



Linn County Parks



NEWSLETTER

What's happening at Linn County (Oregon) Parks June 2021

Brian Carroll

*Parks
Director*



**Major projects
are underway
this summer**

Welcome to Linn County!
The Linn County Parks & Recreation staff is excited for the arrival of summer.

If you are headed out to Foster Reservoir in June, you may run into some staff members from the Cameron & McCarthy Planning Company.

Cameron & McCarthy has been hired to develop a new design and redevelopment plan for Lewis Creek County Park. Lewis Creek Park is approximately 50 years old and in need of major renovations.

As part of the process to make improvements to the park, Cameron & McCarthy staff will be at Lewis Creek Park several weekends in June asking visitors about their design preferences.

This is a great opportunity for you, as

Brian Carroll — See Page 5

Thank You for
visiting Linn
County Parks!

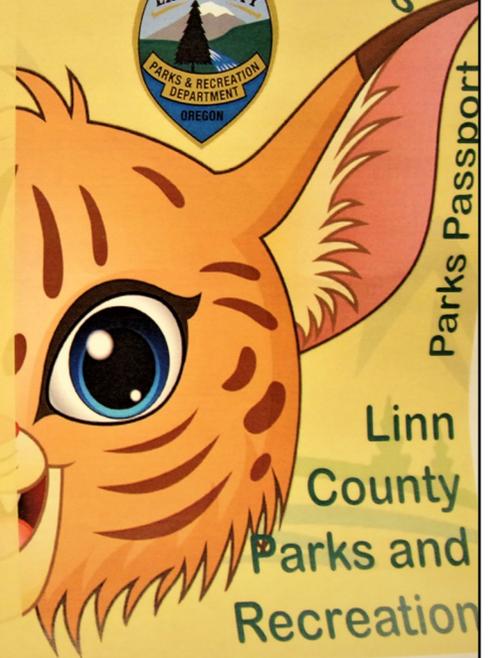


Junior Rangers



Linn County Parks & Recreation
Jr. Ranger Passport
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www.linnparks.com



Parks Passport

Linn
County
Parks and
Recreation

Hey kids, here's how to become a Jr. Ranger

Young campers are invited to become Junior Rangers in the Linn County Parks system this summer, learning about wildlife and having fun adventures along the way.

The project is modeled after a similar State Parks program, said Quartzville Corridor Ranger Blake Nightingale. He

and Clear Lake Ranger JR Erspamer were in charge of developing the program and putting together the "passport" youngsters will use to fulfill their goal.

Kids ages 3 to 14 are invited to pick up a passport when they go camping with their families at each of the Linn County

Junior Ranger — See Page 2

To make campsite reservations, visit www.linnparks.com/or call 541-967-3917

Tristan Davis

Operations Supervisor



Busy time of year is here

With June, we are in full summer operations, all of our campgrounds and parks are open. Our staff's primary focus is on our guest services, cleaning restrooms, garbage pickup, ice sales, wood sales, mowing grass, cleaning campsites, cabins and yurts.

There are several projects and areas we are focusing on.

We are almost done with a public safety barrier around the swimming area at Lewis Creek. This has been a challenging but rewarding project. We had to assemble 48 float sections that connect to surround the swim area. These are all tied together with 5/8" cable and secured to 4,200-pound concrete anchors. The efforts of our dedicated staff have made it possible. They are always willing to adapt to meet the timelines on projects.

We are working on the boat-in camping on Green Peter. We have plans to install a restroom at the upper Whitcomb Creek boat-in area to address sanitation. As soon as the permitting is complete the staff will begin construction. This will be a challenging project as the land access is very limited.

The staff will potentially have to transport some of the building materials by boat. Our hope is to get approval from the Army Corps of Engineers to construct some yurts here in addition to the existing camp sites.

We are working closely with the Linn County Juvenile Department's work crew to address some maintenance and small construction projects along Quartzville Road. The work crew is working on some trails at Thistle Creek and Whitcomb Creek. They will be constructing a trail from the Thistle Creek boat ramp up to Quartzville Road where there is additional parking.

The work they do is a great help to us. They are able to focus on things this time of the year that would normally wait until fall or winter when we have staff available. The work crew has also helped us tremendously this winter by splitting and wrapping firewood for us to sell in the campgrounds this summer.

We are also working to replace a water main that failed at Waterloo Park, the main serves the day use area at Waterloo. The main failed in early May, it broke where the main goes under Gross Street. A contractor will bore in a new

2" water main. This will be a nice addition and upgrade from the old main which has failed several times and required yearly repairs.

We are confronted with a staffing shortage this month. We are experiencing trouble recruiting seasonal staff members. We have gotten creative with our scheduling and are doing a lot of shuffling of staff from park-to-park to maintain our service levels at each facility. Our fulltime staff have stepped up and are really helping one another cover their park so we can maintain our high service levels.

Junior Ranger Passport ... From P. 1

Parks. Each park has a variety of activities the youngsters must complete before qualifying to have their passport "stamped" at that park.

When they have filled their passport with stamps, they will receive a Jr. Ranger badge, Nightingale said.

