

# Cities File Tort Against Corps

The cities of Sweet Home and Lebanon together filed a tort claim against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, citing significant damages resulting from the Corps' negligent management of water resources at Green Peter Reservoir.

The claim focuses on the Corps' actions during a 2023 drawdown at the Green Peter Dam, which caused elevated turbidity levels in the South Santiam River, affecting the municipal water supplies of both cities. The increased sediment load severely impacted the water treatment systems of both cities, leading to heightened operational costs, equipment damage, and the need for costly pretreatment system upgrades.

"The damages we've sustained are substantial and ongoing," Lebanon City Manager Ron Whitlatch said. "Together with Sweet Home, we are seeking accountability for the harm caused to our infrastructure and the significant costs we've incurred to ensure safe drinking water for our communities."



Left: treated water. Right: untreated water. Taken Oct. 31, 2023

In addition, both cities officially declared a State of Emergency in anticipation of potential impacts to water quality.

"This declaration ensures that we are fully prepared and have all necessary resources to protect our community's water quality during this critical time," Sweet Home Interim City Manager Jason Ogden said.

The emergency declarations are a proactive step to ensure both cities can effectively address any challenges that may arise. The declarations enable the cities to work closely with state and federal agencies and access additional resources to safeguard the safety and reliability of their water supply.

Both cities are working together to seek compensation

for damages, which exceed more than \$11 million in Sweet Home and \$26 million in Lebanon. These costs reflect the anticipated upgrades necessary of the water treatment facilities to handle current and future drawdowns, ensure long term water safety, and address the strain the drawdowns have placed on the community's resources.

File Photo

# Reflecting on the Calapooia River

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The story about the newest art exhibit at City Hall centers around a river and a television, with a dash of COVID and a pinch of new beginnings.

Lee Roscoe-Bragg's exhibit, "Upper Calapooia," is now on display at City Hall until Nov. 27, with an artist's reception on Oct. 24 from 4-5 p.m. Some of her artwork will be for sale for \$300 each.

When Roscoe-Bragg and her husband, Bill, retired, they set their sights on moving closer to their grandchildren in Corvallis, so they mapped out a one-mile radius from the city and settled on a plot of land that put Roscoe-Bragg in her happy place.

"I'd always wanted to live on water, so we were lucky enough to find a lot on the Calapooia," she explained.

Upon completion of a house build, the couple moved into their new home in late 2018 and began set-



Photo by Sarah Brown

Lee Roscoe-Bragg stands with some of her acrylic paintings now on display at City Hall.

tlng in, but soon enough COVID overtook the world and isolated them from the community they were just beginning to integrate with.

Meanwhile, a television took the stage, apparently creating something of a dis-

turbance in the house and leading the artist to take up acrylics for the first time in her life.

Roscoe-Bragg is first and foremost a watercolorist. She graduated with an art degree from California State Univer-

sity, Long Beach, and taught art at a high school in northern California.

"I think probably the most fun was the kids just looking at their own work and going,

See Reflecting, Page 9

Hometown  
Newspaper of  
**RUTHANNE  
KING**



2024  
**VOTERS GUIDE**



**2024  
VOTERS  
GUIDE**  
PAGE 5



**WHITTON ONLY STEP  
BEHIND LEAGUE  
LEADER IN GIRLS XC**  
PAGE 8



**ALL STATE  
OCCA CHEER  
COMPETITION**  
PAGE 16

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# OBITUARIES



## Severo Montano

March 5, 1938-October 14, 2024

Severo Montano was born on March 5, 1938 in San Fidel, New Mexico and died October 14, 2024 in Hillsboro Nursing Care.

Severo was the youngest of five siblings born to Guadalupe (Montano) Fernandez. He lived in San Fidel until his mother met and married Leo Fernandez. The family moved to Wilder, Idaho and graduated from Wilder High School in 1958. After graduation, he enlisted in the National Guard and served until 1970.

Severo worked for several area farmers and then began working for the Wirth Corporation in Caldwell, Idaho. He married Joan Richards in 1969 and in 1970 the couple moved to Sweet Home, where her parents lived. He was a resident of the Sweet Home community for 54 years. He worked for Willamette Industries Plywood until he retired in 1995.

Severo enjoyed playing racquetball and was a regular at Lebanon courts for many years. In the 80s and 90s he competed in and won multiple local and state racquetball tournaments. He also enjoyed fishing in area lakes.

Severo is survived by his children, Rebecca Leuang Van, who lives in Des Moines, Iowa and Nick Montano, of Beaverton; sisters, Daisy Sarceda of Wilder, Idaho, and Mary Parrish, Albuquerque, New Mexico; brother, Leo Fernandez of Sweet Home; granddaughter, Monika Leuang Van of Des Moines

and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Guadalupe; his father, Alfredo Montano; his step-father, Leo Fernandez; brothers, Alfred Montano, and Andy Fernandez; and sisters, Rita Enrico, Marcy Kelly and Julie Howel.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in December.



## 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 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.

He was 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, OR 97355. [www.hustonjost.com](http://www.hustonjost.com)



## Bette Jean Procknow

July 19, 1934 - October 11, 2024

Bette Jean Procknow passed away on October 11, 2024, at 90 years of age. Her last moments were spent peacefully in her room at the Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon, surrounded by immediate family and caregivers that had ensured her comfort, daily. Bette's independent spirit, impeccable memory, and zest for living life her way will be missed by all who knew and loved her. The family asks that she be remembered for the joy she brought to life, not the sadness of her passing.

She was born on July 19, 1934, to loving parents Harold Eugene and Elsie Ruth (Sackett) Briggs in Mitchell, SD. She graduated from high school in Timber Lake, SD in 1952 then, attended Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD and obtained her teaching certificate. Later that same year she married Roy Austin Howard of Timber Lake, SD and after a few years of relocating for his construction jobs they eventually settled in Sweet Home around 1960. As a young mother, she was a stay at home mom, and they raised three children together. After their divorce, Bette worked as a sales clerk in Sweet Home, first at Speedy Mart and later at Santiam Drug Store until her retirement. She remarried in 1973 to Bruce Warner Procknow, also of Sweet Home, and became a stepmother to his two boys. They purchased land and built a home together just outside of town on Fern Ridge Road where they remained until his passing in 2020. Shortly thereafter, Bette became extremely ill with covid, the after effects of covid, coupled with two rare

neurological disorders limiting her ability to speak and care for herself added to her declining health, making it necessary for her to sell their home and move into nursing care in 2021. We thank the Oregon Veterans Home, and their doctors, for their dedication, support and care that gave mom another 3 years with us. Bette loved her family and over the years frequently returned to South Dakota for visits with family and friends that remained there. She always attended the annual Briggs Family Reunion in Oregon where memories made will remain cherished by everyone who came.

