

Associated Oregon Loggers Condemns Conservation Plan

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

The forestry sector and rural communities in Oregon have been jolted by a recent decision made by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Board. On March 7, the board passed a contentious State Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), causing uproar due to its potential to significantly reduce state forest timber harvests by 34 percent, resulting in substantial economic and job losses across the state.

In a statement, Rex Storm, Executive Vice President of the Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL), denounced the board's decision, stating, "This decision is not just devastating; it's a glaring example of short-sighted policy-making that disregards the intricate balance between our ecosystems and economic vitality."

The HCP seeks to align western Oregon's forests with the federal Endangered Species Act, safeguarding habitats crucial for at least 17 imperiled species. However, the plan also involves reducing



Photo by Kristy Tallman

timber harvests on state forests, which according to opponents of the HCP, could lead to diminished revenue for local county services and a decline in employment opportunities in rural areas already grappling with economic challenges.

During the board meeting, concerns were raised about the lack of transparency and fairness in the decision-making process. Betsy Johnson, the former gubernatorial candidate for governor in Oregon during the 2022 election and a vocal critic, expressed skepticism about the possibility of

Loggers drove their trucks around the capitol in Salem on March 7, as protest against the HCP which was passed despite their years of efforts to halt the ODF board's decision.

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Lake Town Academy Ready to Expand

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Closing in on the completion of their first year operating a new private school for Lebanon and Sweet Home, Lake Town Academy's founder, Ashley Knight, said it went "smoothly" and now they're ready to expand.

Knight, of Sweet Home, and Molly Haselip, of Lebanon, started the faith-based school in an effort to provide an alternative option for children who do not thrive in public schools. While working in public schools and, later, homeschooling her own children, Knight said she learned there can be different approaches to teaching other than the standard federally-funded education system.

Knight also realized that kids learn differently from one another and there's no one-size-fits-all solution.

"It just didn't make sense to me having kids sit in a desk for so long and doing worksheets, and then you've got kids that are either behind and they feel discouraged and they have no idea what's going on, and then



Photo by Sarah Brown

Ashley Knight points to owl pellet findings and mushroom spore prints on her classroom's board.

you have kids that are ahead and they're bored out of their mind but you expect them to sit still and be quiet," she said last year. "Kids need to be moving, and they need to be learning and exploring things that they're interested in, so then learning is fun. Once they start learning things, then you see their confidence boost."

And that appears to be just the environment her and Haselip are providing. In the mornings, the kids do a devotional and pray, followed by Socratic discussion (practicing critical thinking through dialogue).

"They have things they really want to share and be heard about," Knight said. "They have ideas and they have views on things."

Core classes are taught throughout the day, restless kids are given the opportunity to burn some energy, and students have more control over the projects they want to do.

The younger classes this

See Lake Town, Page 9

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**73RD ANNUAL SWEET
HOME ROCK AND
MINERAL SHOW**
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**YOUNG WOMEN'S
FIRE ACADEMY
NOW OPEN**
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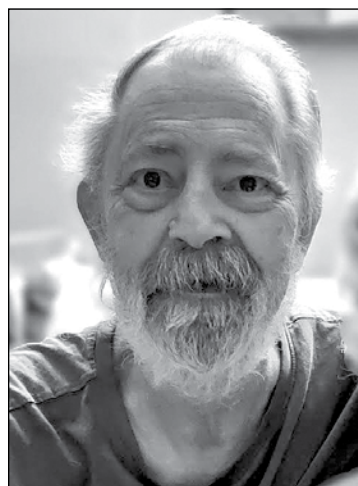


**EASTER
CELEBRATION
2024**
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OBITUARIES



Howard Miodrag Parker
October 17, 1949 - February 23, 2024

Howard Miodrag Parker, 74, of Sweet Home, peacefully passed away on February 23 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis. Howard was born October 17, 1949 in a unique way. His mother, Darinka Parker (Marinkovic), gave birth 19,000 feet above the Atlantic near the Shannon Airport, Ireland. She was on her way to join her husband, M-Sgt. James Parker, in Germany where he was stationed in Weisbaden. Some newspaper articles claimed Howard was the first child in history to be born on a trans-Atlantic airplane. Thus began the remarkable life of Howard Parker.

His mother was born in Yugoslavia and was an inmate at a Nazi concentration camp during the war. His father was in the military and after serving three tours overseas, was stationed stateside when Howard was a toddler. The family moved to California at that time. Howard often traveled to Europe to visit his relatives on his mother's side.

He built computers for a living and was an avid reader and researcher. He spent many hours at the library in San Leandro, CA, where he lived. Howard moved to Sweet Home, in 2018. Howard never married or had children and moved to Oregon to be closer to friends.

He was preceeded in death by his father, James, in 1970 and mother, Darinka, in 1999. He is survived by many cousins throughout Europe and the

United States. To those that knew him, he will be deeply missed.



Margie "Marty" V. Mason
February 17, 1934 - March 13, 2024

Margie "Marty" Mason, 90 of Sweet Home passed away Wednesday March 13, 2024. She was born February 17, 1934 to Ruby Lee (Simpson) and Walter Jefferson Mead in Blakely, Georgia.

Margie and her four brothers grew up in various towns in Georgia, Texas and Florida while the family "followed the work" and eventually settled in Houston, Texas around 1947.

From 1949 to 1972, being a beautiful woman, Margie acquired four husbands who gave her six children, moving with them from Lake Wells, Fl. to Santa Cruz, Ca. (1959-1970) and then on to Sweet Home (1971) where she adopted the nickname "Marty" and lived the rest of her adult life. She used to say, "my picker is broke" and said those marriages taught her a lot....Good and Bad. She and her ex's had no hard feelings and every one of them eventually ended up visiting Sweet Home to see her and the kids.

While she had various jobs in her life such as cannery worker, bartender and USDA inspector, her favorite job was working as a case worker for Oregon CSD where she could use her own experiences with poverty, tragedy and trauma to help children and their families.

In 1979, she met the love of

her life, Lyle Mason, one night at the Vets Club. The story goes that both loved to dance and saw each other repeatedly busy dancing with others. When Lyle finally sat down to get a breather, Marty walked up to him and said "I believe in Women's Lib. Do you want to dance?"....and Lyle said "Well, ok!". Marty and Lyle danced their way into a lifelong relationship with the couple marrying in 1980 and remained together close to 44 years until her recent passing. During her long illness and as she started to go blind, Lyle took great care of her ensuring she felt safe, loved, and cared for. The family is so grateful to him for the continual love he provided.

In the 80's and 90's, she spent most of her life babysitting her grandchildren and many others as well. She was a loving but strict grandma/babysitter remembered for always having plenty of toys to play with, trips to garage sales (they could spend a quarter each) and making them take naps so she could watch her soap operas....If they got out of line, she had a RARELY used wooden paddle with all their names on it that would be used to scare them into order.

When asked about her biggest joy in life, she would repeatedly say her kids/grandkids, music and her "love of God." Her biggest tragedies were the loss of her daughter Sheila when she was 15 months old in 1954, the loss of her mother in 1971 and in the same year, becoming a Gold Star Mother when she was notified two hours after moving to Sweet Home that her son Terry had been killed in Vietnam.

Marty was raised in the Pentecostal Church of God but the last 40 years of her life, she was a devout "born again" Christian that lived her beliefs. She forgave everyone that had caused her pain, asked forgiveness by all she could find for previous "unchristian" like behavior and most importantly "forgave herself because Jesus forgave her". Marty was a Christian, adventurous, feisty, smart, brave, and loving person who will be remembered for her wisdom, passion, and kindness to oth-

ers. She was an inspiration to her family and friends alike. We will miss her tremendously.

Marty is survived by her husband Lyle Mason, children: Theresa (Laune) Brown, Lynn Mankin, Rick (Melissa) Autry, Kevin Mason, all of Sweet Home, Travis (Bekka) Autry of Crestview, Florida, Jennie (Cory) Little of Eugene; brothers: Luther Mead of Coldspring, Texas, Walt (Pam) Mead of Redding, California, Steve (Jill) Mead of Houston, Texas. She is survived by 14 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

Marty was preceded in death and looking forward to seeing again daughter Sheila (1954), son Terry (1971), son Lance (2015), sister Jean (2008), brother Wayne (2017) sisters-in-law: Verlie, Sally and Carolyn.

Private family services will be held in June at Gilliland Cemetery. 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. After three days on hospice, she passed away due to bradycardia at Quail Run Assisted Living in Albany. She was born to Bertha Peden and Roy Flow-ers in Valliant, Oklahoma. Bertha went on to marry Samuel Henthorne and they had four children. This made Leola a big sister.

Leola moved to Sweet Home with her family when she was

15 years old where she attended Sweet Home High School. She met Arnold Weld who had recently discharged from the Air Force after serving for four years. They were married in 1957 during her junior year. She earned her high school diploma in 1958. She made her choice to serve the Lord and continued faithfully to the end. She was a stay-at-home mother when their children were young. Some of the activities she enjoyed were sewing, crocheting, traveling, and ceramics. Leola had several jobs over the years. They included the Sears Catalog Store, Sweet Home School District, Embossing Arts, and selling Tiara Glassware.

