

Second Brush Fire Of Week Causes Early Fire Season Concerns

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

On Wednesday, March 20, a significant brush fire was sighted near the Wiley Creek area, as reported by the Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District (SHFAD).

Despite it being mid-March and having experienced heavy rains for the last few months, the SHFAD and the ODF have responded to their second and largest fire since last Friday.

The most recent fire, first reported around 3:20 p.m., emerged approximately 12 miles up the Wiley Creek area within an active logging operation. According to SHFAD, the fire initially engulfed about five acres of logging slash in a previously logged area but had spread to an estimated 10 acres by 7 p.m. Due to the fire's challenging location on a south-facing slope and its expansion through steep, difficult terrain it complicated the efforts of firefighters.

Chief Nick Tyler of the SHFAD was struck by a haunting reminder of last



Photo by Chris Chapman

A bushfire call up near Wiley Creek was a chilling reminder of the 2023 fire season.

year's fire season when their first wildfire call brought them back to the area of the 2023 Wiley Creek Wildfire that started on August 7th and lasted for weeks.

"Having a fire on Wiley Creek did bring some emotions as we dealt with the

Wiley Fire last year," said Tyler. "Being so early in March, I did not expect the same fire behavior as we had last year on that Wiley Fire."

Responding to the Wiley Creek area, SHFAD and ODF initially identified a large fire on the Wiley Creek 240

road, situated approximately at the 8-mile marker. Both SHFD and ODF coordinated their efforts under a unified command, collaborating with local industry partners to battle the fire. Offi-

See Brush fires, page 7

Multiple Car Fires & Incidents Push SHFAD To Its Limits

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

Two separate incidents of car fires within the span of a week along with many other calls have raised concerns for the Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District (SHFAD), shedding light on the challenges faced by emergency responders amidst a surge in service demands.

The initial incident unfolded on March 17 when flames erupted from a 1987 Corvette parked in an attached garage. The call came in as a structure fire; however, upon arrival SHFAD found it was the car in the garage that was on fire.

The owner, who had intended to take the vehicle out for a Sunday drive after a month of inactivity, started the car only to witness flames engulfing the engine compartment shortly thereafter. Quick action from neighbors, armed with fire extinguishers, and emergency responders prevented extensive damage. However, the incident served as a stark reminder of the potential dangers posed by older vehicles and electrical mal-



Photo by Sky Chappell

Battalion Chief Eli Harris was first on the scene of a vehicle fire at the Park and Ride on Hwy 20 across from The Point restaurant.

functions.

Eli Harris, Battalion Chief for SHFAD, provided insights into the harrowing ordeal. "The call came in as a structure fire at 10:46 a.m.," Harris said.

He continued, "They had not driven it for about a month and they were gonna

take it out for a Sunday drive. The battery was dead the night before, so they put it on a battery charger. That morning they started it up on the battery charger. It started up fine. They disconnected the battery charger and left the hood up while it warmed up in the garage with the door open.

When they came out about 10 minutes later, there were flames in the engine."

Neighbors, alerted by the commotion, rushed to the scene, armed with fire extinguishers. Their swift intervention played a crucial role

See Car fires, page 9

Hometown
Newspaper of

**STINNA
KARCH**



**SHPD RESOLVES
PAINTBALL GUN
INCIDENT**
PAGE 7



**LOCAL TEAM FACES
CHALLENGES AND
GROWTH**
PAGE 8



**RILEY WATKINS SIGNS
TO SOUTH WESTERN
UNIVERSITY**
PAGE 15

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OBITUARIES



George Burton Green
May 29, 1934 - March 12, 2024

George Burton Green, 89, of Sweet Home passed away Tuesday, March 12, 2024. He was born May 29, 1934 to Fred Elmer and Edith Emmeline (Mowers) Green in Henry, South Dakota.

He moved to Junction City in 1942, also lived in Kirkland, WA, Eugene, and has been a Sweet Home resident since 2004. He was a member of IBEW and worked as

a tree trimmer for 42 years. George volunteered at the Gleaners, he loved to tell stories and write in journals. He enjoyed gardening and working with wood. He had many bird houses around his yard and liked watching and feeding birds. When he was younger he loved bowling and watching the Seattle Mariners baseball. George loved spending time with his beloved family. He and Deloris had many adventures traveling together.

George is survived by his children: Milton Green of Jackson, GA, Laura Green of Sweet Home, Teresa Owens of Sweet Home, Michael Green of Monroe, WA, Idella Davis of Snohomish, WA; siblings: Harold Green of Cheshire, Chuck Green of Monroe, Robert Green of Lebanon, Alfred Green of Junction City; nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by wife De-

loris (Payne) Green (2014), parents Fred and Edith Green, siblings: Carmen, Elmer, Dorothy, Julia, Ron; grandchildren: Michael and Mitchell Owens, Heather Davis, great-grandchild Chandler Martin.

Memorial service will be 2 pm Saturday, April 6th at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. There will be a reception at their house after the service. Memorial contributions can be made to M.A.D.D., Make-a-Wish Oregon, Boys Town. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com

Marjorie Lou Harer
October 12, 1929 - March 6, 2024

Marjorie Lou Harer, 94, of Sweet Home passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. She was born October 12, 1929 to Burl and Ruth (Carmichael) McKeel in Alamosa, Colorado.

She moved to the Sweet Home area in 1962 with her husband Robert and their family from Casa Grande, AZ. She was a homemaker, worked as a bookkeeper and a chicken farmer at different times throughout her life.

Marjorie enjoyed time spent with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Twice in her life she was a part of five generations of women in her family. Marjorie also enjoyed quilting and playing blackjack.

She is survived by her younger brother Keith (Cassandra) McKeel of Fulshear, TX, daughter Pam Barbee of Sweet Home, son Kevin (Jan) of Cornelius; nine grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, five great-great-granddaughters. She was preceded in death by her husband Robert, and son Scott.

Celebration of life will be 1 p.m. Saturday, April 6 at Sweet Home Senior Cen-

ter. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Cheryl Lynn Bidwell
September 25, 1947 - March 21, 2024

Cheryl Lynn Bidwell, 76, of Sweet Home passed away Thursday, March 21, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com

Leola Faye Weld
October 5, 1938 - March 25, 2024

Leola Faye Weld, 85, previously from Sweet Home, passed away Monday, March 25, 2024, in Albany. Funeral service will be 11 am Tuesday, April 2nd, at Sweet Home Evangelical Church. Private burial will be at Gilliland Cemetery. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Information for the Public Safety report in The New Era is sourced from local law enforcement and fire agencies. Incident details, which may not always be available from agencies in time for publication in our weekly paper edition, could be updated online as information becomes available. Addresses provided generally denote the location of the incident or arrest, occasionally indicating the origin of the call. It is crucial to emphasize that our reporting of an individual's arrest or citation for a crime does not imply guilt. Determination of guilt can only be established through legal proceedings in court.

Mar. 18

12:00 p.m - Natalie Marie Deshazer, 34, was arrested by Oregon State Police on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to comply on two counts of

failure to appear.

12:32 p.m - Caller reports package being taken from his house. Officer responded, report taken for second degree theft. Valued loss \$106. 4800 block of Main St.

2:08 p.m - Caller reports car wheel being taken. Officer responded, report taken. Valued loss \$50. 1700 block of Elm St.

3:13 p.m - Raymond Lyle Tressel, 28, was arrested by Lebanon PD on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to appear on original charges for second degree criminal trespass and unlawful entry into a motor vehicle.

10:24 p.m - Sabrina Waggoner, 25, was cited for speeding. 64/45.

10:56 p.m - Seth Tolleson, was arrested on a Linn County Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for driving under the influence of

intoxicants. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

Mar. 19

5:39 a.m - Kelsey Munrow, 40, was cited for speeding.

3:15 p.m - Deputies assisted SHFAD with an out of control brush fire. Fire was put out and the homeowner was warned for interfering.

3:50 p.m - Group target practicing at Marks Ridge. They were warned about the "no shooting" rule on Marks Ridge.

4:26 p.m - Samuel Nicholson, 24, was arrested for a warrant.

9:22 p.m - Ryder Thayer, was cited for driving uninsured.

10:27 p.m - Jacob Brett-Hill, 25, of Salem, was cited for driving uninsured.

Mar. 20

12:33 a.m - Caller reports theft of coins. Officer responded, report taken for first degree burglary and theft. Valued loss \$5000. 2200 block of Main St.

10:02 a.m - Caller reports witnessing a hit and run at location. Second caller reports a vehicle was struck in an intersection. Officer responded, report taken for hit and run. Valued loss under \$2500.

10:09 a.m - Caller reports fraud. Officer responded, report taken for theft by deception. Valued loss \$1000.

3:23 p.m - Adults were shooting on the gravel on Marks Ridge. This is a no shooting area. After being asked to leave, one suspect was arrested on another matter.

3:56 p.m - Jesse Lane Davis, was arrested by Linn County Sheriff's Office on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

9:51 p.m - Lanie Nicolle Denton, was arrested by Coos County Sheriff's Office on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to

appear on an original charge for hit and run.