Her passions were playing pinocle, gardening, canning, sewing, and family genealogical research and never passing up a good argument. Her favorite flowers were yellow roses and daffodils. She was a member of the local VFW Women's Auxiliary, the American Legion Auxiliary, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Eastern Star and the Sweet Home Genealogical Society, and along with her husband Bruce, she supported Shriners. Always giving her time and energy back to family, the organizations she felt compelled to serve and the community she lived in for over 60 years.

Bette is survived by her son Steven Howard of Sweet Home; daughter, Sandra (Anthony) Davis of Edmonds, Washington; daughter Barbara (Tom) Hanten of Lebanon; step-son Donald (Vickie) Procknow of Sweet Home; step-son Keith Procknow of Woodland, Washington; sister Janice (Gerald/d.2024) Oar of Springfield; sister Dawn (Larry/d.2016) Monagon of Keizer; sister Patricia Rardin of Milwaukie; step-sister Carol Eddy of Keizer, and step-brother Daryl (Elenor) Volesky of Orange Beach, Alabama. Bette had 8 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren plus multiple nieces, nephews, and cousins. Bette was preceded in death by her husband of 47 years Bruce Warner Procknow in 2020; her mother Elsie Ruth [Sackett] Briggs in 1946; her father Harold Eugene Briggs in 1968; her sister Kim Lee (Bill/2016) Westlund in 2015, her sister Debra Anne (Larry) Ribble in 2024, her step-mother Deloris Delight (Emmett/d.2015) Johnson of Salem in 2024 and her ex-husband Roy A. (Donna) Howard of Sweet Home in 2019.

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. Imme-

See Obituaries, Page 3

# The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

**SWEETHOMENEWS.COM**  
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TEMPERATURES

DATE		HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
October 14		74	50	0.00
October 15		68	56	0.00
October 16		64	52	0.02
October 17		58	44	0.12
October 18		60	38	0.15
October 19		76	48	0.00
October 20		68	46	0.00

PRECIPITATION

Year to date: 21.02  
October 25, 2023: 24.66

FORECAST

DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Partly Cloudy	59	35
Fri	Partly Cloudy	66	51
Sat	Showers	62	47
Sun	Showers	57	43
Mon	Showers	55	41
Tues	Showers	57	42
Wed	Showers	54	40

LAKE LEVELS

Foster Reservoir: 622.3  
Green Peter Res.: 872.8

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

OBITUARIES

From page 2

diately after the final burial, all are welcome to join the family for food, refreshments and to share memories at the VFW Hall (580 Main St, Sweet Home OR 97386) Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

Marilyn Joyce Whittemoore

November 10, 1931 - October 14, 2024

Marilyn Joyce Whittemoore, 92, of Corvallis passed away Monday, October 14, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is

Barbara G. DeVyldere

August 22, 1939 - October 14, 2024

Barbara G. DeVyldere, 85, of Salem passed away Monday, October 14, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

Gilbert Bruce Bentley

February 6, 1939 - October 18, 2024

Gilbert Bruce Bentley, 85, of Sweet Home passed away Friday, October 18, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

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.

Oct. 14

12:09 p.m - Nicholas Nivison, 31, was cited on a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant.

1:58 p.m - Benjamin Reuben Pannier, 41, was arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to appear on two counts of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

3:08 p.m - Robert Church, 52, was cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured and warrants.

3:54 p.m - Theresa Christine Alberts was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for third degree theft.

5:56 p.m - Caller reports campaign signs were stolen. Report taken, valued loss \$40.

Oct. 15

8:09 a.m - Katherine Berghoffer, 43, was arrested on a

Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for third degree theft.

9:11 a.m - George Henderson, 64, was cited for dog at large.

11:19 a.m - Anthony Wilcox, was cited for driving uninsured.

12:19 p.m - Ashlee Dee Flanagan, 36, was arrested on a Linn County Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for felon in possession of a firearm.

12:20 p.m - Bronson Putney, 29, of Brownsville, was cited for driving while suspended.

1:23 p.m - Daniel Joseph Maurice, 58, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for driving while suspended.

3:35 p.m - Rosalina Rivas, 36, of Albany, was cited for an Albany Municipal Court warrant.

Oct. 16

1:11 a.m - Brandon Debree, 37, of Eugene, was arrested for menacing and three counts of second degree criminal trespass.

4:19 a.m - Tracy Bennett, 57, was cited for violation of the basic rule.

8:27 a.m - Raymon Wayne Littell, 48, was arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to comply on an original charge for driving while suspended.

9:15 a.m - Tracy Lynn Watterman, 51, was arrested on a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for sec-

ond degree criminal mischief.

10:19 a.m - Gilbert Alanzo Martinez, 48, was arrested on an Albany Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for second degree theft and Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to comply on an original charge for second degree criminal trespass and failure to appear on charges for fourth degree assault and second degree criminal trespass.

2:12 p.m - Rachel Nicole Hurst, 42, was cited for speeding 30/20.

3:07 p.m - Dustin Kyle Coughran, 34, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for third degree theft, a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for a probaion violation relating to third degree theft, an Albany Municipal Court warrant for contempt of court, a Salem Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for failure to carry and present and an Oregon

CIRCUIT COURT

All information presented herein is obtained from publicly available Oregon court and law enforcement records. The Oregon Public Records Law, as detailed in the Attorney General's Public Records and Meeting Manual, allows public access to these records. Every individual named or referenced is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Warrants are out on the following individuals: Hope Marie Connors, Curtis Ray Daniel, Brandon Ryan Freeman, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Billy Wayne Hatch Jr., Faron Walter Kennedy, Scott Kevin Heinz, Noe Hernandez-Reyes, Michael Trevor Hilton, William Henry King Jr., Charles James Marvel, Bryce William McGowan, Eric Wayne McKnight, Car-

rie Lynne Miller, Larry Robert Morgan, James Keith Mortensen, Steven Dale Myers, Nicholas Alan Nelson, Emmanuel Wayne Peters, Daniel Austin Phillips, Tammy Lavonn Robinson, Kaden James Rodriguez, Paul Levi Shelton, Eric Wayne Steadman, Dustin Lee Taylor, Joshua Alexander Williams.

Joni Lynne Ortiz

was charged Oct. 16 with eight counts of first degree sexual abuse that allegedly occurred from 1995 to 2022 with two different subjects both under the age of 14, and one count of first degree unlawful sexual penetration.

Nathan Johnathan Robert Periman

was charged Oct 10 with menacing constituting domestic violence and unlawful possession of firearms.

