 9-11, but we can teach them the lessons we learned —to be proud to be an American and be proud to serve as those heroes did then.

Thank you.



Members of the public and Linn County staff stand for the invocation by Major Lloyd Bacon of the Salvation Army.



Wreaths were placed in memory of firefighters/EMS, police, military and civilian survivors.



Colors were posted by the Lebanon JROTC.

Photos by Alex Paul

Linn County Patriot Day, 9/11 '24



The National Anthem was sung by the Central Linn Blue Notes.

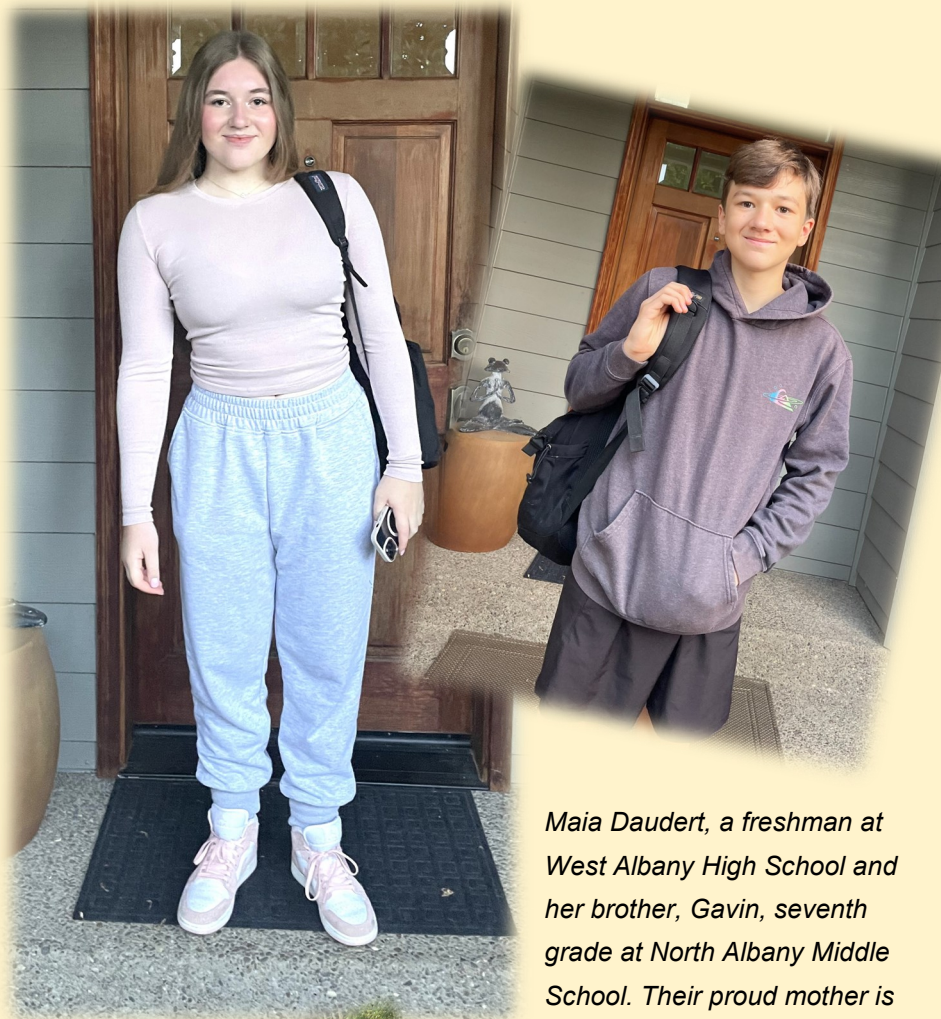


Placing a wreath in memory of the 69 police officers who died on 9/11.

