

## Puzzling Brings Community Together For Fun

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

In what is expected to be the first of an annual fund-raising platform, Sunshine Industries invited the community to compete against each other in a test of skill, strategy, speed and an eye for detail on Saturday, Oct. 12.

The nonprofit hosted a “Puzzling to Make A Difference” contest using a special-made 500 piece jigsaw puzzle featuring Foster Lake and local businesses. As many as 26 teams participated in the competition for a chance to have a little fun, support a local organization and try their chance at winning cash prizes.

Each team consisting of two persons was asked to come up with a team name, with examples found such as Piece Seekers, Puzzling Padres, Piece by Piece, and Puzzsters. Others took their team a little more seriously by dressing up, such as the Puzzling Padres who wore religious garb, while the Pink Ladies wore “Grease”-style pink jackets and Everyday I’m Puzzling wore T-shirts



Jill Wilson pieces together Sweet Home’s city logo that was part of a specially-made jigsaw puzzle for Sunshine Industries’ first puzzle competition.

Photo by Sarah Brown

emblazoned with their team name.

The Burly Butterflies came outfitted with butterfly wings, long curly beards and sparkling sunglasses, but those acouterments were quickly shed as the seriousness of the competition took over. Anomalies sighted during the com-

petition were two teams who partook of mimosas, bloody Marys and other specialty drinks, while another team split their attention between the puzzle and a football game playing on their phone.

When asked if any of the competitors in the room had participated in jigsaw puzzle

competitions before, three hands went up, but Tiffany Castenada (Everyday I’m Puzzling) told The New Era she just raised her hand as a strategy to intimidate the other contestants. One of the other “experienced” con-

See Puzzle, Page 8

## City Proclaims State of Emergency Ahead of Drawdown

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The City of Sweet Home declared a state of emergency one week prior to this year’s anticipated Green Peter drawdown during the City Council meeting on Oct. 8.

Interim City Manager Jason Ogden kicked off the meeting by quoting author Doug Griffith (“13 Ways to Kill Your Community”) who said “a community’s future hinges on its ability to protect its most vital resources,” to which Ogden noted the most precious resource for life is water. He went on, pulling more excerpts from the book.

“Communities that survive, communities that grow are those that have the foresight to act before problems arise.”

Using Griffith’s insights as a foundation, Ogden moved on to proclaim a State of Emergency Concerning the Green Peter Drawdown as the city expects this year’s drawdown to bring increased turbidity into the city’s source of drinking water at Foster Lake.

“We must stay ahead of the curve, and that’s why we’re



Council members listen to a State of Emergency drafted by Interim City Manager Jason Ogden during the Oct. 8 meeting.

Photo by Sarah Brown

here today – to ensure we’re prepared for whatever comes next,” he said, noting also that the city has already upgraded its water treatment plant and managed the challenges in

the past.

Making this declaration, Ogden said, is a proactive approach to make sure the city has all resources available for the protection of

Sweet Home’s water, health and community. Though he’s confident the city’s water will remain safe during the drawdown, the declaration

See Drawdown, Page 5

Hometown  
Newspaper of  
**JIM  
KISTNER**



**HUSKY GIRLS POST  
STRONG FINISH AT  
PHILOMATH**  
PAGE 6



**SMALL INTENSE  
FIRE NEAR SAFEWAY  
QUICKLY CONTAINED**  
PAGE 12



**‘AGGRESSIVE’ DEEP  
DRAWDOWN BEGINS  
THIS WEEK**  
PAGE 15

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# OBITUARIES



**Kathleen Josephine Stephens-Benson**  
 May 8, 1952 - October 7, 2024  
 Kathleen "Kathi" Benson, 72 of Lebanon, went to be with the Lord on Monday, October 7, 2024. She was born on May 8, 1952 to Robert and Bernice Farley, in Newhall, California. She was the youngest of three children.

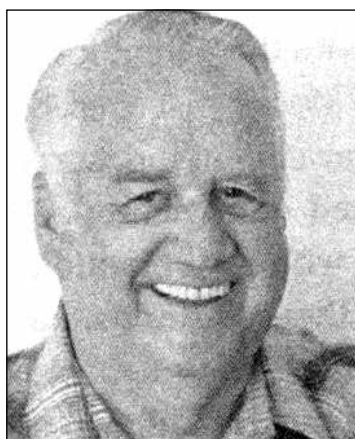
She moved with her family to the Willamette Valley as a child. She attended school in Crawfordsville, and graduated from West Albany High School in 1970. After high school, Kathi attended Linn-Benton Community College. She enjoyed working at Bamboo Terrace in Albany, and after, helped her late husband Tom, run T & K Woodcutters. Kathi met a lot of friends in the Sweet Home area during that time. In 1985, Kathi started managing American Family Video in Sweet Home and later Lebanon. She genuinely cherished each of her customers, always welcoming them with a smile, an attentive ear, and her cheerful nature. She and Doug purchased the video store in 2012. They enjoyed running it until retiring in July of 2019. They both recently enjoyed a road trip along Route 66. Kathi enjoyed gardening, camping, and going fishing in their boat. She also enjoyed making flower arrangements over the years.

Kathi began volunteering with grief counseling at Community Chapel after the loss of her son Brandon in 1996. She empathized with the losses that others had faced and felt a strong desire to support them in their time of need. This mattered greatly to her. Kathi was

also a member at Community Chapel Church of Sweet Home for many years. Every Sunday, she and Doug would attend their home group following church.

She is survived by her five daughters; Debbie Koch, Cindy Syverson, Christy Burgdorf, Angela Allen, Kim Hiatt, husband Doug Benson, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. She is preceded in death by her second husband Tom Stephens, son Brandon Stephens, her sister Sharon Williams, brother Bob Farley and her parents, Robert and Bernice Farley.

A Celebration of Life will be 3 pm, November 10, 2024 at Community Chapel in Sweet Home. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Kathi's name to the Community Chapel of Sweet Home. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).



**Orel Ronald (Ron) Moore**  
 April 20, 1942 - October 4, 2024

Orel Ronald Moore, 82, of Sweet Home passed away Friday, October 4, 2024. He was born April 20, 1942, to Orel Robert and Luella (Williams) Moore in Oakland, California.

After graduating from Myrtle Creek High School in 1960, he began his career in a sawmill throughout the 1970's. An accident left him unable to work in such physically strenuous jobs, causing him to shift focus toward buying, remodeling and selling trailer homes. He owned Heirloom Gold Nugget Company from 1985

to 1987 and the General Home Security Company from 1987 to 1998. In 2001, he patented the Super Grip Lock which is sold all over the world.

He enjoyed hunting, gardening and traveling the United States.

Ron is survived by his children: Melissa Pelcher, Robert Moore, Marci Talbert, Victoria Whiteman; sister Deborah Dove; five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and his partner Marleen. He is preceded in death by his wife Melinda Arlene Moore (2023).

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).



**James Michael Modderman**  
 November 7, 1954 - October 5, 2024

James Michael Modderman, 72, of Brownsville passed away peacefully in hospice care at Helping Hearts, Saturday, October 5, 2024. He was born November 7, 1951 at Naeve Hospital in Albert Lea, MN to Russell and JoAnn (Floyd) Modderman.

He graduated from Albert Lea High School in June of 1971 and was united in marriage to Marian E. Johnson, November 27, 1971 at Cross of Glory Church in Hartland, MN. James served in the Army and was stationed in Bauholder, Germany from 1971-1973. He attended Community College in Albert Lea, MN for Wastewater Management and also worked at Wilson's.

In 1975, James and Marian moved to the Oregon coast and raised two children. James was one of the first in the Helicopter Logging Industry cutting cedar. He owned and operated a commercial bay crabbing boat and worked on commercial fishing boats off the Oregon coast. In 1989 James and his family moved back to Albert Lea to be closer to family. James then moved back to the Oregon coast in 2007 and in 2021 moved to Brownsville.

He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandkids. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, motocross racing, snowmobiling, arrowhead/

rock/agate hunting, liked going to auctions, traveling, boating, and camping.

He is survived by his daughter Melanie Modderman; son Robert Modderman (Jesse); brother Richard Modderman; grandchildren: Tyler Anderson (Darien), Wyatt Sickels, Dominic Modderman, Jayden Modderman, Cameron Sickels, Elizabeth Modderman, Samuel Modderman; great-granddaughter Aria Foerster, great-granddaughter Blake Anderson coming next month; nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents Russell and JoAnn Modderman; sister LeeAnn Modderman, granddaughter Kelsey Modderman.

A special thank you to his friends David Doorman and Mike McGuire for visiting him weekly, Helping Hands and Samaritan Evergreen Hospice for taking such great care and loving James. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).