See Public Safety, Page 16

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Crossword KEY

Puzzle on page 15

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

SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 15

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



# 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.

8. And the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. 9. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 10. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 11. And God saw that the light was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 12. And God called the light Day, and the darkness Night. 13. And there was evening, and there was morning, the second day.

14. And God said, Let the waters under the firmament be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear. 15. And God said, Be thou gathered together into one place. 16. And it was so. 17. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters Seas. 18. And God saw that it was good. 19. And there was evening, and there was morning, the third day.

20. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, and herb yielding seed, and the tree bearing fruit, which shall be to you for food. 21. And God said, Let the earth bring forth living souls after their kind: the cattle of the earth, and every creeping creature that hath life. 22. And it was so. 23. And God created great whales, and every living creature that creepeth, and every beast of the earth, after their kind. 24. And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them. 25. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living creature that creepeth upon the earth. 26. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth, for food. 27. And to every beast of the earth, and to every creeping creature that hath life, I have given every green herb for food. 28. And it was so. 29. And there was evening, and there was morning, the fourth day.

30. And God said, Let the waters bring forth living souls. 31. And God created great whales, and every living creature that creepeth, and every beast of the sea, after their kind. 32. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters, and bring forth abundantly of every living creature that hath life. 33. And it was so. 34. And there was evening, and there was morning, the fifth day.

35. And God said, Let the earth bring forth a living soul. 36. And God created man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. 37. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living creature that creepeth upon the earth. 38. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth, for food. 39. And to every beast of the earth, and to every creeping creature that hath life, I have given every green herb for food. 40. And it was so. 41. And there was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day.

42. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed, and the tree bearing fruit, which shall be to you for food. 43. And God said, Let the earth bring forth living souls after their kind: the cattle of the earth, and every creeping creature that hath life. 44. And it was so. 45. And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them. 46. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living creature that creepeth upon the earth. 47. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth, for food. 48. And to every beast of the earth, and to every creeping creature that hath life, I have given every green herb for food. 49. And it was so. 50. And there was evening, and there was morning, the seventh day.

51. And God blessed the seventh day, and God hallowed it, because he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. 52. And the end of the book of the generation of Adam.



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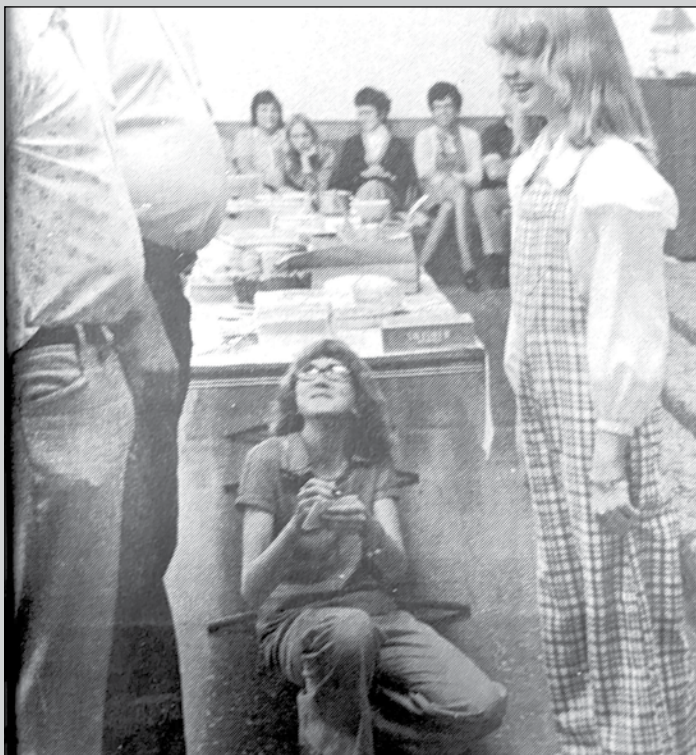
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## FROM OUR FILES



Pam Mulholland and Diane Hyland take a weigh-in of two rather well-endowed fathers who attended "Fat Daddy Dinner" sponsored by the International Order of Rainbow Girls in 1974.

### Oct. 27, 1949

A city ordinance requiring the registration of all bicycles in the city had its first reading this week that will require all bicyclists to have license plates, be subject to traffic regulations and generally be quite like the automobile driver. Miniature metal license plates for the bikes have already been received by the city, and traffic laws and sentences will be defined soon.

A building permit was issued to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for the construction of a two-story building at the northeast corner of 13th and L streets. The building will be pushed to completion as soon as possible and the cost was set at \$10,000, with the explanation that the property would exceed that in actual value since there would be cooperative contributions of labor by members.

Congressman Harris Ellsworth announced that the federal postal authorities had changed their earlier decision and that Sweet Home was now assured of city mail delivery service in the near future, as long as there is cooperation from the general public and local authorities.

### Oct. 24, 1974

For years the city and school district have cast covetous eyes upon the old Oregon Plywood property, some 20 acres in the middle of town between 14th and 18th avenues. The city considers it ideal for expansion of Sankey Park while the district

wants to expand the high school grounds. Efforts to purchase the property were shunted by the \$140,000 price tag, but unknown to them it recently was sold at a sheriff's sale this summer for only \$39,282. The government entities only learned of the sale when the new owner out of Springfield inquired if the city was interested in buying the property. Questions of liens and promised donations of the property add more tangles into the web.

### Oct. 27, 1999

Camp Attitude's founder, Ron Heagy Jr., wants to locate and acquire property to trade to Linn County for a 75-acre property adjoining his 34-acre Camp Attitude. He was exploring the opportunity to buy the land when the owners decided to just donate it to the county and now Heagy is concerned about a new county park being constructed there.

Volunteers formed three committees to work on specific, small projects that help youths build a list of their assets, such as integrity, honesty, social skills, resolution skills, sense of self, etc. The asset-building groups are arising out of the Youth Initiative, a program based on research showing that the more assets children possess, the less likely they are to engage in risky behavior. Committee member Diane Gerson is using the technique for youth and adults to determine the city's own assets or positive characteristics.



2024

VOTERS GUIDE



Chelsea Augsburger



Erin Barstad



Matthew Bechtel



Ken Bronson



Elaine Evans



Rejeana Hayes



Aaron Hegge



David Lowman



Dawn Miller



Angelita Sanchez



Jennifer Victor



Brandy Wysong-Frick



The Sweet Home Community Foundation and The New Era hosted a candidate forum on Thursday, Oct. 17, giving the 12 City Council candidates an opportunity to answer questions regarding issues that impact the community.

Two of the 12 candidates were unable to attend. Inside can be found a transcript of each of the candidates' answers at the forum, with the addition of the other two candidates who responded to questions via an in-person interview (Jennifer Victor) or email (Erin Barstad).

