



# Veterans Services moves into new building

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — Linn County Veterans Services has moved to a newly remodeled leased building at 505 SW Ellsworth St. (east of Enterprise Rental and north of the Democrat-Herald).

Veterans Services had been housed at 330 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. SW for decades, according to Veterans Services Officer Dee Baley-Hyder. The move will allow Veterans Services to help more veterans get benefits owed them, Baley-Hyder said.

“When I started working here nine years ago, we had served about 5,000 veterans,” Baley-Hyder said. “We’ve helped more than 9,500 now and we want to grow even more.”

Baley-Hyder is joined as a Veterans Services Officer by Rob McKibben and Office Specialists Jess Valenzuela and Eric Rice.

The county is hiring a new Veterans Services Officer to help with that outreach.

Veterans Services is quadrupling its space, going from about 600 square feet to nearly 2,400 square feet. Baley-Hyder points out that space includes a large conference room that can be used by any county office or department.

Veterans Services is closed this week for moving, but will open in the new office at 8:30 a.m. Monday. Office hours will remain the same, 8:30 a.m.-12-noon and 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed from noon to 1 p.m.



The Linn County Veterans Services office has moved to 505 SW Ellsworth (across the street from Enterprise Rental Car). Staff members include Director and Veterans Services Officer Dee Baley-Hyder, Veterans Services Officer Rob McKibben, Office Specialist III Jess Valenzuela and Office Specialist II Eric Rice. The new office opened on Monday, July 29.



See **VETERANS ...** P. 12

## Making music at the Linn County Fair

The Main Stage talent at the Linn County Fair ranged from rock and roll to country and fans had plenty to cheer about each night. **Left:** Jason Scheff, former lead singer of Chicago. **Above left:** Tommy DeCarlo, former lead singer of Boston. **Above right:** Chris Lane and Lonestar.



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

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## Linn County Board of Commissioners

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

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

**Call 541-967-3825**

# Hollie Boggess joins Linn County DA's office

By Alex Paul

Linn County Reporter

ALBANY — University of San Diego Law School graduate Hollie Boggess has joined the Linn County District Attorney's Office as a Deputy District Attorney.

Boggess comes to Linn County after six years at the Lincoln County District Attorney's Office, where she specialized in domestic and sexual abuse cases concerning both adults and children.

Boggess considered studying veterinary medicine in college, but an advanced placement class in biology she convinced her to seek other career options. After a senior year career awareness project, she realized a law career might be more up her alley.

A San Diego native, Boggess competed on the horse polo team at Poway High School — winning a western region interscholastic championship in 2010.

She continued competing as a member of the Texas A & M horse polo team, while she was earning bachelor's degrees in both English and psycholo-

gy. She said her college English degree helped her polish her writing and speaking skills, both valuable in a courtroom.

She completed her law studies at the University of San Diego in 2018 and took a job in Lincoln County, Oregon. She was familiar with Oregon and Newport, having volunteered with the Lincoln County DA's office the summer before graduation.

Boggess said she made the move to Linn County as a growth opportunity and because of the office's solid reputation.

When she isn't at work, Boggess and her husband Chris Marks — a detective in Lincoln County — enjoy doing things with their three children, Valen, 9, Logan, 2 ½ and Archer, 1.

"Valen really enjoys soccer, so that keeps us busy and Logan loves being outdoors," Boggess said. "We enjoy going to the aquarium and zoo and there are so many hiking trails and other things to do here. We don't live far from the YMCA and there are many activities for kids there."



Hollie Boggess

Boggess said she enjoys her work because she gets to help hold people accountable for their actions.

"For victims, they find out the jury members believe them and they are being heard," Boggess said. "I'm told we will get to work on a bit of everything here and I look forward to that."



## Linn County and OHA deliver free air conditioners

Linn County recently partnered with the Oregon Department of Human Services to deliver air conditioning units to area residents.

The air conditioning units were made available due to Governor Kotek's Emergency Declaration surrounding recent extreme heat. Erik Anderson, Linn County's Emergency Preparedness Manager, and a volunteer, helped deliver 28 units throughout Linn County between July 9-11.