**Dustin Andrew Brown**  
 August 10, 1979 - August 30, 2024

Dustin Andrew Brown, 45, of Sweet Home passed away Friday, August 30, 2024.

He was born August 10, 1979, to Bob and Charlotte (Erner) Brown in Fort Bliss, Texas.

He came to Albany in March 1980; his dad was leaving for the Army. He moved to Sweet Home in 1994 after the state decided to put him into foster care as he didn't want to go with his parents.

He moved to Albany with his first wife Vivian Matney where he started his family; he later got divorced and eventually started over with his second wife. They planned on moving to Montana but plans fell through so he made a decision to move back to Sweet Home in 2013. Dustin made a life for him and his family but later got divorced. He stayed in Sweet Home to stay close to his children, as they were the most important things in his life.

Dustin was a handyman

and a painter working various jobs. He was a Christian. He enjoyed camping, hiking, motorcycles, he loved to sing karaoke, write songs and poetry.

He is survived by his children: Elyjah Engelbrecht of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Korrin Matney of Sweet Home, Olivia Matney of Lebanon, Micah Ray Matney of Lebanon, Anna Upton of Lebanon; siblings: Shannon Brown and Nathen Brown; his girlfriend Heather Ives, his non-biological children: Elaine Barlow, Gabby O'Malley, three grandchildren and two non-biological grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his daughter Angelle Marie Matney (2006)

A celebration of life will be 2 pm, Saturday, October 12, 2024, at Grace Bible Fellowship, 30699 Spring St., Lebanon. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).



**Joseph Charles Elkins**  
 March 1, 1928 - September 26, 2024

Joseph Charles Elkins, 96, of Lebanon, passed away peacefully on September 26, 2024, at The Oaks, Lebanon. Joe was born on March 1, 1928, in Lebanon, to Harry and Mabel Elkins. Joe was the great grandson of Oregon Pioneer Luther Elkins, first President of the Oregon Senate, 1859-1860. Joe was proud of his pioneer heritage being a lifelong resident of the Lebanon/Sweet Home area.

Joe grew up on the family farm and was a talented athlete, participating in multiple varsity sports at Lebanon High School, graduating in 1946. Upon graduation from high school he immediately enlisted in the US Army, discharged in 1947 with a rank of Sergeant, then enrolling at the University of Oregon in 1948. Joe was active in ROTC and played baseball for the University of Oregon, graduating in 1952 with a business degree. From 1951-1953 Joe was again called to duty with the US Army serving as a 1st Lt.

He loved the outdoors, as an avid hunter, fly fisherman, and

See Obituaries, Page 3

## The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

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DATE		HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
October 7		81	42	0.00
October 8		78	49	0.00
October 9		66	49	0.00
October 10		68	40	0.00
October 11		72	43	0.00
October 12		79	47	0.00
October 13		76	48	0.00

PRECIPITATION

Year to date: 20.73  
October 11, 2023: 23.02

FORECAST

DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Rain	57	37
Fri	Partly Cloudy	61	40
Sat	Partly Cloudy	70	47
Sun	Showers	63	46
Mon	Showers	61	40
Tues	Partly Cloudy	60	37
Wed	Partly Cloudy	60	40

LAKE LEVELS

Foster Reservoir: 623.8  
Green Peter Res.: 903.9

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](http://oregon.gov/odf)

OBITUARIES

From page 2

skier. Joe was a lifetime Select Master Mason of +74years with the Cryptic Masons of Oregon, an active member of the American Legion for +70 years, lifetime member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, among the other various professional organizations.

After his college and military service, Joe was a professional logger, concluding his working career with Crown Zellerbach/Georgia Pacific of 26 years, 1962-1988, in business operations as an accountant.

In 1953, Joe married Gloria Alice Barry, a guidance counselor and teacher at Sweet Home high school. They had two sons, Craig and Barry. Joe and Gloria both retired early in life and spent the next 20 plus years extensively traveling the world, while tending to their beloved farm and animals between adventures.

Preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Mabel Elkins, his wife Gloria of 60 years, and Grandson Taylor Forrest Elkins.

He is survived by his sons, Barry Elkins and wife Kathy of Mt. View CA, Craig Elkins and

wife Cindy of Anchorage, Alaska, along with four grandchildren, Kristi Cooper (Kendall), Tom Elkins, Brendan Elkins (Kelsey), Katie McGinnis(Logan) and four great-grandchildren, Cameron and Jackson Cooper, and Melanie and Addison Elkins.

Those of you who knew Joe understood he lived life proudly and on his own terms. A private family memorial will be planned for a later date, perhaps at his secret fishing hole.

In lieu of flowers and if desired, memorial contributions may be made to the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, 2393 'W' Airport Way, Boise, ID 83705. (WFFoundation.ORG) Condolences may be sent to the family c/o Huston-Jost Funeral Home, 86 W. Grant St., Lebanon. [www.hustonjost.com](http://www.hustonjost.com)

Bette Jean Procknow

July 19, 1934 - October 11, 2024

Bette Jean Procknow, 90, of Lebanon passed away Friday, October 11, 2024. A viewing will be 12 pm, Saturday, November 2, 2024, followed by a 1 pm service at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. Final burial will take place at Gilliland Cemetery. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

David Arnold Dugger

February 9, 1955 - October 4, 2024

David Arnold Dugger, 69, of Sweet Home passed away Friday, October 4, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

PUBLIC SAFETY

Information for the Public Safety report and Courts 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.

Grider, 45, was cited for illegal window tint.

6:12 p.m - Samantha Leann Stotz, 33, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for third degree theft.

**Oct. 8**

12:08 a.m - Justin Brent Jones was arrested on a Linn County Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for second degree theft.

2:23 a.m - Custin Jones Jr. was arrested for third degree theft. 1500 9th Avenue.

3:39 a.m - Earl Dodge, 30, was cited for a warrant and for possession of methamphetamine.

4:00 p.m - Daniel Lee Adams, 64, was cited for dog as a public nuisance.

10:30 p.m - Hayden James Newberg was arrested on criminally negligent homicide. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

**Oct. 9**

7:47 a.m - Amey Ford, 45, of Lincoln City, was cited on

**See Public Safety, Page 7**

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**Crossword KEY**  
Puzzle on page 15

**SUDOKU KEY**  
Puzzle on page 15

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

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

For where two or three are gathered together  
in My name, I am there in the midst of them.  
-Matthew 18:20

THE FIRST BOOK OF MOSES  
GENESIS

1. In the beginning God created the earth.  
2. The earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.  
3. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.  
4. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.  
5. And God saw that the light was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.  
6. And God called the light Day, and the darkness Night.  
7. And there was evening, and there was morning, the first day.

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7. And there was evening, and there was morning, the first day.



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10:30 a.m. Children's Church



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## FROM OUR FILES



The sixth grade class at Oak Heights learns about planes used to carry smoke jumpers out of Redmond Air Center during the school district's outdoor education program in 1974.

### Oct. 20, 1949

An impressive ceremony has been arranged to mark the laying of the cornerstone for Sweet Home's new Methodist Community Church on the one year anniversary since services started here. A regular morning meeting will take place in the L Street grade school gym, followed by the ceremony at the site of the new church, 6th and I streets. Articles to be sealed in the cornerstone include a small Bible, a roll with signatures taken by those present, a church membership list, names of those who contributed to the building fund, a history of the church and a copy of The New Era.

### Oct. 17, 1974

The school district's new outdoor education program entered its second year as sixth grade students took to Central Oregon and the coast. Liberty School teacher Tedi Topp envisioned the program as a five-day field trip where students would apply in the classroom the things they learned, but the idea has instead been compressed into two days. Kids learn things such as basic survival techniques (compass, identifying trees), career education and the environment, study tide pools, and how ocean fish are caught, cut and stored. The hope is, ultimately, that kids will understand this is their world and there's an awful lot to learn.

Burglars grabbed drugs from East Linn Medical Clinic and cash from OK

Tire Store in separate but possibly related incidents. Both burglaries occurred on the same evening. The tire store at 200 Main St. was forcibly entered and an estimated \$180 was taken from the cash register, as well as a money bag containing an unknown amount of money. The medical clinic was entered when a screen covering an unlocked window was cut. Only certain drugs were taken, such as morphine, Dramamine, estrogen and eight allergy mixtures.

### Oct. 20, 1999

City Council approved a resolution 5-2 to place a consolidated fire district on the ballot next year. Both the SH Rural Fire District and SH Ambulance District unanimously approved the same resolutions last month. An agreement between the city and the district that would be formed must be approved before moving to the Linn County Board of Commissioners for approval. The district would provide fire protection to areas that are currently unprotected, including Mark's Ridge, Cascadia and the Santiam Terrace area.

