Beyond books at the library

By Sean C. Morgan
Of The New Era

Want to learn to play an instrument in this new year?

The Sweet Home Public Library is offering just that opportunity with its new ukulele program.

Based on the popularity of one of its programs last year, ukuleles are now available for checkout at the library.

"Libraries are now much more than just checking out books," said Sweet Home Library Director Rose Peda. "After a program that we had last year, there was a real interest in learning to play the ukulele.

Two instructors gave a workshop about a year ago on how to play the ukulele, Peda said, and people were able to see how easy to learn and play it is. "We had a really good turnout," she said. After that, people kept asking her when the library was going to get some ukuleles. "I started looking into what it would cost and connected to a music store out of Corvallis," Peda said. The shop owner had some ukuleles.

"I watched him struggle, but he made it," said Peluso, who was named 2017 Mr. Sweet Home.

By Audrey Caro
Of The New Era

Gerritt Schaffer expected to face some challenges when he returned to college last year.

"Getting into the building wasn't one of them," he said.

Schaffer, 42, has used a wheelchair since he was paralyzed from the waist down when he suffered a spinal cord injury in April of 2016 in a dirt bike crash. He's been attending Linn-Benton Community College to pursue a career in engineering, he said.

"I can't be an electrician anymore," he said. "That door is really heavy," said Pearl Christman, a clerical specialist at LBCC and Gerritt Schaffer celebrate the new door.

The building was not been equipped with automatic doors for wheelchair users and others.

"I watched him struggle, but he made it," said Peluso, who was named 2017 Mr. Sweet Home.

"I'm going for engineering. That involves a lot of difficult field work," he said.

One challenge has been getting into the LBCC Sweet Home Center, located at 3683 Long St. in the Sweet Home High School complex.

The building had not been equipped with automatic doors for wheelchair users and others.

"Trying to open the door while holding onto his books was not an easy task, especially while dealing with the elevator," Schaffer joked.

"That door is really heavy," said Pearl Christman, a clerical specialist at the Linn-Benton Community College Sweet Home Center.

Schaffer credits Christman and his English instructor, Kriste York, for helping him.

"They were really good to me," he said. "I watched him struggle, but he made it," said Peluso, who was named 2017 Mr. Sweet Home.

Wastewater bill rises $17.10 for most this month

By Sean C. Morgan
Of The New Era

The council approved the rate increase in late October to shore up revenue for the fiscal year, which began on July 1 and ends June 30. In that October meeting, City Manager Ray Towery told the council that the wastewater fund was running short about $33,000, and using general fund and special fund money to cover the shortfall and "stop the bleeding." The council approved an option to keep the base rate the same, $40.87, and increase the commodity rate from $6.12 to $9.78. Previously, 400 cubic feet of wastewater were included with the base rate. That was changed to 300 cubic feet.

The commodity rate is applied for each 100 cubic feet of use after the first 300 cubic feet.

Councilors did not alter the water rate structure. The base charge remains $26.58, and the commodity rate continues at $6.50 per 100 cubic feet, with the first 400 cubic feet included with the base charge.

The last rate change took effect on July 1, 2016. The monthly utility bill from the city also includes a $1 charge in most cases for stormwater management costs.

The council will review rates again in the spring, which is when the city prepares its budget for the next fiscal year.

Several policies have changed and taken effect as well.

Among them:

\- All past-due balances must be paid in full by the date of delinquency notices to avoid the city

PBCC steps up to provide door for disabled students

By Sean C. Morgan
Of The New Era

The public will get its first look at schematic design plans for the Sweet Home Junior High School remodel next week during two public forums.

The following week, the board will consider whether to approve the plans.

The public forums are scheduled for Jan. 9 and Jan. 11 at the Junior High. Super. Tom Yahara said the forums are tentatively scheduled for 6 p.m., but it remains uncertain because the district wants to ensure that members of the political action committee that promoted the bond measure that is funding the project along with other stakeholders will be able to attend.

See Junior High, Page 12

Hear from Schools Sup't. Tom Yahara on plans for the district.

P. 5.

Public to get look at plans for Jr. High

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See Junior High, Page 12

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P. 5.
Tall tree comes down

Griffin’s Quality Tree Service takes down a monster Douglas fir in the 300 block of Elm Street as neighbors watch. The company spent two days removing the tree just before Christmas after multiple neighbors paid for its removal, leaving a stump 5 feet 7 inches across. The tree’s root system had broken through the sidewalk and neighbor Dennis Hankins said that when the wind blew, the tree, which is probably more than 100 years old, would move the sidewalk. The tree had six tops, and water pooled where they joined at the main trunk, freezing and causing rot. The Tree Service took branches off of the tree on Dec. 20 and then finished cutting up the trunk on Dec. 21. Taking down the tree opened up a view of Marks Ridge and the city for the Hankins family. “Just about everybody around the tree was glad to see it go,” Dennis Hankins said. Photo by Sean C. Morgan

Obituaries

Maynard Marcks
June 11, 1949 – Dec. 25, 2017
Maynard Keith Marcks Sr., 68, of Sweet Home died Dec. 25, 2017. He was born June 11, 1949 in Sweet Home to August and Viola (Cane) Marcks. He enjoyed fishing at Foster Lake and camping up Quartzville. He loved eagles and wolves. He was loved and will be missed dearly.

Mr. Marcks is survived by his four children, Nancy of Stayton, Kayla of Lebanon, and Coral and Searra of Sweet Home, two sisters, Bertha of Sweet Home and Alice of Washington; ex-wife Katrina, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by six brothers, a sister, and son Maynard Jr. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Death Notices

William Leon Clark
July 21, 1923 – Dec. 27, 2017
William Leon Clark, 95, died Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, at Maryville care home. Joe was born March 5, 1922, in Pe Ell, Wash., the son of Polish immigrants, Carl and Victoria Ponzoja.

After graduating from Raymond High School, Joe married his high school sweetheart, Mickey King, in the summer of 1942, just before the Army took him away to Iceland during World War II. He served in the Army Air Corps until he was honorably discharged late in 1945.