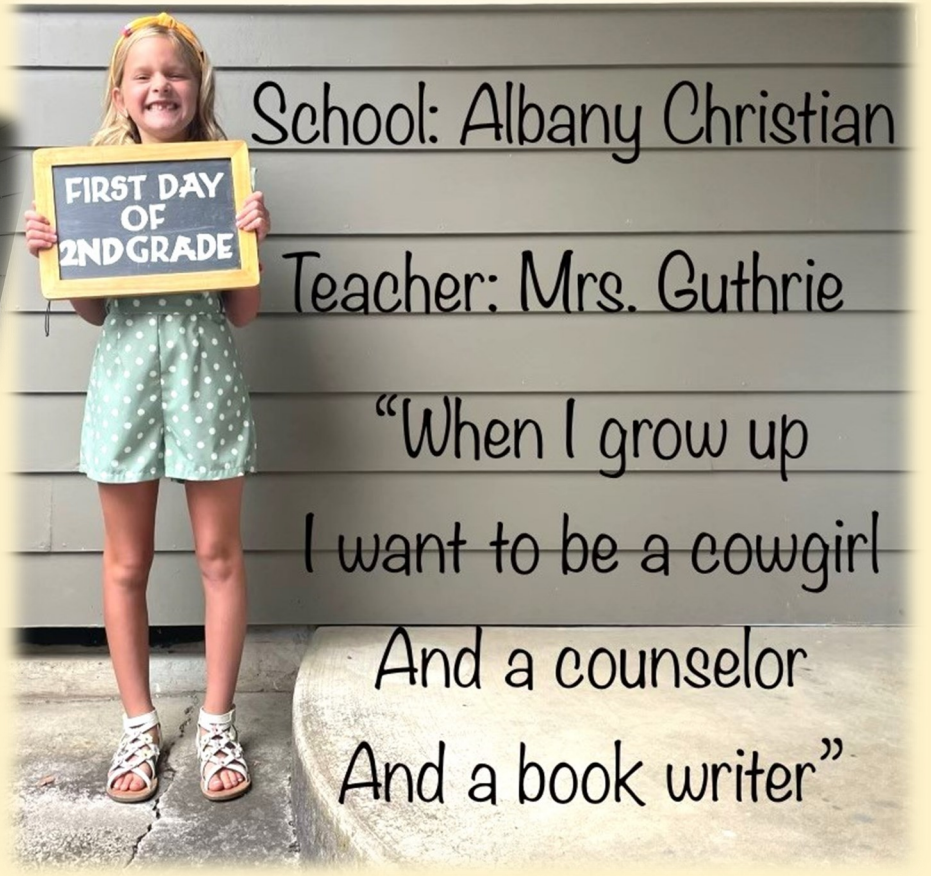


Twenty-one gun salute by Linn County veterans.

Back to School '24



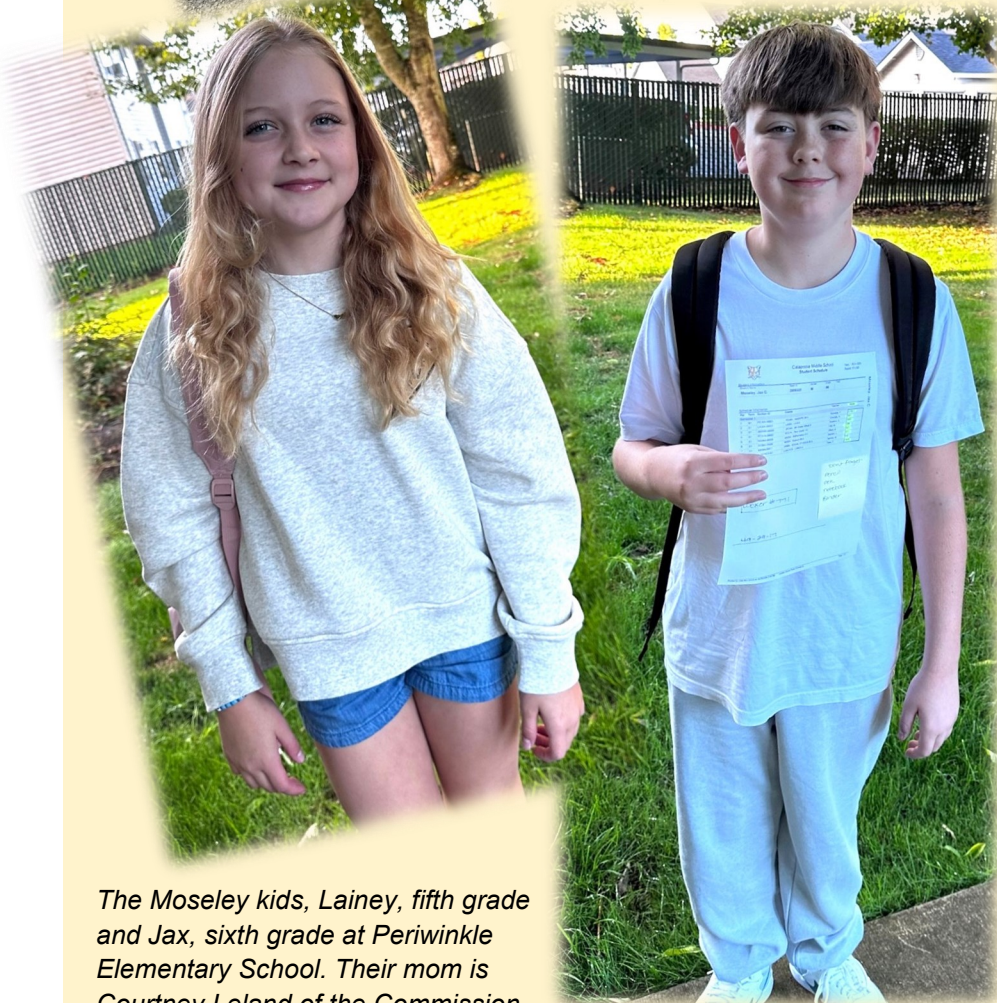
Maia Daudert, a freshman at West Albany High School and her brother, Gavin, seventh grade at North Albany Middle School. Their proud mother is Lily of the IT Department.