Mar. 21

1:10 p.m - Buzz Star Dodson Jr., 26, was arrested for driving while suspended.

6:21 p.m - Caller reports their door is bent and damaged like someone tried to break in. Officer responded, report taken for second degree criminal mischief. 1200 block of 43rd Ave.

9:20 p.m - Shane David Lindseth, was arrested for second degree criminal trespass.

Mar. 22

3:01 p.m - Robin Sue Adams, 69, was cited for speeding. 48/35.

3:36 p.m - Dakota Lee Phillips, 20, was arrested for first degree rape, first degree sexual abuse and coercion. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

9:14 p.m - Buzz Star Dodson, was arrested for driving while suspended. Cited and released.

See Public Safety, Page 3

The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

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TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
March 18	73	38	0.00
March 19	60	45	0.00
March 20	59	48	0.00
March 21	65	48	0.01
March 22	57	45	0.01
March 23	52	45	0.07
March 24	56	44	0.27

PRECIPITATION

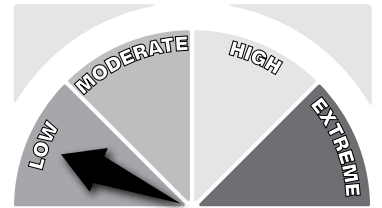
Year to date: 12.06
March 29, 2023: 11.47

FORECAST

DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Light Rain	51	38
Fri	Mostly Cloudy	59	37
Sat	Partly Cloudy	63	37
Sun	Mostly Sunny	64	38
Mon	Mostly Sunny	66	42
Tues	Mostly Cloudy	61	41
Wed	Mostly Cloudy	59	39

LAKE LEVELS

Foster Reservoir: 615.4
Green Peter Res.: 981.1



TODAYS FIRE DANGER IS
LOW

The fire danger information provided is current at the time of publication. For the latest and most accurate updates, please visit: oregon.gov/odf

Weather predictions are reported based on forecasts provided by the National Weather Service and others. Temperature and lake level information courtesy of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. For updated stream flow information, call (541) 367-5132.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 2

Mar. 23

3:04 a.m - Lisa Marie Jones, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for second degree failure to appear.

11:07 a.m - Andriel Justine Vertrees, 38, was arrested for first degree burglary, second degree burglary and second degree criminal mischief.

11:26 a.m - Reports were made of three guns being taken from the residence. Report taken for first degree theft. Valued loss \$3000.

12:03 p.m - Eric Steadman, 48, was cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured and failure to renew vehicle registration. Steadman was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and warrants.

5:39 p.m - Caller reports male making inappropriate gestures towards underage females. Officer responded, unable to locate. Report taken for second degree trespass, harassment and luring a minor.

7:29 p.m - Miguel Alfredo Gutierrez, 41, was arrested by Eugene PD on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for giving false info to an officer.

7:54 p.m - George Earl Dunn, 21, was arrested by Lebanon PD on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for second degree criminal trespass.

Mar. 24

10:03 a.m - Ronald Kolbee Credille, 28, was arrested by Oregon State Police on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to register as a sex offender.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Ferguson, Early M, 65 - no contest - driver failure to obey traffic control device with an accident, fine \$250; driving uninsured, fine \$215; violation driving while suspended or revoked, fine \$390.

Hartle, Luke H, 33 - no contest - failure to carry proof of compliance with financial responsibility requirements, dismissed with fee \$150.

Christman, Micah C, 18 - no contest - driving under the influence of intoxicants, fine \$2031, probation 60 months, work crew 10 days, drug and alcohol evaluation/treatment, Victim Impact Panel, license suspension 12 months; Reckless driving, dismissed; Criminal mischief in the second degree, dismissed.

Maynard, Leslie R, 49, pled guilty, harassment, fine \$1151, probation 24 months, work crew 2 days, no contact orders.

Terwilliger, Kevin E, 60 - no contest - criminal driving while suspended or revoked, fine \$1201, probation 60 months, jail 180 days - suspended, work crew 10 days.

Jackson, Kirk L, 66 - no contest - criminal driving while suspended or revoked, fine \$1201, probation 18 months; driving uninsured,

dismissed.

Adams, David S, 80 - no contest - open storage, fine \$75,000, suspend \$74,750, 24 months no new city code violations; nuisances affecting public health, fine \$75,000, suspended 24 months no new city code violations; Declaration of public nuisance, fine \$75,000, suspended 24 months no new city code violations.

Armstrong, Jeffrey D, 60 - guilty by default - violation driving while suspended or revoked, fine \$2015, suspend license.

McCarthy, Thomas J, 61 - guilty by default - violation driving while suspended or revoked, fine \$2015, suspend license; driving uninsured, fine \$1015, suspend license.

Robinson, Sean E, 40 - guilty by default - violation driving while suspended or revoked, fine \$2015, suspend license; driving uninsured, fine \$1015, suspend license.

Bobbitt, Thomas J, 24 - no contest - violation driving while suspended or revoked, fine \$425; driving uninsured, fine \$215.

Hardy-Lancellottie, Caterina A, 47 - operating a vehicle without driving privileges, dismissed with fee \$150.

Clayton, Marcuss DC, 27 - guilty by default - driving

uninsured, fine \$1015, license suspended; violation driving while suspended or revoked, fine \$2015, suspend license.

Keeney, Lily F, 23 - guilty by default - violation driving while suspended or revoked, fine \$2015, license suspended.

Teixeira, Stacy M, 59 - guilty by default - violation driving while suspended or revoked, fine \$2015, license suspended.

Carreiro, Louis A, 60 - guilty by default - Operating a vehicle without driving privileges, fine \$1015, license suspended.

Hawk, Ethan M, 23 - no contest - reduced to Operating a vehicle without driving privileges, fine \$265.

Sikorski, Joshua J, 35 - no contest - driving under the influence of intoxicants, fine \$2406, jail 20 days, work crew 20 days, probation 60 months, victim impact panel, drug and alcohol evaluation and treatment, license suspension for lifetime.

Campbell, Randy D, 67 - no contest - Violation driving while suspended or revoked, fine \$475; Driving uninsured, fine \$265.

Newberg, Levi J, 33 - pled guilty - criminal mischief in the second degree, fine \$2226, probation 60 months,

work crew 14 days, no contact orders; Theft in the second degree, dismissed.

Cowart, Kagen J, 20 - pled guilty - menacing, fine \$30, probation 24 months, work crew 14 days, no contact orders; criminal mischief in the second degree, dismissed; criminal mischief in the third degree, dismissed.

Douglas, Shane A, 54 - no contest - driving uninsured, fine \$215.

Smith, Ervin L, 71 - no contest - Failure to pay registration fee, fine \$115; failure to display plates, fine \$115.

Crossword KEY

Puzzle on page 15

H	A	M	S	S	H	O	E	S	M	A	U	L
A	G	I	O	H	A	K	U	S	A	G	R	A
M	U	F	F	I	R	A	T	E	C	H	I	T
M	A	F	I	A	A	P	E	R	E	A	C	H
	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	S			
O	P	S	G	B	E	T	B	A	P	M	T	
C	H	E	R	U	B	M	I	N	F	E	A	R
H	O	G	A	N	M	A	C	S	A	R	G	E
R	C	A	F	M	E	G	M	I	A	S	M	A
E	A	R	M	I	D	R	A	D	E	A	T	
	S	I	L	I	C	A	T	E	S			
P	A	L	E	A	C	A	T	S	A	B	E	R
F	L	A	G	S	A	R	I	S	T	R	A	Y
F	A	D	O	A	R	E	T	E	E	I	R	E
T	E	E	S	M	E	D	E	A	S	O	L	S

SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 15

7	4	6	5	9	3	8	2	1
3	9	1	8	6	2	4	7	5
8	5	2	7	1	4	9	3	6
4	6	5	9	2	7	3	1	8
9	3	8	1	5	6	2	4	7
2	1	7	3	4	8	5	6	9
6	8	4	2	7	9	1	5	3
1	7	9	4	3	5	6	8	2
5	2	3	6	8	1	7	9	4

CIRCUIT COURT

Warrants are out on the following individuals:

Kaleb Kimber Banta, Jacob Reginald Bliss, Christian Jacob Boatwright, Hope Marie Connors, Curtis Ray Daniel, Ashlee Dee Flanagan, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Noe Hernandez-Reyes, Michael Trevor Hilton, Ariel Shanea Kaping, Andrew Donald LeGore, Charles James Marvel, Bryce William McGowan, Eric Wayne McKnight, Carrie Lynne Miller, Kendra Lynne Montoya, Larry Robert Morgan, Nicholas Alan Nelson, Daniel Austin Phillips, Juli-

anne Nicole Phillips, Tammy Lavonn Robinson, Paul Levi Shelton, Richard Gene Stephens, Harley Michelle Webb.


Hayden Mackenzie Betelyoun, 18, was sentenced March 20, to 24 hours in custody in county jail and a \$100 fine following no contest pleas for fourth degree assault constituting domestic violence and strangulation.

Dakota Lee Phillips-Newport, 20, was charged March 25, with two counts

of first degree sexual abuse, first degree rape, and first degree sodomy.