"JR and I have wanted to increase our interpretive programs as part of our 3 to 5 year goals," Nightingale said. "We see this Jr. Ranger program as a great opportunity. We adjusted the State Parks program to fit our needs."

The passport is filled with information about each campground, wildlife and camping.

For example, one "Did You Know?" section points out that the South Santiam River is 69 miles long, starts at the base of the Cascade Mountain Range and feeds into the Willamette River.



Blake Nightingale

Another one asks, "Did you know ... when bald eagles dive they can reach speeds of up to 100 mile per hour?"

Another section invites kids to draw a line from the name of a tree to a drawing of its leaves and they are warned to



never leave a campfire unattended because a single ember can start a forest fire.

Clear Lake Ranger JR Erspamer studied digital media and photography at Santa Rosa Junior College and spearheaded designing the passport.



JR Erspamer

"I was a web content manager in San Francisco for five years before coming up here," Erspamer said. "I think it's important to get kids engaged with the outdoors early on.

We hope to get them excited about being outside and camping."

Pick up copies of the Junior Ranger Passport at any Linn County Park or visit www.linnparks.com.

To make campsite reservations, visit www.linnparks.com/or call 541-967-3917

Meet Adam Brenneman

Assistant operations supervisor enjoys fishing and racing cars

SWEET HOME — Adam Brenneman grew up camping, whether it was at the rustic U.S. Forest Service campgrounds now managed by the Linn County Parks & Recreation Department, or near a high lake in central Oregon.

“Working for Linn County is where I plan to stay until retirement ...”

Two years ago, Brenneman found his “forever” job that combines

his love of the outdoors with his ability to fix things.

Although he took a pay cut, Brenneman took a job mowing grass with the Linn County Parks & Recreation Department. Within two months that turned into a seasonal ranger position at Whitcomb Creek County Park and earlier this year, Brenneman was named assistant operations supervisor.

“Working for Linn County Parks is where I plan to stay until retirement,” the 1997 Scio High School graduate said. “I love being outdoors and I enjoy interacting with our campers. Every single day is different and the week just flies by.”

Name: Adam Brenneman
Age: 41
Occupation: Assistant operations supervisor, Linn County Parks
Family: Wife Jessica and four dogs
Education: Scio High School, 1997
Work experience: Former mechanic at Albany Wheel & Tire; former Benton County deputy sheriff
Hobbies: Fishing for lunker trout and drag racing

Brenneman was a mechanic at his dad’s business, Albany Wheel & Tire for several years. His skills come in handy build-



Linn County Parks Assistant Operations Supervisor Adam Brenneman took a pay cut to take a job cutting grass with the parks system and has worked his way into a supervisory position.

ing yurts, decks or remodeling cabins at Clear Lake Resort.

Brenneman said he has always admired the Linn County Parks system and he’s especially proud to work within that system today.

“There is an attitude of always wanting to make improvements,” Brenneman said. “It’s not stagnant, that’s for sure.”

Brenneman said the best part of his job is

being outside a lot.

Brenneman said the summer months can be hectic, but he enjoys the rapidly changing pace.

“It’s the best thing I could have done,” Brenneman said of taking the lawn mowing job. “It’s the best decision I ever made. I got my foot in the door and I now have a lifelong career.”

Brenneman said Linn County Parks offer campers a broad range of camping choices. There is everything from flat-land sites such as Waterloo County Park, to the heavily treed River Bend Campground near Cascadia or the rustic U.S. Forest Service campgrounds such as Yukwah and House Rock that border the South Santiam River and are managed by Linn County.

When he isn’t on the job, Brenneman and his wife, Jessica, enjoy fishing for brown trout in Central Oregon. His record catch so far has been an 11-pounder.

They also enjoy drag racing their 1967 Pontiac Lemans and 1962 Chevy Nova at Woodburn Raceway.

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Campfire Cookin'



Seared sausage with cabbage and Pink Lady apples



Ingredients

1 tbsp. olive oil
6 small sweet Italian sausage links (about 1 1/2 pounds total)
2 Pink Lady apples, halved
1/2 red onion, sliced
1/2 head red cabbage, cut into 1/2-inch-thick slices
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1 c. fresh apple cider
2 tbsp. fresh cider vinegar

Cooking directions

1. Heat oil in a large cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add sausage and cook, turning occasionally, until golden brown, 6 to 8 minutes; transfer to a plate.
2. Reduce heat to medium and add apples, cut-sides down. Scatter onion and cabbage around apples. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring onion occasionally until apples are golden brown, 3 to 4 minutes.
3. Flip apples. Return sausage to skillet, nestling among vegetables. Add cider and vinegar. Simmer, rotating and turning sausages occasionally until sausages are cooked through and apples are tender, 18 to 20 minutes.