As an adult she connected with her biological father, which was a missing piece of the puzzle of her life. Leola and her immediate family appreciated their connection with them. Leola and Arnold enjoyed traveling to Mexico, Canada, England, France, Italy, Switzerland, Panama, and spending winters in Arizona. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Leola is survived by her children: Monty Weld (Donna) of Dallas, Rhonda Cannon (Mike) of Albany, Connie Hill (Paul) of Albany; eight grandchildren: Dempsey Weld (Stephanie) of Dallas, Ethan Weld of Dallas, Dawson Weld of Dallas, Andrew Cannon (Billie) of Albany, Anthony Logan Cannon (Katie) of Philomath, Spencer Cannon (Keli) of Portland, Regen McCutcheon of Albany, Cheyenne McCutcheon of Albany, and seven great-grandchildren. siblings: Shirley Steenhout (Willard) of Homer, AK, Drewsilla Baldwin (Gary), of Portland, and sister-in-law Claire Henthorne. She was preceded in death by her husband Arnold Weld, her brothers Dennis Henthorne and Sam Henthorne.

The wonderful care givers at Quail Run Assisted Living in Albany, where she had lived most recently, cared for her with love and compassion. For that her family is grateful.

Funeral service was on Tuesday, April 2nd at the Evangelical Church in Sweet Home.

The New Era

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TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
March	25	54	44
March	26	57	43
March	27	56	42
March	28	50	44
March	29	60	38
March	30	65	42
March	31	62	35

PRECIPITATION

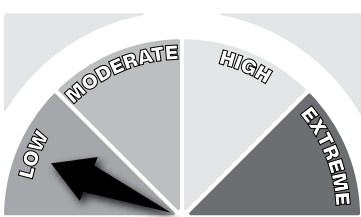
Year to date: 13.02
April 5, 2023: 12.81

FORECAST

DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Mostly Sunny	52	29
Fri	Mostly Sunny	62	31
Sat	Cloudy	52	40
Sun	Cloudy	51	50
Mon	Cloudy	50	44
Tues	Mostly Cloudy	53	42
Wed	Mostly Cloudy	54	39

LAKE LEVELS

Foster Reservoir: 615.3
Green Peter Res.: 987.2



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.

Private burial was at Gilliland Cemetery. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements www.sweethomefuneral.com.



Milfred "Kenneth" Gregory
January 11 1944 - March 17 2024.

Milfred "Kenneth" Gregory passed away on March 17, 2024.

Ken was born January 11th 1944, in Klamath Falls to Jack and Della Gregory.

Ken later settled in Sweet Home where he drove log truck, long haul trucking and he worked in Alaska for several years. He then retired, but continued to drive log truck some.

Ken married Bonnie Harper in December of 1993. They were married 29 years, until they parted when Bonnie passed away.

Ken enjoyed fishing, hunting, driving truck and camping. Ken also enjoyed driving around in the woods with his brother Gene. For years several friends gathered for "The Knee Walking Campout." This

is something he and Bonnie looked forward to each year. They would also set aside a camping trip to take the grandkids and great-grandkids on every year. The kids absolutely loved it. Grandpa Kenny bought a bike so he could go on rides while camping with the great-grandkids. He absolutely loved shooting the bull with his friends!

Ken is survived by his brother Gene Gregory (Gail) step-daughter Shalene Gill (Tim), step-son Dirrell Harper, nephew Wade(Michelle) niece Leigh, great-nephew Christian. Grandkids Jasmine (Jacob) Haily (Bryant) Zach, Cindy (Chapo) Tiffanie (Hunter) Jeff (Kim) Nick; Great grandkids Madison, Abigail, Grace, Tianna, Adrian, Jeremiah, Jreson, Kerra, Payton and Jace.

Ken is preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie Gregory, father Jack, mother Della, Brother Gerald, and step son Dennis. Per Ken's wishes, there won't be a public memorial.

Frederick Craig Wellhouser
May 21, 1947 - March 27, 2024
Frederick Craig Wellhouser, 76, of Brownsville passed away Wednesday, March 27, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Daniel Joseph Barry
April 23, 1940 - March 28, 2024
Daniel Joseph Barry, 83, of Sweet Home passed away Thursday, March 28, 2024. 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.

March 25
10:35 a.m - Prestin James Hugley, 40, was arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to comply on an original charge for third degree theft and failure to appear on an original charge for second degree criminal trespass.
1:53 p.m - Public Works reports a resident turned water

back on. Report taken for theft of services.
2:08 p.m - Unidentified driver was arrested for driving while suspended.
7:46 p.m - Cathy Ann Smith, 49, was arrested by Linn County Sheriff's Office on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for felon in possession of a weapon.
10:22 p.m - Caller reports gas cap was taken from vehicle. Report taken for third degree theft and unlawful entry into a motor vehicle.
11:48 p.m - Scott Kevin Heinz, was arrested for driving while suspended.
March 26
5:03 a.m - Kendra Lynne Montoya, was arrested by Albany PD on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for second degree criminal trespass.
10:16 a.m - Tara Danielle Saunders, 43, was arrested on Linn County Circuit Court warrants for first degree criminal mistreatment, making false claims for health card payment and second degree

theft. Lodged at Linn County Jail.
5:05 p.m - Malik Xavier Monyelle, 28, was arrested for second degree disorderly conduct. Booked, cited, released.
5:12 p.m - Deputies investigated a non-injury rollover crash. A 17 year old juvenile male stated he lost control on wet road and the vehicle rolled.
5:30 p.m - Colton Robert Michael Rictor, was arrested on an Oregon State Institution warrant for felon in possession of a weapon. Lodged at Linn County Jail.
March 27
5:13 p.m - John Scott, 69, was cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured. Scott was also arrested for a warrant, and failure to carry and present.
March 28
8:20 a.m - Sheri Yvonne Bower, 51, was arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to appear on three counts of second degree criminal trespass.
8:28 a.m - Joshua Kealo-
See Public Safety, Page 15

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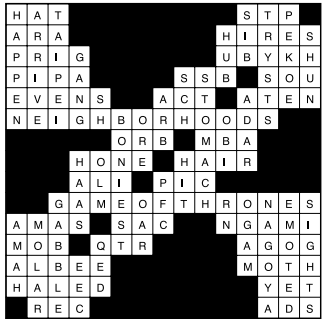


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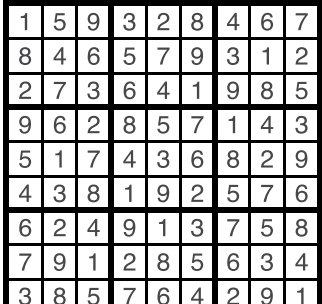
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Crossword KEY
Puzzle on page 15



SUDOKU KEY
Puzzle on page 15



73rd Annual Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Show a Resounding Success

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

The 73rd Annual Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Show delighted attendees this past weekend, March 30-31, offering a captivating experience for rock and mineral enthusiasts of all ages. The event was held at the Sweet Home High School Activity Gym located at 1641 Long St. Upon entering the gym, visitors were greeted with a vibrant array of displays showcasing an impressive collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils. Informative demonstrations provided valuable insights into the fascinating world of geology, captivating both newcomers and seasoned collectors alike.

A variety of vendors were on hand, offering a wide selection of rocks, minerals, and jewelry for purchase. The raffles added an element of excitement to the event, giving attendees the chance to win unique prizes while supporting the show. One such vendor, Marcus Logan from Visions Rock Shop was one of the attendees with a large selection of rocks and minerals he had brought from his shop in Lincoln City. He said of the



Photo by Kristy Tallman
Marcus Logan of Visions Rock Shop traveled all the way from Lincoln City to showcase his extensive collection of rare finds.

event, "This is the best show in the entire Pacific Northwest. We have visited a lot of rock shops and shows and this is our absolute favorite, best turnout, best folks in the entire state of Oregon." Logan, who has been operating a rock shop for nine years as well as rockhounding all his life, emphasized the exclusivity of the event, saying, "It takes many, many years to get into this club because they're very selective about who they allow in. And

people aren't giving up their spots either; it's an absolute favorite show." Also onhand was Logan's assistant Aunica Fragall who said, "The show has been absolutely amazing. All of the vendors have a bunch of different stuff, which I did not expect, and everyone has been extremely kind. It's been wonderful." For those in need of refreshment after exploring the exhibits, delicious food options were available for



Photo by Kristy Tallman
Treasures of the Sea was a display showcased at the event featuring rocks found off the Oregon Coast.

purchase outside, ensuring that everyone stayed energized throughout the day. The show was well-attended at the standing room only event, with enthusiasts of all ages coming together to share their passion for rocks and minerals. Admission to the event was a nominal \$1 and children aged 12 and under were admitted for free when accompanied by an adult. For anyone interested in learning more about rocks

and minerals or looking to add to their collection, the Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Show proved to be the place to be this past weekend. Organizers can be reached at (541) 451-2740 or (541) 451-1577 for more information about future events. Overall, the event was a resounding success, providing a fun and educational experience for attendees and showcasing the beauty and diversity of the world beneath our feet.