# 2024 Linn County Fair



10-year-old Sophia Sullens of Sweet Home captured this colorful photo of a sunset over the Linn County Fair. It had almost 24,000 views on Facebook.



Continuing a long-standing tradition, local elected officials, including Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Will Tucker, Sherrie Sprenger and Sheriff Michelle Duncan, dished up mounds of ice cream for senior citizens.



Hell on Hooves rodeo is always fun and exciting.



Good night from the Linn County Fair.



# 2024 Linn County Fair



Fans hope to catch t-shirts before one of the Main Stage concerts.



Always interesting folks walking around the fair.



The Linn County Clerk's Office encouraged folks to register to vote. Row one: Julie Ganta and Brendon Pendley. Row two: Clerk Marcie Richey and Chief Deputy Derrick Sterling. Richey said 44 people registered to voter and others took registration cards with them.



Dee Baley-Hyder and Jess Valenzuela staffing the Linn County Veterans Services booth.



Alyssa Boles of Linn County Planning & Building.



These folks were among those who welcomed folks to the fair. Row one: Bobby Hubbs and Barbara Castillo. Row two: Melissa Robinson and Rachel Lytle.

# 2024 Linn County Fair



Here are the people who make the Linn County Fair happen. Left to right, Fair Board members: Damon Martin, Dr. Michael Huber, Ed Perlenfein, Roger Nyquist, Chair Kris Latimer and Steve Mote: Linn County Fair staff: Kris Barnes, Rachel Lytle, Jon Brady and Melissa Robinson.



Left: Shuttles are an extremely popular feature at the fair.



Above: Future farmer looking at equipment.



Above: Folks enjoyed just hangin' around at the fair.



Left: Members of Lonestar autograph a cowgirl's boot. They also autographed her brother's cowboy hat before heading to the Main Stage on Thursday night.

Below: The June Bugs perform.





# OSU Extension Service



Left: The Sweet Home FFA chapter received a \$100,000 donation from Ag West to purchase a new vehicle.

Above and below: Who doesn't love pigs?



Free cow ears from OSU Extension-Linn County were very popular.



Below: A day brightener.