After the war, Joe and Mickey moved to Oregon, to a small town called Sweet Home, where he took a job at a saw mill. He worked for Willamette Industries as a lathe operator for 42 years. Joe and his wife raised seven children in Sweet Home and were active in St. Helens Catholic Church.

With the green thumb he inherited from his mother, Joe grew all the vegetables his family could eat, and they always had enough left over to share with the neighbors. He was a lover of the great outdoors and an avid hunter – something he truly enjoyed doing with each of his four sons. When he retired from Willamette Industries, his passion for the woods motivated him to spend untold hours up in the Green Mountain wilderness area doing fire watch.

But what many people in Sweet Home remember about Joe is that he was Santa Claus. His booming voice and stout frame made him the perfect Santa. Perhaps this is why it seems a fitting time of year, during the Christmas season, to celebrate Joe’s life, and to honor his memory and his passing with the Catholic Funeral Mass on the eve of Epiphany, “The Little Christmas.”

Joe’s wife, Mickey, died in 2008. He is survived by children Greg, Marci, Russell (wife, Shelley), Tim (wife, Annmarie), Theresa, Cathy (husband, Greg), and Matt (wife, Margie); grandchildren Dominc, Kristin, Brian, Dustin, Djengie, Mike, and Rob; and great-grandchildren Chloe, Abigail, Jordan, Ian Joseph, and Wyatt Joseph, and his sisters Mary and Patty.

A viewing will be Saturday, Jan. 6, at 10:00 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Sweet Home. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel, sweethomefuneral.com, is handling the arrangements.

Joseph M. Ponzoja
March 5, 1922 – Dec. 27, 2017
Joseph M. Ponzoja, 95, died Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, at Maryville care home. Joe was born March 5, 1922 in Pe Ell, Wash., the son of Polish immigrants, Carl and Victoria Ponzoja.

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Paid Obituary

Taking a trip? Make sure we go with you!

Going somewhere (significant)? Pack along a copy of The New Era, get a picture of yourself with the newspaper in front of a landmark, and send us a photo (good quality, please) with appropriate explanatory information to The New Era, P.O. Box 39, Sweet Home, OR 97386, drop by it or by office at 1313 Main St., or e-mail it to news@sweethomemedia.com. We’ll publish it as soon as possible, generally in the order that submissions arrive. Please include a phone number in case we need to contact you.

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Paid Obituary

Graphic Design Marketing Printing Publishing
Prospecting club donates $5,500 to Kids Food Pak program

By Sean C. Morgan

The East Linn Treasure Seekers finished off 2017 with a $5,500 donation to the Kids Food Pak program.

All of the group’s activities that raise funds are dedicated to helping pay for the Food Pak program, said secretary/treasurer, Judy Markert. Each new mother and pediatric patient will be allowed a total of four visitors during their hospital stay, and no visitors under the age of 12 will be allowed in the hospital, unless they are a healthy sibling of a newborn or pediatric patient.

To protect pediatric patients, mothers and newborns from flu viruses circulating in the region, all Samaritan Health Services hospitals will limit visitors in birthing centers, beginning Thursday, Jan. 4. The restrictions will remain in place until the flu season is over.

Each new mother and pediatric patient will be allowed a total of four visitors during their hospital stay, and no visitors under the age of 12 will be allowed in the birthing centers or pediatric units unless they are a healthy sibling of a newborn or pediatric patient. This means four designated visitors throughout the entire hospital stay, not simply four at a time.

The designated support people need to be free of flu symptoms and carefully follow infection control guidelines, such as hand washing.

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The designated support people need to be free of flu symptoms and carefully follow infection control guidelines, such as hand washing.
Gold stars go out to Sean, anonymous donor and the won- derful man and his family, who fi- nally “popped the pimple” on the end of our nose.

We are going to offer “fill a cart” of clothing for only $10 to honor our angels for everyone visit- ing through the month of January or while supplies last.

Since the articles came out we have only had two loads of garbage dumped on us that I know of.

People have still been dropping donations off in front of our back gate. They would have really nice donations. Unfortunately, Oregon weather got the best of it. Please bring dona- tions into the building and speak to someone in the office or at the cash register.

I believe that prayers are pow- erful. We can all be angels. Many thanks, and God bless.

Marka Blanchard
Sweet Home Gleaners

Dear tax payers

Editor:
In a Nov. 17 letter to Gov. Kate Brown, Oregon Health Authority Director Pat Allen documented the myriad ways in which the agency tasked with managing Oregon’s $9.3 billion Medicaid program has wasted or misallocated taxpayer dollars.

Oregon overpaid $74 million in federal funds to “dual eligible” enrollees who were old enough to qualify for Medicare and poor enough to qualify for Medicaid, Mr. Allen wrote.

The OHA also incorrectly en- rolled an undisclosed number of unauthorized immigrants in Med- icaid, rather than in the state’s less expansive emergency health care program, costing taxpayers $25.7 million in “payment errors and over-claimed federal funds.”

The Oregon Secretary of State’s audit, released Nov. 29, found that 41 percent of Medicaid enrollees in a backlog of 115,200 recipients were in fact ineligible for the benef- its they received.

Would you invest your money in such a business?

Does it make you want to be taxed more?

What have they done with federal money they will do with yours if you give them a 101 “blank check.”

That is what Measure 101 will do to you.

For starters, a “Yes” on Mea- sure 101 will assess (tax) “certain hospitals” 0.7 percent, and add a 1.5 percent assessment on the Pub- lic Employees Benefit Board, man- aged care organizations and insur- ers.

You also will pay for local gov- ernment and school health cost increases due to the insurance assis- tance.

Measures 101 will tax you to mismanage their Oregon sanctuary state utopian health care dreams.

Vote no.

Peter Ready
Albany

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COMMUNITY OPINION

January 4, 1968

The city of Sweet Home was incorporated in 1893, and on Satur- day, January 13, the Sweet Home- East Linn Chamber of Commerce will hold its 24th annual banquet at the high school. It is anticipated that 500 people will attend the opening celebration of the year.