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Community Garden at Strawberry Park Now Open for Reservations



Photo by City of Sweet Home

Strawberry Park is accepting reservations for community plots.

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

The eagerly awaited moment has arrived for gardening enthusiasts in the community. According to the City of Sweet Home's Facebook page, the community garden at Strawberry Park is officially open for reservations. There are a limited number of plots available.

"We're excited to announce that our Community Garden is now ready for reservations," said city officials. "We have 10 plots available but could expand in the future if there is enough demand."

Each plot is priced at \$25 per year, offering a cost-effective opportunity for residents to cultivate their green thumbs. Plots will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so swift action is encouraged.

To secure your plot, interested parties must visit City Hall at 3225 Main St. in person. Upon arrival, individuals will be required to sign a waiver of liability and pay the nominal fee. The \$25 lease ensures exclusive access to your plot until December 31st.

"Some rules do apply and

are clearly stated on the waiver of liability that must be signed," said city officials. "We will also be making a waiting list in case future plots come available or someone has a plot revoked due to negligence or breaking the rules."

Watering facilities are conveniently available on-site, although lessees will need to provide their own watering cans and gardening tools. Additionally, lessees are entrusted with the full care and maintenance of their plots, though collaboration with fellow gardeners is encouraged.

In anticipation of future opportunities, organizers will maintain a waiting list for prospective gardeners. This list will prove invaluable should additional plots become available or if any lessees fail to adhere to the established guidelines.

The city will provide an update on their facebook page once the plots have been sold out or you may also call to check on the status.

For more information or to reserve your plot, visit City Hall and ask for Cindi or Adam when you come in.

LOCAL EVENTS

Annual Benefit Auction

East Linn Christian Academy will hold its annual benefit dinner and auction at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 5, at 36883 Victory Dr, Lebanon.

East Linn Christian has served the Linn County community by providing quality Christian education to students from preschool to grade 12 since 1982. Our classrooms, athletics and extracurricular activities provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills, identify their God-given gifts, and practice serving others. The Annual Spring Auction is the school's primary fundraiser.

The event includes a silent auction from 4:30-6:45 p.m., dinner by Forks and Corks at 6 p.m., Dessert Frenzy auction, and live auction. Cost to attend is \$75 per person.

Funds generated from the auction allow us to keep our tuition prices affordable, promote access to Christian education for a socio-econom-

ically diverse student body, and also help us provide an up to date curriculum.

Register at <https://bit.ly/3TXdMFS>.

"The Prom" at Albany Civic Theater

Albany Civic Theater presents "The Prom," directed by Christi E. Sears and Mirinda Keeling, at 7:30 p.m. on April 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27, and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 14 and 21, located at 111 First Ave. W., Albany.

Four eccentric Broadway stars are in desperate need of a new stage, so when they hear that trouble is brewing around a small-town prom, they know it's time to put a spotlight on the issue...and themselves. The town's parents want to keep the high school dance on the straight and narrow, but when one student just wants to bring her girlfriend to prom, the entire town has a date with destiny. "The Prom" captures

all the humor and heart of a classic musical comedy with a message that resonates with audiences now more than ever.

Tickets are \$17-20 for adults, and \$12 for kids. Discounts are available for seniors, military and veterans, and Oregon Trail Card holders. Visit www.AlbanyCivic.org for more information.

Auditions at Albany Civic Theater

"Bullshot Crummond" open auditions on April 8-9; performances in June. Directed by Erick A. Esrael, pilesopencils@hotmail.com.

"Spring Awakening" open auditions on April 22-23; performances in July. Directed by Christy Anderson, tuffy1299@comcast.net.

"Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr." open auditions on June 26-27; performances in August. Directed by Rebecca Douglas, rbailey@hotmail.com.

See Local Events, Page 12

Police Arrest Young Sweet Home Man on Sex Abuse Charges

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

Police arrested a Sweet Home man on a number of sex-related charges involving a girl under the age of 12.

Dakota Lee Phillips-Newport, 20, was arrested on March 22 at around 3:36 p.m.

He appeared in court on March 25 facing two counts of first-degree sexual abuse, and one count each of first-degree rape and first-degree sodomy.

On the two counts of first-degree sexual abuse, court documents indicate that Phillips-Newport "did unlawfully and knowingly subject a child under the age of 12 to sexual contact by touching her" and/or "by causing said child to have contact with the defendant's (private part)" some time between 2015 and 2020.

On the charge of first-degree rape, the state alleges that Phillips-Newport "did unlawfully and knowingly engage

in sexual intercourse with a child under 12 years of age" between 2015 and 2020.

On the charge of first-degree sodomy, the state alleges that Phillips-Newport "did unlawfully and intentionally attempt to engage in oral sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 12" between 2015 and 2020.

The court documents also include allegations that all counts contained within the filing that the crimes were of the same or similar character, based on the same act or transaction and was based on two or more acts or transactions connected together constituting parts of a common scheme or plan.

According to an affidavit filed by SHPD arresting officer Detective Sean Potter, who attended an interview with the victim at the ABC House in Albany, the victim was around six years old when the sexual abuse began.

At one point during the alleged incidents, the defendant told the victim he was a demon and this was the reasoning behind why she should comply with his wishes.

The victim, who didn't come forward until recently, said the reasoning behind her late allegations were due to the defendant threatening to kill her and her siblings if she spoke to anyone about it.

Potter interviewed Phillips-Newport on March 22. When confronted with the allegations, Phillips-Newport told Potter "he did not remember anything like that happening between them and offered no explanation as to why the victim would accuse him of such things."

Further in the affidavit, Potter reported that Phillips-Newport, however, did not deny the incidents occurring until Potter advised him that he was going to jail.

"I'm glad to have brought this case to an end, now I'll leave it in the court's hands," Potter said.

"It takes a lot of bravery for victims to come forward and our goal is to seek justice for them to the best of our abilities. It's a team effort."

Phillips-Newport is being held in Linn County Jail on a \$50,000 bail. He is due to appear in court on April 8 at 8:30 a.m.

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Igniting Ambitions: Young Women's Fire Academy Now Open for Registration

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

The Young Women's Fire Academy, based in Oregon, offers a transformative experience for aspiring firefighters and young women eager to explore the dynamic world of emergency services. Tailored specifically for individuals between the ages of 14 and 19 residing in Oregon, our academy provides a comprehensive curriculum taught by local female firefighters. From mastering fire suppression techniques to honing leadership skills, our program is designed to foster an interactive, supportive, and inspiring atmosphere where participants can gain invaluable insights into the fire service industry. With a focus on empowerment and skill development, the Young Women's Fire Academy is more than a training ground—it's a pathway to personal and professional growth, equipping participants with the tools they need to succeed in any career path they choose.

Scheduled for July 13 and 14, from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm, the 2024 Young Women's Fire Academy promises a transformative experience. Registration is free of charge, and the application deadline is Friday, May 3rd, 2024, by 4:30 p.m. Eligible applicants must be between the ages of 14 and 19 and reside in the state of Oregon. The application packet includes the Candidate Form, Fire Academy Rules Form, Adult or Minor Authorization and Release Statements Form, and Health History



Photo provided by Young Women's Fire Academy
2023 Graduating Class of the Young Women's Fire Academy offered by Linn County.

and Emergency Contact Form.

Chief Nick Tyler of the Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District emphasized the academy's significance, stating, "The Young Women's Academy provides an amazing opportunity for our local girls to experience what being a firefighter entails."

Tyler further shared personal insights, saying, "My daughter Chloe participated in the academy as well as Battalion Chief Eli Harris' daughter, Madison. They both loved the experience of participating in hands-on firefighter activities. It not only showed them what Dad

does but also gave them the confidence that they could do anything they put their minds to."

Tyler emphasized girls from Sweet Home are encouraged to apply, stating, "I would highly encourage all girls that fit the age requirements to take part in this event, regardless of what they are looking at for a future career."

He added, "It not only provides an inside look into what firefighters do but also instills the self-confidence to be successful in any endeavor. As a girl dad and as a fire chief, I cannot speak highly enough of this program."

Benefits of Attending the Young Women's Fire Academy

Participants of the Young Women's Fire Academy can anticipate a range of benefits from this immersive experience. By attending the academy, young women will:

- Gain hands-on experience in essential fire suppression techniques under the guidance of experienced female firefighters.
- Develop leadership skills through interactive workshops and team-building exercises.
- Build confidence and self-esteem, realizing their potential to succeed in traditionally male-dominated

professions.

- Network with professionals in the fire service industry, creating opportunities for mentorship and future career pathways.
- Acquire valuable life-saving skills and knowledge that can be applied in emergency situations, benefitting both their communities and themselves.