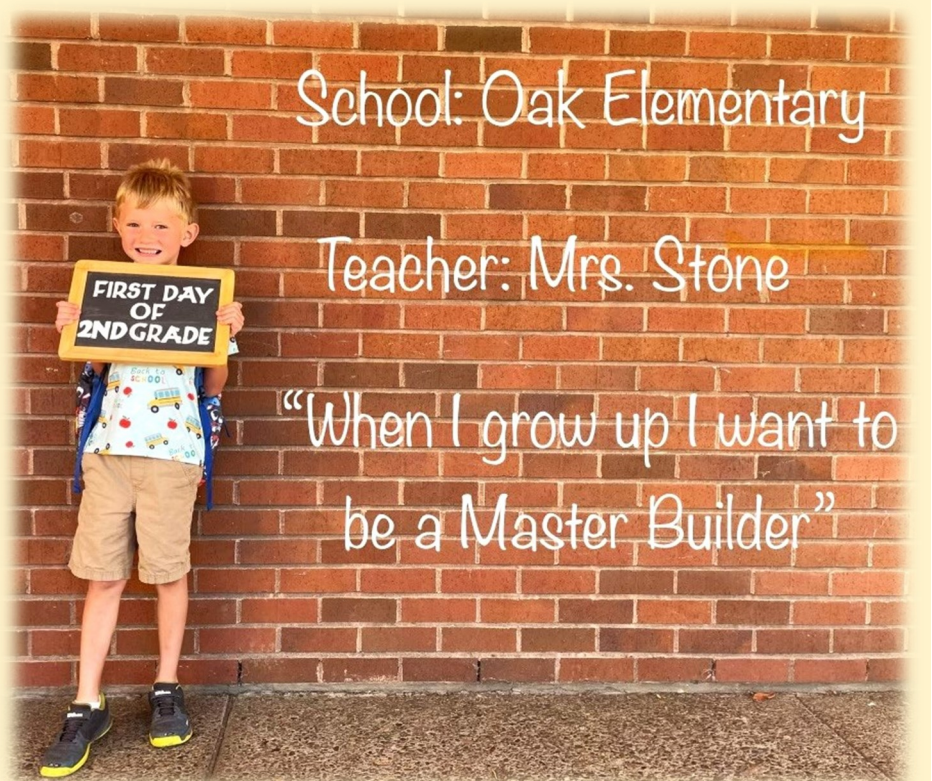
Top to bottom, Alice, Russel and Luke, grandchildren of Deborah Hernandez, Juvenile Detention.



The Olsen kids at Hawthorne Elementary School, Sweet Home. From left to right: Kinley—fourth grade; Porter, second grade and Olivia, fourth grade. Their mom, McKenna of the Road Department points out the newly chipped seal roadway.



The Moseley kids, Lainey, fifth grade and Jax, sixth grade at Periwinkle Elementary School. Their mom is Courtney Leland of the Commissioners Office.





OSU Extension Service



OSU Extension research using drones takes flight to detect vole activity

OSU News Service

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Christy Tanner crouches on a dirt road next to a grass seed field, with a drone to her right and a calibration control panel sitting directly in front of her.

Tanner, an Oregon State University Extension seed production agronomist, takes a photo of the calibration panel with the drone camera. A few minutes later and after some more preparation, the drone takes off.

It flies in a grid pattern over the grass seed field — covering a trial area in 20 minutes. The drone takes a picture every second that will eventually be connected into a map of the plot and surveyed for indicators of vole damage. Voles are members of the rodent family and are commonly found in Western Oregon grasslands. They can cause significant damage to crops, orchards, vineyards and pastures.

Tanner, an assistant professor of practice based in the Willamette Valley, uses the drone and its two cameras to measure the damage voles are doing to the grass seed crop. The multispectral camera allows her to calculate a value called Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), which predicts the amount of green healthy plant tissue.

“With the regular camera and some software, I can create a 3D map of the crop, which tells me how tall the crop is,” Tanner said. “Voles eat the grass, which makes it shorter, and reduces the amount of plant tissue.”

That plant tissue is critical to a grass seed grower’s success.

Vole populations are characterized by a peak and a crash over a four- to eight-year cycle. Though voles live in small tunnels, they spend time above ground eating grass and nibbling on other plants. The mouse-sized voles leave many burrows and connecting runways through the damaged grass they’ve been dining on.

“We have a general idea of what damage voles can do, we want to document it and quantify it,” Tanner said. In addition to measuring crop damage,



OSU Extension Seed Production Agronomist Christy Tanner demonstrates how she uses a drone with an attached camera to study vole infestations in mid-valley fields.

Tanner is using aerial imagery from the drone as a research tool to test new management practices. In this trial she is testing whether tamper proof-boxes with rodenticide baits can help protect the crop.

Bait boxes

The study was done in one field last year and was expanded to three fields this year. The bait boxes were placed next to vole burrows, in areas where there are clear signs of vole damage. Tanner is using bait boxes that have sensors inside that record when a vole

or other small creature enters the box. Sprout Mahoney, an Extension student employee, adds to the project by collecting data from sensors inside the

bait boxes.

“There aren’t many options, so bait boxes are something new growers might be able to use,” Tanner said.



Emerald Ash Borer Workshop for Small Farm & Woodland Owners

Wednesday, October 2nd
10am- Noon
Philomath, Or



An introduction to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) biology and the impacts of EAB in the Willamette Valley, as well as how to identify the signs and symptoms of EAB in Oregon Ash trees.

RSVP:
<https://beav.es/psh>

*Space is limited, RSVP Required





OSU Extension Service | 4-H Youth Development

OSU BABYSITTER VIRTUAL TRAINING!

4-Day Series

This training is designed to train YOUTH in many aspects of babysitting including baby care, toddler care, healthy snacks, business tips, age-appropriate games, first aid, and safety. **Must attend all 4 days to get a certificate.