Diamond Jubilee will be the theme and entertainment and ex- hibits will be reminiscent of yester- years. The social hour is scheduled for 6:15 and dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Overtime parkers in the down- town area might find more tickets on their windows in the coming months, as the city has just hired a cop handled over 550,000 pieces of downtown metered area. He is Don Collins, who will patrol the meters at various times during the day. Collins will also serve as city dog catcher.

Mailers are reminded that new higher postage rates become effec- tive Sunday, January 7, including the 6-cents an ounce charge for first- class letters. Other rates effective Sunday are 10 cents an ounce for air mail, 5 cents each for postal cards and 9 cents each for air postal cards.

Late game heroics and generally better play throughout the contest pushed the Sweet Home Huskies to their second win of the season last Friday night at Pontius High in Eugene.

“Who won the crew is tert,” she said, according to figures on the adding machine.

This includes 1.621 feet of let- ters or approximately 405,250 let- ters.

According to assistant Judy Howard, there was a big increase in parking here this week. The total: 6,215 parcels. She said this was the largest amount of vehicles she has noticed during her long career with postal service.

The new year brought higher state gasoline taxes for Oregon mo- torists. A 2-cent-a-gallon increase in the tax took effect Friday, Jan.1, according to Don Forbes, Oregon Department of Transportation di- rector. The tax hike will help offset inflation and provide a $284 million a year for state and local highway construction and mainte- nance projects.

With the increase, the state gas tax reached 24 cents per gallon, Forbes said.

Some 21 volunteer friends re- sided to a fire Saturday at 5:40 p.m. at 1023 Pleasant Valley. Flames had engulfed the residence of Tam- my White. Fire Marshal Keith Ga- briel said the fire is believed to have started by lightning in Christmas- day display.

Sweet Home High School stu- dents are constructing a home on 22nd Avenue for a construction class. Currently this construction class is “fun.” Eventually it might de- velop into a lifetime vocation in the home construction field.
Jan. 23 election ballot Measure 101 to determine how state pays for Medicaid

By Tom Yahraes

As we head into the new year, I want to highlight the district’s strides toward continuous facility and program improvement as well as opportunities for staff and community to provide input.

Junior High Renovation

The season to say thanks again to the overwhelming generous spirit of our community in passing the $4 million bond which was matched by a state grant. This was made possible by the generous support and contribution of school board, community, and financial partners to bring our new Junior High to life. We have worked, planned, and one day at a time we will make this happen. As we look to this year, we need your help to reach our fundraising goals and keep our momentum coming together of our schools and community!

Preliminary layout for bus, parent drop-off loops, fire lane access, garden area, and a possible recreation area;

Soil analysis and surveying of the site;

Finalizing building layouts for construction for elevators and building sections;

Finalizing structural, mechanical, plumbing and electrical design;

Refining total project cost estimates;

Thanks to everyone in our district’s Junior High renovation project, Hawthorne Elementary will receive a safety vestibule, a door safety locking device, a new high school office and front entrance configuration complete with a state-of-the-art security system, a new main office and staff mini conference room, and student and parent reception area. This is to ensure the safety and security of students and their potential. In addition, we want our strategic plan to be simple — a one-to-two-page document. We will all have the document on our computer, and I will be writing feedback, ideas, and suggestions on the pages. We will be working through the process of our five-year plan to understand where we want to be in 2023. We want everyone in the organization to have an investment and stake in the five-year plan and know how they can and do contribute to our success. We will focus on continuing to effectively:

• Increase student academic performance;

• Increase extra co-curricular and citizenship opportunities;

• Strengthen our school’s community and local community cultures;

• Improve district facilities.

Our bottom line is that we want to give every student every chance to achieve their highest level of potential. In addition, we want our strategic plan to be simple — a one-to-two-page document. We will all have the document on our computer, and I will be writing feedback, ideas, and suggestions on the pages. We will be working through the process of our five-year plan to understand where we want to be in 2023. We want everyone in the organization to have an investment and stake in the five-year plan and know how they can and do contribute to our success. We will focus on continuing to effectively:

• Increase student academic performance;

• Increase extra co-curricular and citizenship opportunities;

• Strengthen our school’s community and local community cultures;

• Improve district facilities.

The Oregon Health Plan and covers about 1 million people, including those earning 138 percent of the federal poverty level, aren’t covered by the federal government. The federal government pays for it matched by the feds, is returned to the state government won’t be able to affect people on the Oregon Health Plan. “If you are a Medicaid recipient, this is about whether you have access to your health care,” said Parrish, the law. Self-insured employers are exempt due to either outcome of the measure. The state doesn’t regulate rates for those plans because state, the legislature would consider it a program of state funds.

The state government won’t be able to affect people on the Oregon Health Plan. “If you are a Medicaid recipient, this is about whether you have access to your health care,” said Parrish, the law. Self-insured employers are exempt due to either outcome of the measure. The state doesn’t regulate rates for those plans because state, the legislature would consider it a program of state funds.

Who is eligible for OHP under the Affordable Care Act? Oregonians who are covered through an employer with more than 20 employees and any premium increase will not likely immediately change due to either outcome of the measure. Voters will consider the measure in the May 2018 primary if Measure 101 fails in January, legislators will have to re-balance the state budget. About 790,000 Oregonians are self-insured employer, according to the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services.

The state doesn’t regulate rates for those plans due to federal law. Self-insured employers are exempt from paying the state tax on the premiums they pay the state. In the 2018-19 legislative session, legislators would face an $840 million to $1.3 billion hole in the Medicaid budget during the February special session. But even if the measure passes, the funding provisions expire, meaning lawmakers would be debating this again in 2019.

Much has been accomplished in 2017 and here’s looking at 2018 and a Happy New Year.

Tom Yahraes

Superintendent of Sweet Home School District #53.
Hands-on learning for pre-teens

Sweet Home Public Library will host Machinery and storage, electricity, learning activity, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month until June at the Sweet Home Public Library, 1101 13th Ave.

For more information or to sign up, visit the library or call (541) 386-5007.

SH Bible study on James starts Jan. 4

A community-wide Bible study will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, at Sweet Home Christian Church, at the corner of 18th Avenue and Long Street.