Prospective participants can submit their application packets through various means:

- In-person drop-off: Deliver application packet to Station 31/Headquarters at 1050 W. Oak Street, Lebanon. Drop-off hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.
- Mail: Send application packet via mail to:
Linn County Young Women's Fire Academy c/o The Lebanon Fire District
Attn: Lieutenant Erin Nunes

1050 W. Oak Street
Lebanon, Oregon 97355
- Email: Email application packet to Lieutenant Erin Nunes at enunes@lebanon-fire.com.

The Young Women's Fire Academy stands as a shining beacon of opportunity for young women aspiring to careers in emergency services. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to embark on a journey of personal and professional growth in the thrilling realm of firefighting. Apply now and take the first decisive step towards realizing your dreams of making a meaningful impact in your community.

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LOGGERS

From page 1

any changes, suggesting that the decision had been pre-terminated. "The decision was made ages ago," she asserted, highlighting what she believed was a lack of genuine debate or consideration for alternative perspectives.

Despite years of public comment and ardent feedback from counties, taxing districts, businesses, residents, and several Board members to improve outcomes and balance the HCP, State Forester Mukumoto and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) staff remained steadfast in their initial proposal, seemingly overlooking the significant socio-economic and conservation consequences of their actions.

Chair Jim Kelly's assertion during the vote that, "Projected harvest volumes for the next three years are quite healthy..." was criticized by Storm as a diversionary tactic. Storm emphasized, "Chair Kelly tried to divert attention from the reality of significant timber reductions for the next 70 years by discussing projected future harvest volumes over the next three years, assuring job reliability without directly addressing the negative long-term impacts of the decision."



Photo by Kristy Tallman

On March 7, ODF board members voted in the State Lands Habitat Conservation Plan amid pleas by loggers from across the state not to destroy their livelihoods through what they believe is agency overreach.

To the AOL, the approval of the HCP signals a troubling shift towards more restrictive forest management practices, reminiscent of federal policies from the 1990s that harmed local communities without yielding significant environmental benefits. The plan designates vast areas as 'no touch' zones, hindering proper forest management and exacerbating regional timber supply constraints.

AOL maintains that logging

is conservation, emphasizing its role in protecting Oregon's forests from wildfires and insect-borne diseases.

In response to the board's decision, the Oregon Republican Caucus, like AOL, also criticized the HCP, referencing scientific perspectives, including findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which recognize managed forests as significant contributors to climate mitigation. They

stressed the potential benefits of sustainable forest management, including the production of renewable wood products vital for addressing issues such as homelessness, affordable housing, and forest fires.

"The HCP will exacerbate these issues," they warned, advocating for "proper and sustainable management" of forests as an alternative solution.

Previous to the vote, Governor Tina Kotek had written a letter to the Board

dated Mar. 5, 2024, acknowledging the complexity of the decision-making process while commending the Board members for their dedication. She wrote, "This is certainly a difficult week for each of you serving on the Board as you decide whether the State Forester should finalize and submit the proposed HCP for Oregon's westside forests."

Kotek's letter highlighted ongoing efforts to address the fiscal impact on Trust Land Counties resulting from reduced harvest levels anticipated under the HCP. She assured the Board of her commitment to finding solutions, stating, "I see a viable pathway forward to address the estimated reduction in timber receipts that would result from implementing the anticipated HCP."

In light of these concerns, the AOL calls for immediate action to revisit and revise the HCP to ensure a more balanced approach that can meet both conservation and economic objectives. The organization remains committed to working alongside community leaders, forest operators, and residents to ensure that ODF maximizes allowable harvest volumes under the HCP and that stakeholders' voices are considered in the ongoing development of a Forest Management Plan for State Forests.

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LAKE TOWN

From page 1

year have been through an array of lesson-building activities. Students explored owl pellets, built an outdoor fort, examined a composting jar, designed models of their dream house, did a group project on Egypt, interviewed people in careers (including pilot, lawyer, architect, farmer, realtor, store manager), and took turns teaching the class about something they're interested in (such as how to build a keyboard, sign language, the history of rockets, and chickens).

When they return from spring break this year, they will start a garden, hatch chickens and learn how to start a business selling chicken eggs.

Talking about the kindergartners who built a fort with tarps and tree branches, Knight noted how they figured it all out on their own.

"They're so smart," she said. "If you just let them be kids and figure it out, they do it and it's good for them to figure it out. Like, the whole engineering aspect of that little fort out there has been pretty good."

For the first year, Lake Town offered part-time preschool, a kindergarten through second grade class, a third through eighth grade class, and a high school program. Next fall, the school will offer part-time and

full-time preschool, kindergarten through second, third through fifth, sixth through eighth, and a part-time or full-time hybrid high school program. Each class is capped at 20 students.

"I think our most challenging program this year was the high school program," Knight said. "It's just so much different with high schoolers, so we kind of remodeled that for next year."

Ninth through 12th graders will be able to go through an online accredited program at Lake Town or do home school, with an option to attend workshops on campus, or even take classes through the Sweet Home School District. The workshops at Lake Town will be two days a week and consist of people from the community sharing the trades they're skilled in.

"We're kind of excited about that because it gives families flexibility with their high schoolers," Knight said. "They can either come two days a week, four days a week, half-day, full-day. They can come just for the workshops that we're offering or extra tutoring."

When Knight and Haselip first got the ball rolling for Lake Town Academy, Knight felt like some people in the community couldn't grasp the concept of alternative education.

"I feel like when we started

this school, there were a lot of misconceptions on what we're trying to achieve with it," Knight said. "I think some people were afraid that their kids wouldn't actually learn something. You could sit and discuss different forms of education until you're blue in the face, but really our goal is just to love and teach kids in a way that best serves them."

She noted that her oldest son attends public high school because that system works better for him. She also reported that some parents were able to take their kids off medication for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder while attending Lake Town.

Seeing those kids who were once on meds and didn't look forward to school but are now off meds and excited about school is one of the highlights for Knight's first year as a school founder and teacher. She also appreciates the "huge growth" in many of her other students.

"It's been really cool to see mixed ages intermingle and seeing older kids come alongside the younger ones and help them," Knight added.

Though Lake Town is expanding and has had a waiting list this year, Knight isn't certain yet if she'd ever want the school to get as big as, say, East Linn Christian Academy.

"There's something special



Photo provided by Ashley Knight

Preschoolers pound golf tees into styrofoam in an exercise that teaches letter and number recognition.

about a smaller school community, and it does feel like family here," she said.

Lake Town's last day of the school year is May 30. In June, the school will host a three-day camp to teach skills such as gardening, homesteading, canning and outdoor survival. In July, another three-day camp will focus on "sciency," STEM-like projects.

The school is hosting a fundraiser on April 26 to raise money for tuition scholarships. The administrators would also like to acquire a van or bus that could transport 20 kids or more for field trips.

"It's been a whirlwind year, but I think it has been really good and exciting," Knight said.

SHFAD Discovery of Electrified Rock: Unveiling the Power of Electricity

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

Following a brush fire in Cascadia, the Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District recovered a rock in the area that will serve as an educational tool about fires.

On March 15 at 12:34 p.m., SHFAD received a distress call reporting a wire down in the rural area of Cascadia, approximately 13 miles east of Sweet Home. First arriving units found flames two to three feet high along Highway 20, quickly moving into nearby trees and brush.

"Extinguishing the fire proved difficult due to a live power line on the ground, but thanks to Pacific Power's quick response, crews were able to contain the fire to about a 300' x 25' area," SHFAD Chief Nick Tyler said.

SHFAD was assisted on scene by an engine from Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon State Police and Linn County Sheriff's Office.

"This is a startling reminder of how fast fuels can dry out with just a few days of sunshine, as we are far ahead of the normal time of year we see incidents such as this," Tyler said.



Photo by Sky Chappell

The rock pictured was found on the scene of a fire with electrical lines down. SHFAD found the rock and will use it to teach others just how powerful electricity can be.

Following the successful extinguishing of the fire, SHFAD members stumbled upon an intriguing find: a rock with a peculiar hole caused by the electrical line. Surprisingly, the rock retained its heat and emitted steam, indicating the recent passage of electricity

through it.

Tyler expressed his astonishment as he showed board members the rock.

"I have never seen anything like it in 22 years in the fire service," he said.

The incident highlighted the profound effects that

electricity can have on rocks. For example, when a power line comes into contact with a rock, it can generate enough heat to melt the rock, transforming it into glass. Similarly, the intense heat can induce crack formation in the rock, a process that can be simulated using numerical models. Additionally, as voltage travels through the earth, it dissipates due to the resistive nature of rock and soil.

Furthermore, lightning strikes can also have dramatic effects on rocks. When lightning hits a rock, it can cause heating to over 2,000 kelvins near the strike point, leading to the burning off of organic material. The intense heat can cause the rock to burst in milliseconds, reaching temperatures of up to 54,000°F (almost 30,000°C).

Lightning can also shock rocks at the atomic level and alter their atomic structure, leaving behind shock features in quartz and disrupting mineral structures.

Safety around fallen power lines is of utmost importance. Guidance from Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) advises individuals to maintain a minimum safe distance of 35 feet from any felled electrical wire,

which is approximately the length of an average school bus. It is imperative to keep children and pets away from these hazards to prevent accidents and injuries.