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— Luke 24: 44-46 —

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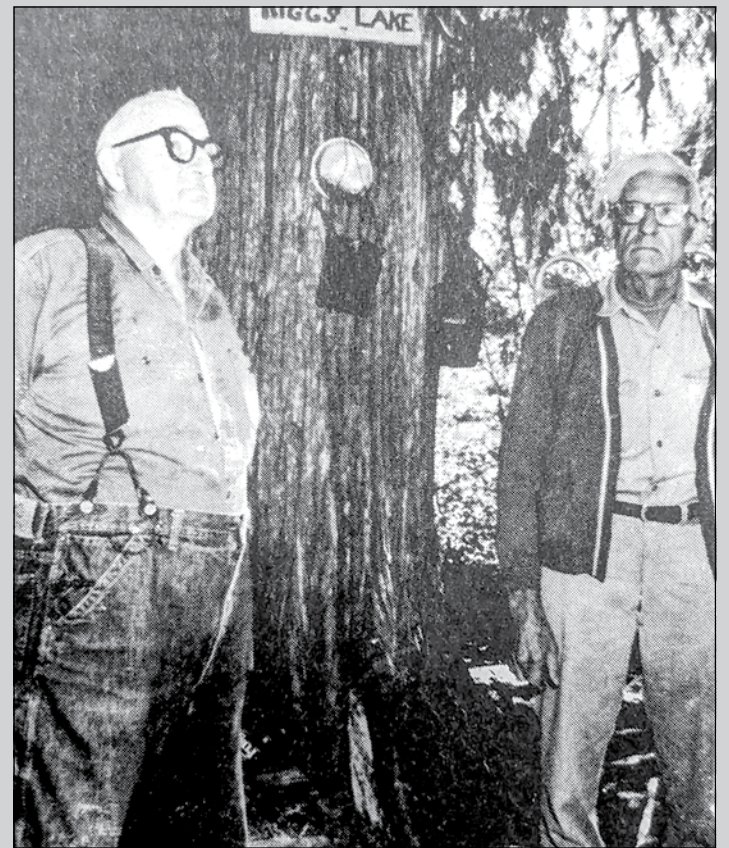
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FROM OUR FILES



A new sign in 1974 identifies the three-acre high mountain lake as Riggs Lake. Frequent visitors are Ray (left) and Cleo Riggs, sons of Albert Riggs, for whom the lake is named.

March 28, 1974

Having served as temporary fire chief for 22 years, Ivan Hoy was finally permanently appointed to the position this week. City Manager David Crutcher recommended the promotion for Hoy, joking that the volunteer chief had successfully passed his "probationary period." Hoy told City Council that he said in 1952 he'd take the job temporarily until the city could find somebody else. Hoy was asked in 1939 to join as a volunteer to the Fire Department when it formed.

The city's 18th Avenue will be getting a long-awaited facelift for a proposed cost of about \$170,000. The street is to be widened to a 40-foot deck between Tamarack and Mountain View with four-foot sidewalks. The project will require about 2,600 tons of asphalt. Due to rising prices of materials, the project would have cost only \$142,000 if done last year.

Plans are to expand the Sportsman's Holiday Home-town Carnival this year by urging clubs, churches and organizations to operate booths with games and food. The committee hopes to add live music to the carnival, in addition to security guards during off-hours.

David and Gail Carpenter will be practicing their art with the scissors as they open up Lucky 7 Barber

Shop on Main Street. The man and wife team previously operated a barber shop in Springfield. David began cutting hair 10 years ago, but previous to that he was a logger, trucker and glazier, and a mechanic in the U.S. Army. Gail completed her education in the business two years ago. The two met in Brownsville where Gail once lived.

March 24, 1999

Truck after truck began hauling away 7,000 yards of dirt from the future home of the community center project behind the high school. Local contractors donated their time and equipment for the extensive site preparation. It is expected to take seven to 10 days to dig and haul off the unsuitable materials, and another week or so to haul rock back into the site.

A committee working on creating a single fire district for the Sweet Home area began work to resolve various issues before bringing a request to combine the districts to voters in 2000. A study was conducted to find a way to establish a stable financial base, maintain staffing levels and provide services to unprotected areas within the School District 55 boundaries. The conclusion of the study recommended dissolving the ambulance and fire districts, and creating a single district to handle both fire and ambulance services.

SHFAD Reviews February Operations: Review and Budget Planning Highlights

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

At the March 19, Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District (SHFAD) board meeting, Fire Chief Nick Tyler presented a comprehensive overview of call volume and response times, shedding light on the district's operational performance for the month of February.

Tyler commenced the discussion by distributing a packet containing the ESO documents, which was produced by the new ESO program the district has acquired. ESO offers an integrated suite of software products for EMS agencies, fire departments, and hospitals that work to assist first responders in the collection, sharing, reporting, and analyzing critical information to improve community health and safety. "This is what our call volume report will kind of start looking like," Tyler remarked as he delved into the details.

Tyler reported that

SHFAD responded to a total of 275 calls from Feb. 1 to Feb. 29. Among these calls, 8.4% were classified as EMS calls. Notable categories within the call data included 55 calls for public service assistance, comprising 5.5% of the total calls, and 5.5% for dispatch cancellations.

In terms of transport percentages by paramedics, Tyler revealed that the overall transport rate for the month was 65%. However, discrepancies were noted during discussions, prompting Tyler to emphasize the ongoing process of refining data collection methods for accuracy.

"This is the transport percentage by paramedic. So you can see the transcript transportation or the transports column on the first, the non transports for total. It's kind of nice to be able to break that down like that and look at individuals and see if there's anything outstanding or that needs to be corrected. But down at the

bottom there is that total. So it was a 65% transport rate for that month," stated Tyler while also reminding board members he's just learning how to use data mining.

Tyler further explained, "First, I noticed that the 275 calls for the 29 days of February The average is nine and a half calls a day. So the next one is the average response time. So these are going to be some of the things I'm looking at. They said 29 days, 127 responses. And our average response time was seven minutes and 12 seconds."

He clarified to the board, "That's not out of the Chute time. That's a different category. And we're right around, I want to say, it was like a minute 40 seconds to get out the door from dispatch to en route."

Tyler stated this was what the end customer feels most. "When they call 911, the moment we get dispatched, it takes us on average, seven minutes and 12 seconds

to get to their door. So I like looking at that number from the end user standpoint of when they call 911. Their clock is starting. So it feels like it's a lot more."

Regarding ambulance patient offload times, SHFAD averaged about four minutes for patient offload times at Samaritan in Lebanon and almost four minutes at Good Samaritan Hospital. St. Charles Bend was identified as an outlier due to a data entry error.

In addition to reviewing operational statistics, Tyler highlighted recent incidents, including brush fires and house fires, underscoring the proactive efforts of SHFAD personnel in safeguarding the community. SHFAD personnel were commended for their swift and effective response in preventing further damage.

"As much as I want to get rid of that brush rake and put them in an SUV and make them be command officers, they are doing great

work in the community," Tyler praised the dedicated efforts of SHFAD responders.

Tyler proposed the approval of the budget calendar for the upcoming fiscal year, signaling the commencement of budget planning activities within the district.

Tyler emphasized the importance of timely approval, stating, "We're already into that season." As discussions ensued regarding the verification of dates, Tyler assured the board that once approved, necessary steps would be taken promptly.

SHFAD will hold their budget committee meeting on May 21, 2024 where they will elect a presiding officer with a presentation of the budget for approval by Tyler. They will consider recommendations from citizens at that time.

Following a brief confirmation of dates regarding other items on the budget

See Fire Board, page 10

The New Era

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SHPD Leads Effort Against Child Abuse with Annual Walk for the Cause

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

With April 6 just around the corner, the Sweet Home Police Department (SHPD) is gearing up to host its annual Walk for the Cause event, aimed at raising awareness and encouraging the reporting of child abuse.

Sean Morgan, Community Services Officer for the SHPD, outlined the department's role in the event, stating, "We organize the event. We'll have a couple of presenters at 9 a.m. on April 6. Immediately afterward, participants will plant a pinwheel garden in front of the Police Department and then march against child abuse. Refreshments will be served upon returning to the Police Department."

The event serves as a pivotal moment for the community to come together in support of vulnerable children and to demonstrate a unified stance against child abuse.

One of the primary challenges faced by law enforcement in addressing child abuse cases is gaining the trust and cooperation of affected children. Sergeant Geoff Hamlin highlighted the importance of organizations like the ABC House in facilitating this process, emphasizing the crucial role they play in supporting victims through forensic interviewing.

ABC House stands as the only Children's Advocacy Center catering to Benton and Linn Counties. The organization delivers child abuse assessments and support services for local children and youth in instances of suspected abuse and neglect.

In 2022, most recent data reveals a concerning trend in Linn County with 461 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect reported countywide. Of these cases, 48.5 percent involved children aged six or younger, with nearly 11 percent of victims being less than one year old.