It should be noted that Victor was asked similar questions prior to the forum, but they were not always identical or lined-up with the actual questions posed at the forum. As such, we tried to align her answers with the best fit for the forum questions, and some of the forum questions were not given to her to be answered here.

Outgoing city council members, whose terms end Dec. 31, 2024, are: Lisa Gourley, Greg Mahler, Angelita Sanchez, Dave Trask. Sanchez is running as an incumbent this year. Remaining council members, whose terms end Dec. 31, 2026, are: Susan Coleman, Dylan Richards, Joshua Thorstad.

**Introduce yourself, and provide a brief background of yourself and why you wish to serve on the city council.**

**Chelsea Augsburger:** I would be honored to earn your votes. I am a lifelong resident of Sweet Home. I remember what Sweet Home was, I see what it is today, and I would be honored to help shape the future of our town. I was a local teacher here. I also worked at the Linn County Assessment office, also the City Planning Department. I am well versed in the challenges facing our town and I'm well equipped to help us navigate those challenges. If elected to council, I would work to be fiscally responsible with your tax dollars. I would work to increase notifications to the residents of town. I would work to make sure to advocate for all citizens. I would listen to you and I would be accountable to citizens in Sweet Home.

**Erin Barstad:** I have lived in Sweet Home all my life and I love our community. I decided to run for City Council because I think we need a change. We need younger eyes and ears. I want to help make a difference. I feel that is the reason anybody decides to do something like this.

**Matthew Bechtel:** My leadership training comes from my military experience. I joined the National Guard. I originally joined the Guard to stay local within the community, put out forest fires, help with flooding that was going on in the late '90s, and they ended up sending me to Iraq. That wasn't so bad. I learned a lot of acronyms while I was in the Army. The biggest acronym that really stuck to me was the one of leadership, and I try to exemplify the traits of this leadership. What I've got, I've got loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. These are the traits I try to exemplify myself with every day. My wife and I moved to Sweet Home about four years ago. We bought our first house and since then we have both dove heavily into the community and been very active in our roles.

**Ken Bronson:** My wife Fran and I, we live here in Foster. Our blended family includes six children and five grandchildren. I've been in Sweet Home for 14 years. I grew up on a 320 acre farm out west at Junction City with 12 siblings. I worked my way through college working in the woods and mills in Lane County. I graduated from Southern Oregon University with a bachelor's degree in business. I spent 29 years managing wood products companies and the last 12 years running public transportation here in Sweet Home through the Senior Center for the Sweet Home Transportation and the Linn County Transportation systems. I currently serve on the board of directors of the Senior Center. I have financial and managerial experiences in seven-figure operations. I coach soccer, tee ball, volleyball, basketball, you name it; with three kids, I coached it. Boy Scout leader, five years on the Pleasant Hill School Board, five years on the Pleasant Hill Forestry Advisory Team.

**Elaine Evans:** I was born and raised in this town, and after I left to go to college at Northwest Christian College in Eugene where I studied speech communications and music, I came back to this town when my father passed and I inherited his house. I live there with my husband, Peter, who's retired, and I'm retired. The reason I'm running for City Council is I want to have a voice. I want to be able to say that I've done something with my life, a positive thing, and putting a positive stamp on this town is something that I feel like is needed.

**Rejeana Hayes:** I am a member of Holley Church and I work for the United States Post Office as an NT clerk. I own my own business, Rejeana's Notary, state certified. I'm married to Raymond Hayes, who likes to keep to himself. We have six kids together, and four of them went to Sweet Home High School. They are all out on their own now. I am running for City Council because I live here in Sweet Home and I want to be a part of making Sweet Home better. When I say 'better,' I mean the way City Council handled the stop signs and other issues, I don't think it was handled well. I felt that we were blindsided and most of the people that I talked to felt the same way.

**Aaron Hegge:** I'm a lifelong resident in Sweet Home. I live here with my wife and three kids. I graduated Sweet Home High School in 2002 and I was able to play basketball in college for four years, where I got my bachelor's in business management. From there I spent 13 years in retail management, and more currently I now own an insurance agency here in town. I've been a Rotarian for three years here for the Sweet Home Rotarian Club. More recently I was the president and, during that time, I saw what our community is about and what we can do. I built great relationships with the community and the leaders. As a councilor, I want to be the voice of the community and I believe our decisions and actions as community members should reflect our community.

**David Lowman:** I'm running for City Council because I feel like I have some experience in the city. I was three years appointed on the Budget Committee, one year on the City Charter Review Committee, and one year as a planning commissioner. I love giving back to my community to save tax dollars for our city, as well as for our community people. I'd like to earn your vote by showing you what I can do. I appreciate living here, working here in the city of Sweet Home. I also work for the post office, so I see a lot of people all the time, delivering the mail. But I do see some changes that need to be done in this city and I would like to be your voice on the council.

**Dawn Miller:** I'm a resident of Sweet Home for 19-plus years. We came to this community kind of backwards; people that know me know the story. I love this community that embraced us when we landed here. I'm retired, a wife, mother, and grandmother of seven grandchil-

dren. I'm running for City Council because, as it stands right now, our council is broken. It needs to be corrected. So that's why I'm here.

**Angelita Sanchez:** Currently I am your city councilor. I'm the only incumbent running with 11 other people. I'm just so excited that we have all these people wanting to stand up for our community. We have an opportunity in Sweet Home to go a new direction and I hope that we choose wisely, listen to what everybody has to say, and make the decision best for our community. I'm a fourth-generation resident of Sweet Home. I own a small business. I've done a lot of things for this community already and I'm willing to commit as much time as I can to continue serving the community of Sweet Home.

**Jennifer Victor:** I was born and raised here. I've raised 5 kids here. We've owned several businesses here, we own property here, we are fully vested here and we love our community. I think I got to the point where in some of our social circles I was complaining about certain things, like not having a real great reason for businesses - we're very under-utilized here in Sweet Home - and I just feel like we can just capitalize on so much industry. I feel like we're not taking advantage, and so I was complaining a little bit to my friends and it just kind of hit me all of a sudden; I thought to myself, "I don't get to complain unless I'm doing something about it." I feel like I have a lot of unique things to bring to the table. Just from what we do and my background I just feel like I have some really great business-minded type things that I can bring to the table, there are some very unique things I could bring into the City Council. And so the more I thought about it, I just thought I really need to get involved. We're going to be here for the rest of our lives. I want to create. I want our city, our town to be a place where you don't necessarily have to leave to go do something in the evening with your kids. I want to bring more opportunity to the city of Sweet Home. I love it here, like I said; we're never leaving. I love being part of the community. I've done the Sportsman's Holiday Court, I've been on that committee. I absolutely love our city. It's just fun; it's a fun, great place to be involved. That's kind of one of the things also that got me thinking about it. This is a really great opportunity for me to bring a little bit of my background.