The study will focus on the book of James and learning how to have a computer and Bible. Everyone is welcome. It will be held at the education building from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Pastor Taze (541) 367-0772.

Forum in Albany on Measure 101

A forum on state Ballot Measure 101 (see page 5) will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, at the BFLC Christian Church, 2450 14th Avenue SW.

Panels will be Dr. Bruce Thompson, Benton County health officer; Lindsay Berchader of Leo- na Consulting Co.; Janet Bauer of the Oregon State Board of Education; and former Oregon State Repre- sentative Jeff Koons.

The speakers will help voters understand the pros and cons of the measure that would pay for the expansion of Medicaid service in Oregon. Ballot Measure 101 is the only item on the ballot for Jan. 23 special election, for which bal- lets were mailed last week.

The forum is open to all. Everyone attending will be invited to submit questions for the panel- ists.

The event is sponsored by the Linn County Unit of League of Women Voters and the Albany chapter of the American Associa- tion of University Women.

For more information, contact the forum or about the League, contact Linda Ziedrich at (503) 707-1539.

Sweet Home People’s Church

1801 N. Sweet Home Ave.
(541) 451-3999

Pastor: Dennis Conner
Service: Sunday 11 a.m.
649 9th Avenue
(541) 367-7794

LBBC offers driver education classes

Registration is now open for Driver Education courses at Linn Benton Community College. Class- es start the first week of January and will be held in Albany, Corvallis and Lebanon.

Courses includes state-man- dated 30 hours of classroom in- struction, a one-time parent/ student orientation and 12 hours behind the wheel practice and driv- er observation.

The first course is for ages 16 and a half, for ages 18 and over. Completing successfully qualifies under the age of 18 qualify for a car skills testing waiver when obtaining their driver’s license.

To register or for more infor- mation go to www.lbc.edu/driver-education, call (541) 917-4849 or pick up a packet at any LBCC locations. Submit a com- pleate packet, fee, and bring original driver permit and one permit photo.

Genealogist to trace your musical lineage

The Linn Genealogical Society presents “From Native American to Scots” by Don Anderson at 1:15 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at Albany Public Library, 2450 14th Ave. S.E., Albany.

Bring your own Oreganion, Ander- son was born in Portland and lives there today with his family. He has a degree in music education and performance and has directed the U.S. Army choir in Europe, Portland State University’s Concert Choir. He has also performed with the Port- land Opera and Oregon Symphony, and the New York City Opera ens- semble, and currently operates a private studio in Portland.

He will discuss how all this mu- sic background ties into his genetic tracing.

For more information, call the LGS Library at (541) 795-1615 or visit www.lgorgan.org.

Dinner to feature self-defense help

After 5 Connection invites all women to dinner and a special program, “Be Ready, Be on Guard,” from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at the Lobby, 661 S. Main St. in Lebanon.

The special feature will be pres- ented by Scott Turner of SW Self- Defense, who will provide hands-on train- ing with real-world situations.

To register, call LBCC Community Education at (541) 917-4840.

For more information, call the LBCC online schedule at www.linnbenton.edu, email albany@linnbenton.edu or call LBCC Community Education at (541) 917-4840.

“Three Musketeers” on stage in Albany

The Albany Civic Theater will perform “The Three Musketeers” Jan. 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m., at the Lebanon Center, LC-220B, 44 Industrial Way. Cost is $59.

Double crossings, kidnapp- ings, and favorably secured secrets keep the Musketeers and the writer in constant battle against their enemies, leading to deadly assassins. Featuring lav- ishly dressed, sword fighting and love ruled all.

To register, call (541) 451- 6313.

Computer classes for seniors offered

A series of computer classes designed for seniors will be held at Linn Benton Community College Lebanon Center, 600 Industrial Way.

To submit an article about an upcoming event for inclusion in Round About Town, send an email to editor@robinsonhome.com or include the item on a CD. What’s happening, when it’s happening, where, why, and who’s involved and the how (much). Events that are free or low-cost will get first priority. Remember that the newspaper is delivered on Wednesdays, so time submissions accordingly. The deadline for sub- missions is on the Thursday prior to publication. Send your information to news@robinsonhome.com or mail it to Editor, The New Era, P.O. Box 38, Sweet Home, OR 97386. You are encouraged to call to make sure your information has arrived, but it must be submitted in writing.

Commuters for Seniors is a program for those who need to use public transportation and have only hands-on, step-by-step in- struction at an easy pace. Learn the very basics first, how to turn on and off, how to use the mouse and keyboard. Introduces working with Windows 10 and a brief intro to email and the inter- net.

This three-week class meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays starting Jan. 31 at the Lebanon Center, LC-220B, 44 Industrial Way. Cost is $59.

Computer Essentials for Sen- iors 2 builds on beginner skills and covers using the web and inter- net search engines, e-mail account set-up and use, Facebook use, and tips for keeping your computer safe and virus free.

This three-week class meets Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. starting Jan. 31 at the Lebanon Center, LC-220B, 44 Industrial Way. Cost is $59.

Commuters for Seniors 3 gives more in-depth instruction, including using CD’s, DVD’s and downloading digital music, streaming videos, using email, and organizing, and editing photos from your phone or camera and sharing on Facebook.

This three-week class meets Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. start- ing Feb. 21 at the Lebanon Center, LC-220B, 44 Industrial Way. Cost is $59.

For more information or to register, call the LBCC online schedule at www.linnbenton.edu, email albany@linnbenton.edu or call LBCC Community Education at (541) 917-4840.

Trail walk planned in Lebanon Jan. 13

Build Lebanon Trails will host a walk from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, on the West River Trail. Meet at River Park, on Grant Street and the South Santiam Riv- er, and hike along a scenic stretch of the river to Chaddle Lake before returning to River Park on the Ea- gle Scout Trail.

The hike will also include a funded future trail connection between Riverview Park and Chaddle Lake.

Length is 1½ miles one way, 3 round trip. Listening devices will be available. Dress appropriate- ly for weather and wooded sections, where the terrain will be uneven and unpaved. Well-mannered dogs on leash are welcome.