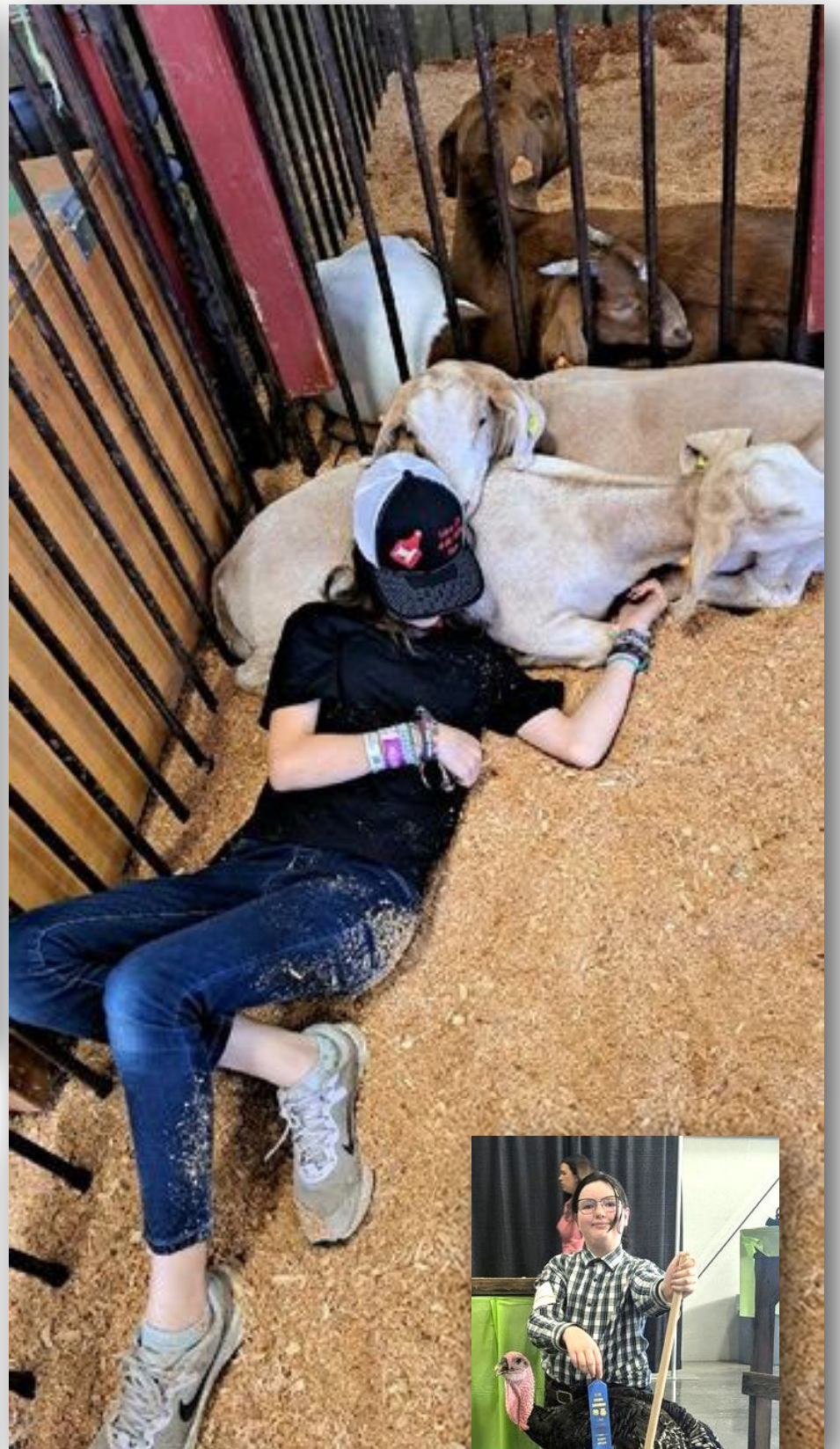
## THANK YOU LINN COUNTY AUCTION COMMITTEE & COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS!

With your support our youth had another great year!





# OSU Extension Service





# OSU Extension Service



**THANK YOU**  
**NO DINX & KNIFE RIVER**

Sponsors of the  
 2024  
 t-shirt contest



**Matthew Ennis**  
 2024 winner





# Hands on History coming to Brownsville Aug. 24

BROWNSVILLE — The Linn County Museum Friends are excited to be presenting the popular “Hands on History” event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 24.

There will be a wide range of activities practiced in bygone days, from washing clothes in a tub to mining for gold to blacksmithing that you will get to try your hand at in Library Park next to the museum. Along with cider pressing, wool spinning and corn-husk doll making you may be one of the lucky visitors to have your photo taken with an antique camera and printed on tin.

There will be music all day with the Antiquity String Band, Truman Price’s Music of the Oregon Trail and the lively duo Crazy Weasels.

Of special interest are the delightful line up of storytellers: Esther Stutzman, a Kalpuyan elder and Gwen Carr of Oregon Black Pioneers will be trading off presentation times in the Library’s Kirk Room adjacent to the park. Gordon Munro will share his fire-light stories with visitors under the big tree.

A special return presentation will be Oscar Hult’s fascinating lecture on embalming practices used during the Civil War era. Throw in some high-wheel bicycling, wagon rides around town, a little lacemaking, some flint knapping and a bit of woodworking and you will feel like you have fallen back through time.

There will be something for everyone, old, young, and in between!

You won’t want to miss this free event taking place at the Linn County Historical Museum, 101 Park Ave, in Brownsville.

Contact us at 541-466-3390 or [lchm@co.linn.or.us](mailto:lchm@co.linn.or.us)



A few of the many hands-on programs that will be featured at the upcoming Hands on History day August 24 in Brownsville.