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** I

have lived in Sweet Home for 40 years. I went all through the schools here and then to LBCC and OSU. I am married to Travis Frick and we have one adult son, Brian. In my 20s and 30s, I was a stay at home mom with our son and my nephews, spending my time volunteering with Cub and Boy Scouts, the Hawthorne PTC, and being a part-time tax accountant. I am now a senior accountant with experience in tax, compliance, retail and health plans. In my personal life, I like to garden, hike with my dogs, and tend to my goats and chickens. I am running for City Council because my life is in Sweet Home and I want our town to continue to be a good place for future generations to live.

**Describe your own community involvement during the last 12 months. This may include attending City Council or other city meetings, community volunteering, etc.**

**Chelsea Augsburger:** I've attended some of the recent City Council meetings. I do very much appreciate that most of them are recorded on YouTube, so if I have a conflict I'm able to stay up to date with what is going on, and I'm also involved in our local school district.

**Erin Barstad:** I have been on the Sweet Home Cheer Board for the last two years as a parent liaison. I am a volunteer coordinator for Sweet Home Booster Club and the treasurer of our newly formed Sweet Home Rodeo and Events Board. I am part of the Sweet Home Traffic Committee. I have also helped with Cut the Gut along with Sportsman's Holiday and Christmas parades. I am awaiting a vote to join Sunshine Industries' board as well.

**Matthew Bechtel:** Since I don't work, I have spent a lot of time volunteering around town. Currently I'm the chair of the Budget Committee. I'm a member of the Park & Tree Committee. I'm the director of the Hope Church food pantry. I co-sponsored the Sweet Home work day with Santiam Sound (this next year will be our third year in operation). I'm a member of the Elks Lodge. I volunteer with the Beautification Committee, we planted the flowers in the median. I'm a volunteer for Mrs. Claus & Elves Toy Workshop; I'm an elf, and I was the elf at the Harvest Festival.

**Ken Bronson:** Bicycle education, fifth grade class. Council, I've been to four of them in the last few months.



Dolly Parton Reading Program through our Rotary. Easter egg hunt, Rotary. Trans Advisory Board, chair, for the Transportation work in Sweet Home. Linn County Parks, board chair, representing Sweet Home.

**Elaine Evans:** I volunteer with one Sweet Home leadership team that promotes unity between the churches in Sweet Home.

**Rejeana Hayes:** I have gone to several council meetings to see what's been going on, and then I also volunteer through my church, and then I just volunteer through SHEMA whenever I get a chance to give throughout the time.

**Aaron Hegge:** A lot of my stuff is with the Rotary. We do quite a bit for the community: Easter egg hunt, raise funds for scholarships, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. I've been a coach for Boys & Girls Club sports: basketball, baseball, flag football. It's just the last thing with kids, finding something that they love to do and work at it and get better.

**David Lowman:** Last year I volunteered to work the Harvest Fest. I worked the entire day at six o'clock in the morning helping all the vendors find their spots. I also, around the community on my days off, I help seniors; I take them to the doctors appointments, shopping when I can. So I believe in giving a helping hand where it's needed.

**Dawn Miller:** I have been attending the council meetings, work sessions, committee meetings, budget committee, things of that nature. My interest started with council when the city manager resigned.

**Angelita Sanchez:** I'm already serving as a city councilor for this community. I attend budget committee meetings, I attend Harvest Festival, I attend City Council, I attend work session, and then I attend all types of political activities throughout the state advocating for our way of life, as well.

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** In the last many years, Fair Share Gleaners, which is an organization that does food distribution here in town, I do all their tax work for them. I also pay all their fees and stuff. It's an easy way for me to help an organization that does a lot of good. I do all their filings and stuff.

**The city recently purchased a retail business building. Originally the building was planned as an artisan incubator. Do you agree or disagree with the practice of government buying retail locations, and why or why not?**

**Chelsea Augsburger:** My opinion differs from some of the other folks. I do not believe that the purpose of the city is to purchase buildings. I believe that the purpose of the city should be to provide the infrastructure so that individual businesses can purchase the buildings and that they can use that as their business to thrive. So I believe that we should provide the utilities and the streets and the parking so that we can promote local businesses to be successful in Sweet Home.

**Erin Barstad:** I do not think that the city should be buying buildings.

**Matthew Bechtel:** I think the city has to be very careful not to interfere with the private sector's business. It's not the purpose of the city to interfere with the private enterprise. So if that space could be rented to somebody else, that would be a better option, I think. But since the city now has it, I think the community market should go in there. They need a place.

**Ken Bronson:** I do not think we should be in the business of buying buildings and competing against existing businesses that just couldn't thrive. This building in particular was spoken of as starting a coffee shop. A coffee shop just opened up half a block away. It is certainly not fair to that new business to have to compete with something that's supportive of the city.

**Elaine Evans:** Yes, I think that it would be good to have businesses bought by the city because then you can go ahead and do these things like have artisans come in and sell different things and boost our tourism by maybe becoming a community that is thought of as an artisan-type community.

**Rejeana Hayes:** Yes, I do, just because I think they can use it for the good of their town, basically. One good I would use for it is they could put, like, a skating rink, arcade, something for their children – which is what we need here. We need to bring revenue to our town. It's what we're missing, and we could also bring outsiders in here. That's what I would do with it and any others that we could get.

**Aaron Hegge:** I don't know if the city should be in the landlord business, although the idea of using that space, having a space for the artisans, I totally agree with that. But again, we're kind of getting into the private sector, you know, businesses, what other businesses could use that space. If we own the buildings, we're governing

that and that might not be the best thing.

**David Lowman:** I really don't like a city buying up property for our tax dollars. I really think that they should find some of the businesses, especially downtown, lease those buildings that are not being used. Or getting with those landlords and saying, "Rent those buildings out for a hundred dollars a month. You're not making anything now, so a hundred dollars is better than not getting anything and you're bringing business for Sweet Home."

**Dawn Miller:** I agree with the purchase of the old Santiam Feed Store, I believe is what we're talking about. I have a different opinion about its utilization. I think it would be a great place for our community market to run year-round indoors. I've had several community members ask me why couldn't it be used that way. I'm of the mindset it should be.

**Angelita Sanchez:** I was in support of that, with a long, thoughtful process. We have struggled tremendously with trying to fill empty buildings downtown, landlords that don't take care of their properties, and this building was sitting on the market. I believe we wanted to buy some other buildings, but they were out of our price range. So to utilize this for the community, we can get grants, we can restore the historical aspect of it. So that is why I voted 'yes.'

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** I do not believe that the city should be buying buildings really for any purpose. The city's responsibility is to provide infrastructure and safety and those sort of things. We really need to have a separation of public and private entities.