Statewide, the gravity of

the situation is further underscored by the loss of 19 young lives due to familial or caregiver abuse or neglect during the same year. Among these tragic deaths, 15 victims were five years old or younger, with 10 of them being less than a year old. Neglect accounted for the majority of fatalities, totaling 15, while four were attributed to abuse, and one resulted from both neglect and abuse.

"Our children are an extremely vulnerable population," said Morgan. "When the adults in their lives are predators rather than the protectors they are supposed to be, children have extremely limited knowledge and ability to save themselves. They rely on others to notice and to save them. It is critical for those children that abuse is recognized and reported and that those who prey on children are held accountable."

According to Morgan, these crimes can be hard to detect, and children suffer in silence. "Mandatory reporter or not, we all need to be vigilant in watching for signs of abuse and reporting it as soon as possible. In many, probably most cases, it's the only chance a child will have to escape abuse or neglect," he said.

"This is an important role for our School Resource Officer (Tyler Robinson), who builds relationships with our community's youths," Hamlin said. "Those relationships make it more likely that they would come and make a report to him."

Regarding the pinwheels distributed as part of the event, Morgan said, "We suggest a donation of \$1.50 - \$2 per pinwheel. Proceeds will go to the Linn County Child Abuse Network (Linn CAN), which is dedicated to educating the public and helping prevent child abuse."

He also encouraged community members to plant pinwheel gardens around their homes and businesses as a visible symbol of soli-

arity and support for the cause.

Responding to inquiries about volunteer opportunities, Morgan revealed a change in plans for planting the community pinwheel garden. "SHPD volunteers and other community volunteers will plant the community pinwheel garden in the Highway 20 median the morning of April 2," he stated, inviting those interested in participating to reach out for further details.

Reflecting on past events, Morgan expressed hope for increased participation this year. "We have a variable number of people who show up to plant the pinwheel garden and walk, from a couple dozen and up. We ask that anyone with the time to join us, please do. We would love to have a crowd of many dozens marching for our children and against child abuse on April 6."

As the event draws near, Morgan issued a heartfelt plea to the community, emphasizing the critical role each individual plays in safeguarding children from abuse. "Our children are an extremely vulnerable population," he emphasized. "It is critical for those children that abuse is recognized and reported and that those who prey on children are held accountable."

He urged everyone to remain vigilant and report any suspicions of child abuse or neglect, stressing that timely intervention could be the difference between continued suffering and intervention.

For those who suspect child abuse or neglect, Morgan provided essential contact information, urging individuals to call the statewide hotline at 855-503-SAFE (7233). Further inquiries about the event can be directed to the Police Department at (541) 367-5181 or to Community Services Officer Sean Morgan at (541) 409-7343.

As Sweet Home prepares to come together in soli-

arity against child abuse, the SHPD remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of the community and advocating for their safety and well-being.

Signs of Abuse

A child who's being abused may feel guilty, ashamed or confused. He or she may be afraid to tell anyone about the abuse, especially if the abuser is a parent, other relative or family friend. That's why it's vital to watch for red flags, such as:

- Withdrawal from friends or usual activities
- Changes in behavior — such as aggression, anger, hostility or hyperactivity — or changes in school performance
- Depression, anxiety or unusual fears, or a sudden loss of self-confidence
- An apparent lack of supervision
- Frequent absences from school
- Reluctance to leave school activities, as if he or she doesn't want to go home
- Attempts at running away
- Rebellious or defiant behavior
- Self-harm or attempts at suicide

Specific signs and symptoms depend on the type of abuse and can vary. Keep in mind that warning signs are just that — warning signs. The presence of warning signs doesn't necessarily mean that a child is being abused.

Physical abuse signs and symptoms

- Unexplained injuries, such as bruises, fractures or burns
- Injuries that don't match the given explanation

Sexual abuse signs and symptoms

- Sexual behavior or knowledge that's inappropriate for the child's age
- Pregnancy or a sexually transmitted infection
- Blood in the child's un-

derwear

- Statements that he or she was sexually abused
- Inappropriate sexual contact with other children

Emotional abuse signs and symptoms

- Delayed or inappropriate emotional development
- Loss of self-confidence or self-esteem
- Social withdrawal or a loss of interest or enthusiasm
- Depression
- Avoidance of certain situations, such as refusing to go to school or ride the bus
- Desperately seeks affection
- A decrease in school performance or loss of interest in school
- Loss of previously acquired developmental skills

Neglect signs and symptoms

- Poor growth or weight gain or being overweight
- Poor hygiene
- Lack of clothing or supplies to meet physical needs
- Taking food or money without permission
- Hiding food for later
- Poor record of school attendance
- Lack of appropriate attention for medical, dental or psychological problems or lack of necessary follow-up care

Parental behavior

Sometimes a parent's demeanor or behavior sends red flags about child abuse. Warning signs include a parent who:

- Shows little concern for the child
- Appears unable to recognize physical or emotional distress in the child
- Blames the child for the problems
- Consistently belittles or berates the child, and describes the child with negative terms, such as "worthless" or "evil"
- Expects the child to provide him or her with attention and care and seems jealous of other family members getting attention from the child
- Uses harsh physical discipline
- Demands an inappropriate level of physical or academic performance
- Severely limits the child's contact with others
- Offers conflicting or unconvincing explanations for a child's injuries or no explanation at all

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BRUSH FIRES

From page 1

Officials have confirmed that no structures were under threat during the fire.

Throughout the night, crews remained on scene, utilizing heavy equipment to combat the blaze.

"Having this little stint of fires demonstrates the potential that our area has for fire. It doesn't take long for smaller fuels to dry out and be receptive to burning. Once those smaller fuels catch fire, the heat can rapidly dry out bigger fuels and allow fire to spread. It's not overly indicative of having a bad fire season, but it's not a great start either," stated Tyler.

According to Tyler, "What we need in Sweet Home is for our community members to know we are not immune to fire. We should not be afraid of it, but we should take precautions and do what we can to prevent fires and the ability for a fire to grow large."

On March 19, fire crews were dispatched to a significant natural cover fire, involving burning brush and trees. Upon arrival at the scene, firefighters found a resident attempting to combat the flames with a garden hose.

Although the fire primarily consumed brush and blackberry bushes, with some large fir trees affected, it was estimated to be less than a quarter-acre in size and was dangerously close to a residential property. Swift action by firefighters led to the prompt containment of the fire.

Local firefighters emphasize the rapid drying out of grass, brush, and trees, urging everyone to remain vigi-



Photo by Chris Chapman

Billows of smoke could be seen emanating off the brush fire that occurred on March 20.

lant.

Tyler said, "SHFAD is doing everything we can to assist with that. Local homeowners that have concerns of fire negatively impacting them, should contact us and get a home assessment conducted on their property. Our Community Wildfire Risk Reduction specialist can help develop a plan to increase defensible space to help mitigate fire risk."

The program to assist homeowners is a partnership between SHFAD and the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

"As you know, we are also working on a fuels reduc-

tion team to be able to assist homeowners. Once the plan to create a defensible space is in place, we will be able to come out and remove brush, trees or other issues to make a safer area for our community."

SHFAD offers home assessments to help homeowners improve defensible space from wildfires. Please contact Christian Whitfield, the District's Community Wildfire Prevent Specialist for further information at (541) 367-5882.

Currently the cause of this fire is still under investigation.



Photo provided by SHPD

A white Chevrolet SUV was involved in a drive-by shooting of a paint gun towards a pedestrian in the 4400 block of Main Street.

SHPD Quickly Resolves Paintball Gun Incident, Suspect Apprehended

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

A swift resolution has been reached in response to the incident reported on March 24, at approximately 5:58 a.m., where the Sweet Home Police Department received a report of a handgun being fired from a vehicle at a pedestrian in the 4800 block of Main Street.

"Following diligent efforts, the vehicle involved has been located, and one individual is now in custody. Upon investigation, it was determined that the handgun in question was, in fact, a paintball gun," stated SHPD officials in an updated press release on Facebook.

"We appreciate the assistance of the community resolving this incident quickly

and safely," stated SHPD officials.

In light of this development, residents in the area who may have surveillance cameras are still encouraged to review their footage around the time of the incident. The vehicle, described as a newer model Chevrolet SUV with a damaged spot on the rear bumper, was instrumental in aiding law enforcement efforts.

Should anyone possess information or recognize the vehicle in the photographs, please promptly contact the SHPD at 541-367-5181. Additionally, if the vehicle is spotted, residents are reminded not to approach it but to call the non-emergency line or 911 immediately.

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Local Team Faces Challenges and Growth in Recent Matchups

By Sky Chappell
Of The New Era

In a week of highs and lows, the local baseball team faced off against two strong opponents, showing signs of struggle but also considerable promise under the guidance of Head Coach Evan Teter. Despite falling to the Sisters Outlaws (2-3) and the Junction City Tigers (4-2), the team's resilience and learning spirit were on full display.

March 19, the team encountered a challenging game against the Outlaws, culminating in a 1-12 loss due to the ten-point mercy rule. Teter expressed concern over the team's performance, highlighting a notable "lack of confidence" among players. However, he also pointed out a significant positive aspect of the game, where the team's defense limited the Outlaws to only three hits. "A bright spot was Sisters only got three hits off of us," Teter said.