The rock recovered by SHFAD will serve as a valuable teaching tool for firefighters and linemen, demonstrating the sheer force and impact of high-intensity electrical lines. Tyler mentioned receiving a request from Travis Miner, an employee of PG&E, who expressed interest in using the rock for training purposes to illustrate the power of such lines.

"I did get a phone call from Travis Miner," Tyler said. "He's like, 'Where's the rock and what are you doing with it? I'd really like to have it here, I'd like to train with it.' So we're going to house it, but he's going to take the rock for training just to show the power of a high intensity line and what it can do."

While the rock will be housed at SHFAD, it will also be utilized for educational purposes to enhance understanding of the power of electricity in the field.

OHA Celebrates Funding Victory Against Chronic Wasting Disease

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is celebrating a significant victory for Oregon's wildlife following the approval of crucial funding to combat Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). This accomplishment is the result of a meticulous two-year effort led by Amy Patrick, OHA's policy director, showcasing the organization's steadfast commitment to protecting Oregon's natural heritage.

As of March 2024, CWD has spread across the United States and parts of Canada, affecting free-ranging deer, elk, and moose in at least 32 states and four Canadian provinces. Additionally, cases of CWD have been reported in reindeer and moose populations in Norway, Finland, and Sweden, with isolated instances in South Korea involving imported cases. The disease has also been identified in farmed deer and elk populations.

"Securing additional funding to fight CWD was a two-year process," says Amy Patrick. "This is a huge win for the sportsmen and women of Oregon, and most importantly, for our wildlife."

"Oregon has been fortunate thus far to avoid positive CWD detections. However, given the proximity of cases in Idaho, it's crucial that we take proactive measures to prevent its introduction into our state," Patrick stated.

When CWD was detected near the Oregon border in Idaho, OHA and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) intensified efforts to address the looming threat. Patrick empha-

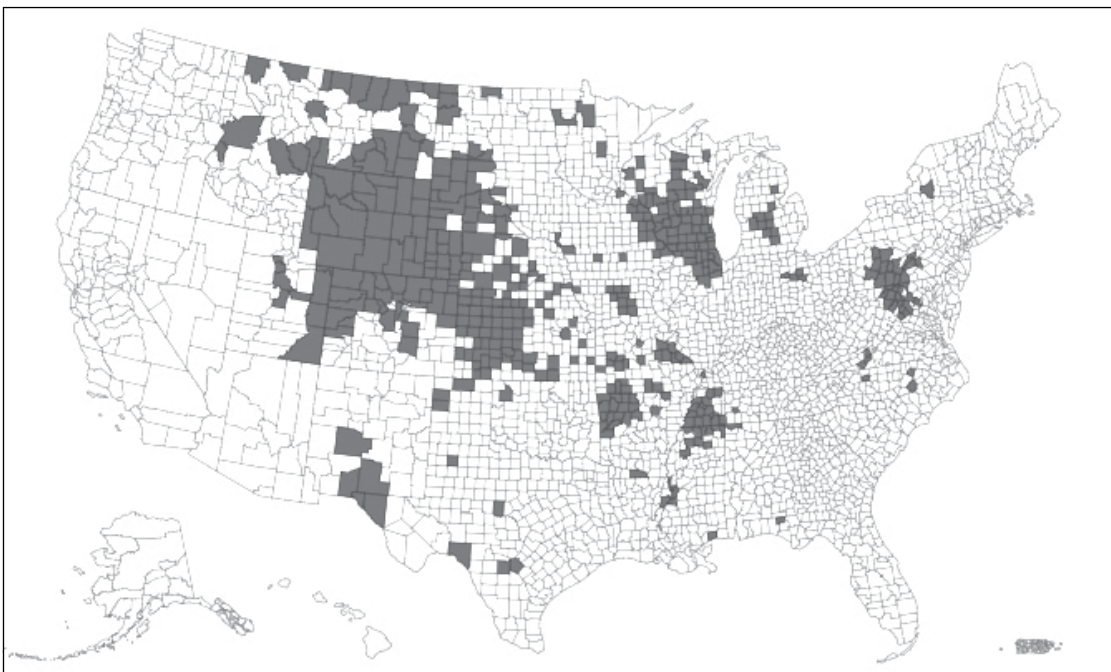


Photo provided by Centers For Disease Control

As of March 2024, there were 436 counties in 32 states with reported CWD in free-ranging cervids. This map is based on the best-available information from multiple sources, including state wildlife agencies and the United States Geological Survey.

sized the significance of the legislation to allow for increased sample collection and in-state testing, stating, "Oregon has been fortunate thus far to avoid positive CWD detections. However, given the proximity of cases in Idaho, it's crucial that we take proactive measures to prevent its introduction into our state."

Originating from captive deer in a Colorado research facility in the late 1960s, CWD was first detected in wild deer in 1981. By the 1990s, its presence had expanded to neighboring regions in northern Colorado and southern Wyoming. Since 2000, the geographical extent of CWD's impact on free-ranging animals has broadened to encompass at least 32 states spanning all four regions of the con-

tinental United States. The disease's spread may extend to additional states with less robust animal surveillance systems, where cases remain undetected. Once established in an area, CWD can persist in the environment for extended periods, contributing to the continued expansion of affected regions.

While the overall prevalence of CWD in free-ranging deer and elk nationwide remains relatively low, infection rates can exceed 10 percent in several established locations. Some areas have reported localized infection rates surpassing 25 percent, indicating significant transmission within affected populations. Notably, captive deer populations may experience even higher infection rates, with reports

documenting rates as high as 79 percent in at least one captive herd.

The approved funding, totaling \$1.9 million allocated to the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OVDL) at Oregon State University and \$795,000 designated for ODFW, marks a significant investment in enhancing Oregon's capacity to monitor and combat CWD. "OHA will not be doing any of the testing," Patrick clarifies. "We were the organization that authored the original CWD funding bill in 2023." She further explains that the funds will support ODFW and the OVDL in their critical monitoring and testing initiatives.

Patrick encourages hunters to actively participate in the monitoring process by submitting samples at ODFW Check Stations and

reporting any observations of sickly-looking deer or elk. "Hunters play a crucial role in wildlife conservation, and their contributions to monitoring efforts are invaluable," she emphasizes.

"CWD is a 100% fatal prion disease that affects our ungulate populations," Patrick states. "It is transmitted between animals through direct and indirect contact, making it particularly difficult to control."

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal prion disease that impacts deer, elk, and other cervids, with reported cases in North America, including the United States. While no cases have been reported in humans, studies suggest potential risks, highlighting the importance of proactive measures to prevent its spread within Oregon's wildlife populations. The disease, which may take over a year to manifest symptoms, poses significant challenges for wildlife management and public health.

Looking ahead, OHA remains committed to supporting ODFW's efforts to monitor, test, and research CWD. "Our collaboration with ODFW is essential in developing effective strategies to combat CWD and safeguard Oregon's wildlife," says Patrick. "We will continue to advocate for continued funding, updated policies, and access to federal resources for monitoring and research purposes."

In securing funding to bolster Oregon's capacity to monitor and combat CWD, the OHA has achieved a significant milestone. With ongoing commitment and collaboration among stakeholders, including hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, and government agencies, Oregon stands poised to effectively confront the challenges posed by CWD and preserve its cherished wildlife heritage for generations to come.



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Huskies Softball Have A CIRCUIT COURT

By Kristy Tallman
Of The New Era

The Sweet Home Softball team faced several challenges at the Battle at the Beach Tournament in Newport, finishing (1-3). On Friday, March 25, the Huskies kicked off their season with a high-scoring matchup against the Tigers of Junction City (8-3). Despite their efforts, the Huskies fell short, losing 23-16 in a hard-fought game. Later that day, the Huskies bounced back with a 9-7 victory over the Warriors of Toledo (3-5). Showcasing resilience and determination, the Huskies secured their first win of the tournament. Saturday brought more tough competition for the Huskies. In the morning game, the Huskies suffered a close 12-10 loss to the Tigers

of Taft (1-7). Struggling to maintain their lead, the girls ultimately fell to Taft by just two runs. In their final game of the tournament, the Huskies faced a tough opponent, the undefeated Lions of St. Helens (10-0). Despite their efforts, the girls were unable to generate any offense, resulting in a 15-0 loss. With the conclusion of their first tournament of the season, the Huskies' overall record stands at 2-7. In the latest rankings, the Huskies are placed at #27 in the OSAA 4A Rank, #25 in the RPI Rank, and #29 in the Colley Rank. The New Era reached out to Head Coach Emily Marchbanks for a statement on the team's performance, but she did not respond to our inquiries.