Photo by Philippe Put (Le Flickr)

Sign up by October 25, 2024

Open to all youth ages 10 and up regardless of where you live in the state.

- Classes held on November 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th
- 4:30 to 6:00pm each day of the series
- \$10.00 fee
- Maximum 80 youth (statewide)

Questions? Call or email Tracy (865-387-0583), tracy.wilson@oregonstate.edu



REGISTER BY OCTOBER 25
<https://beav.es/pNP>

Scholarships available contact tracy.wilson@oregonstate.edu for more info

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made two weeks prior to tracy.wilson@oregonstate.edu. 865-387-0583.




Veterans Home 10th anniversary celebration ... From Page 1

Moore said the project was estimated to cost \$50 million, create 400 to 500 jobs and a payroll of \$7 million annually.

The bill came in at about \$42 million.

"I'm shocked," said Roger Nyquist, chairman of the Linn County Board of Commissioners. "I felt like we had a good chance, but to find out it's actually going to happen is great. This is a terrific opportunity for our local economy, but especially for our veterans."

Ground was broken in September 2012 and the facility opened in September 2014.

The home is named after a World War I Medal of Honor recipient from Corvallis, who led his men to safety at great peril to his own life during a battle in France.

The Lebanon facility is unlike most veterans homes in that it is built on the small home design concept. Residents have their own rooms built around central living areas including kitchens, libraries and living rooms, much like individual homes.

If a resident wants a cheeseburger at 10 p.m., they will get it. If spaghetti is on the menu for lunch and the resident would like a salad instead, they get the salad.

The ODVA announced Lebanon as the home's site in April 2010 and ground was broken in September 2012. A grand opening was held in September 2014.

The Lebanon home joined a 151-bed home in The Dalles that opened in 1997.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Allworth's daughter, Jodie Allworth, said her father "was a strict man who always had a soft spot for veterans."

Friday, ODVA Director Nakeia Coucil Daniels said that a third veterans home to be constructed in southern Oregon will cost about \$130 million.



Nakeia Coucil Daniels



Larry Mullins



Kelly Odegaard

Notes from the 10th anniversary celebration for the Edward C. Allworth Veterans Home:

- The motto for the home is: the "Place Where Honor Lives".
- There have been 912 admissions, of which 106 have been spouses of veterans.
- First Administrator Kelly Odegaard: "This is a special place. One of a kind nationwide. 154 individual rooms with private bathrooms. This is a small home design. The privacy helps with residents' self-determination."
- The then Linn County Board of Commissioners — Roger Nyquist, Will Tucker and John Lindsey — were instrumental in making this home happen, as was former Linn County Administrative Officer Ralph Wyatt.
- Commissioner Will Tucker received the Public Servant Advocate Award for going above and beyond to assist the facility during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tucker said after the program, "The Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon, has more than fulfilled the promise their coming had made to the community. It has housed more than 1,000 veterans with dignity, has created hundreds of jobs and is a bright star in the assisted living world. During tough economic

times, the citizens of Linn County chose to add to their tax bills. The complex was built on time and on budget. It was my pleasure to have played a role in getting the facility in Linn County. It would not have happened without the support of Samaritan Health, the city of Lebanon and the public."

- The citizens of Linn County self-imposed a 19 cents per \$1,000 tax levy on themselves to support this project.
- Larry Mullins, former President and CEO of Samaritan Health Services: The support of the Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Linn County sent a clear message to our veterans and the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs.
- The support of Samaritan Health Services and the fact the Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital is only yards away from the veterans home property was a major plus.
- Lebanon City Council and Chamber of Commerce were strong supporters and major players: Former Mayors Ken Toombs and Paul Azziz, former chamber director Shelly Garrett and current director Rebecca Grizzle. Dr. Paula Crone and many others from neighbor Western University of Health Sciences.

• Recreation directors said they have tried to make sure residents have quality outings including going crabbing at Newport, visiting casinos, flying in biplanes, riding horses and even going for a motorcycle ride and camping trips. One resident even made it to his granddaughter's wedding in California.

• Residents have received 480 Quilts of Valor.

• The community and the citizens of Linn County went the "extra mile" for residents during

the COVID-19 pandemic, including visiting residents through windows. The Linn County Board of Commissioners made sure staff had Personal Protection Equipment, even when it was scarce.

• The annual 4th of July Festival has become a community-wide celebration.



The Dominy Family, Praise in 3D.



Military uniform display by the Albany Regional Museum.



Plenty of good food.



Veterans Bob Weidner of Sweet Home and Louie White of Lebanon enjoying lunch.



Toe-tapping music was provided by Wild Hog in the Woods band.

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

Linn County helps get kids vaccinated

The Linn County Communicable Disease Prevention Team spearheaded vaccination efforts for area youth for National Immunization Awareness Month in August.

The team administered 102 vaccines at school and community events in Albany, Halsey, Lebanon and Mill City during the month, which highlights the importance of childhood vaccinations.

Immunizations can be scheduled with the immunization team via the Linn County website <https://www.linncountyor.gov/public-health/page/immunizations> or by calling Cassandra Aquilar, LPN, at 541-967-3888 option 7.

Winter vaccination events are being planned.