The school district has barred skaters from skating on school property due to liability concerns and damage caused by the sport. As such, the Kiwanis Club and Public Works Department are looking at a two-year fundraising project to raise \$52,500 for a public skate park. If every resident donated \$7 in two years, the park could become reality.

DRAWDOWN

From page 1

prepares for any unforeseen problems.

The council approved the resolution unanimously.

City Manager Recruitment

Council approved a strategy and timeline for the recruitment of a city manager, 5-2; councilmembers Angelita Sanchez and Dylan Richards opposed.

Ogden's pro tem position as city manager expires on Feb. 9, 2025, so a timeline was drafted to try to fill the vacancy by that date. The approval by council allowed the city to post the recruitment to job boards, conduct a public hearing on Oct. 22, close the recruitment on Nov. 22 and review applicants in December. Council may then move into the interview phase with a goal to have a new city manager by February.

Councilmember Sanchez expressed concern about the fast pace of the recruitment process and the fact that a good number of new council members are expected to be seated immediately during or after this process.

"I think this should be a decision for the incoming council," she said.

Assistant City Manager Cecily Pretty clarified that in



Outgoing City Attorney Robert Snyder, left, receives a challenge coin from Jason Ogden as he ends his career with the city.

December, when the applicants will be looked over by council, the council may opt to postpone any further actions if they determine it to be necessary. Councilmember Lisa Gourley also noted the problem of Ogden's term ending in February, which at that time would require the city to find another interim manager if a new hire has not yet been picked.

Councilmember Sanchez asked about a recent past situation when it took about eight months to hire a city manager. Councilmember Greg Mahler responded that a new interim manager took over after the first interim's six months was over.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a resolution to temporarily close certain

streets for a Parade of Lights event on Dec. 14 hosted by the Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce. City records indicate the parade route starts at 22nd Avenue, heads west on Main Street, turns south onto 10th Avenue, then south onto Long Street, and flows east until it reaches 22nd Avenue. The city will close the following blocks between and Main and Long

streets between 5:30-7:30 p.m.: 12th, 13th, 15th, 18th and 22nd avenues.

- Approved a resolution regulating abandoned shopping carts in the city, which has long been a time-consuming task for city staff to manage. The ordinance requires businesses to: identify the owner of the cart on the cart, post signs indicating that removing carts from a premises is a crime, post a phone number that people can call to report abandoned carts, retrieve their abandoned carts within 72 hours, and face fines for carts not retrieved. Councilmember Mahler noted that the cost to a business for one shopping cart is as much as \$500 to \$1,000 each, and adding locking mechanisms to a cart is about another \$500 each.

- Approved adding an updated Parks System Plan to the city's Comprehensive Plan.

- Approved a franchise agreement with Ziply Fiber Pacific LLC to provide fiber-to-home Internet service in the city.

- Said goodbye to City Attorney Robert Snyder as he conducted his last business with city council and moves into retirement.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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# Husky Girls Post Strong Finish on Otherwise Slow Day at Philomath

By Scott Swanson  
For The New Era

Sweet Home got a chance Saturday, Oct. 12, to get a preview of the Oregon West championship cross-country course, as well as teams that are expected to be the ones to beat in the district meet on Nov. 2.

The Huskies competed in the Paul Mariman Invitational, hosted by top-ranked Philomath, the defending state champions on the girls side, and featuring state defending champion Newport and the host Warriors, who are the top- and third-ranked 4A boys teams respectively in the latest coaches poll.

The preview was a close-up look at the competition for McKenzie Miller, who ran 20:43.00 to place fourth in the field of 105 varsity girls, behind Philomath senior Adele Beckstead, who was third in 20:09.60.

Freshman Emma Whitton was seventh, in 20:53.10, well off the PR of 19:23 she ran the week before in Albany, which was the third-fastest time in school history for a 5,000-meter race.

"McKenzie and Emma had really strong races against really high-level competition," said Head Coach Dave Martin, who added that most of Sweet Home's runners did not get the results they were hoping for on what can be a very fast course at Philomath.

"Everybody did not get good times," Martin said. "The course was slow for whatever reason. I don't know if it was heat or sawdust or whatever. When we have kids working hard and only one kid gets a PR, that's the course."

Whitton was followed by Annabelle Morris, 54th in 25:04.50; Grace Gardner, 56th in 25:06.90, the only personal best of the day for the Huskies; and Noelle Helfrich, who was 100th in 30:21.70.

The Huskies finished sixth out of 12 teams, with 170 points. Philomath won with 37 points.

"Grace, obviously, had a tremendous race," Martin said. "She's the only one who PR'd. We had experienced, veteran runners who were working their buns off, and did not PR."

On the varsity boys side, the Huskies finished 15th out of 18 teams with 359 points, three points behind



Photo by Scott Swanson

**Emma Whitton, left, and McKenzie Miller run with the leaders of the girls varsity competition at Philomath Saturday.**

Cascade, after losing Acen Webber, who was in second behind their front-runner, Ryker Burr, to an injury. He was unable to finish.

Burr finished 33rd in the field of 120 runners, in 19:15.80.

Behind him were Evan Knight, 58th in 20:15.10; Conner Spencer, 89th in 21:46.90; Keagan Vogel, 93rd in 21:55.20; and Evan Malabago, 100th in 22:42.30.

Jaxon Stovall of Marshfield was the boys winner, in 16:35.40, ahead of Leo Pausch (16:47.70) and Lucas Hernandez (17:21.60) of Philomath. The Warriors finished second with 84 points, behind The Dalles (67), in the team scoring.

In the boys JV race, the Huskies were sixth out of seven team finishers, led by Wes Goff, who was 28th out of 77 runners who finished. Goff ran 22:13.4, followed by Kasey Kast, 32nd in 22:51.70; Noah Strawn, 34th in 23:15.80; Louis Kistner, 38th in 23:28.80; and Eli Adams, 73rd in 32:34.50.

Sweet Home had no girls in the JV race.

In the middle school competition, which was a two-mile course, Elijah Rodriguez was fourth out of 103 competitors in 12:42.90, with Hudson Ogden 17th in 14:22.

For the girls, Cassie Spen-

cer was fifth in 14:33.80 among 72 competitors from 12 schools and the Timberhill Harriers club.

Marian Helfrich was 25th in 17:36.70, followed by Pyper Hall, 45th in 19:31.10; Zoie Allison, 50th in 20:35.00; and Lexie Lee, 63rd in 23:52.70.

The girls were sixth out of seven teams.

Philomath, which has 26 girls on its middle school team, was first with 38 points. The Tiger girls had 131.

"I thought our two junior high runners ran super well to come out with medals," Martin said.

"These were not bad races at all. I am a contented coach. It just wasn't a PR day."

Next up for the Huskies is their final pre-districts competition, the Bramble Scramble on Saturday, Oct. 19, at Cottage Grove High School.

Some 25 high school teams representing a wide span of divisions, and 16 middle school teams are expected to participate.

Races begin at 10:15 with a 3000-meter competition for the middle school boys, followed by the girls, followed by the JV and high school varsity races, each race scheduled at 45-minute intervals.

# Huskies Fall in Back-to-Back Matches Against Cascade and Philomath

By Sky Chappell  
Of The New Era

The Sweet Home volleyball team (3-12) faced tough competition last week, dropping consecutive matches to Cascade and Philomath in straight sets.

Sweet Home lost 0-3 to Cascade on Tuesday, Oct. 8. Despite the loss, Aaliyah Brown stood out, going 4-for-4 at the serving line and having an impressive day defensively.

"She also had a great day blocking, during that game she put up a good block quite a few times," Sweet Home head coach Katie Dargis said.

Kaitlyn Kennedy added

consistency, serving 11-for-12, while Natalie Smith went 6-for-6. Sophia Stock also contributed, going 10-for-11 with one ace, and Trinity Victor served a perfect 5-for-5. Kiera Johnson led the team in kills with seven, followed by Kennedy and Brown, who each had two.

However, Dargis noted that the team's overall serve receive was a key struggle in the match.

Two days later, Sweet Home was again defeated 0-3, this time by Philomath on Thursday, Oct. 10. The Huskies showed improvement as the match progressed, but it wasn't enough to secure a win.

communication systems as well as a warrant for second degree criminal trespass.

8:05 p.m - David Forrest, was cited for two counts of dog as a public nuisance.

8:07 a.m - Jill Forrest, 34, was cited for dog as a public nuisance.

8:26 p.m - Heidi Marie Drews, 45, was arrested for first degree sodomy and first degree sexual abuse. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

8:55 a.m - Jill Forrest, 34, was cited for dog at large.