Huskies Show Resilience Despite Tough Losses at Newport Tournament

By Sky Chappell
Of The New Era

The Sweet Home Huskies (0-7) faced a challenging spring break, enduring back-to-back losses against the Astoria Fishermen (4-6) and the Seaside Seagulls (4-4) on March 27 and 28. The Huskies' week began with a tough 3-7 loss against the Astoria Fishermen. "This was an early game, so it took us a bit to really get dialed in. However, we played well," Head Coach Evan Teter said. A critical moment came in the second inning when Astoria scored six runs, significantly impacted by a torrential downpour, challenging the Huskies' defense and spirit. "A lot of that can be chalked up to the torrential downpour that we endured," Teter explained, "[But] If you take away that inning, this is a completely different game." The following day, the Huskies went head-to-head with the Seaside Seagulls, culminating in a 10-13 loss. Despite the defeat, the Huskies showcased an offensive game, amassing 10 hits, including 2 doubles, and batting .300 for the game. "This was a great, complete game that we put together," Teter said. The loss was particularly felt by the team, demonstrating their passion and determination for success. "The guys took this one pretty hard, but that really showed their passion and drive to be successful," Teter reflected. The tournament, played at

a constant site in Newport, offered the Huskies not just a competitive platform but also a chance for significant team bonding. Staying in a beach house in Lincoln City, the team enjoyed free time together, strengthening their unity. Teter believes this bonding experience will enhance their play as a unified group, a quality the team has already been demonstrating. "We grew closer over the week, and I feel that this will allow us to play as a more unified group moving forward," he said, expressing pride in the team's continuous improvement and work ethic. Jon Holly stood out with an impressive performance, going 5 for 8 with 4 RBIs over the week, including a notable 4 for 5 against Seaside. Despite the week's losses, Teter's confidence in the team remains unshaken. "It can be discouraging to be on the losing side as often as we have been, but I have full confidence in our team. This program is moving in the right direction," Teter concluded. As the Huskies look forward, the lessons learned and the unity forged during this tournament in Newport are set to be invaluable assets for the matches that lie ahead. The Huskies will be playing their last non-league games April 2 at home against Cottage Grove (7-4) and again April 4 at home against Molalla (3-3). Following these games, the Huskies will be playing their first league game April 8th away against Philomath (1-4).

Warrants are out on the following individuals: *Damion Michael Aragon, Kaleb Kimber Banta, Jacob Reginald Bliss, Christian Jacob Boatwright, Raymond Larry Bodda, 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, Larry Robert Morgan, Nicholas Alan Nelson, Daniel Austin Phillips, Julianne Nicole Phillips, Tammy Lavonn Robinson, Paul Levi Shelton, Harley Michelle Webb.*

Ryan Randall Carbon, 40, was charged March 26 with unlawful use of a weapon, unlawful possession of a firearm and driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Gabriel Frank Grajiola,

40, was sentenced March 25 to 90 days of driver license suspension, 32 months in the Department of Corrections, 24 months of post supervised release, and a \$300 fine following guilty pleas for fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, felon in possession of a firearm and unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

Breanna Marie Johnston, 30, was dismissed without prejudice for charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and failure to appear on a criminal citation.

Joshua Kealohanui Ben Leslie Jr., 35, was charged March 23 with stalking, public indecency, endangering the welfare of a minor and second degree criminal trespass.

Yihua Liu, 29, was sentenced March 29 to 10 days in jail, 24 months of proba-

tion and a \$200 fine following a no contest plea for unlawful manufacture of a marijuana item. Charges dismissed: Unlawful possession of a marijuana item.

Joseph Francis Mance, 38, was charged March 27 with two counts of driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving.

Dale Jesse Grant Reeley, 35, was charged March 28 with first degree unlawful sexual penetration, two counts of first degree sexual abuse and two counts of third degree sexual abuse.

Donald Glenn Rodgers, 60, was charged March 26 with failure to report as a sex offender.

Andriel Justine Vertrees, 38, was charged March 25 with first degree burglary and second degree criminal mischief.

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LOCAL EVENTS

From page 6

com.

Visit www.AlbanyCivic.org for more information.

After 5 Connection

The After 5 Connection (Stonecroft) will present "Everything Old is New Again," by speaker Joan Vidlak, from 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, at Ma's Restaurant, 2416 S. Santiam Hwy, Lebanon.

Vidlak, from Colorado, will share a message about overcoming sorrow after many tragedies in her life. She speaks of how Stonecroft friends helped her through hard times, and uses humor even in the face of serious topics. She also shows us how she takes an item and turns it into a new creation, something it was not originally meant to be. Watch how she has turned overalls into a hobo bag and embellished denim jackets.

Cost for dinner and the program is \$18 (no credit cards please). RSVP by contacting Sherri at 541.258.6414, or Nancy at 541.259.1396 (or email NancyPinzino@com-cast.net).

Medicine in the Civil War

Keith Menk and Ashley Wendell, Civil War reenactors who specialize in happenings within the medical tent, will give a talk on Civil War medicine at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, at the Lebanon Public Library, 55 Academy St.

Sponsored by the Lebanon Museum Foundation and the Lebanon Public Library, this program is open to the public and free for all.

For more information about this program or about the Lebanon Museum Foundation, call Linda at 503.707.1539,

find "Lebanon Museum" on Facebook, or visit the website at lebanonmuseum.org.

Garden Club flower show

The Lebanon Garden Club will host some flower design classes at the Lebanon Senior Center from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the following dates: April 18, April 25, May 2, May 9. This will be in anticipation of the club's upcoming annual flower show to be held on Friday, May 31, and Saturday, June 1. More information will be forthcoming.

Dinner, Silent Auction Fundraiser

Lake Town Academy will host a pizza dinner, movie and silent auction at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 26, at House of Glory church, 30337 Fairview Road, between Lebanon and Sweet Home.

Cost is \$25 per person. Childcare is available for \$5 per child. Silent auction donations are sought. To purchase tickets, visit LakeTownAcademy.com/store. For more information, contact Ashley Knight at 541.224.6828 or email laketownacademy@gmail.com.

The funds raised through the auction help enhance the educational experience for the students, provide resources that may not be covered by the school's regular budget, and support scholarships. This year Lake Town is specifically trying to raise funds for a school van/bus that would allow them to get out and do more field learning, community service, and have an increased access to resources.

Civil War at Cheadle Park

The Northwest Civil War

See Local Events, Page 15

ODOT Grant to Provide Transportation for Veterans



Reagan Maudlin

Jess Valenzuela

By Alex Paul

For The New Era

Veterans who live in rural Linn County will have access to transportation to medical facilities thanks to a \$50,000 Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Commissioners Roger Nyquist and Sherrie Sprenger approved accepting the grant. Commissioner Will Tucker was not present.

Linn County Transportation Director Reagan Maudlin told the Board of Commissioners on March 26 that she worked with Linn County Veterans Services to submit the grant application. Funding for the program is not always available, but this grant will run until July 2025.

"We are really excited about this," Maudlin said outside of the meeting. "It is a statewide competition for the funding, that must be used solely for veterans' transportation programs."

She thanked Jessica Valenzuela of Veterans Services for her work toward the grant application.

Maudlin said transportation can be more expensive for rural residents, so this grant will help buffer some of that cost.

Linn County has been providing transportation for area veterans for a couple years thanks to funding from the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and the Linn County Board of Commissioners.

This new funding stream will provide another pool of money and extend opportunities.

Valenzuela said Linn County Veterans Services coordinates about 20 rides per month and

works with Quality Medical Services.

"They use both cars and vans with wheelchair access," Valenzuela said.

Transportation is for medical appointments only.

According to ODOT, the Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Grant Program was created in 2019 and began with \$500,000 in funding. In 2021 that was increased to \$650,000 and funded 12 area programs and development of Go Vets Oregon, a "veterans only portal on ODOT's ride matching Get There Connect."

To access healthcare rides for local visits, visit the Linn County Veterans Services website at [www. https://www.linncountyor.gov/vets](http://www.linncountyor.gov/vets).

In other business, the commissioners:

- Were told by Juvenile Detention Manager Kevin Husk that four young people from Benton County, 33 from Linn County and three from Lincoln County were held at the detention center last month. There were 77 referrals in February. There are 202 young people in the Probation Unit, of which 34 are considered high-risk.

- Approved a temporary part-time employment agreement with Corrections Deputy Lori Frenzel. She has been working for a year and the new agreement will add one more year.

- Accepted a permanent easement along Seven Mile Lane from Kenneth D. Roth and J. Evon Roth; a permanent easement from Roth Valley Family Farms, Kenneth D. Roth and J. Evon Roth as Trustees of the Kenneth and J. Evon Roth Revocable Trust. Approved publishing a bid

advertisement and set a bid opening date for the Seven Mile Lane turn lane paving project.

- Adopted the Linn County Community Wildfire Protection Plan presented by Associate Planner Kate Bentz. In a written report, Bentz said the plan was developed with intergovernmental collaboration with local, regional, state and federal partners.

- Approved a \$500,000 increase in the Health Department budget for new Alcohol and Drug contracts with the CDC and IHN (Intergovernmental Health Network).

- Approved a \$120,000 increase within the General Fund to backfill the Justice of the Peace Courts State Assessment pass through money.