Cassandra Aquilar, left, communicable disease nurse and immunization coordinator with the Linn County Communicable Disease Prevention Team, and Maternal Child Health nurses Megan Habtu and Tania Bailey administer vaccines to a youth at the Greater Albany Public Schools back-to-school event at Lafayette Elementary School on August 27, 2024. (Photo by Rebecca Torres/Linn County Health Promotions Team).



The team sets up the mobile command van and tents to offer a private area to administer vaccines at the Greater Albany Public Schools event on August 27, 2024. (Photo by Rebecca Torres/Linn County Health Promotions Team)

County assists with Festival Latino

After a pause of five years, Festival Latino relaunched at Timber Linn Park on Sunday, Sept. 8. This free event was the last in the summer series of tobacco-free events sponsored in part by the Linn County Tobacco Prevention Program.

More than 650 guests attended the event, which shared Latino cultures through food, music, dance, and exchange. Three different bands played a variety of Latino music styles in addition to a troop of young dancers who performed *bailes tipicas* (folkloric dances) for the crowd.

In addition to attendees, food vendors, community resource organizations, and entertainment groups provided information to guests. Bilingual staff members from the Linn County Health Promotions team provided tobacco education and cessation information to attendees, and highlighted services now available in Spanish for residents of Linn County. Among those services are bilingual health aides at the Lebanon and Sweet Home offices, and assistance with WIC, Maternal and Child Health Services, Oregon Health Plan (OHP), and other services, in addition to the bilingual services offered in Albany.

For more information on services available to Linn County residents, visit www.linncountyhealth.org.

Thanks for reading the

Linn County Reporter.

Please send story ideas to Editor Alex Paul at apaul@co.linn.or.us.

Call 541-967-3825.

Coffee With a Cop coming Oct. 2

It's that time again, time for the annual Coffee with a Cop.

Coffee with a Cop will take place at local area coffee shop/restaurants the morning of Wednesday, October 2.

We will be at the following locations and hope you can stop in, say hello and enjoy a cup of joe!

Brownsville: Randy's Main Street Coffee, 8-9:30 a.m.

Harrisburg: Lola's Coffee, 8-9:30 a.m.

Lyons: Your Country Kitchen, 8:30-10 a.m.

Mill City: Rosie's Mountain Coffee House, 8-9:30 a.m.

Tangent: Dixie Creek Saloon, 10-11 a.m.

Shedd: Shedd Market, 8-9:30 a.m.

Sweet Home: Into the Brew, 8-9 a.m.

Lebanon: Hazella Bake Shop, 8:30-10 a.m.

Albany: (Downtown) Margin Coffee, 8-9 a.m.



OSU studies impact of painting wind turbine blade black to reduce bird collisions

CORVALLIS – Oregon State University researchers are part of a team looking at reducing bird collision risks with wind turbines by painting a single blade of the turbine black.

Wind energy has a significant role during a time of climate change, rising energy demands and a transition from fossil fuels to clean energy, but it poses risks to birds and bats due to collision fatalities. Previous studies estimate that hundreds of thousands of birds and bats die each year as a result of collisions with wind turbine blades.

The Oregon State researchers, working with federal, industry and nonprofit partners, and funded in part by the Oregon Legislature, are building on recent research in Norway that found a nearly 72% decline in bird collisions with turbine blades when one blade was painted black.

“This was a dramatic effect, but it was a relatively small sample size,” said Christian Hagen, senior research faculty in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences at Oregon State. “Industry and scientists in North America felt that before this became a policy change, we should replicate, enlarge the sample size and analyze different bird species to ensure it is effective, and that there aren’t any negative effects.”

Twenty-eight wind turbine blades have recently been painted black at a wind farm near Glenrock, Wyoming, operated by PacifiCorp, a key partner and lead on the project.

The study aims to determine the effect of painted blades on reducing fatality rates among eagles, other birds, and bats. Researchers hypothesize that the black-painted blades will disrupt the visual uniformity of the airspace, making the turbines more noticeable to birds and prompting avoidance behavior.

The hypothesis is that eagles and other birds active during the day will be able to detect the painted blades, whereas bats, which rely more on auditory cues and have different visual capabilities, may not perceive the painted blades as effectively.

Hagen became involved with the project after the Oregon Legislature in 2021 provided \$400,000 to Oregon State to study the impact of painting blades black. Hagen partnered with PacifiCorp, which was interested in studying the same thing and had an ideal facility for the re-



Wind turbine blade painted black at a wind farm near Glenrock, Wyoming operated by PacifiCorp. Credit: PacifiCorp.

search. Hagen and a doctoral student in his lab, Natia Javakhishvili, are collaborating on the project and developing a model that integrates recorded bird movement data from the research site to assess whether painted turbines result in increased bird avoidance. Javakhishvili’s primary

focus is on golden eagles, a species affected by wind turbines. She will use an extensive pre-existing dataset containing eight million points of golden eagle movements to enhance the model’s accuracy.

“This study is particularly rigorous and comprehensive due to its incorporation of altitude as a third dimension in the analysis, capturing vertical flight dynamics often overlooked in traditional studies,” Javakhishvili said. “This detailed analysis helps us understand how eagles navigate around turbines and other infrastructure like roads and power lines, which, in turn, helps us develop better strategies to protect them.”

Additionally, at the research site in Wyoming, humans and detection dogs search for bird and bat carcasses. Part of this data set will be used by Javakhishvili to predict the population-level impact of wind energy on ferruginous hawks, a species native to western North

America.