**Each year the city council sets goals for the upcoming year. What would be your number one achievable goal for the city and why?**

**Chelsea Augsburger:** I would like to see increased notification to the citizens prior to decisions being made. I know agendas are posted online, but I feel like we could do a better job at notifying folks of topics prior to making decisions. I feel like the duty of the council is to listen to the voters and be accountable for council action. So, increased notifications would be my main goal.

**Erin Barstad:** I think the number one achievable goal is to get the people involved. And to have better communication with the people.

**Matthew Bechtel:** As far as goals go, I've outlined four

of them. These would be my "CORE" goals, another Army acronym there. I've got Co-operation within the council. I've got Open communication, back with the people, which will earn the Respect from the people towards the council and that will lead to the Enthusiasm for the future of Sweet Home, because we live in a beautiful place and we gotta be excited about its future.

**Ken Bronson:** City Council, work as a team. Get things done. Bring some common sense in.

**Elaine Evans:** My goal would be for the city council to be able to get along a little bit better. I think that's achievable because I can do good with interpersonal communication; it's what I have a background in. I think that we just need new blood that's gonna be able to get along with other people and work together to make this city what it can be, which is something great.

**Rejeana Hayes:** I do believe that we should have our mayor elected through the people and not through the council. I also agree that we need to communicate with our city and our people more, with our councilors.

**Aaron Hegge:** To work with the current and new City Council members on transparency on where we want to go as a city. Listen and take advice and input from the community as to where we should be going.

**David Lowman:** I'd like to see better communication on issues that are brought up through council that the people of Sweet Home would actually get to see. Another issue is I think our mayor should be elected by the people instead of appointed or elected by the council itself.

**Dawn Miller:** For our city council to act as they should be. For them to have open communication, transparency to the people and include the people. No more of this decisions being done and then they tell the people. That's what I want to see them do.

**Angelita Sanchez:** One of my goals has also been take the mayor elected by the people instead of appointed by the council. I feel that there's a lack of accountability to the people because they are appointed by their fellow council members, and I think that the mayor being elected by the people can ensure that the people's voice is put on the agenda with the city manager so we can get some things done that the people of this community would like.

**Jennifer Victor:** First and foremost, we have grown ex-

ponentially in the last couple of years, population wise. I feel like our businesses have not grown to support the growth of the community. So that's one thing that I think definitely needs to be addressed. I think the city council, I think we need to really dive in and see, what does it look like to partner and encourage businesses to come in to sustain the population growth that we've had? I feel like that's a really big deal. You know, you just have to go out of town for so many things and with so many people here, that loss of revenue for us as a community, it's just an unfortunate thing. Secondly, the homelessness situation has obviously been a huge source of issue here in the town. I absolutely love what the city has done so far, the steps that they've taken. Putting the homeless encampment out there, there's a place now that they can go. There's resources there that come in daily to help them. It helps the local businesses, it helps the local community members. Before, if somebody was sleeping in a business' doorway, there was nothing they could do. Now there is. I feel like the city has taken really good steps. I know that they've gotten a lot of backlash on that, and I understand it's a really hot topic. I just feel like we really need to continue that momentum, because it's not over yet. We need to still really be focused on what are the next things we can do as far as helping that situation out.

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** My number one goal would be for the council to finish all the projects that are already started without starting anything new, like the wastewater treatment plant. I know that they aren't the ones physically doing it, but we need to get those sort of things complete before we start going down other paths.

**What are the top two services the city should be providing the citizens in exchange for their tax dollar?**

**Chelsea Augsburger:** We need to ensure that we have adequate infrastructure, mainly water, to support all of the new growth in our town; make sure that we're able to sustain that so that everyone has the level of service that they deserve from paying their taxes. I also believe that emergency services – police and fire – we need to make sure that we have those so that we can make sure that everyone has safety here in town.

**See Voters Guide, Page 10**



# Whitton Only a Step Behind League Leader in Girls XC

**By Scott Swanson**  
*For The New Era*

Freshman Emma Whitton delivered the most exciting cross-country race in recent years for Sweet Home on Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Bramble Scramble meet hosted by Cottage Grove.

Whitton led a strong girls varsity field for the entire race, followed closely by Philomath senior Adele Beckstead, before Beckstead surged past her to win by a step in the final meters of the race.

“Emma’s race was awesome,” Head Coach Dave Martin said. “It’s been a long time since we’ve even had anyone competing in a race with those kinds of runners. Adele Beckstead is tremendous runner statewide.”

Beckstead, currently ranked fifth in the 4A division, has been a top-10 finisher at the state meet for three straight years, winning the Oregon West district title as a sophomore and finishing second last year to North Marion’s McCallan Cutsforth, who this year is running for Canby.

“Emma had as big a lead as they headed into that last 500, as she had the whole race,” Martin said. “Adele was pumping her arms as hard as she could go in that final 100 meters.”

Beckstead won in 20:17.40, with Whitton finishing in 20:18.10.

Sweet Home junior McKenzie Miller was fourth in 21:04.40, behind Philomath freshman Cassidy Smart, who ran 20:51.70.

Sweet Home’s other varsity runner, Noelle Helfrich, was

63rd in 29:08:70, after struggling on the course, which included some twisting trails and hills that slowed runners.

“I thought we had a good meet,” Martin said. “The times didn’t match up with the efforts again (similar to the previous week at Philomath), but we competed well. I liked what I saw.

“I thought McKenzie’s race was very good. She ran very tough. The only people who beat McKenzie were three girls from our district, and this is the first time she’s lost to Emma and the first time she’s lost to Cassidy Smart.

“It will be a tight race between those four runners at districts.”

On the boys side, sophomore Ryker Burr was first in for Sweet Home, placing 20th in a field of 111 runners, in 19:21.10. Cottage Grove senior Carter Bengston won the boys race in 16:06.00, leading the Lions to the team title as well. Sweet Home was eighth out of 14 teams, all but two of them (Elmira and Marist) from larger-division schools.

Freshman Evan Knight was 49th in 20:49.30; freshman Acen Webber was 50th in 20:50.10; sophomore Conner Spencer was 61st in 21:39.50; freshman Wes Goff was 76th in 22:39.40; junior Keagan Vogel was 76th in 22:39.40; and freshman Evan Malabago was 79th in 22:54.40.

“Riker and Evan Knight ran good races,” Martin said. “Louis and Wes ran really good races as well. Conner had a really good day. I thought he battled, competed well.”