**Oct. 11**

2:29 a.m - Felisha Krystal Kay Pecue, 33, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for driving while suspended, Linn County Circuit Court warrants for failure to appear on charges for felony driving while intoxicated, possession of heroin and animal neglect, a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for a probation violation relating to second degree theft and an Albany Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for third degree theft.

9:28 a.m - Nickolas Ryan Shoulders, 35, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for third degree theft.

10:50 a.m - Brent Anthony Prather, 36, was arrested on a Sweet home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for second degree criminal trespass.

11:28 a.m - Loris David Whitton, 69, was arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to appear on an original charge for offensive littering and second degree criminal trespass. He was also arrested on a Crook County Circuit

"We kind of struggled to get things going for us in that game," Dargis said. "We picked it up each set a bit better, but unfortunately we weren't able to swing aggressively to put a dent in their offense and defense."

Karissa Jewell had a perfect 5-for-5 serving performance, while Tiara Reynolds tallied four kills. Kennedy led the team in kills with five, while Brown and Johnson each contributed three.

The Huskies will look to bounce back as they continue their league play. Their next appearance will be at North Marion (1-9) on Oct. 17.

Court warrant for second degree failure to appear and failure to appear on an original cahрге for second degree disorderly conduct.

2:28 p.m - Buzz Dodson Jr was arrested for driving while suspended.

5:34 p.m - Benjamin Philip Hyatt was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for second degree criminal trespass.

**Oct. 12**

4:24 a.m - Ryan John Avery, 47, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for third degree theft.

12:23 p.m - Robert Muller, 80, was cited for failure to obey a traffic control device.

12:45 p.m - Kyle Anderson, 50, of Bend, was cited for speeding. 79/55.

1:29 p.m - Hayden Hiteshew, 23, of Scio, was arrested for a Lane County Circuit Court warrant and an Albany Municipal Court warrant.

1:45 p.m - Kyle Askew, 32, was cited for speeding. 90/55.

3:01 p.m - Marv Dean Cox, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for second degree criminal trespass and a Linn County Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for fourth degree assault.

10:50 p.m - Charles James Marvel, 22, was arrested on a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for third degree theft.

11:51 p.m - Charles James Marvel, 22, was arrested for unlawful possession of a schedule two narcotic.

**Oct. 13**

9:46 p.m - Gary Pinks, 29, was cited for failure to provide proof of insurance.

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## PUZZLE

From page 1

tants was Calista McMurray (Puzzsters) who came from Gresham with her sister, Jerrica Ross, of Albany. Their mother drives for the Sweet Home School District.

McMurray had only been in one other competition for solo puzzlers. She found team puzzling to be a more efficient way of competing.

"This one, with my sister and I, made it a lot faster, (being able to) talk to each other versus doing it yourself," she said.

Jill Miller worked on the puzzle with her daughter, Stephanie Felipa, who is a client at Sunshine and is known to be a dissectologist (a jigsaw puzzle enthusiast). A common strategy for many puzzlers is to construct the border first, but Felipa starts in the middle and works her way out, Miller said. In fact, she noted, Felipa gets bored and prefers to work on puzzles upside down.

Grabbing first place at 37 minutes, 11 seconds was team "Gingersnapped," consisting of Jill Wilson and Amy Wingo. The pair said they had been thinking about hosting a puzzle competition at the high school to fundraise for the Josai Student Exchange Program, so taking advantage of an opportunity to actually participate in a puzzle competition was "perfect."

Coming in at second was the Puzzsters, completing in 41 minutes, 46 seconds. Their strategy was to do all the little images and words first. In third place was the Piece Seekers, made up of Kate Roeser and Jill Libra, at 48 minutes, 42 seconds. They also came prepared with a strategy.

"It was we'll dump out, flip,

try to get the edges, but if we see something that draws our eye, just start focusing on that and then one person would keep flipping while the other one zones in," Roeser said. "Usually I'm very structured and do borders first only, but you gotta throw the calmness out the door because it's a high pressure situation."

Sunshine's office manager, Trisha King, attributed the success of the event to the local businesses that sponsored it, particularly the Tack and Larson sisters who came up with the idea and helped organize it.

"I think it's pretty amazing that our community brought a fundraiser to us," King said. "It's something different this community hasn't done yet."

The fundraiser continues, though, as extra puzzles from the event can be purchased for a \$50 donation.

"This is kind of what we're hoping for, that every year it gets a little bigger and we get people that actually travel around and do this, and maybe this is kind of like a puzzle destination," King said. "We're all kind of nerdy and we're ready to see how we can make it bigger."

Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used for facility repairs and a transportation vehicle, as well as new programs and more staffing. This year, Sunshine Industries is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

"Sunshine was established in 1974 by a group of parents who wanted to know what was gonna happen with their children as they become adults and transition in life," King explained. "That's what we do every day, support those transitions for them to celebrate independence in whatever way that supports their goals."



Photo by Sarah Brown

Trophy winners were, back row from left: Jill Libra and Kate Roeser, Piece Seekers, third place; Jerrica Ross and Calista McMurray, Puzzsters, second place; Sheldon Weld, "wisest" (oldest) puzzler; and front row from left: Jill Wilson and Amy Wingo, Gingersnapped, first place. Not pictured: Kenley Jordan, youngest puzzler.



Photo by Sarah Brown

Puzzlers Heather Search, left, and Jaden Flanagan, right, work together during the Puzzling to Make a Difference competition.

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# Council Reviews Housing Production Strategy Proposal

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The City Council and Planning Commission held a work session on Oct. 8 to hear proposed strategies intended to promote the development of housing that would reach the needs of a variety of demographics through a Housing Production Strategy (HPS).

The work session was, essentially, a review of an already-drafted HPS with time for Council to provide input, if desired. Recent state law requires cities with populations of at least 10,000 to study and plan for the housing needs of both current and future residents by using a Housing Capacity Analysis (HCA) to help create the HPS. The HPS must be completed every eight years.

Sweet Home hit the 10,000 mark at the 2020 census, making the city liable to complete the HPS. The city hired Kearns-West and Winterbrook Planning to assist in the production of the document.

An HPS document must include specific actions the city plans to take to encourage the development of necessary housing types identified in the HCA. Actions might include perhaps changing development codes or offering financial incentives. The HCA shows the city whether it has enough land to meet projected housing needs for the next two decades. If not, the city must amend its UGB regulations.

Earlier in the year, Kearns-West surveyed a variety of residents and community leaders regarding local housing concerns, and used their responses to help guide the

development of the city's HPS. Then they later participated in roundtable discussions.

According to the city's 2022 Housing Needs Analysis, Sweet Home is expected to grow by 1,571 in the next 20 years, more than 25% of renters spend more than 50% of their income on rent, and the median home price increased almost 20% between 2021 and 2022 to \$348,000. The report indicated the city needs 169 acres of buildable land and 632 new housing units within the next 20 years.

The report also noted that 53% of Sweet Home households fall into the "low or extremely low" category of income, the city is not racially diverse, there is a greater percentage of people with disabilities in Sweet Home than in Linn County or Oregon, and the potential for homelessness is a "serious concern."

Concerns raised included the fact that older housing that falls into disrepair can result in building condemnation or displacement of residents, and national housing market trends have made new construction, rents and homeownership increasingly expensive.

Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen shared the city's recent efforts to increase housing production, such as decreasing minimum lot sizes, permitting duplexes in all residential zones and reducing parking requirements. During roundtable discussions, participants reviewed strategy ideas that would address current and future housing needs.

Those ideas were present-



Photo by Sarah Brown

**Representatives from Winterbrook Planning, center, talk with City Council and city staff about proposed actions for the city's first Housing Production Strategy.**

ed at the Oct. 8 work session. Larissa Gladding, of Winterbrook, explained that the proposed strategies are intended to reduce obstacles and create opportunities for the production of affordable housing.

"Strategy A" is to publicize and clarify the city's recent (2022) code updates that allow different middle housing and lower income housing types (duplexes, cottage clusters, Accessory Dwelling Units/ADUs, tiny homes, etc.).

"The city really took an initiative to define these housing types in ways that are really important to encourage them and to establish where they can be allowed, which is im-

portant because there is a need for middle housing and there's also a need for some middle low-income housing," Gladding said. "These are types of housing that people want to build now, and can be useful, but in a lot of cities, they're just not baked into the code. So the opportunities are already existing here in ways that they're not existing elsewhere."

Gladding encouraged this strategy so that developers can learn about these opportunities, and she added the city should clarify the code further to make the code as understandable as possible.

"Strategy B" calls on the city

to encourage more participation in the Housing Rehabilitation Partnership Program, which provides small low interest loans for minor housing rehab projects to low income homeowners through Linn County's Community Development Block Group funds. Larsen explained cities in the county take turns offering the loans to its residents.