— Courtesy Country Living magazine

Native American cultural encampments planned

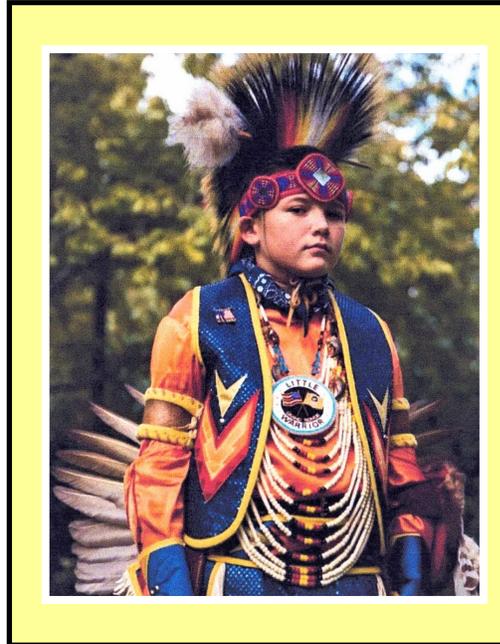
Two Native American cultural encampments will be held this

summer July 9-11 at Sunnyside County Park and August 27-29 at Cascadia State Park.

Local tribes have many events planned, all designed to provide people with a better understanding of their culture.

There will be tips on-site as well as hands-on learning projects such as leather crafting, beading and learning about Native American music. Visitors can even learn to play a flute.

Visitors are invited to enjoy storytelling around a campfire.



July 9-11 activities begin at 1 p.m. at Sunnyside County Park.

Sunday's event will culminate at 4 p.m. with a shared feast.

The second encampment will be from Aug. 27-29 at Cascadia State Park.

Daily events begin at 1 p.m.

and wrap up at 8 p.m. with storytelling around a campfire. Sunday's events culminate at 4 p.m. with a shared feast.

Linn County Parks & Recreation Commission

Members of the Linn County Parks Commission Advisory Board meet on the second Thursday of the month in January, March, May, September and November.

Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. and are held at various locations throughout the county.

Parks Commission members are Milt Moran, Michael Hurd, Ken Bronson, Gerritt Schaffer, Darryl Dukes, Rich Kellum, Rachel Maynard, Mellissa Barnard and Paul Timm.

(There are two open positions. Call 541-967-3917.)

Please take our survey
at <https://linnparks.com/survey/>

To make campsite reservations, visit www.linnparks.com/or call 541-967-3917



Left: Assistant Operations Supervisor Adam Brenneman tows the first section of a new water safety barrier at Lewis Creek County Park. Above: John Hefty and Brenneman work on a barrier section. Below: the new barrier comes together.

Brian Carroll ... New safety barrier installed at From Page 1 Lewis Creek County Park swim area

visitors to the park, to guide the redevelopment of Lewis Creek and let us know what kind of amenities and design features you would like to see developed over the next 5 to 10 years.

Summer water levels at the reservoirs

We have been fortunate to have a beautiful dry spring camping season, which has brought out the largest early season camping crowds that we have ever experienced. Unfortunately, there is a downside to all of this dry weather — reservoir water levels.

Due to the lack of spring rain this year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is projecting that water levels at Green Peter Reservoir will be severely affected and Foster Reservoir could be drawn down earlier in September than normal.

Foster Reservoir should continue to run at full pool at least through the Labor Day weekend, but beyond that is a question mark. Green Peter water

SWEET HOME — Linn County Parks & Recreation Department staff have been busy in recent weeks installing a new water safety barrier at the Lewis Creek County Park swim area.

The new equipment was installed about 50 feet from the safety boom that has been in place for many years and creates an area that is off limits to swimmers and watercraft.

The safety barrier cost \$255,844 and is designed to stop a 27-foot boat traveling at 60 miles per hour in less than a half-second. It was paid for with the county's Transient Lodging Tax and parks reserve funds.



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To make campsite reservations, visit www.linnparks.com/or call 541-967-3917



New safety boom being assembled at Lewis Creek County Park on Foster Reservoir.

Brian Carroll ... From Page 5

levels, however, have most likely peaked for the year, meaning that the reservoir will not reach full pool and the water level is already beginning to drop.

As a result, we have not been able to launch the Thistle Creek Boat Ramp boarding float at all this year. Linn County Parks & Recreation staff will do our best to provide access to reservoir boat ramps and docks for as long as possible, but unfortunately, the boarding docks at the Whitcomb Creek County Park boat ramp will be out of the water soon.

New Rocky Top Bridge Group Camp is available for Reservations

On a more positive note, the LCPR Staff were able to complete enough work at Moose Creek on Quartzville Road to allow us to open the Rocky Top Bridge Group Camp Area.

The site currently has limited facili-

ties (no potable water), but our plan is to develop it into a more formal group camp in the near future.

The Rocky Top Group Camp is now available for reservations by contacting our parks reservation staff via email: parks@co.linn.or.us or calling (541) 967-3917. If you leave a message for the reservation staff, they will call or email you back!

Whether you are coming to Linn County for hiking, fishing, water

sports, or just sitting around the campfire, we hope your stay is relaxing and pleasurable. While you are here, please take advantage of all the wonderful recreational opportunities and the many friendly business services available in Linn County.

Story ideas?

Do you have a story idea for the Linn County Parks Newsletter?

Please call editor Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, at 541-967-3825.



As the 4th of July approaches, remember fireworks are not allowed in any Linn County Park, or any Forest Service or state park managed by the Linn County Parks & Recreation Department.

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