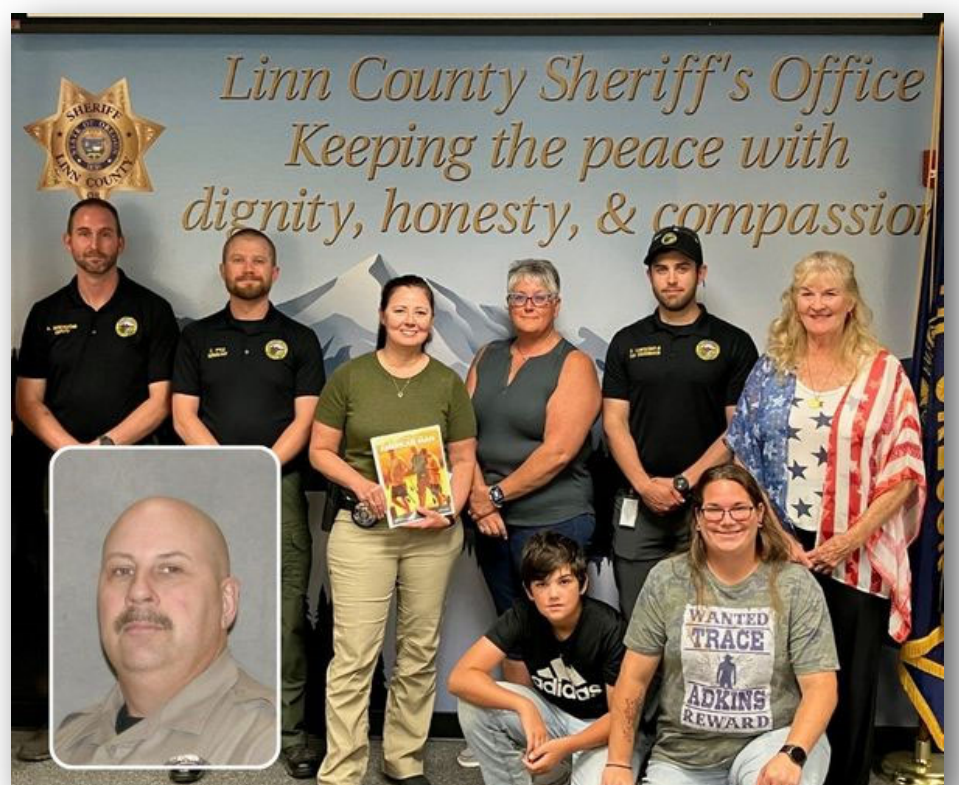
## Former LCSO sergeant honored by SH program

The Linn County Sheriff’s Office recently received a donation to the Search and Rescue Program from Nancy Patton and her family through the “Honoring the American Man” program.

Nancy began the program for her father, whom she admired and described as “a great man” who could be a role model for others.

This year, Nancy and her family honored Jim Search. Jim retired as a Staff Sergeant in our Civil Division and played an instrumental role in our Search and Rescue program for decades. Jim also volunteered in the Sweet Home community through youth sports, the Linn County Young Marines, and in so many other ways. Unfortunately, Jim passed away unexpectedly this spring. Jim will always hold a special place in our hearts here at the Linn County Sheriff’s Office.

To honor Jim, Nancy was able to raise \$1,345 at her event for her program which she donated to our SAR program. Donations to our SAR program are used to help with equipment for our volunteers and to upgrade other equipment used to rescue those in need.



# Linn County medical team assists in Central Oregon

By Mark Dodge

For the Linn County Reporter

FOSSIL — Lightning strikes on Saturday July 13 started a number of forest fires across Oregon. One of these fires became

known as the Lone Rock Fire. Within five days, many families evacuated their homes and ranches in this area which includes standing

timber and fields of grain.

Providing medical services in rural areas has been a specialty of the Linn County Medical Reserve Corps with guidance from Erik Anderson, Health Services Emergency Preparedness Manager.

While shelters were being organized in the historic towns of Heppner and Condon with support from the American Red Cross, the Oregon Health Authority reached out to mobilize a Strike Team that could travel more than halfway across the state to Fossil in Wheeler County.