The free bases given to the Outlaws, however, turned the game's tide against the team. Teter reflected on the importance of such challenging games for growth, stating, "However, games

like this are needed to grow. We learned a lot from this one." In response to the loss, the team dedicated significant effort to practice on Wednesday, aiming to refine their skills and strategy for the upcoming game.

March 21, the team played against the Junction City Tigers which showed marked improvement, despite a 5-14 loss. The Tigers, holding a 4-2 record, presented a challenge with their strong batting lineup and pitching. Teter, however, saw this match as a "great bounce back game" for his team. He praised their enhanced energy, intensity, and discipline at the plate, which led to early advantages against the Tigers' pitcher.

"Our approach and plate discipline was levels above what we've seen in any other game this year," Teter said, highlighting the team's six hits in the game, a significant improvement given their season total of eight hits prior to the match. The effort put into practice over the past week was evident in the team's performance, reflecting a strategic and disciplined approach to batting that had been lacking.

The game remained competitive into the late innings, with Junction City securing their lead through extra base hits. According to Teter, the majority of Junction City's runs resulted from hard hits in challenging positions, not from a lack of effort or skill on his team's part. "This game showed us what we can do as a team when we play our brand of baseball," Teter concluded.

With these recent performances, the team has demonstrated both the challenges they face and their potential for growth and success. Under Teter's leadership, they have shown a capacity for learning from their defeats and improving in key areas. The team will be away this upcoming week, playing in a tournament at Newport. March 27 at 9 a.m., they will play against Astoria (3-4) and on March 28 at 4:30 p.m., they will face Seaside (3-3).



Photo by Sky Chappell
Huston Holly pitching during the March 21 game against Junction City.

Huskies Varsity Softball Shows Grit in Week Of Tough Battles

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

In a whirlwind of ups and downs, the Sweet Home Huskies Varsity Softball team, currently ranked #26 in the OSAA 4A standings, embarked on a challenging series of games over the past weekend, displaying resilience and determination despite facing formidable opponents. The team showcased their prowess on the diamond in three

intense matchups, leaving fans on the edge of their seats.

Their first encounter on Monday, March 18th pitted them against the formidable Marist Catholic High School Spartans who currently rank #22 in the 4A league. In a high-scoring affair, the Huskies fought valiantly but ultimately succumbed to the Spartans, with a final score of 8-14. Despite the setback, the Huskies displayed unwaver-

ing determination, refusing to let the defeat dampen their spirits as they prepared for the battles ahead.

Undeterred by the previous day's result, the Huskies returned to the diamond on March 19th to face off against Summit High School Storm Cats. Summit currently ranks #15 in the division. In a defensive showdown, both teams battled fiercely, but Summit managed to edge ahead, securing a hard-fought victory with a final score of 0-3. Although the outcome wasn't in their favor, the Huskies exhibited tenacity and sportsmanship, garnering respect from fans and opponents alike.

However, redemption was on the horizon for the resilient Huskies. On March 21st, the Huskies faced off against #13 ranked Junction City High School Tigers in a nail-biting showdown that kept spectators on the edge of their seats. In a thrilling offensive display, the Huskies surged ahead, demonstrating their offensive firepower and defensive prowess. The game concluded with a triumphant victory for the Huskies, as they clinched a hard-earned win with a final score of 15-13.

The New Era reached out to Huskies Softball Coach Emily Marchbanks, but the coach did not respond to our inquiries for a statement.

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CAR FIRES

From page 1

in containing the blaze until emergency services arrived. "The majority of the fire had been subdued by neighbors wielding fire extinguishers," Harris noted. "Their actions undoubtedly prevented a more catastrophic outcome."

SHFAD determined the fire to be caused by an electrical issue. "The battery had cooked almost in half and fell through the bottom of the engine compartment and was laying behind the front left tire. That one I would say was an electrical issue," said Harris.

As emergency responders secured the scene and assessed the damage, concerns lingered over the potential for escalation. "With a car fire in a garage, the risks are amplified due to the confined space and proximity to the home," Harris emphasized. "It's fortunate that the neighbors acted swiftly and that we were able to contain the fire before it spread further."

The second incident occurred on March 21, when a 2011 BMW 328i burst into flames. According to Harris, the owner reported experiencing engine problems the night before, leading them to park the vehicle overnight. The following day, attempts to start the car resulted in a loud bang followed by smoke and flames emanating from the engine compartment.

Harris, who swiftly responded to the scene, described the expedited efforts to contain the blaze. "The call came in at 4:35 p.m., and we were en route within a minute," Harris recounted. "Upon arrival at 4:40 p.m., our priority was to contain the fire, which had quickly spread."

Despite the rapid intervention, the exact cause of the fire remains uncertain. Harris speculated mechanical failure, citing the absence of a definitive explanation for the ignition. "While it's tempting to attribute it to a backfire or battery issue, given the absence of a carburetor and a functional battery, we lean towards mechanical failure," Harris stated.

The second car fire set off a chain of seven more calls back to back leaving SHFAD grappling with an onslaught of emergency calls and not enough equipment to respond.

"Shortly after responding to the car fire, we found ourselves inundated with a barrage of emergency calls," Harris revealed. "Within the span of an hour, we received a total of seven calls, stretching our resources to the limit."

Harris explained, "So we had the car fire, and I got off



Photo by Sky Chappell

SHFAD battled an emblazed Corvette on March 17.

that scene at 5:42 p.m. We had another call at 5:58 p.m., which was a medical call and then another one at 6:03 p.m. And that took both of my ambulances out of the district to go handle those calls. Then we received a smoke investigation call. The smoke investigation ended up only being some slag piles that were burning, but it took me a while to locate them. I was up there locating those at 6:17 p.m. While these other two medical calls were going, and while I was up there, three more calls came in at 6:30 p.m., 6:47 p.m., and then another at 6:57 p.m. for medical calls."

Harris described the scene as a "juggling act," with limited personnel and resources.

"By 4:35 p.m., when the car fire call came in, our team was already stretched thin," Harris explained. "The subsequent calls further strained our capacity to provide timely and comprehensive emergency services."

Despite the challenges, Harris and his team mobilized with remarkable efficiency, prioritizing critical calls and coordinating with neighboring fire departments to address the surge in demand. Mutual aid agreements with nearby agencies, such as Lebanon and Albany, played a crucial role in augmenting SHFAD's response capabilities during times of heightened need.

"Our partnerships with neighboring fire departments proved invaluable," Harris acknowledged. "Their assistance enabled us to maintain a level of service despite the overwhelming volume of calls."

Harris says the influx of calls on a daily basis is occurring more and more frequently though he doesn't attribute it to anything beyond regular every day calls. Harris said typically there are many times the battalion chief is alone at the station when they get calls

or they may have just one other person with them.

Harris stated for calls that they don't have an ambulance right away for they will assess the emergency and determine the level of need for each patient to ensure the most serious cases are attended to first.

"What we'll do is we'll go to the house of the call and check and make sure there's no life saving measures that need to be made. If there's not we continue on and a lot of the time I have the opportunity before that to pre-position a Lebanon ambulance at Santiam Terrace. They come halfway down and they wait so they can guardian angel us, and they stay there," explained Harris.

Harris said many times he will go to the scene to determine the level of need only to find Lebanon already on their way. "If I tell him no, don't worry about it, they don't need transport. They'll turn around and go wait back at Santiam Terrace, at that halfway mark, but a lot of the time, I have to tell him yes, come on in, I need to transport this one."

Harris explained that he will provide care until they get there explaining this is his best method of response during heavy call volume times. "If I was to take an ambulance and do that and then transport them, the next call might be a cardiac arrest where we need to have immediate action. It's getting harder and harder to provide for that, so what we've done is established a relationship with Lebanon and with Albany to handle the extra stress"

The SHFAD's dispatchers play a critical role in ensuring there's transportation available for all emergencies. "Our dispatchers are very good at making sure that we have some sort of coverage. At one point during that time, on the 21st they said Lebanon doesn't have any ambulances either. I

said, well, I need something. And she goes, I'll get one coming from Albany. And she did. That Albany Medic Unit came right in and they took one of those patients for us."

He further explained, "It wasn't a critical patient, it was someone that just needed to be transported to the hospital, luckily, but my Quick Reaction Team (QRT) was running two other calls at the time to determine which one needed the most immediate care. We're out of ambulances at that point."

Harris said, "It's a relationship between us and Lebanon, and it's very rare that we have Albany in the mix but that day we did and they were right there. They helped us out."

However, according to Harris, the multiple incidents at once without enough equipment to respond underscores SHFAD's need for additional resources and staffing to ensure the community's safety and well-being.

Harris said, "We're looking

at it and trying to upstaff, but staffing is becoming difficult, it's a matter of personnel and equipment is always an issue. We're always fixing something or having something worked on and aging equipment is always an issue. It's a bit of a mix. SHFAD has been proud to consistently provide a service that we think we can maintain, but sometimes it's by the skin of the skin of the teeth. It's a little more often than I like, to be honest.