In the boys JV race, freshman Louis Kistner led the



Photo by Scott Swanson

**Emma Whitton leads Philomath’s Adele Beckstead and Cassidy Smart in the girls varsity cross-country race at Cottage Grove.**

Huskies with a 28th-place finish in 22:26.30, followed by senior Kasey Kast, 34th in 22:36.40; freshman Noah Strawn, 36th in 22:49.10; freshman Eli Adams, 73rd in 26:50.90; and Boden Sayer, 86th in 31:02.90.

In the girls JV race, sophomore Madison Looney ran 38:17.20 in her second cross-country race, an 8½-minute PR over the time she ran three weeks previously in Sweet Home’s home meet at Community Chapel. That was the only personal best for the high school runners.

The Huskies’ regular season will end Saturday, Nov. 2, when they compete at the Oregon West Conference District Championships, hosted by Philomath.

Sweet Home’s junior high runners, who have competed all year in the same venues as the high-schoolers, ended

their regular season Saturday at Cottage Grove with personal bests up and down the line.

Eighth-grader Cassie Spencer led the girls race wire-to-wire, winning in 12:21.2, her fastest 3000 time of the season, in which she has experienced a nagging injury.

“Cassie ran a great race,” Martin said. “She was a little surprised to be there in front.”

Spencer led the Tigers to a fourth-place finish out of five teams with 87 points, but they were only one point behind Eugene Christian.

Marian Helfrich was 17th out of 58 runners in 14:42.40, a 1½-minute PR. Behind her were Pyper Hall in 34th place, in 16:43.30, a four-second PR; Lexie Lee, 49th in 19:36.40; and Zoie Allison, 84th in 21:02.10, a 1:22 PR for 3,000 meters.

“Our junior high girls team

competed well,” Martin said. “Marian ran a great race and it was fun to see the girls’ team score up there again.”

This year is the first in at least the last two decades that the Tigers have had the five girls runners necessary to score as a team.

For the boys, Brayden Driver, an eighth-grader who has played football all season but decided to give cross-country a try, ran head-to-head with teammate Elijah Rodriguez to finish literally a step apart at the finish line, Driver fourth in 10:24.70 and Rodriguez fifth in 10:25.50 in the field of 94 runners.

Hudson Ogden was 27th in 12:20.40.

“All three of the boys, especially Brayden and Elijah, they just ran great races,” Martin said. “They ran phenomenal times against good competition.”

★ ELECT ★

DAVID LOWMAN

FOR SWEET HOME CITY COUNCIL

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OLD HICKORY

BUILDINGS & SHEDS





Artwork by Roscoe-Bragg creates an abstract sense of the Calapooia River.

Photo by Sarah Brown

## REFLECTING

From page 1

‘I did that!’ I loved that,” she said of the experience.

But now she found herself in a new state and new house with more time on her hands and one television staring her down.

“We had a little bit of a misunderstanding between the two of us and we wound up having this ginormous, ugly television in our living room,” Roscoe-Bragg explained. “So it started out with me trying to figure out how I could disguise it, how I could make it not look like it was the eye in the room staring at us. As I thought it through, I came to the conclusion that my only approach was gonna be that I was gonna have to learn how to paint in acrylic because I needed something that was flexible and, at the same time, permanent.”

So began Roscoe-Bragg’s journey painting multiple canvases using a new-to-her medium, creating a rotating display of her art that could be swapped out from time to time to keep the television covered. And her subject matter always stayed the same: the Calapooia River.

The river, she said, gives her a sense of peace in addition to a dazzling display of beauty.

“If you throw a pebble in the water and you get those (ripples), the light reflects off of the bank above it and (gives) this continuously changing, enthralling light show; it’s better than fire-

works. It’s like the ‘ooh’ and the ‘ahh’ of the river. Then it dissipates and it’s gone, so you have to throw in another pebble.”

Her artwork, reflections on the Calapooia, if you will, has been an opportunity for Roscoe-Bragg to learn something new while providing a practical solution. She considers her work abstract and borderline surreal, with the objective nature of the river being transparent in an almost subjective fashion.

While painting the river, she said she has found “real peace” in that space and it’s something she wants to share.

“I just kind of wanted to share them locally because in that time of real stress (during COVID) and not knowing anybody, it just gave me such peace,” she said.

For several years now, Roscoe-Bragg has continued working with acrylic because “it’s such fun,” adding that working with watercolor involves more effort with drying, matting, glassing and framing. Acrylic is easier to deal with and it dries faster, she said. Still, the influence of watercoloring is not lost on some.

“As my daughter said, ‘Mom, you’re just painting watercolor but with acrylic.’”

Roscoe-Bragg explained that she does layers and layers of transparency with the opaque medium, creating a translucent effect.

“In my heart, I’m still a watercolorist,” Roscoe-Bragg said.

# Huskies Crush Junction City Tigers, Set Sights on Playoffs

By Sky Chappell  
Of The New Era

The Sweet Home Huskies (4-3) delivered a well-fought performance under the Friday night lights, defeating the Junction City Tigers (1-6) 35-8. This victory marks a significant turnaround for the Huskies, who now are hopeful for a playoff run.

From the opening whistle, Sweet Home took control of the game. The team was determined to break their winless league streak dating back to 2021.

The Huskies’ offense posted a 59% run and 41% pass ratio, with an average gain of 5 yards per play, contributing to an overall efficiency rating of 61%. Defensively, the team also excelled, snagging three interceptions during the game.

Head coach Ryan Adams praised the team’s effort, noting that the defense held Junction City to under 150 total yards, much of which came late in the game.

“It was a great night of football,” Adams said. “The guys were locked in and focused all week with one goal in mind: earn respect. They did just that.”



Photo by Kristine Banker  
Quarterback Kyle Zajic reads the defense ahead of pre-snap during the Oct. 18 game versus Junction City

The Huskies’ balanced offensive attacks kept the Tigers on their heels, while special teams remained solid as they have been all season.

Adams emphasized that this performance provides a strong foundation for their biggest game of the year, as they look to take on the Stay-

ton Eagles (4-3) at home on October 25. Fans attending this game can also look forward to Senior Night, with a USA-themed dress code and a special 50/50 raffle, benefiting local scholarships and literacy programs like the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

## Huskies Fall to Philomath and Newport

By Sky Chappell  
Of The New Era

Sweet Home’s boys soccer (1-8-1) faced a tough week, struggling through back-to-back losses. On Oct. 15, the team fell 3-0 to Philomath (6-4) at home, followed by a 6-0 defeat on the road against Newport (5-5-1) on Oct. 17.

“We spent a lot of time working on ball movement, positioning, and communication,” Head Coach Eric Stutzer commented. “That work paid off, and we played well against Philomath, even with several players out due to illness and injury. Our passion showed, and it was one of our best defensive efforts this season.”

Stutzer also noted that difficulties in the midfield play have hampered the team’s offensive effectiveness.