At the time, Linn County Medical Reserve Corps was staffing a medical station at the fairgrounds in Albany. On Friday morning, Linda Simms RN BSN, Mark Dodge EMR and Erik Anderson EMT, headed out on the journey to Fossil.



Linn County Medical Reserve Corps Shelter Support Team. Left to right: Erik Anderson, Linn County Public Health Emergency Manager; Mark Dodge, Logistics Section and Linda Simms, RN AA; Provider, near the Fossil Medical Station.

Upon arrival, the team set up a clinic room for examinations and wellness checks. Additional support provided by the team included maintaining air scrubber and air conditioning units.

Additional response for the Medical Station came from Physician Assistant/Paramedic, Eric Stroud who joined the team the next day. As a volunteer with the Oregon Disaster Medical Team and SERV-OR, Eric brought a wealth of experience to this community shelter.

The Lone Rock wildfire is still a

concern not only for the nearby town of Spray, but Fossil as well. More than 800 firefighters along with three helicopters and fixed wing aircraft are working around the clock to reduce the damage in this area.

As a reminder, this is a great time to review your family safety plan. Practice your own evacuation and make sure to have an out of state contact information case family is needing to reunite.

For more information about the Medical Reserve Corps please visit [aspr.hhs.gov](http://aspr.hhs.gov) or [SERV-OR.org](http://SERV-OR.org). There are roles for both medical and non-medical support volunteers and training is available.



Eric Stroud, Physician Assistant State Emergency Registry of Volunteers (SERV-OR) at the Fossil Medical Station - Lone Rock wildfire - July 2024



Wheeler High School - Fossil, Oregon



Hazy sunrise at Fossil, Oregon - July 2024 - Lone Rock wildfire

## OSU Extension canning hotline

OSU News Service

CORVALLIS, Ore. — As canning season gets underway, the Food Safety and Preservation hotline from Oregon State University Extension Service will start taking calls July 8.

The toll-free hotline, 800-354-7319, runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, until Oct. 11. When the hotline is closed, callers can leave a message. The hotline is staffed by certified Master Food Preserver volunteers in several Oregon counties. The volunteers fielded 806 calls in 2023.

Most commonly, hotline callers ask about preserving salsa, tomatoes and tuna. OSU Extension offers publications on each: "Salsa Recipes for Canning," "Canning Seafood," "Canning Tomatoes and Tomato Products" and "Use, Care and Operation of Your Pressure Canner."

Additional publications and fact sheets are available on the OSU Extension website. Launched in 1980 in Lane County, the Master Food Preserver program has grown to include more than 300 Master Food Preservers who complete an eight-week course to be certified and volunteer on the hotline.

Ask Extension, an online question-and-answer service, is another way to get information. Extension experts can offer information about anything related to food preservation — from safety concerns to recipes — and strive to respond within two business days.

Additionally, several Extension offices offer free pressure canner dial gauge testing. Hotline volunteers can provide information specific to a county.



### Tree donated by Linn County Parks

A downed tree from Linn County Parks will live on in the form of a new live-edge dais and bench at the Sweet Home City Hall.

The community refurbished the former Willamette National Forest headquarters in 2019 and had been using the same dais for decades.

Sweet Home Public Works staff crafted the new furniture.



Photos courtesy The New Era



**Pretty as a summer flower ...**

*Miss Hadley Goff, almost 3, enjoyed picking some flowers recently and brightened our day. She is the daughter of Rick and Katie Goff of rural Lebanon. Rick is the Linn County Building Official. She has brothers Wes and Brady and a sister, Cassidy.*



**Safe driving tips during harvest season**

It's that time of year again, Harvest Season!

With harvest season, there will be a lot more farm equipment traffic on the road now through the end of September. Farming is a huge part of life here in Linn County and we want to make sure that both the farmers, and those on the road with them, stay safe!