- Made numerous appointments including: Community Action Advisory Council: Fred Edward and Jason Dorsette, reappointments; Alcohol & Drug Planning Committee: Angie Jansen and Penny Davis, reappointments; Linn-Benton Housing Authority: Stacey Bartholomew, reappointment; Linn Local Advisory Committee: Andrea Bartell, new appointment, Judy Rinkin, Larry Eby, Kathryn Henderson and Maria Buttram, reappointments; Mental Health Advisory Board: Shawnell Tolliver, Kate Hall and Dick Knowles, all reappointments; Planning Commission: Robert Bronson, Melissa Barnard and Rayne Legras, all reappointments; Historical Resource Commission: Richard Harper and Mandy Cole, both reappointments; Compensation Board: Jack Breen, Rebecca Grizzle and Susan Coleman, all reappointments.

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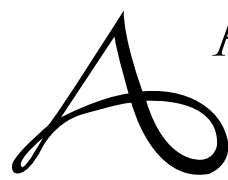
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Q: Do I have dry eyes or allergies?

A: Although allergy season is in full swing some people who have allergy type symptoms may in fact have dry eyes. There are specific eye drops for allergies and dry eyes. It's important to use the correct drop or you may make your symptoms worse. Education or evaluation can facilitate the right treatment. Dry eye is an inflammation type condition in which there are insufficient tears to lubricate and nourish the eye. Tears are necessary for maintaining the health of the front surface of the eye and for providing clear vision. People with dry eyes either do not produce enough tears or have a poor quality of tears. Dry eye is a common and often chronic problem, particularly in older adults. The primary approaches used to manage and treat dry eyes include adding tears, conserving tears, increasing tear production, and/or treat the inflammation of the eyelids or eye surface that contributes to the dry eyes. Ocular Allergies is the abnormal response of sensitive eyes to contact with allergens and other irritating substances. Pollen in the air is the most common cause of allergy symptoms but other things in the air such as smoke, animal dander or fumes may also trigger an allergic response. The primary approach to manage ocular allergy is avoidance of allergic triggers, cool compresses, eyewash, oral anti-histamines or eye drops specific for allergies. Most eye drops used for dry eyes are mainly used to increase volume of tears. Drops used for ocular allergies have an anti-histamine component, which reduces the effects of histamine but also dry the eye. Using an ocular allergy drop will make a dry eye problem feel worse. If you are unable to find relief you should have your eyes evaluated to determine what condition you have and the best treatment options available to you specifically.

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Q: What are the worst drinks for my teeth?

A: Ironically, many of the foods and drinks we enjoy the most aren't good for us at all.

1. SODA. Two of the most harmful things for our teeth are sugar and acid, and carbonated beverages are full of both! The teeth literally start dissolving under the attack of the acid, leading to cavities.

2. SPORTS DRINKS. Like soda, they are often full of sugar and are highly acidic. One study showed that lemon-lime Gatorade dissolved more tooth enamel than any other drink, including Coke.

3. FRUIT JUICE. After reading to this point, you probably know why this is on the list. Juice has lots of sugar and acid too. While it could be considered a healthy option, most fitness experts will advise you not to drink your calories. Eat the entire fruit instead, and enjoy the health benefits of the fiber.

Drink lots of water, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle, and see your dentist regularly, to be sure your teeth stay in good shape!

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Community classes to keep you healthy

Get support for blood cancer
Wednesday, April 17 | 1:30 to 3 p.m. and
Wednesday, May 15 | 1:30 to 3 p.m.

The virtual Blood Cancer Support Group is free and open to any adult with a history of lymphoma, leukemia or myeloma. Support groups foster a sense of community for those living with a cancer diagnosis and offer opportunities to learn from others. For additional information, call Kathy Nepper, RN, at 541-768-2376.

Support hospice patients and families
Tuesday, April 30 | 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Albany General Hospital Foundation invites you to the Samaritan Evergreen Hospice benefit luncheon featuring keynote speaker Barb Hansen, CEO of Oregon Hospice & Palliative Care Association. This special fundraising event celebrates the importance of compassionate end-of-life care in our community. All proceeds will support care and needed services for hospice patients and families. Tickets are \$35 per person. RSVP by Monday, April 15, by visiting samhealth.org/HospiceLuncheon or call 541-812-4819.

Be empowered at the cancer survivor retreat
Friday, April 26 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Mind, Body Sexual Health and Cancer Survivor Retreat is a free one-day event at the Corvallis Country Club meant for female-identifying cancer survivors. Participants will engage with host, Jessica Bell, PA-C, who specializes in sexual medicine at Samaritan Health Services. The retreat will focus on learning, community and employment. Information about anatomy, sexual health and mindfulness-based interventions will be discussed in a supportive and welcoming environment. Participants will leave with tangible tools to support all of the topics covered. For more information, or to register, contact the Samaritan Cancer Resource Center at 541-768-2171 or email CancerResourceCenter@samhealth.org.

Become a volunteer

Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital is seeking volunteers to make a difference in the lives of patients. Volunteering is a great way to connect with people, gain experience, help our community and support staff and patients in clinical and non-clinical areas. Current volunteer opportunities include working as a coffee barista, in the gift shop and helping lead tours in the hospital's healing garden. For more information, visit samhealth.org/HappyHelper or email Sheryl Cox at sherylc@samhealth.org.


Create and connect: ArtsCare workshop for cancer patients & survivors
Second Saturday of every month | 10 a.m. to noon

Participate in art sessions led by talented artists for cancer patients and survivors. The sessions are free, including materials, and a great way to connect with others and form new friendships. Prior art experience is not necessary. Bring a friend or family member. Registration is encouraged. Contact ArtsCare Program Manager Erin Gudge at ArtsCare@samhealth.org or 541-768-7138.

Samaritan health seminars available
Ongoing at samhealth.org/HealthSeminars

The medical professionals of Samaritan Health Services host online health seminars on a variety of topics throughout the year. If you are unable to attend a live session, you are welcome to view a recording of past programs online.

Visit samhealth.org/Classes for a complete list of classes and support groups in your community.



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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY
OF LINN Probate Department
In the Matter of the Estate of
LARRY WILLIAM PAINTER, Deceased.
Case No. 24PB02677 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 23, 2024, Virginia May Strickler, was appointed as Personal Representative of the above-referenced estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached to the Personal Representative or to Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney, at the addresses listed below, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.
Personal Representative:
Virginia Mae Strickler
1200 Evergreen Lane
Sweet Home, OR 97386
(541) 405-5201
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney OSB# 023915
PO Box 81 ~ 1195 Main Street Suite 2
Sweet Home, OR 97386
(541) 270-2406
mealer@actionnet.net
(Apr 3)

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Linn In the Matter of the Estate of Frank Alden Sheythe, Deceased. No. 24PB02542 - Probate NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate of the above-named decedent. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present such claims within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to Diana Sheythe Cartwright, c/o Heltzel Williams PC, Attn: Garret Ramsay P.O. Box 1048, Salem, OR 97308, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorneys for the Personal Representative.
Dated and first published April 3, 2024
/s/ Diana Sheythe Cartwright
Personal Representative
Heltzel Williams PC
Garret Ramsay, OSB #224741
P.O. Box 1048
Salem, OR 97308-1048
Attorneys for Personal Representative
(Apr 3)

The City of Sweet Home hereby invites qualified firms to submit proposals to provide operational management for family shelter. The sealed proposals are due in the City's online portal by 3:00 PM on April 19, 2024. Interested and qualified proposers are directed to the City of Sweet Home Procurement Portal at procurement.opengov.com/portal/sweethomeor for detailed information and submittal requirements.
(Apr 3)

Public Notices

The City of Sweet Home hereby invites qualified firms to submit proposals for its Sankey Park Phase III Engineering Design. The sealed proposals will be due at City Hall by 5:00 pm on April 29, 2024. Interested and qualified proposers are directed to the City of Sweet Home Procurement Portal at procurement.opengov.com/portal/sweethomeor for detailed information and submittal requirements.
(Apr 3)

THIS IS A PUBLIC NOTICE TO UMPQUA MORTGAGE REGARDING MORTGAGE, REFERENCED AS LINN COUNTY INSTRUMENT #2021-12568. AS GRANTORS TO SAID "MORTGAGE," THOMAS M. BECKLER, JR., VANESSA R. BECKLER, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, HEREBY RESCIND THE EXECUTION OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED INSTRUMENT OF PURPORTED OBLIGATIONS AND WAIVERS ("MORTGAGE") DATED THIS THIRD DAY OF APRIL 2024.
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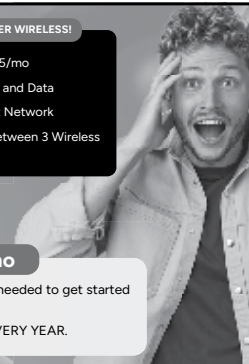


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LOCAL EVENTS

From page 12

Council (NCWC) will host a “Living History” Civil War reenactment from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, May 17 (school day), and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19, at Cheadle Lake Park, 37941 Weirich Drive.

A donation of \$3 per student and \$5 per adult is requested, but not required, to help cover costs to put on the event. The American Legion will also host a benefit breakfast for veterans on Saturday.