For more information, contact Rod Sill at (541) 430-1302 or Christine Daview at (503) 949- 4401.
Around Town
From page 6
Free genealogy class Jan. 15
Sweet Home Genealogy Society is offering free classes roughly every other week through mid-Feb-
ruary.

The Introduction to Genealogy classes are video-based and are
held twice on scheduled Mondays, at noon and at 6 p.m. at the Gene-
alogy Library, 1223 Kalmia St. The
instructor on the videos is genealo-
gist Dr. John Philip Colletta.

Topics on Jan. 15 will be “How to Write Your Biography” and “Dos
and Don’ts of Writing History.”

Free ham radio
Upcoming class topics include
searching your ancestors’ back-
yards and assembling an account of
Your community
your discoveries, and much more.
For more information, contact
Teresa at (541) 401-1361.

Pain management
Ham radio training manuals
class starts Jan. 17
will be available for purchase at the
The East Linn Ham Radio Club
beginning of the first class. This
is offering a free 6- to 8-week class
session is for the Technician Li-
targeted to assist those who are interested
in becoming a licensed ham radio
operator.

Classes will be held from 7
to 9 p.m., beginning Wednesday, Jan.
17, at the Sweet Home Police
Department’s training room, 1950
Main St.

Ham radio training manuals
will be available for purchase at the
beginning of the first class. This
session is for the Technician Li-
cense. Registration is required.
For information or to register, contact Edie Wilcox at (541) 401-
0188.

Free ham radio
weekly menu
Meals on Wheels, also known as Your Table or Ours, offers lunch at the
Sweet Home Community Center to seniors over 60 at noon on
Mondays, Tuesdays and Frid-
ays.

The Senior Center serves a separate lunch on Wednesdays.

First-time diners are invited to come in and have a free lunch to
give it a try.

Suggested donation is $3.50.

All meals are served with milk, cof-
fee or tea upon request and diabet-
ic desserts are available on request.

The menu on Friday, Jan. 5, is
turkey ham pasta salad or garden
chicken mini salad on spinach Ro-
maine, split pea soup, French roll and
Mandarin oranges.

The menu on Monday, Jan. 8, is
chicken tetrazzini or beef cabb-
age bake, glazed carrots, mari-
inated broccoli salad, garlic roll and
rice pudding.

The menu on Tuesday, Jan.
9, is chicken pot pie or pork sau-
usage gravy over butternut biscuit,
green beans, spinach Romaine sal-
ad and butterscotch bar.

Volunteers are needed for both
kitchen help and meal delivery.

For more information, contact
Norene at (541) 367-8843.

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For more information, contact
Norene at (541) 367-8843.
Library Ukes

From page 1

seemed excited by the idea and made the ukuleles affordable. The library has purchased 10 soprano ukuleles and two concert ukuleles, she said. It used $500 each in cash donated by the Friends of the Library and the Ford Family Foundation. Soprano ukuleles are the standard-sized instruments, while the concert models, also known as “super soprano” or “tenor” instruments, are slightly larger. The instruments are available for checkout, Peda said, or people can play them in the library.

“Sweet Home has a group of people who know how to play them, Peda said, and they’ll begin starting monthly jam sessions soon.”

While it may seem unusual, modern libraries are lending a variety of different things, Peda said. Some lend cooking supplies, like pans and mixers. Others offer musical instruments, and still others lend iPads, other electronics, gaming systems, exercise equipment, sewing equipment, hobby supplies, costumes, gardening tools, animal skeletons and art pieces.

“There are some libraries that do sell,” Peda said. “A lot of it — libraries respond to what communities need.”

In this case, the closest places to access music instruments are in Albany and Corvallis, Peda said.

The library’s main business — books and audiobook rentals — continues to thrive, Peda said. It still checks out similar numbers of such items as it has for years.

But it’s continuing to evolve as well.

(Ukuleles aren’t the first unusual item for Sweet Home, she said. Sweet Home patrons also can check out electricity usage meters.

Those are plugged in between a socket and an electrical device to measure the device’s use of electricity.

Peda said the library has been lending those out for two to three years.

“This is kind of a further extension of that,” Peda said. She would like to see more musical instruments available in the future.

Coming up this year, Peda and the library staff are planning Tuesday events for children and their families once a month on Tuesday evenings and adult programming once a month.

Peda would like to continue partnering with the Boys and Girls Club, making the programming available to the club’s young members, she said. “We’re trying to just bring the library back out into the community.”

To that end, she is hoping to bring the bookmobile back to Sweet Home, possibly using it to make the Summer Reading Program more mobile, using a performer at various stops and providing free books and upcoming programs, call the Sweet Home Public Library at (541) 367-5007.

For more information about the ukuleles or upcoming program, call the Sweet Home Public Library at (541) 367-5007.

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For more information about the ukuleles or upcoming program, call the Sweet Home Public Library at (541) 367-5007.
Police Department held a combined awards banquet for the first time in about 30 years. Geoff Hamlin was named police Employee of the Year and Mike Severns was named SHFAD Firefighter of the Year.

One of Sweet Home’s top athletes ever, Dakotah Keys, became the Huskies’ new track coach. Barbara Bamburg was named Sweet Home’s Distinguished Citizen at the Chamber of Commerce’s annual awards banquet. Other honorees were First Citizen Laurie Carlson, Junior First Citizens Josh and Brandi Darwood, and Patti Woods Woman of the Year Wendie Melders.

Josh Rice was named Mr. Husky, the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors eliminated the executive director’s position, citing financial and other difficulties.

April 1707 Main Street, Sweet Home • 541-367-6131

Gov. Kate Brown spoke to a Josai High School faculty in about 30 years. Geoff Hamlin was shot to death in a car near the intersection of 13th Avenue and Poplar Street.

After nearly two decades of service in Sweet Home, Public Works Director Mike Adams announced he was taking a job in Toledo.

April 36-year-old Sweet Home man, Ryan Chamberlain, was shot and killed in an effort to boost financial and other difficulties. Oberg, 28, was reported missing, and a three-year contract with Police Department employees, including a 6 percent wage increase over the course of the contract.