Hagen notes that as the research findings become available in the coming years, they will help guide wind energy companies and state and federal agencies, all of whom are looking to reduce bird-turbine blade collisions.

Many of the birds impacted by turbines are protected by federal laws such as the Migratory Bird

Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

The researchers are also monitoring similar studies underway in Spain, Sweden and South Africa. Other project partners include the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Energy, Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute, Invenergy and NextEra Energy Resources.

NOTABLE

...recent research in Norway that found a nearly 72% decline in bird collisions with turbine blades when one blade was painted black.



LCSO hosts veterans home residents

The Linn County Sheriff’s Office was honored and privileged to host some amazing veterans from the Veteran’s Home in Lebanon, for a Veteran’s Shoot at the Albany Rifle and Pistol Club.

Sheriff Michelle Duncan and Rangemaster Lt. James Melin, had a great morning with these local heroes. “It was a great morning of shooting, comradery, lunch and fun. As always, there were some great shooters among these local heroes as well,” Sheriff Duncan said. “We want to thank these men and all veterans for their service to our country. We are honored and grateful to be able to host these types of events, and look forward to many more in the future.”

Remodeled Chamber building features historical values of Lebanon

By Chelly Bouferrache

Lebanon Local

After enduring two car crashes that knocked the building off its foundation and rendered it unsafe, the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce has been renovated and reopened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony planned in late September.

Editor's Note: Linn County contributed \$70,000 in economic development funds to this project.

area's heritage, incorporating elements of local industries, the natural environment and Native American traditions.

The first car crash, which occurred more than 16 months ago, caused significant damage to the original chamber building, leading to extensive reconstruction. Part-

way through the rebuilding process about a year later, a second vehicle crashed into the building, requiring the structure to be repaired again, further delaying the opening. For the renovation, Ewing sought to create a building that would serve as a lasting tribute to Lebanon's historical and industrial legacy, designing the exterior and interior both to feature materials and motifs that honor these elements.

"My inspiration came from realizing, as the old growth log went by in the Strawberry parade, that this town is built on logging," Ewing said. "I also researched and found out the land had been used by Kalapuya Native Americans to grow crops. The concept was to utilize natural materials from the Lebanon area, honoring the Kalapuya, the logging industry and the history of Lebanon. This project was about anchoring the chamber to the land and the community."

The color scheme, dominated by shades of yellow and green, was chosen to reflect the natural environment of Lebanon. These colors not only draw from the surrounding landscape but are also intended to keep the interior of the building light and welcoming. Large glass and steel windows allow natural light to flood the space, creating a bright and airy atmosphere that emphasizes the connection between the indoor and outdoor environments.

Central to the building's design is a cedar tree donated by Cascade Timber Con-

sulting, LLC. This tree was not only a functional material but also a symbol of cultural significance. Before the tree was harvested, members of the Grand Ronde Tribe, including tribal elder Deitz Peters, performed a blessing ceremony. During the ceremony, a tribal member carefully stripped a 40-foot length of bark from the tree, which will be dried and used to create baskets and other traditional items in the future.

The cedar tree was used throughout the chamber building for both functional and decorative purposes. Raw-edged wood from the tree lines the reception desk and was also used to create two prominent pillars at the front of the building, which greet visitors with a powerful connection to the area's timber heritage. Inside and outside, large rounds of cedar were crafted into stools and tables, ensuring that as little of the tree as possible was wasted. Cedar boughs from the tree were preserved for future ceremonial

events, maintaining the connection to the cultural practices of the Grand Ronde Tribe.

The cedar tree is also featured prominently in the lobby of the chamber, affixed to the wall as if the tree is growing there. On one side of the tree are pictures of Peters in his regalia playing a Native American flute. On the other side are pictures of different flutes with a corresponding QR code to hear him playing the instrument.

"We wanted to put something on the wall about the tribe and how it connects with the building," Peters said about the

planning process. "I'd like people to know that our people used to travel to these areas, lived here, provided for the community and continue to do so today."

The back patio of the chamber features a roof designed to resemble a traditional Native American longhouse, further tying the structure to the land's indigenous history. The timbers used in this roof were salvaged from a burn area in Oregon.

In addition to honoring Native American traditions, the chamber's design also pays homage to Lebanon's industrial roots, particularly the timber and railroad industries that have played a significant role in the town's development. The timber industry's influence is evident in the use of natural wood throughout the building.



Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Rebecca Grizzle and ambassadors cut a ribbon marking the grand re-opening of the Chamber of Commerce office after extensive remodeling.

Dave Gillott, a local craftsman, milled the siding that covers the exterior of the building. The timbers used for the back patio roof, salvaged from a burn area, adds historical significance and serves as a reminder of the town's resilience in the face of natural disasters.

The chamber also celebrates Lebanon's railroad history through unique design elements. Rick Franklin, of Rick Franklin Corporation, a local company known for its work with trains and railroad salvage, donated a rail container that now serves as storage for the chamber.

Additionally, the parking lot side of the chamber's outdoor covered patio will be enclosed by a steel fence designed and donated by Rick Franklin Corporation. This fence will feature a cut-out of the Santa Maria 205 steam engine, a train that is part of the Santiam Excursion trains housed in Lebanon. These elements serve to remind visitors of the crucial role that the railroad industry has played in the community in the past and present.