"Strategy C" asks to affirm the city's commitment to fair housing by, among other things, promoting housing programs and affordable housing development, "land banking" (reserving land for affordable housing develop-

**See Housing, Page 12**



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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# 8th Grader Defies Odds, Excels in Cross Country Despite Vision Impairment

By Sky Chappell  
Of The New Era

For most middle schoolers, cross-country is a challenging sport that demands endurance and mental toughness. For Zoie Allison, it's even more than that.

Zoie, an eighth grader at Sweet Home Junior High, decided to run cross-country this season after previously competing on the track team. Despite having a vision impairment that requires special accommodations, Zoie wasn't going to let her disability hold her back.

"She begged me to do cross-country in the first place," said Zoie's mother, Zuri Allison. "We were going to tell her no. Scott [Swanson] told us he had it all figured out. It's

pretty much all him that encouraged it."

Swanson, the cross-country coach, reached out to Zuri after learning about Zoie's interest, determined to make it work.

"I understand you're not comfortable with Zoie doing cross-country, but I have found a way to make it work for her if you would be willing to let her do it," Zuri recalled Swanson saying.

Zuri was reassured. "I was like, 'If you have found a way, then that's perfect,'" she said.

Zoie's life skills teacher, Ali Ellis, has been inspired by Zoie's determination. Ellis has been using her as an example in lessons on overcoming obstacles.

"She should be walking

around with a cane—she doesn't. Running on uneven surfaces, that's like nearly unheard of," Ellis said. "If it wasn't for the accommodations they're making for her, then it wouldn't be possible. Other than her vision impairment, she's just like all the other kids."

Those accommodations include having a guide during practice and races. Volunteer coach Lindsay Janzer, who has previous experience working with visually impaired students, serves as Zoie's guide.

"She loves it," Janzer said. "I've only run one race with her because I wasn't able to be there at the last meet, but she loves it. It's an obvious joy when she's running the races."

Janzer believes Zoie's tenac-

ity is what sets her apart.

"She's incredibly tenacious. She's willing to give everything to get better, and she's obviously getting a lot better because she's willing to put in the work," Janzer said. "I think if she sticks with cross-country through high school, she's going to have a good chance at becoming a state-caliber athlete."

Zoie's journey to cross country wasn't easy. According to Zuri, Zoie initially struggled with the idea that she might not be able to do it.

"She took that pretty hard," Zuri said. "It was pretty hard for her to accept the fact that she couldn't do it."

But thanks to Swanson's persistence and the support from the team, Zoie is now

thriving. She is showing the same resilience in cross-country that she exhibited in track.

"It's been really exciting to see Zoie not only decide to run cross-country, but to be successful," Swanson said. "She has the no-quit attitude that is key to this sport, and nothing has really fazed her: tough workouts, learning to run on rough terrain with a guide, and having the commitment necessary to do well."

Swanson believes Zoie is already making a significant contribution to the team and sees a bright future ahead.

"I think Zoie is already showing that she will be an important contributor to the success of Sweet Home's rising program," he said.

## DEAR EDITOR

**Dear Editor,**

Although I am not a voter in Sweet Home, and the city council race does not directly affect me, Sweet Home is an important community within Linn County, and even the larger cities of Lebanon and Albany depend on the City of Sweet home for industry, clean water, and recreation.

I am also writing to express my enthusiastic support for City Councilwoman Angelita Sanchez. Angelita has been an unwavering advocate for the people of Sweet Home, championing fiscal responsibility, clean water, job creation, affordable housing, and government accountability.

There have been many meetings where I ran into Angelita fighting for Oregonians. While we both spend a lot of time speaking to lawmakers, commissioners, and business owners about issues that affect Oregon, Angelita has a unique passion for her "Home Sweet Home" and the broader Santiam watershed. She has been outspoken about preserving the integrity of our vote, the forestry industry, clean water, recreation, and the jobs of regular people here in Linn County.

Her leadership was especially evident in her participation at the Army Corps of Engineers town hall meeting in Salem about the greater Willamette Watershed, and the future of our dams. She demanded answers and sought solutions to the effects of the Green Peter Dam drawdowns, where she fought tirelessly to ensure that Sweet Home's concerns were heard and addressed. Angelita has also been a steadfast defender of local property rights, particularly in relation to affordable housing, advocating for poli-

cies that respect homeowners while encouraging development that benefits our community.

In the Capital I have had the privilege of witnessing her working alongside Senator Hayden to advance the concerns of Linn County, and I have seen firsthand Angelita's dedication to serving Sweet Home. Her collaboration with Senator Hayden on vital issues has demonstrated her commitment to representing our residents and tackling the hard issues we face.

Not only does Angelita hold local elected officials accountable to the needs of Sweet Home, she has worked to involve our state congressional district offices, and made sure Congressional District 5, Congresswoman Lori-Chavez DeRemer's office was aware of the threats to Sweet Home's

water system faced for the actions of the federal government's management of the Green Peter and Foster dams. Last week, the House passed legislation cosponsored by Chavez-DeRemer, the Fix Our Forests Act, to improve wildfire resiliency and restore forest health. When it comes to addressing local issues Angelita is a "see something say something" and believes that action speaks louder than words. Her track record proves it.

Angelita Sanchez is not just a voice for your community—she is a fighter and a leader. We need her continued advocacy on the City Council to ensure Sweet Home thrives and remains a place where residents are proud to call home. When anyone asks me about Angelita, I can say confidently she defines "Orego-

nians at their best!" Vote for Angelita Sanchez for Sweet Home City Council, your city is fortunate to have her on the ballot.

**Sincerely,**  
**Ben Roche, Chair of LCRCC Linn County Republican Central Committee, & Albany Precinct Committee Person**

**Dear Editor,**

City Council.

I have been pondering this topic for some time, community leadership. Mainly the city council. I have lived in Sweet Home my entire life and have never witnessed the degree of decline of unprofessional behavior demonstrated by certain individuals. Why?

I read the City Council Handbook, especially the section, Code of Ethics. It clearly specifies how a councilor is

to conduct themselves. But it would seem some either did not read it or need to go back and read it.

I am embarrassed that such leadership exists in our community. It is an insult to the good people that have served before them, for they put the interests of the community first and served with integrity. They may not have always agreed, but they respected one another, were humble, had a willingness to give when needed and didn't go around spreading rumors, standing in lines at the grocery store or getting involved in lunchroom discussions talking about one another in the public sector.

Today, getting on Face Book or other social media sites seems to have become the norm for some to complain and talk about others. This is

**See Dear Editor, Page 13**



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HOUSING

From page 10

ment), and partnering with a Community Land Trust.

“Strategy D,” which Gladding noted was among the more supported ideas in the roundtable discussions, involves creating prototypes or ready-to-go plans of “middle housing” (ADUs, tiny homes, cottages, etc.) that are designed according to city codes, which would streamline the permitting process. The strategy also includes encouraging local production of the homes, which would tap the area’s history with forest products and keep jobs local.

Larsen expressed interest in this idea that the city could just hand over a pack of materials that includes everything a builder or homeowner needs, such as the plans, the building official’s stamp of approval and expected costs for everything.

Another strategy supported in the roundtable discussions was “Strategy E,” which involves rezoning medium and high density residential lands. Gladding explained the city’s comprehensive plan includes areas that are planned for middle or high density housing, but the zone map does not yet allow those types. Actions within this strategy include moves that would allow single-room occupancy or dormitory-style housing

in the commercial and high density zones, and more opportunities for assisted living communities or facilities.

Councilmember Lisa Gourley cautioned to guard against traffic flow issues when considering zoning.

“We need to retain the ability to grow in a healthy way as a community,” she said. “Sometimes people in larger metropolitan areas build closer to each other; in a rural setting, those houses aren’t going to sell as readily as one with a little more space between them... I think some of our rules that are in place are there to help us as we grow, that we grow in an attractive way that does bring people to our community for the right reasons.”

Councilmember Greg Mahler agreed about taking transportation issues into consideration.

Earlier, Councilmember Gourley had expressed interest in helping the elderly population who live alone in their large homes, which are often older homes that are paid off. She’d like to see opportunities for that population that would encourage them to transition to an easier living situation and, simultaneously, open up the larger homes for families.

To that point, she also noted a concern about the cost of system development charges (SDC) to build “granny flats” or accessory dwelling units,

which often stop people from building those types of housing.

“Strategy F” addressed this issue, which involves modifying the SDCs. Developers are charged SDCs based on the number of units being built. A recommended action is to charge based on square footage.

Gladding provided an example scenario with the current charge schedule, in that a 3,000 square foot single family home would be charged the same fee as a 900 square foot townhome. Reducing the SDC cost would incentivize developers or homeowners to build those types of housing needed in Sweet Home, she said.