The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors decided to sell the organization’s two Main Street properties to pay off some $100,000 in debts.

See Year in Review, Page 11
Dec. 28 3:11 a.m. - Heroin overdose reported, 1200 block of 49th. A 21-year-old male transported to Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital by medics.

Dec. 29 9:16 a.m. - Caller reported an accumulation of garbage, 4100 block of Coal Creek. Deputies seized the dog and it lodged it at Animal Control. Reported taken for retraining order violation.

2:25 p.m. - Johnny Lee Stone, 25, arrested in follow-up for resisting arrest, second-degree burglary, possession of burglary tools, third-degree theft, 1950 Main St., Sweet Home Police Department. Transferred to Linn County Jail.

8:51 a.m. - Caller reported a stray dog, 40300 block of Upper Calapooia. Deputy seized the dog and it lodged it at Animal Control. Reported taken for retraining order violation.

11:13 a.m. - Amanda Jewell Gentry, 38, arrested on Sweet Home warrant for failure to comply on original charge of third-degree theft, Linn County. Cited and released.

9:20 p.m. - Caller reported her son would not leave, 1800 block of Tamarack. Report taken for retraining order violation.

5:20 p.m. - Kyle Alexander Richards, 24, cited for operating an uninsured vehicle, 14th and Deed. Officer checked the area on foot. No suspect found for failure to appear, 4155 Osage St.

2:45 p.m. - Chris Villacana, a 19-year-old male transported to Saint Vincent Hospital by medics.

11:30 a.m. - Dale Jesus Grant Resley, 29, cited for no license, Hilltop and 13th. Cited and released.

11:59 a.m. - Caller reported a large pile of trash and debris in the front yard for more than three months, 1200 block of 45th. Referred to code enforcement.

12:05 p.m. - Caller reported a building under construction without a permit and drainage water being dumped in a storm drain, 1000 block of 42nd. Referred to code enforcement.

1:07 p.m. - Kimberly Ann Weyney, 47, cited and released in field on a warrant for failure to appear, 4155 Osage St.

1:20 p.m. - Michael Ray Sylvester, 53, turned in himself on a Sweet Home warrant for failure to comply on original charge of second-degree criminal trespass, 1950 Main St., Sweet Home Police Department.

4:36 p.m. - Harvey Michael Kapicka, 22, arrested on Sweet Home warrant for failure to comply on original charge of secondary-degree disorderly conduct, 19th and Deed. Cited and released.

6:19 p.m. - Caller reported that his mother’s boyfriend slammed his head into the sharp part of a bed frame and he had a large knot on his head, 2200 block of Larch.

Dec. 27 6:25 a.m. - Johnny Lee Stone, 25, arrested in follow-up for resisting arrest, second-degree burglary, possession of burglary tools, third-degree theft, 1950 Main St., Sweet Home Police Department. Transferred to Linn County Jail.

3:10 p.m. - Michael Ralph Marshall, 34, cited and released in field on Sweet Home warrant for failure to appear on original charge of second-degree criminal trespass, Main and Clark Mill.

12:40 p.m. - Caller found a syringe on the sidewalk in front of his home, 1000 block of 9th. Police seized for disposal.

1:37 p.m. - Caller reported her son was having a hard time in front of the house, 1000 block of 15th. Report taken. Investigation continued.

2:14 p.m. - Briett Kristin LaShay Easton, 25, cited for no license, 18th and Grape.

Dec. 22 2:30 a.m. - Whurty Virginia Bogart (Goo), 26, cited and released in field for reckless driving. The caller gave a name of a person, a Benton County warrant for probation violation on original charge of possession of meth and Alabany warrant for failure to appear on original charge of third-degree theft, 1072 Turfye Road. Vehicle impounded.

8:24 p.m. - Caller reported that a male threw a bottle at a vehicle and fled. A male got out of the vehicle and ran. The vehicle was speeding, 2000 block of Bowen. Report taken. Investigation continuing.

9:44 a.m. - Johnny Lee Stone, 26, transported to hospital by medics for warrant for failure to appear on original charges of improper use of the vehicle and possession of marijuana. Arrested on charges of resisting arrest and second-degree theft and a new charge of possession of marijuana and released.

10:00 a.m. - Oregon State Police arrested Jesse Lane Davis, 22, on Sweet Home warrant for failure to turn up on original charge of third-degree theft. Cited and released.

1:18 p.m. - Caller reported a dog wandering the neighborhood and barking at other dogs, 1300 block of Quince. Officer unable to catch the dog.

2:47 p.m. - Steven Scott Sims, 35, arrested on Sweet Home warrant for failure to appear on original charge of third-degree theft, Alabany, Transported to Linn County Jail.

2:54 p.m. - Caller reported several carts belonging to Thriftyway at a residence, 1500 block of 9th. Officer assisted and left a business card at the residence.

3:49 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles smoking on swings at Sankey Park. Juveniles left on a trail of trash and litter, but did not locate them.

2:33 p.m. - James Dudley Watkins, 32, arrested on Juvenile Court, 4610 Main St. Cited and released.

2:45 p.m. - Caller reported that a van was still parked in the parking lot, 1100 block of 15th. Officer advised to contact General Manager to locate the vehicle, 1980 Main St., Bi-Mart. Officer unable to locate the owner. Officer recommended to call General Manager.

4:10 p.m. - Amanda Rae Stfait, 41, arrested on Sweet Home warrant for failure to appear on original charge of second-degree criminal trespass, 3333 Main St.

Information for the Public Safety report in The New Era is drawn from local police and fire agencies. It is important to remember that the fact that we report that someone is arrested or cited for a crime does not mean they are guilty. Guilt is only determined through the courts.
and Wrestling Coach Steve Thorpe were named state Coach of the Year in their respective sports.

- Sweet Home Shopper bus service was extended from four to six days a week and stops at Lewis Creek Park were added for the summer.

