

Parent Newsletter December 2021

Family Holiday Activity Guide Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Looking for ways to add a bit of magic to your family's holiday season? We have listed many local low-cost or free local holiday activities. Always check with the organizers for last-minute changes and safety requirements due to COVID-19.

Linn County

Albany Carousel Storytime & Santa

5:30 – 8:00pm, Friday, Dec 3. \$5 per person, children under 42" tall are free. Albany Carousel

Dress up in your favorite pair of PJs and join in the fun for storytime with Santa, cookies and milk, and the Carousel's special Elf "Burl."



Albany Christmas Storybook Land December 3-17. Free.

Linn County Fairgrounds

Christmas Storybook Land is offering an indoor and outdoor drive-through experience. From the comfort and safety of your vehicle, relive your favorite childhood nursery rhymes, fairy tales and family movies in a magical forest! For open times please see the schedule on the website.

Accepting donations of nonperishable food for FISH of Albany.

Downtown Albany Holiday Character Hunt December 1-15. Free. Downtown Albany

Stroll the sidewalks in Downtown Albany and find up to 30 Holiday Movie Character posters on member businesses. Receive one entry per character found. Entry forms are available online or at the Albany Downtown Association office (126 Ferry Street SW, Albany. 541-928-2469).





Downtown Albany Twice Around Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting

5:00pm, Sunday, Dec 5. Free. Downtown Albany

The parade route starts at the corner of Broadalbin Street and First Avenue, heads West down First to Calapooia Street past the Albany Carousel, turns South (left) on Calapooia to Second Avenue, turns East (left) on Second to Broadalbin and North (left) on Broadalbin to First... then goes around again ending up back where it started at Broadalbin Street and First Avenue. Immediately following the parade everyone gathers for the Community Tree Lighting Ceremony at Two Rivers Market parking lot, corner Ferry and Second.

Albany Whitespires Christmas Eve Sing-Along 2021

7:00-8:00pm, Dec 24. Free. 510 SW 5th Ave, Albany

Join the Whitespires Church in Historic Downtown Albany for a traditional Christmas Eve, sing-along. Art credit: <u>Acrewood Art</u>





Albany Winter Wonderland Way

ALBAN Albany Albany

Drive through this magical holiday wonderland! Come see the lights and hear the sounds of the holiday season. We will have special gifts for kids ages 2-12 and fun to look at along the way. Even Santa will be joining the fun! Registration required.

Want to be one of Santa's helpers? Bring a donation of canned food to be given to FISH of Albany.

Brownsville Tree Lighting and Holiday Lights Tour

6:00 - 7:00pm, Dec 3. Free. Brownsville

Join your community for the annual tree lighting on Spaulding Ave between Main St & Averill St. Festivities kick off with a candle lighting ceremony, followed by the tree lighting and caroling by the Central Linn High School Blue Notes. The light tour begins at 5pm every night after until Christmas.



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Harrisburg Light Parade

7pm, Dec 4. Free. Harrisburg

This will be a full parade, with the theme of 'A Story Book Christmas'. After the parade, Santa will be at Picnic Pavilion. Santa's helpers will hand out candy & apples to children visiting Santa. Hot apple cider and cookies for everyone.

Lebanon Cascade Christmas Lights 6:00-10:00pm weeknights and 6:00-11:00pm Sat and Sun nights. Nov 25 - Jan 2. Free. 312 E Sherman St., Lebanon

Watch from the comfort of your car, and listen to the music on the radio while you watch the animated light show to a host of Christmas songs. The show repeats many times through the night. Want to skip the traffic? Consider going to see the lights Sunday - Thursday. Accepting donations for The Lebanon Soup Kitchen.





Lebanon Holidays in the Park 2:00-7:00pm, December 4. Free. Ralston Park

Ralston Park will be decorated and host Santa, horse drawn carriage rides, food, music and entertainment. The Twilight Parade begins at 5:15pm and is followed by the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Lebanon Holiday Train Rides & Lights

Sat, Sun, Wed, Nov 27 - Dec 22nd. Sat & Sun 5:30-8:30pm, Wed 6-8pm. Adult \$7, Child (age 2-12): \$6, 1 and Under: Free Tennessee Thunder - 37672 Kgal Dr., Lebanon

Holiday Train Rides! Come ride the 1/4 Train through a 4-acre park with thousands and thousands of feet of lights! A ride lasts 11-14 minutes. Children ages 6 and under must be accompanied by a paid adult rider to ride the train. Carpooling strongly encouraged. Cash preferred. No reservations needed.