The nonprofit organization works to educate the public about the American Civil War through reenactments. Members wear authentically-reproduced clothing, use black powder weapons, cook over open

fires and sleep in canvas tents as they participate in battle reenactments and live the military and civilian life. The reenactments across Oregon are a small sampling of what members do to share about the history and people during the Civil War era. For more information, visit www.nw-cwc.net.

Breakfast for Habitat

Lebanon Habitat for Humanity will host a fundraising breakfast at 8 a.m. on Thursday, May 30, at Boulder Falls Inn Event Center, 605 Mullins Drive.

Did you know that Habitat builds homes for aging in place to make sure individuals can remain in their communities? Join the nonprofit for breakfast “on the house” as they share their plans to expand services in

East Linn County. All donations go toward the two current home builds in So-daville.

RSVP by May 17 at <https://bit.ly/3xojibB>. For more information, call 541.405.5213 or email info@lebanonhabitat.com.

OSWA convention

The Linn County Small Woodlands Association hosts the Oregon Family Forest Convention and Tree Farmer of the Year tour on June 13-15 at Boulder Falls Inn, 505 Mullins Drive.

The three-day event will include a Saturday tour of Oak Basin Tree Farm, a business convention, panels on various topics and a tour of the Freres mass plywood plant.

For more information, visit linncountyswa.com/events/.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

hanui Ben Leslie, 36, was arrested for two counts of luring a minor, stalking, public indecency, endangering the welfare of a minor and contempt of court. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

9:52 a.m. - Donald Glenn Rodgers, 60, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for second degree criminal trespass.

3:32 p.m. - Timothy Roebuck, 41, of Albany, was cited for driving while suspended.

3:57 p.m. - Dominek Tuttle, 23, was cited for driving uninsured.

4:44 p.m. - Caller reports male stole a receipt and returned an item without permission. Officer responded, report taken for second degree theft. Valued loss \$150. 1800 block of Tamarack St.

6:58 p.m. - Steven Crosman, 42, was arrested for a warrant.

March 29

1:16 a.m. - Ryan Dale Magee, 47, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on original charges for second degree disorderly conduct and theft of services.

7:41 a.m. - Kenneth Adair, 56, was arrested on a Linn County Circuit Court warrant.

4:00 p.m. - Carson Albert Strasser, 34, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for second degree criminal mischief.

5:18 p.m. - Scott Jensen, 37, was cited for operating a vehicle without driving privileges.

7:06 p.m. - Caller reports slashed tire. Officer responded, report taken for second degree criminal mischief. Valued loss \$100. 2200 block of Main St.

8:15 p.m. - Vance Eugene Marshall, 41, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of second degree criminal mischief.

9:18 p.m. - Shauna Rea, was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

March 30

1:47 p.m. - David Arroyo-Sandoval, 43, was arrested on a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for a probation violation for second degree theft.

8:44 p.m. - Harley Michelle Webb, was cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for third degree theft. Webb was also arrested on Linn County Circuit Court warrants for failure to appear on a charge for identity theft, a probation violation on an original charge for identity theft and a cite and release warrant for failure to appear on a criminal citation.

8:49 p.m. - Michael Evan Matthews, was arrested on unentered Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to appear on charges for second degree criminal trespass, and third degree theft and failure to comply on a charge for second degree theft. Matthews was also cited on a Linn County Justice Court warrant for first degree criminal trespass and a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for driving while suspended.

March 31
8:27 a.m. - Steven Lee Ballweber, 34, was cited on a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on a criminal citation for driving while suspended. Ballweber was also cited on a Sweet

Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for hit and run.

2:02 p.m. - Lynette Irene Johnson, 45, was arrested on Linn County Circuit Court warrants for failure to appear on original charges for criminal driving, unlawful possession of methamphetamine, and driving under the influence of intoxicants. Johnson was also arrested on a Linn County Justice Court warrant for probation violation on an original charge for driving while suspended, a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on a criminal citation for driving while suspended, and Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to appear on three counts of third degree theft, failure to comply on a charge for criminal driving and second degree criminal mischief.

6:58 p.m. - Christian Jacob Boatwright, was arrested on Linn County Circuit Court warrants for failure to appear on an original charge for eluding police. Alexis Renee Hasenyager, was arrested on a Linn County Circuit Court warrant for interfering with an officer.

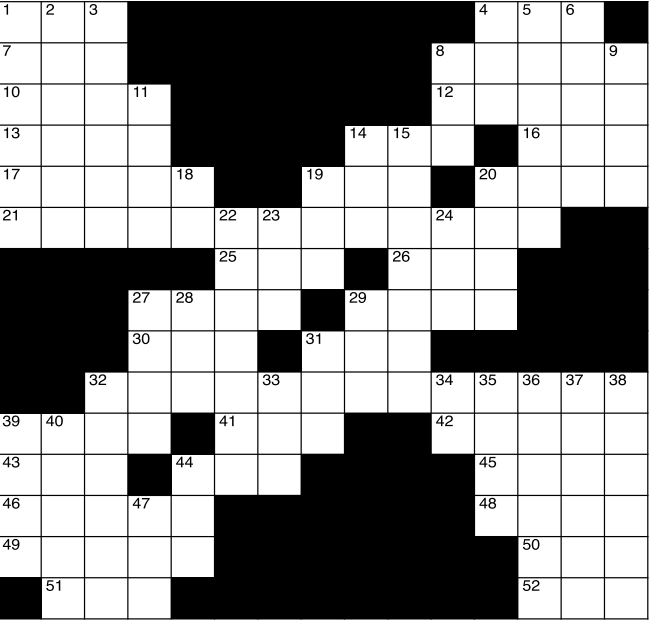
8:55 p.m. - Franklin Luster Cutbirth, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for second degree criminal mischief.

April 1

12:55 a.m. - Leslie Renee Maynard, was arrested for fourth degree Assault, attempted strangulation and menacing.

1:16 a.m. - Nickolas Ryan Shoulders, was arrested by Linn County Sheriff's Office on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for third degree theft.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Fashion accessory

4. Engine additive

7. Small, faint constellation

8. Gives a job

10. Self-righteous person

12. Caucasian language

13. Surinam toad

14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

16. Former French coin

17. Levels the score

19. What stage performers do

20. Egyptian Sun god

21. Localities

25. Spherical body

26. Licensed for Wall Street

27. Perfect
29. It's on many people's heads

30. Boxing's GOAT

31. Photo

32. Popular HBO show

39. Popular music awards show

41. Pouch

42. Lake in Botswana

43. Unruly group

44. One-fourth

45. Very eager

46. Edward __, author and writer

48. Flying insect

49. Dragged forcibly

50. Thus far

51. Not just "play"

52. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Occur

2. Show up

3. Capital of Taiwan

4. Brother or sister

5. Secret get-togethers

6. Type of tea

8. Where the action is

9. Cast out

11. Crime group

14. Type of vessel (abbr.)

15. Accept and handle

18. Sacrifice hit

19. One who buys and sells securities simultaneously

20. Month

22. Most thin

23. Naturally occurring material
24. Luke's mentor __-Wan

27. Postmodernist Austrian "House"

28. Aquatic salamander

29. Baseball stat

31. Beginning military rank

32. Talk rapidly and unintelligibly

33. Paddle

34. Caregiver (abbr.)

35. Old Irish alphabet

36. Japanese city

37. In a way, acted

38. Things to see

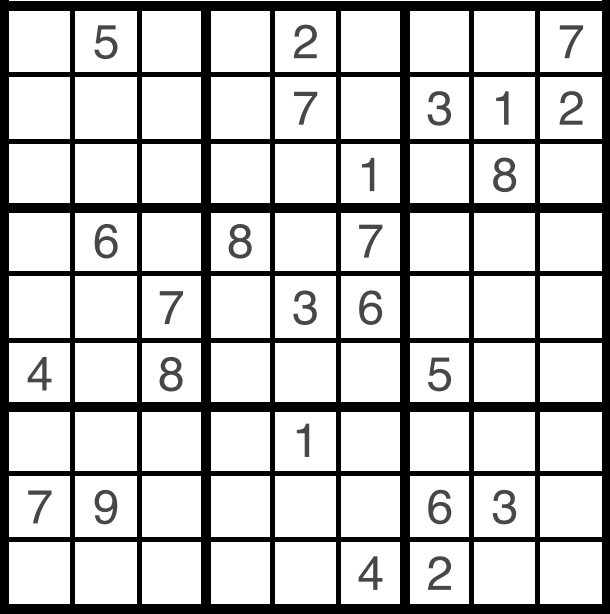
39. Nursemaid

40. Type of tooth

44. To be demonstrated

47. Defunct European group

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced



Ella Sills, found several easter eggs with the help of her parents, Marian and Austin Sills, at the Sankey Park Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Rotary Club.



Children and parents alike enjoyed the hands-on activities provided by the Boys and Girls Club on March 30 at the 33rd Annual Rotary Club/Boys and Girls Club combined Easter Egg Hunt.

Alexis Crystal Dodson, age 8, showed off her bunny ears at the Boys and Girls Club during the Rotary Club/Boys and Girls Club Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30.

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