- Former Sweet Home wrestler Tyler Cooper, who was a four-time NAIA All-American at Southern Oregon University and was hired as an assistant coach at a local university, has been named head coach of the school’s cross-country program.

TRIATHLETES get set to start a race during the Best In the West series at Foster Lake, Sweet Home. Photo courtesy of Triathletes.com

Public Safety
From page 10
Cited and released.

Dec. 21
7:23 a.m. - Caller reported that a neighbor’s dog was lying in the roadway and the neighbor wasn’t home, 1000 block of 37th. Dog gone upon officer arrival.
8:36 a.m. - Caller reported a motor vehicle collision, Long and 22nd. Report taken for hit and run.

Tips for Holiday Shopping
Bring your own reusable tote bag rather than accepting a separate bag for each purchase.

Earth Friendly Gift Ideas
Give experiences, not stuff. Try gift certificates for massages, movies, dining, classes, concerts, sport events, mass transit, etc.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Gift Wrap
Wrap gifts in festive holiday fabric, dish towels or bandannas, which can simply be washed and reused. Give gifts in baskets, tins or jars.

Reduce Holiday Decorations
Save your holiday decorations, including bows, ribbons and paper, for reuse next year. Donate decorations to local churches, town offices or non-profit organizations.

Recompose Christmas Trees
As part of our yard debris recycling program, please place your tree in your yard debris cart. Will be picked up on yard debris week of Jan. 8th. No charge (within city limits). Tree must be clean, no flocking, lights or tinsel. You may also schedule a special tree pick up for $10.00 per tree or drop it off at our transfer station for $5.00 per tree. Jan. 8th through Jan. 12th.

Holiday Composting
Compost your kitchen food scraps from holiday dinners and parties. Remember, in yard waste composting, compost fruit and vegetable wastes, not meat or grease.
Junior High

From page 1

The idea is "to bring interest-ed folks up to date as to our scean-dic design," Yahraes said. "And hopefully, people will give us their thoughts."

The designs include the exter-iour layout of the property, which includes new bus lanes, parent pickup area and expanded parking, which is enabled by the purchase of a reimboring property, located at the intersection of 22nd Avenue and Mountain View Drive.

"I look at that design," Yah-raes said. "They have been going in and out using that one entrance point."

That includes students, par-ents and buses, he said. "This is go-ing to be really nice.

That sale of the property closed and the district took possession of it on Dec. 28, Yahraes said.

The design process has been "moving very smoothly," Yahraes said.

The architect, g,A Architects, has been working with the district, meeting formally and informally, Yahraes said. The core design team has com-pleted site visits and looked for ways to modernize the spaces at the school, the gym, the vestibule, the locker rooms and more.

"We've incorporated some of these concepts into the design," he said.

The design team and architects have met with the police chief, fire chief, nutrition staff, special educa-tion, coaching staff and transporta-tion staff for input, Yahraes said.

The remodel will cost more than $7 million. The district is us-ing a $4 million bond approved last year by Sweet Home voters along with a $4 million matching grant from the state government to pay for the project.

In addition to remodeling the Junior high, the district will build lockers in the classrooms, and infrastructure improvements at each of the ele-mentary schools. Those projects will blend with $3.5 million seismic improvement projects at Foster, Hawthorne and Holley schools — paid for by state grants.

At the Junior high, the dis-trict will move the office and build a new secure front entrance next to the new office, allowing office staff to see who is entering and exiting the school. Currently, the office is located about 50 feet from the en-trance, with limited vision into the hallway.

"That's going to be, we're hop-ing, a showcase room," Yahraes said. "Like many of the spaces in the re-model, it will pull double duty with other uses. Band gear will be stored there, for example, to provide space for junior high band classes. Stu-dents will no longer need transpor-tation to Sweet Home High School for classes.

In general, the district is look-ing for ways to modernize the main roof past a puddle of water at the school. Currently, the offi-cer have provided rec-o mmendations for safety improve-ments, Yahraes said, including fire access upgrades.

"I'm very happy with the col-laboration with all the stakehold-ers," Yahraes said, adding that he has appreciated the city's feedback and recommendations from Fire Chief Dave Barringer for safety and fire access upgrades.

The police chief and school resource officer have provided rec-o mmendations for safety improve-ments, Yahraes said, including landscaping and lighting features that will help make the school safer.

"Everybody has been positive, helpful, giving us good feedback," Yahraes said.
October
- The Sweet Home School District dropped Title 1 funding for Holley School due to decreased funding and the fact that Holley has the lowest rate of eligible students in the district.
- The School Board hired ZCS Engineering to complete seismic upgrade work at local grade schools and gLAs Architects to begin design work on improvements to Sweet Home Junior High.
- According to state reports, Sweet Home High School’s test scores were up last year but the lower grades across the district trail state averages.
- Local firefighters were among those responding to wildfires, which ravaged Northern California.
- Bob Briania was appointed to the Sweet Home City Council to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Ryan Underwood.
- Murphy Plywood announced it was in the process of buying the Foster Mill from Weyerhaeuser Corp.
- The Boys and Girls Club put on its first musical in two decades, “Little Shop of Horrors.”
- Hoy’s Hardware opened a new “building center,” a 7,500-square-foot expansion that is aimed at serving contractors and users, which is 600 cubic feet.
- Planning commissioners approved a conditional use permit to allow the city to begin work on improvements to Sweet Home Junior First Citizens.
- Customers flooded Going 5 to celebrate the grand opening of Dollar General’s new store in Sweet Home.

November
- The City Council approved an increase in wastewater rates that means a $17 increase for average users, which is 600 cubic feet.
- Sweet Home’s football team lost a close match at Creek County to end the Huskies’ state playoffs run, to finish 15-5 overall and 8-2 in league.
- The city received its first check from state marijuana tax funds: $77,982.
- The City Council approved new financial policies to give city staff more options in investing funding reserves.
- Seismic fans to the Sweet Home High School auditorium have resulted in other improvements, including new lighting, paint, acoustic panels and backdrop curtains.

December
- City Council members voted to reject a proposal to pay $101,000 to an architect for design documents, objecting to the cost.
- Customers flocked to Balloons and Bows, and bid two new firefighter-medics.