Here are just a few things to keep in mind:

- Most farm equipment is equipped with multiple lights on all sides and large triangle signs to help make them as visible as possible while on the roadway.
- When you approach farm equipment from the rear and the equipment is moving at a slow pace, people are going to want to pass. Always assume that the driver cannot see you. If you are going to pass, make sure you are in a designated passing area. Since the equipment can be very large, make sure you look further up the road than you normally would when passing a vehicle. Once you have passed the farm equipment, make sure to give extra space before returning to your lane of traffic.
- When you approach farm equipment from the front, make sure you slow down. Check to see if other vehicles may be passing the farm equipment. As mentioned, the person passing the farm equipment may not see you coming, so it is very important to be extra vigilant. Continue past the farm equipment slowly and, once cleared, proceed as normal.
- We understand that it can be frustrating when you are slowed on the road by farm equipment. Keep in mind these farmers are doing their jobs like we all do each day. Farmers all over our county provide jobs, are working to support their families and are bringing food to our tables!



**A blue ribbon day in Harrisburg!**

*We think Paul Hermens, Linn County Print Shop manager, should dress like this everyday. He and his family and friends won a blue ribbon for best decorated ATV at the 4th of July parade in Harrisburg. Left: Paul and his wife, Marcy. Right: Marcy and Paul with Gavin Moody, Tracy Anderson and Emma Lloyd.*



The new Veterans Services office features a large conference room that can be used by all county offices and departments.



Jess Valenzuela shows off the new reception area.

### Veterans Services moves ... From P. 1

The phone number and email contacts remain the same. Phone: 541-967-3882; toll free 800-319-3882; FAX 541-928-3517.

Learn more about services provided at <https://www.linncountyor.gov/vets>.

Baley-Hyder said she is proud of the work she and her staff do, helping veterans with everything from accessing rides to medical appointments to qualifying for programs and funds due them.

"We are currently booked out six weeks," Baley-Hyder said. "We want to be able to help our veterans when they walk into our office. This is something I have wanted for three years and now that it's here, it is a bit nerve-racking, but it will be worth it."

Linn County Veterans Services has helped local veterans and their survivors collect more than \$1 million since July of 2023.

Darrin Lane, Linn County Administrative Officer, noted, "The Linn County Commissioners have consistently demonstrated strong support for veterans services by dedicating financial resources above and beyond the normal requirements. Investing in this new office space

will improve access for veterans and the addition of a third veterans services officer will significantly increase our capacity to provide services."



Veterans Services Officer Rob McKibben carries in an American flag.



All packed up and moving out on Wednesday, July 24.



New break room area.





## Stand By Me Day attracts many to B'ville

*Stand By Me Day has been a tradition in Brownsville for many years. The community enjoys welcoming guests from around the world, who enjoy the 1980s movie Stand By Me. Numerous scenes in the movie directed by Rob Reiner were filmed in and around Brownsville. Barbara Andersen of the Linn County Historical Museum provided us with these photos, as the community steps back to the 1950s.*

*And if you have seen the movie, you know how important blueberry pies are (pie eating contest).*





### Linn County Parks hosting Native Encampments

The second of three Native Encampments was held at Waterloo County Park the weekend of July 19-21. The public was invited to participate and learn about native cultures, language, music, food and crafts. A third encampment will be held August 23-25 at Cascadia County Park. To learn more, visit [naculturalencampment.org/](http://naculturalencampment.org/)



### 30 states and 10,000-mile adventure

Erik Anderson, Emergency Management, his wife Neva and their son, Case, took a 10,000 mile road trip over more than three weeks in June. They especially enjoyed visiting five National Parks in Utah and passed through 30 states.

Photos are at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. and the house from A Christmas Story in Cleveland, Ohio.



Do you have a story idea for the Linn County Reporter?  
 Please call Editor Alex Paul at 541-967-3825 or email [apaul@co.linn.or.us](mailto:apaul@co.linn.or.us).

### 10 complete Search and Rescue training

The Linn County Sheriff's Office would like to congratulate the 2024 Search and Rescue (SAR) Academy graduating class!

Culminating with their graduation, these fine young men spent 10 days training to become part of the best Search and Rescue team in Oregon!

We demand the most of our recruits during the academy and at the conclusion of the long 10-day academy, they are sworn in by Sheriff Michelle Duncan and officially become a part of the best SAR team in all of Oregon.