Harris said SHFAD Chief Nick Tyler was also actively searching out other avenues to curtail and get in front of the issues they are facing. "I know what this bond that's coming up, he's trying to get in front of it with by providing a couple more ambulances and retaining some personnel."

He also explained how the radios slotted in the bond SHFAD seeks in May will be a huge asset to the district especially when it comes to ensuring everyone has assistance when it's needed. "Just being able to talk to dispatch, there's times, if I go 10 minutes out of town past Foster, there's often-times I'm talking to somebody at the station so that they can relay information to dispatch so that we can get extra units," said Harris.

He further said, "I was happy to have Lebanon and Albany, at least available when they were and there was a point where there were 11 calls and Lebanon said, 'Hey, you've used all our ambulances, when yours gets free from the hospital, can we have it here?' I said yes, we were trading ambulances at one point like cars."

Harris said, "East Linn is just helping itself out and it's a good thing we have those relationships with our neighboring fire departments."

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FIRE BOARD

From page 5

agenda, a motion was made and seconded to approve the 2024-2025 calendar, signaling progress in the budget planning process within SHFAD.

Tyler provided updates on various administrative matters, including progress on paperwork filing for the district's bond. Tyler confirmed the official bond measure number, indicating that the necessary documentation had been filed with the county and was now available on the district's website.

Transitioning to other administrative tasks, Tyler informed the board about the creation of press releases pertaining to upcoming discussions and initiatives. "I have three or four created. I want to go back through and look at it before I give you just kind of a press release from a global more isolated standpoint like this is what we're going to talk about, this is what we're going to talk about kinda thing," Tyler said when speaking about how they would handle the distribution of information going forward.

Tyler provided an overview of the Exempt Non-Representative Employee Compensation Guide, explaining its significance in managing wages and benefits for employees not covered by union contracts.

"This goes back to about a year ago when we created this because we really had no way of capturing wages vacation, all that stuff besides the union contract," Tyler elaborated.

He told board members



Photo by Sky Chappell

SHFAD Fire Chief Nick Tyler commended the district's efforts to maintain call volumes as well as their training efforts while facing very challenging circumstances at the SHFAD board meeting.

that while there were minimal changes to the guide, adjustments were made to align with the union's wage increases. Additionally, Tyler discussed updates related to specific positions within the district, including the BCS (Brush Crew Supervisor) and assistant to the chief, ensuring that adjustments were made in accordance with contractual obligations to maintain competitiveness in employee compensation. The board subsequently moved to approve the Representative Boyd compensation guideline with all members in favor.

Additionally, it was reported the shop building was completed with a few minor items needing to be completed. Station 22 was reported to be nearly finished, with custom signs being the only outstanding items. These signs, one backlit

with the station number and the other illuminated from above with the district's name, are set to be installed in the coming week. While a minor issue with paint on the main doors was noted, it was promptly addressed by contractors, ensuring the project remains on track and within budget. However, concerns were raised regarding equipment storage during construction, as neighboring property owners expressed grievances about potential easement violations.

It was also reported that LifeFlight conducted a training drill on March 7. Despite a slight communication hiccup resulting in two visits that day, the drill proceeded smoothly. LifeFlight conducted a practice run, landing at the Fortnight complex before returning to SHFAD's facility for further training.

Notably, LifeFlight praised the landing zone and their ability to navigate the training without issue.

"They spoke very highly of the designated zone; they said they can see it from the air. There were no weird thermals like he gets sometimes, the windsock was very visual. So for them to land by themselves in the middle of the day with businesses opened, that's a good thing," said Tyler.

The training included best practices for hot loading patients, with participants expressing gratitude for the opportunity. It was confirmed that LifeFlight will return for additional training in a few months. Additionally, SHFAD completed pediatric advanced life support training, with commendations extended to the team for their successful completion.

An update was provided

for February training. Highlighted was the extensive training efforts undertaken by the district, including achieving 146 man-hours per shift for online drills, surpassing the target of 31 hours. Notably, outstanding training amounted to 48 hours, with additional fire drills accounting for 40 hours. Total hours of training for February tallied a total of 399.5 hours.

Tyler expressed satisfaction with the training outcomes, emphasizing the importance of preparedness, particularly given the district's busy month, which saw an average of nine and a half calls per day. He commended the crews for their dedication to both emergency response and training, ensuring the community's safety.

"We just had a very busy month with an average of nine and a half calls per day. Crews are doing good work both in theory and in training. It's important to recognize that," said Tyler.

Also announced was that Lebanon Fire District is going to be hosting the Young Women's Fire Academy again this year in June. The program which is for 14 to 17 year old girls interested in the fire services, this will be their fifth year offering the academy.

The academy will be held in their new training facility. It will consist of all female firefighters from around the valley.

Discussions also encompassed recruitment efforts, grant applications, and policy amendments.

The next board meeting will be held on April 16, 2024 at 7 p.m.



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Jaime Jorge

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at 7.00 p.m.



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Adventist Church

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An Imperfect Paradise Part Two

By Roberta McKern
For The New Era

We continue to consider the earlier history of the East Linn Museum area. We first wondered what the first white pioneers encountered when they arrived in the early 1850s. They thought they had come to a virtually empty land as we have seen. However, people had lived here but their numbers had been much reduced by disease. We turn now to what we find in Oregon Archaeology, a book describing different excavated sites.

First, a couple of admissions: For our area, the archaeological record in Oregon Archaeology is more limited than we wish. Still, we can borrow from adjoining

areas. Secondly, the Santiam people relied on wood, reeds and grasses for building their shelters, basket making and fashioning some clothing. These materials don't survive long in our humid climate and are very unlikely to hold up well for archaeological context.

And so, what are we going to glean? Some dates, for one thing.

A site the East Linn Museum can lay some claim to is the Cascadia Caves, up the South Santiam River to the east. The caves are located on the river's north side, high up. Two digs took place, one in the 1960s when plans were being made to flood the area behind a dam and a second time in 1988 after it had been

decided not to flood Cascadia but to put the caves on the National Register of Historic Places. The caves contained deposits 13 feet deep of archaeological value which included what would become prototypical stone points and also petroglyphs. The points notably associated with the caves, named Cascadia Points, are willow leaf in shape, about two inches long and made of chert, an agate type of rock, according to photographs. They've been found in other upland sites and are believed to have been used with atlatls. Those throwing sticks gave extra power to a shaft with a point fastened to one end when flung at prey. Atlatls preceded bows and arrows by thousands of years.

Stone food processing tools like mortars and pestles, metates and manos, scrapers and drills along with particles of bone, seeds and hazel nut shells led archaeologists to believe the caves were used early on for generalized food processing and wood working. Later the focus turned to processing game. Deer put venison on the menu throughout the site, but evidence of fish was not found.

Dates taken from carbon fourteen tests on samples of charred wood and other organic material rated at 8,650, 7,230 years and 5,650 years before the present time. In comparison, a Clovis point generally dated at 13,000 years old was found near Fern Ridge and recently an

Idaho site called Cooper's Ferry has been dated as older than 16,000 years. Too, 7,700 years ago Mt. Mazama blew up leaving Crater Lake and spreading ash here.

How long people have been in the new world is still debated. However, finding sites like Cooper's Ferry and Cascadia Caves are real luck. The early people are usually thought of as wanderers seeking areas of opportunity. They are often depicted as big game hunters taking mammoth, mastodon, ground sloth, the American horse and sending them into extinction with the help of volcanic activity and climate change. Likely these people acted as most adap-

See Paradise, Page 12

Calendar 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Exercise 8:30 Crafters 10:00 Meals on Wheels Sr. Meals 12:00 Bridge 12:30pm	Qi Gong 9:00 Jolly Stitchers 10:00 Meals on Wheels Sr. Meals 12PM	Exercise 8:30 SALT 10am Painters/Papercraft 10:00 Lunch 11:30 Ponytail 1:00	Qi Gong 9:00 Jolly Stitchers 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Pinochle 12:30	Exercise 8:30 Meals on Wheels Sr Meals 12:00	<p>SHSC Disclaimer: At times we may have to change /cancel a class or activity due to illness, weather etc.</p> <p>SHSC Hours 8AM-4PM Mon-Fri. Phone:541-367-4775</p> <p><i>Special events will be posted in the monthly newsletter.</i></p>
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TRANSPORTATION

Dial-A-Bus – The Sweet Home Dial-a-Bus is a curb-to-curb transportation system within the Sweet Home area within the School District #55, from Crawfordsville to Cascadia and as far west as Santiam Terrace. Rides are \$1 within a five-mile radius of our office at the Sweet Home Senior Center. Over five miles, the charge is \$2. Ten ride tickets are available for \$10. Caretakers riding with a passenger ride at no charge. Call 24 hours in advance to schedule a ride at (541) 367-4775.