Year in Review
From page 11
• Sweet Home’s Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to demonstrate multiple deficiencies, the City Council was told in a staff report.
• The Hill Family Timber Trust celebrated its 100th year of ownership of land in Linn County.
• S2quared announced it was planning a move to Millersburg due to a need for more space.
• The Best in the West triathlon series set new participation records despite hazy skies from forest fires burning around the state.
• Lightning sparked a fire in the Tiset Creek area of Quartzville that burned about half an acre before it was quickly contained by a combination of effort by private landowners and public agencies.
• A Sweet Home woman, Kimberly Ellis, was sentenced to 58 months in prison for her role in a series of vehicular manslaughter and a shooting-out between her husband and Sheriff’s deputies.
• Sweet Home School District reported enrollment for 2017-18 at 2,333 students, an increase of 29 from September 2016. The district also returned to a five-day school week.
• Former Hawthorne Principal Perry Auguststadt began new duties as vice principal and athletic director at Sweet Home Junior High.
• Harz police officer Christopher Sobremonte joined the force after serving as a sniper in the military.
• A Sweet Home woman, Kendra Montoya, was arrested for forgery after allegedly passing fake $100 bills.
• The City Council approved $15,000 in funding to the Chamber of Commerce to operate the city’s Visitor Center.
• Jerry Sorey joined the city staff as community and economic development director.
• Sweet Home’s Library celebrated its 75th anniversary.

TWIN TITLES: Members of Sweet Home’s boys and girls state champion swim teams celebrate their historic double.

Real estate values increased by 12 percent in Sweet Home from the beginning through the end of 2018.

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- The city received its first check from state marijuana tax funds: $77,982.
- The City Council approved new financial policies to give city staff more options in investing funding reserves.
- Seismic fans to the Sweet Home High School auditorium have resulted in other improvements, including new lighting, paint, acoustic panels and backdrop curtains.

December
- City Council members voted to reject a proposal to pay $101,000 to an architect for design documents, objecting to the cost.
- Customers flocked to Balloons and Bows, and bid two new firefighter-medics.
Swimming: Girls win at Newport

Sweet Home’s girls won a five-way meet Thursday, Dec. 28, featuring competition the Huskies don’t normally see except outside of the state meet – Newport, Seaside, Taft and Toledo. The boys were second, with 259 points behind host Newport (459), and ahead of Taft (243), Seaside (181), Taft (180) and Toledo (80).

Coach Doug Peargin said the experience of Newport’s new $9 million aquatic center, with an eight-lane pool, was “worth it” for his young swimmers. The facility, completed a year ago, features an electric starting and timing system in which one end wall of the pool is a read-out clock, along with printouts of every swimmer’s and team’s performances at the end of the meet.

“Our pool equipment is so old that all of the above is not only nice and we were really excited about it.” The Huskies were actually “pretty sick” with colds, going into the meet, he said, “but they still did really well, considering.” Newport, he said, has “started to become very competitive since they put in their new pool, but our girls, even being sick, still got the job done.”

Sweet Home’s boys are ranked No. 1 in the 4A-2A-1A Division. “I know how tough Newport was going to be but we wanted to see how we would stack up against a team with a lot of talent,” Peargin said. “After we graduated half of our entire team last year, most of the team’s aren’t looking too near as hard as they did last year. I still consider us a trophy team in district and state.”

He said Sweet Home, which is halfway through its season, will really start concentrating on district and state meets now. “The girls varsity won its first meet for the Huskies is the Lebanon Invitational at noon Saturday, Jan. 6. It will feature the No. 1-ranked North Bend girls, along with Bend, Lebanon and South Albany.

“The Huskies had a rough week in boys basketball, falling to Woodburn 66-49 and Blanchet Catholic 82-68 in the SCTC Holiday Classic Tournament hosted by Stayton High School.

They faced Woodburn Wednesday and Blanchet Thursday.

“Blanchet is really good this year,” Emmert said. “They’re one of the best teams we’re going to face this year.”

Boys lose in basketball; girls get win

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Wrestling

From page 16

106 - Hayden Stewart (SH) pinned Tristan Agard (C) 0:24; 182 - Xander Hall (C) won by forfeit; 195 - Jake Fanning (SH) won by forfeit; 285 - Daniel Berezhinskiy (M) won by forfeit.

138 - Philip Resch (S) dec. Tristan Calkins (SH) 1:34; 145 - CJ Mitchell (SH) maj. dec. Koyla Boll (C) 14-3; 152 - Noah Ramirez (M) won by forfeit; 160 - Hayden McDonald (SH) won by forfeit; 170 - Damion Schocker (SH) pinned Oliver Martinez (C) 3:35; 182 - David Stadelman (G) pinned Iakona Howerton (SH) 0:54; 195 - Wyatt Rock Probst. Good clean currency quarry. Rode in 31st area, 5yo 100s $10, 10 yds $15. 12 yds $16. Call Roger 941-409-1892 or Randy 941-223-9587.

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Sweet Home's wrestlers placed fifth in the 36-team Northwest Duals tournament Thursday and Friday, Dec. 28 and 29, hosted by West Albany at the Linn County Expo Center.

The Huskies entered two teams, Coach Steve Thorpe said.

"I was pretty proud of them," he said.

Sweet Home's varsity team went 7-1, beating Hillsboro 61-15, Woodburn 49-27, South Salem 48-18, Newberg's "B" team 48-29 and Tillamook 37-32, before suffering their only loss, 45-22 to Mountain View, which put the Huskies in the consolation bracket.

¿orpe (138), Bryce Coulter (182), Marissa Kurtz (182-195), Jordan Martin (160), Travis Thorpe (170) and Loudyn Reese (195) all won by pinfall.

"It drew some of the best wrestlers," Thorpe said. "It was a great opportunity for us to wrestle as a team."

The rest were 5A and 6A teams. The Huskies' only loss, 45-22 to Mountain View.

Tough, tough teams. It was a great experience," Thorpe said. "Travis is feeling pretty free to wrestle as good now as I've ever seen him."