Another action to consider is exempting small ADUs and conversions of houses into duplexes from SDCs. Finally, Gladding explained another option is to receive SDC payments from developers upon occupancy, as opposed to the current requirement to pay before building. This could encourage smoother development of housing needed in Sweet Home.

Winterbrook will present a final draft of the Housing Production Strategy to City Council on Nov. 12, during which time the council can vote to adopt the report into the city’s comprehensive plan.

Small Intense Fire Near Safeway Quickly Contained



Photo by Evan Milburn

Sweet Home Fire works to contain the intense fire behind Safeway.

By Sky Chappell  
Of The New Era

The Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District responded to calls about a small miscellaneous fire located just behind Safeway, Oct. 14.

According to the on scene Battalion Chief Randy Whitfield, this was a very robust fire. Both ends of the fire were rapidly spreading with one arm of the fire heading towards a warehouse towards the east.

Whitfield got to work, tending to the fire after signaling for the first alarm.

With water still in his brush rig, Whitfield was able to cool off portions of the fire while crews made their way to it.

The fire stretched to about an eighth of an acre before the responding crews were able to extinguish. Engine 25, a pumper tender and brush rig 25 were all able to help extinguish the flames.

According to Whitfield, the cause of the fire was unknown, with it potentially being started from a small campfire. No substantial damage was done to the surrounding area.

Commissioners Hear Planning & Building Update

By Alex Paul  
For The New Era

Linn County Planning & Building issued 294 permits in September, Department Director Steve Wills told the Board of Commissioners during their Oct. 8 meeting.

Wills said the number included 25 permits for dwellings – five single family units, two manufactured homes, 15 for additions/alterations and three for accessory buildings.

Wills said 16 commercial permits were issued. Of the 294 total permits, 52 required plan reviews. There were 18 permits issued within contract cities, including two for new single family housing.

There were 15 code en-

forcement cases closed and 24 new cases opened.

In his written report, Wills noted that Associate Planner Kate Bentz will participate as part of a panel talking about wildfire and hazard mitigation at the Oregon APA Planning Conference to be held Oct. 17-18.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement for professional compensation study services between Portland State University and the Linn County Sheriff’s Office.
- Received the quarterly financial report from Accounting Officer Bill Palmer. He said offices and departments

are on track with spending after the first quarter of the new fiscal year. General Fund spending is at 22%, the General Road Fund is at 15.5%; the Law Enforcement Levy is at 18.4% and the Health Fund is at 12%. Palmer said both the Health Fund and Road Fund brought higher than expected carryovers into the new fiscal year.

- Approved an Enterprise Zone School Support Fee rate between the Albany Public School District and the Linn County Enterprise Zone.
- Approved extending a contract with DeepSeas to provide cybersecurity for the county. The contract will also add Log Analytics that will be

monitored 24/7. The three-year contracts will be for \$81,000 for current Endpoints coverage and \$76,254.12 for adding the Log Analytics.

- Agreed to clear debris from property at 2391 Porter St. in Lebanon.
- Appointed Alan Kinsella, and reappointed George Matland Jr. and Jeannie Davis to the Linn Local Advisory Committee.
- Appointed Karsen O’Brian and Reagan Knopp, and reappointed Maureen Robb, Torri Lynn and Todd Noble to the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council.
- Appointed Nickie Frisch Taylor to the Mental Health Advisory Board.

- Appointed Nathan McIntyre to the Ambulance Service Area Advisory Committee.
- Appointed Alejandra Sanchez to the Community Action Advisory Council.
- Renamed the Board of Property Tax Appeals the Property Value Appeals Board, per state statute.
- Approved a wrecking yard license for G & R Auto Wrecking.
- Approved First Time Youth Wage Agreements with Schmizza Public House, The Point Restaurant and Lounge, Figaro’s Pizza, and Sweet Home Feed and Supply.

THE SWEET HOME COMMUNITY FOUNDATION & THE NEW ERA PRESENT:

City Council Open Position

CANDIDATE FORUM

Thursday, October 17 | 6:30 PM | Sweet Home High School Auditorium

DEAR EDITOR

From page 11

not my idea of professionalism or leadership.

How many times must Sweet Home show up on the front page of the newspaper in negative terms before inappropriate behavior from a councilor is addressed? Holding someone accountable is not one person's responsibility, but everyone that observes it responsibility.

As the voting season is upon us, I encourage voters to take the time to really get to know the candidates that they will be voting for. How are they perceived in the community, how much have they been involved in other service organizations or committees, do they listen before they speak and definitely not how loud they can bark, demonstrate arrogance, have personal agendas, make party affiliation their key point in hopes of garnering votes or have the attitude of being the new sheriff in town that is going to clean-up the streets and get rid of everyone that doesn't think like or agree with them.

Just recently I read where a potential candidate didn't like the addition of stop signs, which is OK to have such an opinion. The problem is, you don't threaten to go above someone's head because you don't like the decision. You seek to understand, sit down, discuss and come up with the best solution. Candidates that threaten are not the kind of candidate I want representing me, nor should you.

I urge voters to look for candidates that have integrity, decency, and the willingness to make good decisions that best serve the citizens of our community. If they don't have these basic qualities, then they are not the candidate we need serving us. For those that are currently serving us, you need to do a self-check and ask if you are meeting these basic criteria's and if not, correct it or step down and let someone else serve

that puts Sweet Home back as the place we are proud to live.

Bob Dalton  
Sweet Home

Dear Editor,

We write to encourage voters to re-elect Angelita Sanchez, a proven leader, to Sweet Home City Council. We have watched Angelita examine issues, inside and out, and then act in a manner that she believes to be in the best interest of the people of Sweet Home. She sometimes plays devil's advocate in her role as Councilor and has spoken some uncomfortable truths about Council action, or lack of action.

Many Councilors historically have seemed uncomfortable with transparency on difficult issues. Not so with Angelita, as evidenced by her willingness to discuss difficult issues openly at meetings. She seems to prefer to tell the truth and let the proverbial chips fall where they may. That is healthy for good governance. This approach is what we like about her. She is willing to challenge the status quo; examine all sides of an issue, and; is even willing to stay after City Council meetings (when she can) so people attending the meeting can continue the conversation if they have concerns with a particular issue. Bottom line – it is these kinds of behaviors that speak well of her heart for people, and displays true leadership.

Angelita has developed relationships with officials at all levels of government. Ultimately, these relationships help her solve local problems to our collective benefit. She is honest, communicative and believes in shedding sunlight on issues. She does not hide her views, and shares as much as she can with her constituency. She routinely engages with citizens on community social media platforms, in order to inform the public, as well as learn more about an issue and glean what community members think.

She is thoughtful, thorough and decisive. She has taken advantage of resource opportunities for

Sweet Home that otherwise might have been lost to us had she not been quick and decisive in helping to secure those resources. She is humble, and does not seek attention or credit. She does not engage in back-biting, but is willing to call out falsehoods. She has been a strong advocate for our community. She leaves her party affiliation at the door when it comes to the business of the City.

Eleven years ago, we retired and moved to Sweet Home after living in a rural setting for most of our lives. (we are both now in our 70s). I (Gary) served as President of a union representing several hundred federal workers of all political persuasions for close to two decades. What that experience taught us is that often some people run for office to seek power, perceived power, or as a stepping stone to something "higher". After moving to Sweet Home, we began to attend City Council meetings, and have watched scores of meetings on YouTube where we witnessed, first hand, that same dynamic in various Councilors who have maintained an attitude that conveyed that "they would tell you what was good for you", or were dismissive of public input. Angelita Sanchez has never presented as one of those kinds of people. It is clear to us that Angelita is serving because she wants to "do good" for the people of Sweet Home.

Angelita Sanchez is the "Real Deal", and we hope you join us in voting to re-elect her for another term on Sweet Home City Council. We find her straight-forward, non-partisan approach to issues commendable and will both cast our ballots for her without reservation.

Gary and Lois Jarvis  
Sweet Home

Huskies Fall to Marist Catholic, 49-7

By Sky Chappell  
Of The New Era

The Sweet Home Huskies faced a tough matchup Friday night against the Marist Catholic Spartans, falling 49-7 in a league game at Marist High School, Oct. 11.

The Spartans, ranked among the top five teams in the state, improved to 2-0 in league play and 5-1 overall with the victory. Sweet Home dropped to 0-2 in league play and a 3-3 overall.

Despite the lopsided score, Sweet Homes' Coach Ryan

Adams noted positive take-aways from the game.