Linn Shuttle – The Linn Shuttle operates on a scheduled route, traveling from Sweet Home with stops in Lebanon and Albany. It leaves 10 times a day, Monday through Friday, and six times a day on Saturdays, from the Sweet Home Senior Center 880 18th Ave. Any requests for route deviations must be cleared through the Transportation Director. Rides are \$1 each way. Through an agreement between Linn-Benton Community College and Linn Shuttle, LBCC students ride free of charge upon showing their current ID card. Multi-Ride tickets are available from the bus driver and at the office. The mission of the Linn Shuttle is to provide a safe transportation service that supports the economic, social, transportation and environmental needs of the community it serves.

PARADISE

From page 11

tive humans have done, they ate what they could get with traps, snares, spears and atlatls and serendipity. There is no reason to think they would turn down huckleberries like those favored by the Kalapuyans either.

It is interesting to think that people were somewhere around here 9,000 years ago at the end of the Ice Age when glacial melt waters impounded behind ice dams burst through, flowing up the lowlands of the Willamette Valley from the Columbia River country. That lake later contracted leaving behind the bogs and marshes favored by the Kalapuyan bands who would settle the tributaries feeding the Willamette. We can easily call these developing semi sedentary homesteaders the Camas Culture because one marker they left behind was the camas oven, often datable from charred bulbs. Basically, a camas oven was a pit lined with red hot stones on which camas bulbs and other food stuffs were layered with leaves and earth and hot stones to make the oven, which slowly roasted the camas left to cool over several days. Archaeologically, an oven left behind was a configuration of fire cracked rocks and remnants, perhaps, of burnt plant material. Such an oven was excavated a few years ago on Oak Heights in Sweet Home.

This brings us to another archaeological site nearby, the 124 mounds between Brownsville and Albany. They are not generally burial mounds, although some graves are associated with them. In an excavated one,

however, two men were found with a whalebone club between them and twenty-five points among their bones. The question arose, were the points grave offerings or were the men victims carrying their sources of death into the graves.

Many of the mounds turned out to be middens built up by years of household occupation in the same spot or from having camas ovens repeatedly set on top of older oven sites. The Calapooia mounds date back about 1500 years to the early half of the 800s. Back to the early pioneers, the Ames, Gilliland, Pickens and Wiley families.

When the Ames called their stopping place “Paradise Camp” none of them likely recognized the management Santiam and other Kalapuyan bands had used to shape the meadows of the Willamette Valley and its tributaries. Considering the boggy nature of the big valley, first coming pioneers saw the cleared foothills as drier and more desirable when they traveled up tributaries like the Calapooia and Santiam. Manageable meadows proved attractive to settlers who did not understand these were products of human ingenuity.

These meadows were the result of seasonal burnings now thought to have been controlled by Kalapuyan women. Low intensity fires cleared the meadows of many unwanted plants while encouraging others which produced edible seeds and sometimes actually flourished better when fire was used. Too, these fires cleared out the brush under the more resistant oak trees and made collecting acorns easier. Along with camas, acorns ranked high on the menu. And more

importantly, fire promoted the spread of camas lilies.

Later, pioneers who settled on fire-cleared meadows complained about how fast many filled in by encroaching brush and trees. Meanwhile, their hogs thrived while they uprooted camas bulbs and munched on acorns, both staples of the Santiam.

Native American use of fire in managing the lands around them is now more recognized. Likely a dividend of burning appreciated by the Santiam and others, roasted grasshoppers, tasty tidbits would not have been relished by the settlers either. But the Kalapuyan people had had thousands of years in which to adapt to ecological advantages like this use of fire.

But, before white settlers moved in was all peaceful? No.

Around two thousand years ago, the proliferation of small, very sharp obsidian points came into the record signaling a switch from use of the atlatl to the bow and arrow. The bow and arrow had real advantages in comparison with the atlatl or throwing stick. When an atlatl was used a person became visible because the user had to have room in which to fling it sending the shaft on its way. With the bow and arrow, the user could act from concealment and did not have to be in the open. Importantly, a smaller point on an arrow shaft could be as effective as the larger, heavier spear point used with the atlatl. The use of obsidian to make them meant a higher production rate calling for less material, a win/win especially for the more aggressive.

The archaeological record shows how the Kalapuyan reliance on a dependable staple, camas, led to increased



Q: How do I get rid of my bad breath?

A: Bad breath can ruin many a good moment, whether a romantic moment, a business moment, or even just yourself. We've all been there. Unfortunately, bouts of bad breath are inevitable. Bad odors can be caused directly from foods we eat (i.e. garlic, alcohol, coffee, and others...), or from gases that oral bacteria produce.

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Fortunately, for the most part, bad breath is manageable. Choose breath-friendly foods and beverages. Water washes away food debris and helps keep bacteria in check. Healthy food choices like carrots, celery, and apples actually help scrub bacteria from the teeth. Brush your teeth at least morning and night. We also highly recommend cleaning your tongue either by brushing it or using a tongue scraper.

If your bad breath is severe, even after following the steps above, it could be a sign of something more serious such as gum disease, diabetes, sinus problems, gastric reflux, or liver or kidney disease. Come see us so we can help address the issue.

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populations which promoted emphasis on territorial prerogatives which in turn led to warfare over who owned what. Different bands might be lenient on trespassers in some instances, but if it involved taking of game, punishment could be lethal.

Some Kalapuyans hunted other bands, too, like the Umpqua and Tualatin. They hunted various Kalapuyan neighbors for enslavement. Slaves were welcomed products for other tribes on the Columbia.

People here had several places from which to obtain the black, volcanic glass that was becoming increasingly desired. They could trade for it or trek to eastern Oregon sources like Newberry Crater and Obsidian Cliffs. Tests now show archaeologists where sources for different obsidian used in tool making can be found.

Although obsidian may have become the stone of first choice, points for weapons and other tools still used other types of stone. Opportunity lay on gravel bars where agate, jasper, agatized petrified wood and fine-grained basalt can still be

found. Basalt is usually associated by us with the stone bowls, pestles, metates and mauls and other heavier tools such as those found in the East Linn Museum. Like most rocks around here, basalt is of volcanic origin and predominates in the Cascade Range.

Now these stone implements are a reminder of people who once lived here. Because of diseases they had never encountered, they lacked protective immunity. Those who remained had to recreate their past as best they could without assistance of the memory keepers who fell victim to illness introduced by outsiders, the white traders, trappers, sailors and, possibly, missionaries who brought unexpected change.

The settlers who came here from the east, the Ames, Gililand, Pickens and Wiley families included, believed they acted in line with their government's wishes to control territory recently acquired by treaty from Great Britain. They saw our area as being open to homestead claims of 320 acres for a single man and 640 acres if he

had a wife. To them the land looked empty and available.

Little regard was given to the history of a people who had lived here for thousands of years. We have grown more sympathetic and archaeology helps understand a part of the physical past but much has been lost. What, we wonder, caused fish not to be found in the cultural layers of the Cascadia Caves and in the Calapooia Middens? We have missed a richness of life not reobtainable.

When the Ames family came upon the Sweet Home meadows and called their stopping point "Paradise Camp" they did not realize a paradise was being lost by the few Santiam people remaining. Even yet, we can see something of their passage when a stone artifact perhaps hundreds or even thousands of years old is found and when we see camas blooming in fields and along roadways as blue as the bluest sky.

Still, we must add, our knowledge at the museum is scant and it can be changed by findings of new records of a truly serendipitous archaeological dig.

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Sweet Home Senior Center

Wednesday Menu

3: Teriyaki Chicken
Teriyaki chicken served with rice, veg chow mein, dessert

10: Meatloaf
Leo's favorite meatloaf served with mashed potatoes & gravy, veg, salad, dessert

17: Philly Cheesesteak
The famous Philly sandwich loaded with beef, onions & peppers, and cheese sauce, served with roasted potato wedges, coleslaw, dessert

24: Administrative Assistant Day!
Let's celebrate the ladies that do an excellent job of running the Senior Center & Linn Shuttle
👏👏👏Georgette, Dianne and the boss Dawn!👏👏👏
Pizza casserole, stir fry vegetables, Caesar salad, and cake & ice cream!

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Dr. Michael W. Stoner

Q: What is the difference between Vision and Medical Insurance?

A: I get this question frequently and it is troubling to me that so many do not understand the difference. Many Insurance companies tell their clients if you do not have vision insurance you can not have a routine eye examination. This is true. However, many insurance companies will not tell you if you have a medical condition you can have your eyes evaluated for that condition. The following is a short description of Vision and

Medical Insurance differences.

If you have Vision Insurance, depending on your plan, you can have a complete vision examination that includes the determination of your glasses prescription and a front to back analysis of the health of your eyes. Some plans will allow a precise amount of benefit towards your frame and lenses, some do not offer any benefits towards glasses at all. It depends on the company, and the benefit plan. No two plans are the same. If you have Medical Insurance, depending on your plan, you can have any medical type condition evaluated and your insurance plan will pay towards your office visit. Your medical insurance will not cover routine vision examinations or glasses, frame and lenses. For a more detailed description of the differences between Routine Vision and Medical Insurance, visit our Facebook Site, at (Dr Stoner @ Advanced Family Eyecare) or request an email at (advancedfamilyeyecare@comcast.net).

To see if Dr Stoner accepts your insurance plan visit the office FaceBook Site at Dr Stoner @ Advanced Family Eyecare.