The new conference room in the chamber building is surrounded by glass windows.

The rebuilding of the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce involved numerous local businesses and contractors. The project received significant financial support, including a \$50,000 grant from T-Mobile, specifically allocated for the construction of the back patio cover. This grant, along with contributions from the city and county, ensured that the chamber's new design would serve the community well into the fu-



ture.

"It's been a hard 16 months since the chamber was hit by the car, but I always knew that once we started the redesign process, we were going to end up with something that would serve Lebanon for many years to come," said Chamber Executive Director Rebecca Grizzle.

"The construction and design phases saw the involvement of local companies such as JR Ellis Construction, which handled the main building, and TNT Builders, responsible for the patio cover," she said. "Hill Electric provided electrical services, while Buckmaster handled plumbing and mechanical work. Breise Concrete Construction constructed the back patio, and various other local contractors contributed to the project's completion."

The Lebanon Chamber of Commerce now stands as a symbol of the town's perseverance and commitment to honoring the past while looking toward the future. Photos and antique frames, donated by the Linn County Museum, adorn the walls of the chamber, anchoring the building in the community's rich history.

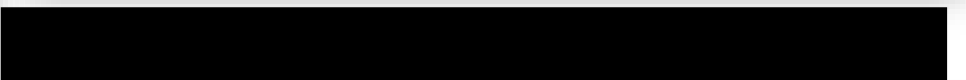
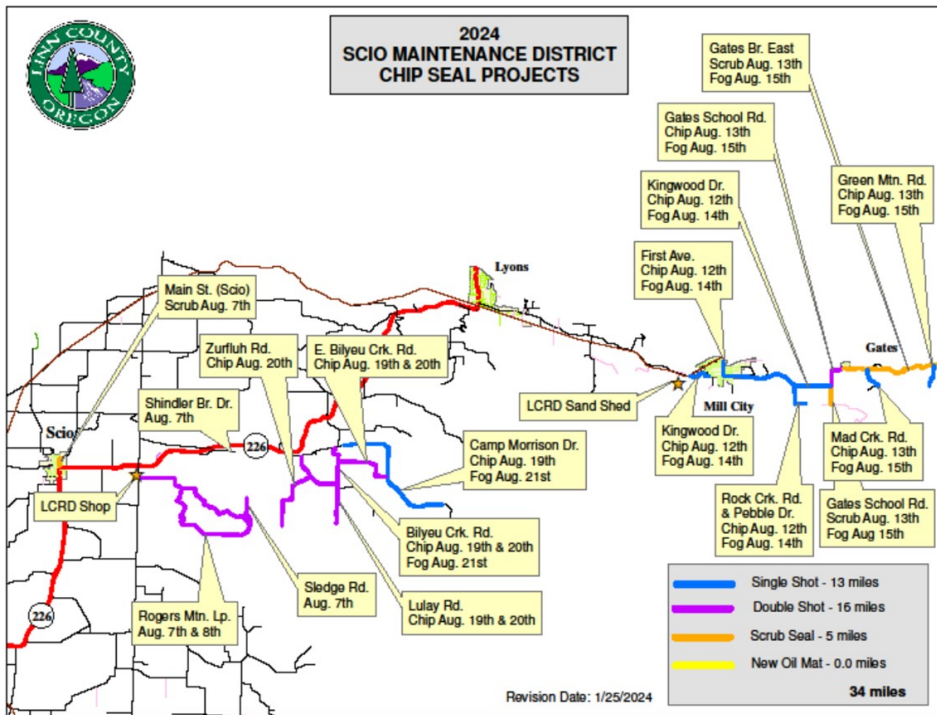
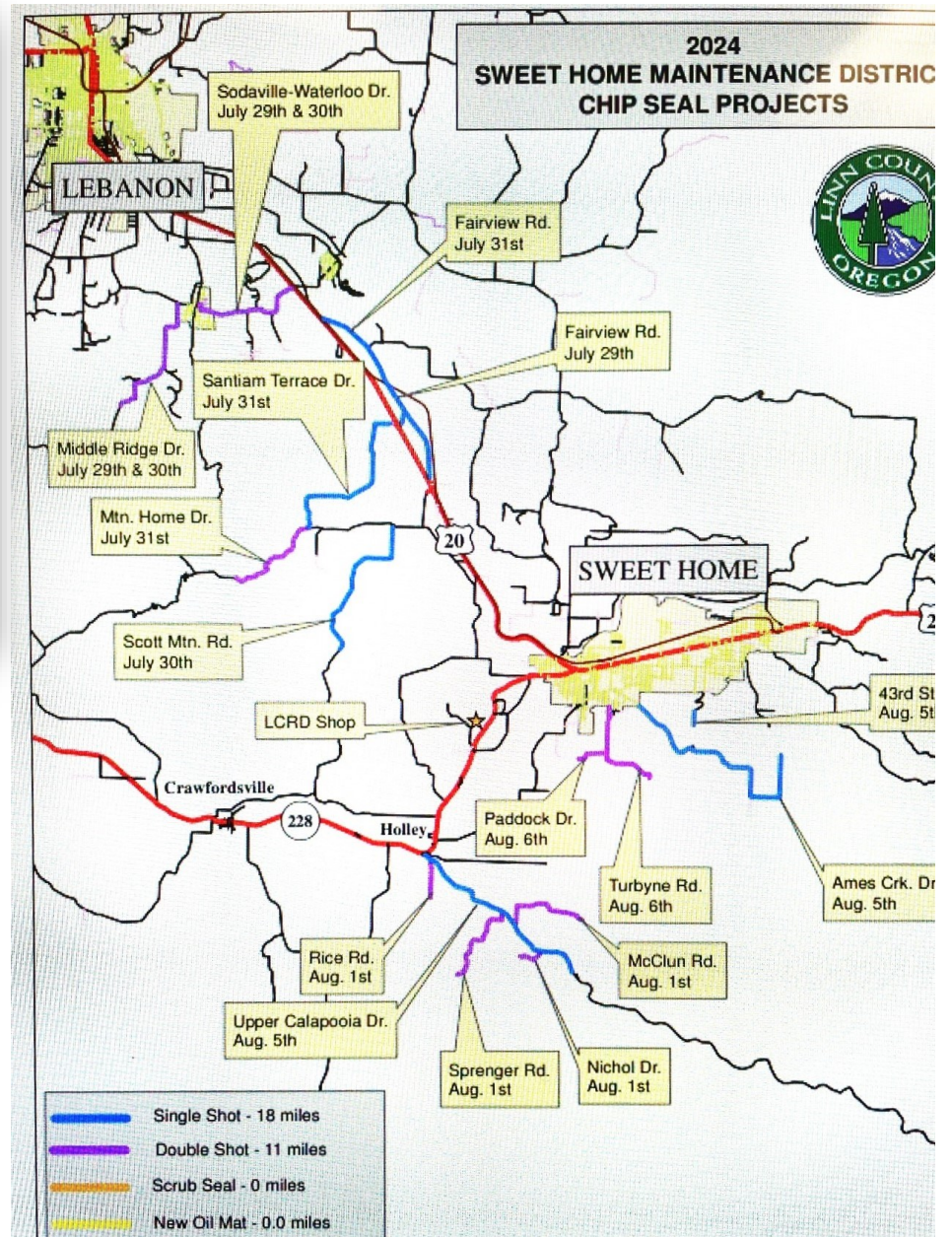
With its thoughtful design and deep connections to Lebanon's history and industries, the new Chamber of Commerce is poised to serve as a hub for business and community events, ensuring that the town's heritage continues to be celebrated.