"We went into Friday night with some goals for ourselves as a team, and I think the kids accomplished those," he said. "Marist is a great football team, top 5 in the state for sure, so we knew it was going to be a tough matchup. But we got better at some things we needed to in order to be successful down the road. Just really proud of how they continued to compete and work hard."

The Huskies tried to close the gap against a strong Marist defense, but the Spartans controlled the game early, building an insurmountable lead and showcasing their offensive power.

Sweet Home will look to bounce back in its next game as the team continues to navigate league play. Their next game will be at home versus Junction City (1-5), Oct. 18.

No statistics were available at the time of publication.

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October 27th - Noah's Flood and Geology  
November 3rd - Is the Bible Reliable?

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**Time:** 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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Presenter: Jesse Hey graduated from Discover Creation Training Institute, a 1-year program of Alpha Omega Institute in Grand Junction, CO. He will be using colorful slideshow presentations that are **designed for both children and adults.**

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Public Notices

In the Matter of the Estate of  
GEORGIA LEE HARBAUGH  
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS  
Linn County Case No. 24PB08973  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the  
Circuit Court of Linn County,  
State of Oregon, has appointed  
the undersigned as Personal  
Representative of the Estate of  
GEORGIA LEE HARBAUGH, deceased.  
All persons having claims  
against said estate are required  
to present the same, with proper  
vouchers, to the personal repre-  
sentative in care of Sarah Cas-  
tleton, Attorney at Law, Ivers &  
Miller Law, 317 W 1st Ave, Al-  
bany, OR 97321, within four (4)  
months after the date of first  
publication of this notice, or  
the claims may be barred. All  
persons whose rights may be af-  
fected by the proceedings may  
obtain additional information  
from the records of the court,  
the personal representative or  
the attorney for the personal  
representative.  
DATED and first published: Octo-  
ber 16, 2024.  
Sondra Fiet  
c/o Sarah Castleton  
Ivers & Miller Law  
PO Box 1033  
317 First Ave W., Suite 302  
Albany, OR 97321  
(541) 928-5875  
sarah@ivers.law  
(Oct 16) -----

In the Matter of the Estate of  
WILMA ALINE MCELHINEY  
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS  
Linn County Case No. 24PB08886  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the  
Circuit Court of Linn County,  
State of Oregon, has appoint-  
ed the undersigned as Personal  
Representative of the Estate of  
WILMA ALINE MCELHINEY, deceased.  
All persons having claims  
against said estate are required  
to present the same, with proper  
vouchers, to the personal repre-  
sentative in care of Sarah Cas-  
tleton, Attorney at Law, Ivers &  
Miller Law, 317 W 1st Ave, Al-  
bany, OR 97321, within four (4)  
months after the date of first  
publication of this notice, or  
the claims may be barred. All  
persons whose rights may be af-  
fected by the proceedings may  
obtain additional information  
from the records of the court,  
the personal representative or  
the attorney for the personal  
representative.  
DATED and first published: Octo-  
ber 16, 2024.  
Joseph Vernon Wirth  
c/o Sarah Castleton  
Ivers & Miller Law  
PO Box 1033  
317 First Ave W., Suite 302  
Albany, OR 97321  
(541) 928-5875  
sarah@ivers.law  
(Oct 16) -----

“In the Matter of the Estate of  
Charles M. McClelland,  
Linn County Circuit Court Case  
No. 24PB08633  
All persons having claims  
against the above-identified es-  
tate must present them, within  
four months after the date of  
the first publication of the no-  
tice to the personal represen-  
tative at the address designated  
in the notice for the presenta-  
tion of claims or they may be  
barred.  
Edward Alexander McClelland,  
Personal Representative  
c/o Sam Sears  
570 Liberty St. SE, Suite 240  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
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 attorney for the personal  
representative.  
This notice was published on Oc-  
tober 16, 2024.”  
(Oct 16) -----

In the Circuit Court of the  
State of Oregon For the County  
of Linn  
In the Matter of the Estate of:  
Patricia McGarr, Deceased.  
Case No. 24PB08398  
Notice to Interested Persons  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that  
the undersigned has been ap-  
pointed personal representa-  
tive. All persons having claims  
against the estate are required  
to present them, with vouchers

Public Notices

attached, to the undersigned  
personal representative at the  
Law offices of Melinda M. Brown,  
725 Ellsworth Street SW, Albany,  
OR 97321, 541-967-7776, within  
four months after the date of  
the 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,  
Kim Y. Brown, or the attorney  
for the personal representa-  
tive, Melinda M. Brown.  
DATED and first published on Oc-  
tober 16, 2024.  
Personal Representative  
Kim Y. Brown  
2357 SE Madison St.  
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(Oct 16 - Oct 30) -----

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Statewide Notices

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# City Asks for Community Input

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The City of Sweet Home is inviting residents to participate in a survey to share their ideas, concerns and hopes for the growing community.

“The government within the United States is intended to be ‘of the people, by the people, for the people.’ To help foster that ideal, we need to hear from the people,” Mayor Susan Coleman said.

Looking to the near future when several new council members will take the helm, Mayor Coleman wants communication between the council and the community off to a solid start.

“As councilors, we each interact with our sphere of people,” she said. “With so many

new councilors starting in 2025, I hope the survey responses will provide councilors with the opportunity to hear from a broad spectrum of community members and create a foundation for the council moving forward.”

Here are questions posed on the survey, which can be found at City Hall:

What do you like most about Sweet Home? What does a successful, thriving city look like to you? What is your vision for what the best version of Sweet Home would look like in 2040? What do you think is the biggest challenge facing the future of Sweet Home? What is the biggest opportunity facing Sweet Home? What would be your top three priorities for

improvement if the city had \$100 million to spend in five years? What is your preferred way to receive information from the city (email, social media, etc)?

Mayor Coleman explained that after responses are gathered, the city will try to identify common themes, ideas or concerns shared by the community they serve.

“Responses could inform future goal-setting for the council, and the ideas shared can help inform and shape a vision for Sweet Home’s future,” she said.

Those who submit a survey response will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card at Thriftway. Responses must be submitted by Nov. 15.

# ‘Aggressive’ Deep Drawdown Begins This Week

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

This week anglers and concerned citizens will see the Green Peter Reservoir begin to drop dramatically as a modified deep drawdown begins to take action on Oct. 15 aiming for its target elevation by mid-November.

Questions about dying fish and turbid waters this year will soon be answered, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seems to indicate it won’t be as dramatic as last year. That’s because it’s believed the “aggressive” drawdown will actually reduce turbid conditions and the remaining deep-level fish (Kokanee) are small in number this year.

In fact, after gathering data from last year’s initial deep drawdown at Green Peter Dam, USACE determined the Kokanee fishery in the reservoir is essentially gone.

“We had a lot of Kokanee pass out of this dam,” said Greg Taylor, supervisory fisheries biologist for the USACE Willamette Project, adding that more than one million Kokanee died from barotrauma during last year’s first drawdown.

Initially he hoped enough of the Kokanee would stay in the Green Peter Reservoir to maintain a fishery, but it simply didn’t happen. As such, there’s not much left to pass through the dam this year.

Sandwiched between online informational meetings hosted by USACE in a three-day period, the South Santiam Watershed Council hosted its own town-hall-style meeting at the high school auditorium on Oct. 10 with Taylor.

Working for USACE for 23 years, Taylor has been involved with the Green Peter case since at least 2021 when he partici-

pated as a panel expert to help determine the plan of action after U.S. District Court Judge Marco Hernandez found for the plaintiffs (Native Fish Society, Northwest Environmental Defense Center, and Wild Earth Guardians). The panel consisted of two experts representing the plaintiffs, two experts from the National Marine Fisheries Service, and two USACE representatives (whose purpose there, Taylor said, was limited to making sure the plan did not damage the safety of the dam).

Taylor reported that a majority of “test” juvenile Chinook had passed through the dam’s spillway last spring, but the percentage of naturally produced Chinook passing through was lower. The number that passed during the drawdown was “really small” (low hundred thousands).

The questions to answer, he suggested, include whether the fish are successfully spawning in the river and passing to the reservoir, how many fish are actually in the reservoir to pass, and are they surviving in the reservoir during the summer.

It will take different methods and monitoring techniques to find what works and what’s needed. This year USACE was allowed to run the deep drawdown in a short, one-month period in an attempt to save fish eggs from overheated water temperatures.

“We need to do this over multiple years,” he said. “Then ultimately you are able to take all that information that you collect, put that all together and make some kind of determination as to whether this is really going to work.”