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Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLENE GALE MILLER, Deceased. Case No. 24PB01744 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Notice is hereby given that Julie Spencer has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present their claims, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative at: 1275 Main Street or P. O. Box 486, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Dated and first published: March 13, 2024 Personal Representative Julie Spencer Attorney for Personal Representative Robert Snyder Attorney at Law 541-367-5191 (Mar 13 - Mar 27)

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE CONTENTS OF STORAGE ARE MISC HOUSEHOLD ITEMS Unit A19 Jake Bangot Auction ends April 22nd, 2024 @10am on www.bid13.com AMES CREEK STORAGE 898 MAIN STREET SWEET HOME, 97386 541-367-4727 www.amescreekstorage.com (Mar 27 - Apr 3) City of Lebanon Public Hearing Notice Proposed Utility Rate Adjustments for Stormwater Drainage, Water and Wastewater The Lebanon City Council will hold a public hearing at their regular meeting on April 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to consider utility rate adjustments for stormwater drainage, water and wastewater. The meeting will be held at the Santiam Travel Station, 750 South 3rd Street, Lebanon OR 97355. Members of the public may submit written comments regarding the proposed utility rate adjustments by emailing the City Recorder at city.recorder@lebanonoregon.gov. Emailed comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 9, 2024. Comments can also be mailed to Attn: City Recorder, City of Lebanon, 925 S. Main Street, Lebanon, OR 97355. Mailed comments must be received by April 9, 2024. The proposed utility rate adjustment resolutions will be available online in the City Council Packet by April 5, 2024 at https://www.ci.lebanon.or.us/citycouncil/page/city-council-work-session-and-regular-session (Mar 27)

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MISCELLANEOUS: Make a tax-savvy move this holiday season and year-end! Donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more to champion our veterans. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous year-end tax deduction. Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-695-9265 today!

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Riley Watkins Signs to South Western University



Photo by Sky Chappell

Rylie Watkins and Kaylene Zajic following Watkins signing for Southwestern Oregon Community College.

By Sky Chappell
Of The New Era

Riley Watkins was the most recent Husky to complete a college signing, signing for Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC). Her signing marks the third signing this year for Sweet Home Wrestling, with two more to come.

"When I joined wrestling I did not plan on wrestling [at] the next level at all, unfortunately I didn't enjoy wrestling [at first] because all I did was get beat up by my practice partners; Paige Chafin, Zoey Erieva and Bailey Chafin," Watkins said.

Wrestling, however, was an all too familiar sport for Watkins. Her older brothers, Robert and Kyle both wrestled under the same program. According to head coach Steve Thorpe, the boys were very accomplished wrestlers.

"This year I put in the extra work and wanted it more than I ever had before," Watkins said. "I started to find joy in the hard parts and I just

love the feeling of winning. I wanted to continue."

Watkins had 32 career falls, was a regional champion pinning her way through, and placed second at the OSAA 4A/3A/2A/1A Special District 2 wrestling championship.

Thorpe had nothing but praises for his wrestler. "I'm very proud of her. She had different adversities and she exemplifies by example what it means to overcome adversity. I've always said, how you respond to adversity marks your character and she's a young lady that is going to do great things in her life. I'm very excited for her."

"These kids go through it all for me. These aren't just some kids I coach on a team, these are kids that become mine. We go through a lot of battles together and when you have struggles together you build that family feel," Thorpe said.

Watkins is excited to progress to the next level, along with her best friend Kaylene Zajic, who also signed to SWOCC earlier this year. Wat-

kins surprised Zajic at this signing, who was unaware of the location in which Watkins would be attending.

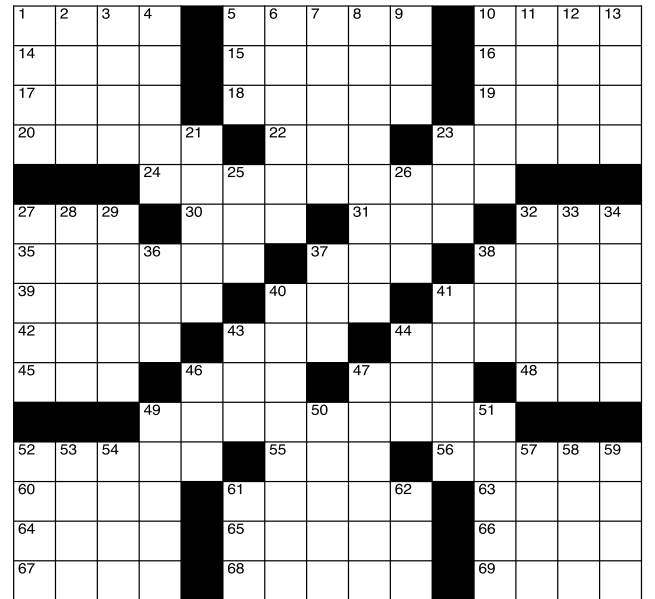
"Southwestern stood out to me more than the other colleges that were looking at me because my best friend Kaylene was going to wrestle [at the] next level there," Watkins said.

"I am beyond excited and less worried now that I get to experience my first years of adult life with the person I've been closest with since 7th grade," Zajic said. "Not everyone gets to experience this but I'm so happy I get to."

Watkins' signing laminates the legacy of accomplishments the Sweet Home Wrestling program continues to produce.

Watkins plans to study business for the two years she plans to attend SWOCC. Following that, she wants to go into cosmetology and become a hairstylist, to help her get closer to her goal of opening her own hair business.

CROSSWORD



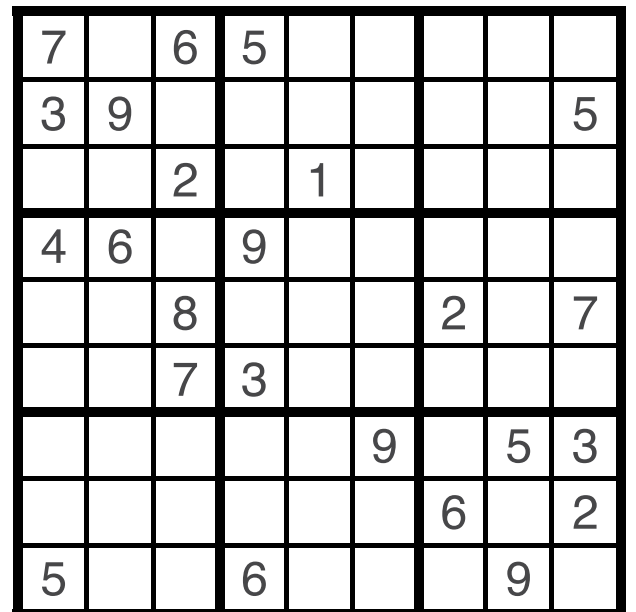
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Excessively theatrical actors
- 5. Footwear
- 10. A way to disfigure
- 14. Exchange rate
- 15. Hawaiian wreaths
- 16. North-central Indian city
- 17. Bungle
- 18. Extremely angry
- 19. A short note of what's owed
- 20. Criminal organization
- 22. Mimic
- 23. Try to grab
- 24. U.S.-born individuals
- 27. Some are covert
- 30. Order of the British Empire
- 31. Don't know when yet
- 32. Payment (abbr.)
- 35. Winged angelic being
- 37. Variety of Chinese
- 38. A way to be anxious
- 39. Famed wrestler Hulk
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Slang for sergeant
- 42. Canadian flyers
- 43. Actress Ryan
- 44. Highly unpleasant vapor
- 45. Body part
- 46. Halfway
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Consume
- 49. Salts
- 52. Upper bract of a floret of grass
- 55. Housepet
- 56. Cavalry-sword
- 60. Symbol of a nation
- 61. Frocks
- 63. Used to carry food
- 64. Portuguese folk song
- 65. Sharp mountain ridge
- 66. Ireland
- 67. Where golfers begin
- 68. Greek mythological sorceress
- 69. Fluid suspensions

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Mad Men" leading man
- 2. Water (Spanish)
- 3. Annoy
- 4. Bulgarian capital
- 5. Japanese title
- 6. Capital of Zimbabwe
- 7. Giraffe
- 8. A mixture of substances
- 9. Midway between south and southeast
- 10. Staffs
- 11. Turkish title
- 12. Type of acid
- 13. Thin, flat strip of wood
- 21. Russian river
- 23. Ribonucleic acid
- 25. Partner to flow
- 26. Airborne (abbr.)
- 27. Earthy pigment
- 28. Genus of earless seals
- 29. "Key to the Highway" bluesman
- 32. By or in itself
- 33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface
- 34. Partner to trick
- 36. British Air Aces
- 37. Ammunition
- 38. Supervises flying
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Flanks
- 43. Millimeters
- 44. Where wrestlers perform
- 46. Not around
- 47. Flightless bird
- 49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
- 50. Expressed concern for
- 51. Satisfies
- 52. Flew off!
- 53. Wings
- 54. Load a ship
- 57. Vigor
- 58. British title
- 59. Whiskey
- 61. ___ Adams: founding father
- 62. Body of water

SUDOKU



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