Sweet Home Parade of Lights 6:00pm, Dec 11. Free. Sweet Home

The parade will be on Long Street between 22nd and Oak Terrace. The Parade of Lights is sponsored by Pacific Power.

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Sweet Home Community Singing Christmas Tree

7:00pm, Dec 4. 3:00pm Dec 5 . Free. Sweet Home High School

The Singing Christmas Tree in Sweet Home will put on its 40th performance at the Sweet Home High School Auditorium. The program will be a mix of Christmas favorites, both sacred and secular, and Santa will pay a visit.





Sweet Home Tree Lighting

5:00pm, Dec 1. Free. Sweet Home City Hall

Kick off the holiday season with the Sweet Home Annual Tree Lighting at City Hall!

Benton County

Corvallis Nativity Festival

11:00am-8:30pm, Dec 3-6. 11:00am-4:00pm, Dec 7. Free. 4141 Harrison Blvd, Corvallis

The Corvallis Nativity Festival is a family-friendly, community event. Hundreds of community members have shared their nativity sets (crèches) during the festival's 27-year history. Come and enjoy the never-ending variety of beautiful and inspiring nativities. Children's room with crafts and activities. Live music is performed each day.





Corvallis Pastega Christmas Light Display

5:00-10:00pm, Nov 26 - Dec 31. Free. Benton County Fairgrounds

This drive-through Christmas display is a spectacle of figures, lights and music. Display pieces are created and maintained by community members. 400 - 700 cars enjoy the display each day. Canned food donations are encouraged.

Corvallis Rotary Children's Craft Fair

10:00am-2:00pm. Dec 4. Free. Solar Tunnel at Benton County Fairgrounds

Join us for the Corvallis Rotary Club's drive-through Children's Holiday Craft Fair. From the warmth and safety of your own vehicle interact with the many costumed characters you will find dancing throughout the Holly Jolly Tunnel. Both Santa and Caesar The No Drama Llama will be in attendance! This is a FREE event, but registration is required for each child ages 3 - 11 to receive a craft bag.



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Monroe Light Parade

6:00-8:00pm, Dec 11. Free. Monroe Community Library

Welcome to Monroe's 2021 Light Parade! The best viewing for the Light Parade will be at the Monroe Community Library, however anywhere along Highway 99W between Ash Street and Commercial Street will be great!



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Philomath Community Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration

5:30pm, Dec 3. Free. Benton County Historical Museum

Join us on the lawn of the Benton County Historical Museum for the lighting of the Christmas Tree. Enjoy music from Philomath Elementary School Choir, cookies, hot chocolate and special guests Santa, Philomath Frolic & Rodeo Queen, and Mack the Knight!

Lincoln County

Lincoln City Elf Jr The Musical

Dec 11, 12, 16, 17 &18. Lincoln City Cultural Center

Lincoln City Playhouse for Youth presents "Elf Jr." Based on the beloved holiday film, this hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity. Check the website for showtimes and ticket prices.





Lincoln City Holiday Lights Tour

Dec 10- Jan 1. Free. Lincoln City

The light tour maps will be available online and in the paper on December 10th. Make plans to drive around and check out the beautiful lights around town!

Newport American Legion Kids Christmas 12:00-4:00pm, Dec 18. Free. 424 W Olive St., Newport

American Legion - Post 116 will be hosting a Take Out only Kids' Christmas party. Santa will be there behind a glass window.





Yachats Winter Solstice Celebration 4:00pm, Dec 21. Free. Yachats Commons

Gather for a bonfire, with live music, a jam session, and treats!

Family Holiday Craft Ideas

Holiday crafts are a great way to entertain your little ones while helping them work on important developmental skills like following directions, focusing and concentration, fine motor skills, early problem-solving skills, and patience. Here are some simple crafts that can be made with items you probably already have at home.

Creating Holiday Cards



Have your child create unique cards for friends and family by coloring pictures then cutting and pasting them onto a card.

Paper Tube Decorations

Craft Stick Ornaments



Using clean Popsicle sticks or craft sticks from the Dollar Store, your child can make all kinds of festive ornaments.



Decorate empty paper towel and toilet paper tubes to look like holiday figures. Your child can use markers, construction paper, cotton balls, stickers, even twigs and pine needles to express their holiday cheer.

Paper Plate Holiday Characters



Have your children decorate paper plates to look like their favorite holiday characters. These can hang on the wall or be made into masks.

Pollywog Facebook



Pollywog Website

<u>Pollywog YouTube</u>

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