The Linn County Road Department completed 63 miles of chip sealing this summer, according to Operations Manager Kevin Hamilton.

Photos are from the Gates School Road area and Ames Creek Drive near Sweet Home.

Diagrams show the project sites on the Scio and Sweet Home districts.



Happy birthday, Bill, but who's "ac" counting

The crew in the accounting/payroll/HR offices had a good time Thursday, Sept. 26, celebrating accounting officer Bill Palmer's birthday. He said he's "not 60". Happy birthday, Bill!

The Linn County Road Department is looking for a Civil Engineering Associate. See attached job announcement for more information! https://www.linncountyor.gov/.../civil_engineer_associate



Linn County Veterans Services took part in a suicide prevention walk on September 21 in Lebanon. Linn County Veterans Services joined with the Lebanon Area Mental Health Alliance for the annual event. Every day, 22 veterans commit suicide. Call 988 to talk.



Congratulations, Rhonda!

Rhonda Nicholas was recently recognized as the Probation and Support Professional of the year for the Northern Region during the Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association statewide conference held in Seaside. Rhonda has been an Office Specialist in our department for 20 years, and is an integral part of our team. This year, she became the first recipient of our department's newly renamed award, the Lisa R. Robinson Probation Professional of the Year and we couldn't think of a more deserving person for this award than Rhonda.



ANNIVERSARY 48 YEARS

LINN COUNTY EXPO'S *Pastega* Christmas Storybook Land Lights!

MID-VALLEY MAGICAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION!

Nov 30th to Dec 22nd
Saturday - Sunday 10:00^{am} - 8:00^{pm}
Monday - Friday 4:00^{pm} - 8:00^{pm}
 ChristmasStorybookLand.org

COME CELEBRATE the SEASON WITH US...

Town & Country Christmas Bazaar

ADMISSION \$2
Kids 13 & under FREE

Dec 6th - 8th, 2024

Bazaar Hours
Fri - Sat 10am to 6pm / Sun 10am to 4pm

Linn County Fair & Expo Center
3700 Knox Butte Road Albany, OR 97322

lcfairexpo.com

- Shop from over 200 artists showcasing handmade items including candles, skin care, jewelry, toys, tasty treats, knit items, local art, and more!
- Kick off your shopping season and bring the entire family. It's a Linn County Holiday Tradition!
- Our Featured Vendors:
 - Booth #D28 The Essence of Silver**
One-of-a-kind pieces of art to wear including men's and woman's sterling silver, copper, and leather jewelry hand built in Depoe Bay, Oregon.
 - Booth #F15 Space Igloo**
Unique Freeze Dried Treats handmade in Veneta, Oregon
 - Booth #21 Das My Jam**
Jams, Jellies and Syrups...tropical island flavors and PNW favorites...
Over 60,000sq.ft. of handmade items for you to discover