Congratulations to the graduates of our 30th SAR Academy: Cole Abbott, Isaiah Moran, Jeremy Brown, Jeremiah Kennedy, Joshua Williams, Luke Haury, Noah Strawn, Remington Peters, Samuel Bloedel, Samuel Franklin, Trevin Young.



#dignityhonestycompassion

### National Night Out is August 6

National Night Out will be held August 6.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes positive relationships between neighbors and their law enforcement.

The Linn County Sheriff's Office will join multiple groups across the county. We look forward to spending time with our community to help build these relationships.

If you are planning an event this year and would like to have a representative there from the Linn County Sheriff's Office, please contact

Community Services Coordinator Michael Mattingly at [mmattingly@linnsheiff.org](mailto:mmattingly@linnsheiff.org).

We look forward to seeing everyone out for a great night of fun.



#dignityhonestycompassion

# Benton County edges LCSO in annual softball ABC House fundraiser



Benton County Sheriff Jef Van Arsdell and LCSO Patrol Deputy Jackson Soto.

Well it was another good battle, and in this year's charity softball game between Linn County Sheriff's Office and the Benton County Sheriff's Office, Benton County narrowly came out on top with a 9-7 victory.

Both teams played hard and showed a lot of great sportsmanship. We were happy to be playing for such a worthy cause in the ABC House for abuse children.

Unable to make it to the game, but still interested in making a donation to the ABC House? Please visit <https://www.abchouse.org/donate> to donate today



Communications Manager Nathan McIntyre.



Range Instructor Brad Kelley.

Photos courtesy Mark Ylen

**Not pictured individually:** Dispatcher Lelani Croswhite, Support Services Lieutenant Beth Miller, Records Clerk Tabitha Voisine, Patrol Lt. Scott Mumej, Patrol Deputy Devin Ross, Patrol Captain Brandon Fountain and Community Resource Specialist Michael Mattingly.



Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan.



Corrections Deputy Peyton Yow and Marine deckhand Maya Ylen.



Patrol Deputy Jenna Sukle.

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



## Wildfire season is here!

Many hands from multiple private companies and government agencies are battling a wildfire east of Sweet Home called the Pyramid Fire. These are photos of the team from Cascade Timber Consulting of Sweet Home, which manages more than 140,000 acres of privately-owned timber in Linn County.

The Pyramid Fire is east of Middle Santiam Wilderness and as of Monday, encompassed 1,156 Acres. It was 11 percent contained and with 403 total personnel working on it.

It was caused by lightning.

The Slate Fire is five miles southwest of Detroit and was about 91 acres and 27 percent contained as of Monday. There are 48 personnel and the fire's cause is under investigation.

Monday, the Willamette National Forest expanded an emergency closure order for the Pyramid Fire to include the Slate Fire area. The closure order, which is for public and firefighter safety, is effective through Nov. 15, 2024, unless modified or rescinded sooner.

The closure area includes the Middle Santiam Wilderness, as well as developed recreation sites, trails, and trailheads. Forest Service Road (FSR) 2236 will be closed between the FSR 11 and FSR 10 junction and the FSR 2236 and FSR 640 junction.

Visitors are encouraged to support firefighters and crews working the Pyramid and the Slate fires by recreating elsewhere. Lava Lake Snow Park remains open while Big Springs and Maxwell Butte Snow Parks are closed.

Closed recreation sites and trails include Daly Lake Day Use and Campground, Middle Santiam Wilderness, South Pyramid Horse Camp, Bridge to Nowhere Trailhead, Chimney Peak (Shedd Camp) Trailhead, Coffin Mountain Trailhead, Crescent Mountain Trailhead, Gordan Peak Trailhead, McQuade Creek Trailhead, North Pyramid Trailhead, Parish Lake Trailhead, Pyramids Trailhead, Pyramids Bypass Loop Connector Trail, Riggs Lake Trailhead, Scar Mountain Trailhead, South Pyramid Creek Trailhead, and Swamp Peak Trailhead.