**Background**

Green Peter Dam was completed in 1967 with a regulating outlet (RO) near the bottom, a

penstock and turbine above that, and a spillway near the top. During the first few decades, there had been different attempts to pass fish through the dam, but none were successful. The penstock cannot be used for pass-through because the turbines increase fish mortality. Chinook successfully pass over the spillway in the spring, but the hiccup is how to pass targeted juvenile Chinook in late fall or winter

In 2008, a Biological Opinion (“BiOp”) from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) specified 96 actions that the Corps must complete within 15 years (by 2023) to help spring Chinook salmon, which are on the Endangered Species Act list. Taylor explained last year that the Corps accomplished 87 of those actions but, admittedly, did not complete all of them because some needed more time or more funds.

This led to the lawsuit whereby Judge Hernandez agreed USACE violated the ESA, resulting in a set of required actions to ultimately pass more Chinook down the Santiam with a higher survival rate.

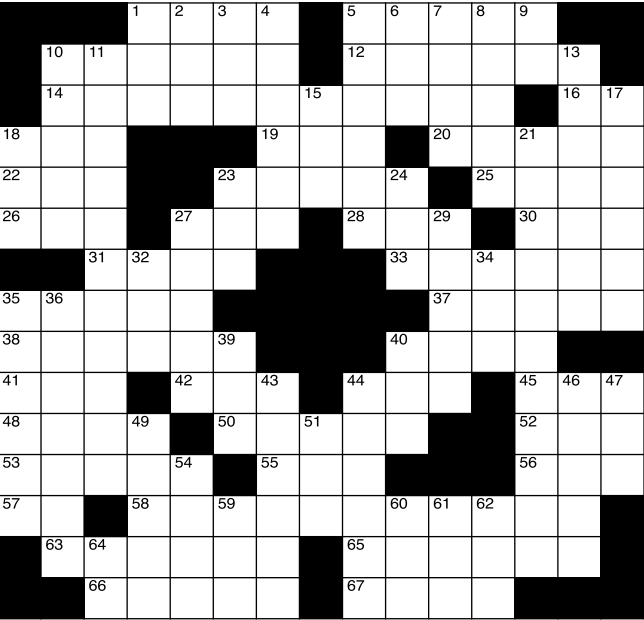
“When you do any kind of operation at these dams to try to help a fish, or quite frankly anything else, there’s always a set of impacts and benefits associated with that action we take,” Taylor said at the town hall. “There is no silver bullet stuff out here.”

Other information gleaned from the meeting include:

USACE will be taking advantage of the deep drawdown to access and repair a crack on Green Peter Dam.

Sediment samples between the Middle and South Santiam rivers indicate no concerning levels of metals.

## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Sloping position

5. Descendant of a notable family

10. Following accepted norms

12. Root vegetable

14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air

16. Integrated circuit

18. Records electric currents of the heart

19. Used to anoint

20. Japanese city

22. After B

23. Muffles

25. Pass over

26. Vase

27. Soft touch

28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

30. Patti Hearst's captors

31. Israeli politician

33. Degrade
35. Type of wrap

37. Polyurethane fabric

38. Avoids capture

40. Vegetarians avoid it

41. Decay

42. Soviet Socialist Republic

44. Vessel to bathe in

45. Inches per minute (abbr.)

48. Frosts

50. Dipped into

52. Controversial replay system in soccer

53. Comforts

55. Needed for yoga

56. Ands/\_

57. South Dakota

58. Printing system

63. Dramatic works set to music

65. Highest points

66. Social division

67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

### CLUES DOWN

1. Hill or rocky peak

2. Initial public offering

3. Type of light

4. Test

5. Flaky coverings

6. Former NFLer Newton

7. Part of the eye

8. Roman god of the underworld

9. Negative

10. Indiana pro basketball player

11. Replaces lost tissue

13. Denotes one from whom title is taken

15. Historic college hoops tournament

17. Hut by a swimming pool

18. Defunct European monetary unit

21. Feeds on insects

23. Adult male

24. Melancholic
27. Sheets of glass

29. Slang for famous person

32. Not good

34. "Ghetto Superstar" singer

35. The "World" is one

36. Used to make guacamole

39. Midway between south and southwest

40. Wet dirt

43. Ancient Egyptian name

44. Set of four

46. Strips

47. Wife

49. More dried-up

51. Socially inept person

54. Clusters on fern fronds

59. Bar bill

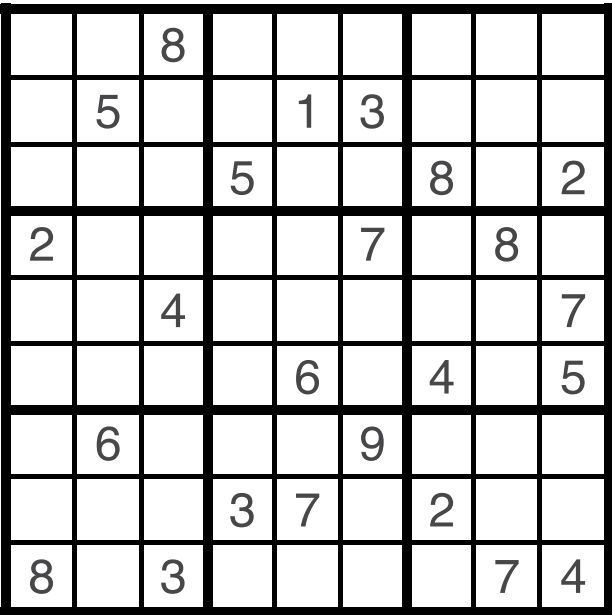
60. Prefix indicating "away from"

61. Very important person

62. Fiddler crabs

64. Special therapy

## SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

# New Scoreboards Installed at Boys & Girls Club, Thanks to SHCF Grant

By Sky Chappell  
Of The New Era

The Boys & Girls Club of Sweet Home got a new addition to their gym this last July. The addition was made possible by a grant received from the Sweet Home Community Foundation (SHCF).

The scoreboards were installed a couple of months ago, bringing a renewed sense of pride to the club's facility that hadn't had working signs for years.

"We applied for a grant through the SHCF about getting our scoreboards fixed because they haven't worked for years," the club's director of development Courtney Paul said.

The club applied for this grant in February of this year. The installation of the new scoreboards marks a significant improvement for the club, according to CEO Casey Humphrey.

"I think it's going to be a huge impact for the Boys & Girls Club, and our kids, just having some quality scoreboards," Humphrey said. "So when they step in here, they can take pride in this facility, and we've got scoreboards that are working. I think it will be huge."

Humphrey also emphasized

the importance of having functional and high-quality equipment for the club's youth.

"Now you can look up here and see some nice, big, quality scoreboards that kids can be proud of as well," he added.

The SHCF awarded \$500,000 in grants this year, funding over 100 community projects, including the scoreboards for the Boys & Girls Clubs. The foundation's president, Robert Burford, expressed satisfaction with supporting such projects.

"The SHCF is very happy to sponsor grant programs for the community," Burford said. "The Boys & Girls Club was one of many that applied. We're happy to award them the funds necessary to purchase those scoreboards for them to, in turn, use with the youth of the area."

According to the SHCF website, the foundation's goal is to support organizations and projects that enhance the quality of life in Sweet Home. Each year, the SHCF opens its grant cycle in February, with applications accepted until spring. Board members review and score each application



SHCF President Robert Burford (left) shakes the hand of the Boys and Girls Club CEO Casey Humphrey (right) in front of the new scoreboards.

Photo by Sky Chappell

based on specific criteria before meeting as a group to make final funding decisions. Recipients must complete their projects before the next grant cycle begins.

The Sweet Home club was able to complete this project well before the aforementioned date. Now: students, athletes, club members and the community as a whole, can look forward to seeing the new signs.

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- ✓ PROTECTING PROPERTY RIGHTS
- ✓ KEEPING TAXES AND FEES LOW

STILL MORE WORK TO DO, VOTE SANCHEZ!

Angelita Sanchez has a vision for Sweet Home's future, growing our economy and making Sweet Home just a little bit sweeter.

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Commissioner Will Tucker  
Fire Chief Nick Tyler  
Milt Moran  
Dr. Angela Plowhead  
Ben Roche Linn County Chair  
Kellie Kem  
Gina Riley  
Edie Wilcox

Sweet Home citizens have been served very well by Angelita Sanchez. She works with County and the State, requesting resources and solutions for Sweet Home issues. I have seen her invest her personal time and money to support community efforts. If I could, I would vote for her.

-Will Tucker, Linn County Commissioner

Gary Burns	Nneka Welch
GB Trees	Miss Alonna Sanchez
Gary and Lois Jarvis	Miss Anita Collins - Collins Kids
Nancy Patton	Courtney & Jake Flanigan
The Blonde Basketcase	Flanigan Plumbing
Yosef & Renita Cohen	Boshart Trucking
Renita Sews	Willamette Speedway
Robert Egner	Lester & Naomi Byler
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