“Unfortunately, the sickness and injury issues carried over into the Newport match,” he added. “We conceded an early penalty kick on a questionable call, forcing us to adjust quickly.”

Despite the early setback in this match, Stutzer commended his team’s ability to regroup and compete.

“After those first 10 minutes, we settled down and held the defending state champions to just two more goals,” Stutzer said. “In the past, we’ve struggled to bounce back from adversity, so staying focused

and playing well was a big step forward for us.”

Looking ahead, Stutzer is hopeful that improved midfield play and the return of key players will make a difference, especially as the team heads forward to face the toughest opponents in the state.

Sweet Home hopes to use the lessons learned from last week’s games to improve in their upcoming matchups. With two upcoming home matches the team will have played against North Marion (10-1) on Oct. 22, with another game on Oct. 24 versus Stayton (10-0).

No statistics were available at the time of publication.

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-Will Tucker, Linn County Commissioner

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# VOTERS GUIDE

From page 7

**Erin Barstad:** I think the exchange for tax dollars should be safer roads around school zones. I think we need to be responsible with our growth not to build more than what our city water treatment can handle. So roads and water would be my two choices.

**Matthew Bechtel:** The top two things I think are the emergency services and the infrastructure to include access to clean water. It would be really great if we could get these stop sign issues ironed out and get 1st Street fixed up the way it needs to be.

**Ken Bronson:** Water is life. Most important part. Clean water in, treated water out. Those two things, most important.

**Elaine Evans:** I would also say water, and I would also mention that emergency services would be high on my list because I know firsthand you do not know when you're going to need them, and when we do, we're so thankful for them.

**Rejeana Hayes:** Water. We do need clean water. And then we also need to get our bridge fixed. We do have a big gaping hole in it and since we do pay the taxes for it, that's where it should've been fixed

anyway.

**Aaron Hegge:** One would be clean water, making sure it's safe. The other would be infrastructure, most importantly safe roads. We have a lot of children that walk to school, bike to school; their safety should be at the forefront.

**David Lowman:** I think we need clean drinking water for everyone, as well as I think safety should be a priority in this town with our police services. I think what we should put more toward the peace services so people in the community feel safe.

**Dawn Miller:** Our roads need help, our infrastructure definitely needs help. I would say we need to tighten up our infrastructure, communication to the people, bring the people to the front and let's hear what they have to say.

**Angelita Sanchez:** I'm a contractor. I think I'm probably the only one up here, a road builder, a dump truck driver. I think roads are critically important, and under those roads are the water distribution system that we have. So replacement of pipes so we can have the clean water, get it cleanly to the residents. And then cost controls on streets and stuff like that. I know that if we could do some more stuff in-

house, we can get three times the amount of work done. So that's what I would like to have happen.

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** Water and wastewater, those are the big functions of the city that they provide pretty well most of the time. And then police, emergency services; that's something that's vital to all of us. Those are really the focuses that I think the city should be looking at.

**Would you support amending the city charter to allow the residents to directly elect the mayor rather than have the position filled by appointment by the council, and if so, why?**

**Chelsea Augsburg:** Yes, I absolutely support putting the mayor on the ballot. I believe that the citizens of Sweet Home and the voters should be able to select who they want as their mayor. I believe that having council appoint it just doesn't have that same accountability as being elected by the people and the voters of Sweet Home.

**Erin Barstad:** I think 100% our mayor should be elected by the people.

**Matthew Bechtel:** The people should vote for the mayor. Ten thousand to sev-

en is common sense.

**Ken Bronson:** I support the mayor being selected by the people. Ten thousand people is a little better than seven.

**Elaine Evans:** I just want to say that I think we have a fabulous mayor, but I do agree that it needs to be brought to a ballot of all the people.

**Rejeana Hayes:** Yes, I do agree that she should be on the ballot, the mayor should be on the ballot and the people should be able to have their voice back.

**Aaron Hegge:** I support having the mayor voted by the people for the same reasons (as Bronson). Ten thousand people versus seven councilors. Those councilor positions change every two to four years, so the people who live here should have an input.

**David Lowman:** I also agree that the people should vote in for the mayor because the way we are right now, the mayor is just a council person.

**Dawn Miller:** I started my journey on why we don't vote our mayor in and took my journey down the city charter and stuff, even asked councilors about why the charter committee had failed to convene for this very specific thing. So I say the mayor needs to be voted in.

**Angelita Sanchez:** We, as a council, can change the charter or we, as the people, can put it to the ballot by initiative petition as a home rule charter. So if we do not get a committee that reviews the charter that allows it to go to the ballot, the people can also sign a petition, and I have one prepared if we do not get what we like.

**Jennifer Victor:** I have feelings both ways. I feel like if we have city council members that are truly concerned and are willing to listen to the community members and get information from the community members in regards to how they feel or who they feel the mayor should be, then I feel like the way we have it set up now is appropriate. Because if they're doing their due diligence, and they're getting information from members of the community, then that's one of their responsibilities, is to take what they have learned from the community and then put that into place. So then their vote would be a representation of the community. With that being said, opening the ballot or opening that up to the community, I believe, isn't necessarily a terrible idea either because people that potentially maybe wouldn't have a chance

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or be willing to talk with a council member, then their vote is being heard as well. I think the thing that makes me a little bit nervous about that is, with it being opened up, are they going to be voting on the person that truly is going to do the best job, or are they going to be voting on the person that has the most signs out? I don't know; I feel like it is going to be a 'whoever has the most money to throw out.' It's a little bit of a slippery slope. I'm not saying it's a bad idea. I'm just saying these are things that I think of when I'm thinking about opening it up to a vote. I would hope that people would make an informed decision... I think it's worked in the past, but I am definitely not saying that that's what we have to continue with. I just feel a little bit nervous about that one aspect of it I guess.

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** I had never even thought about this until my husband brought it up and then I did some research and almost every other town in Linn County, the mayors are elected by the people. I was surprised that Sweet Home is so different, but it does seem like it would be a better idea to have the mayor voted in by the people, not the council.

**Small businesses are an important part of our community and the local economy. What sort of city support would you advocate for to support these businesses?**

**Chelsea Augsburger:** I agree with grants to support our small businesses. From the city side, though, I think providing ample parking and providing really a welcoming space downtown. I think our Beautification Committee does a wonderful job with the flowers, but I think anything that we can do on the city side with the infrastructure to make it so that people can access those small businesses would help promote them in our town.

**Erin Barstad:** I think that we should try to provide a more welcoming look. We should care what our city looks like year-round. We should provide safe parking for all businesses.

**Matthew Bechtel:** There's a lot of grants already offered from the city, and that's great. We need more business. (I agree with Bronson) We could come up with a plan to help steer the new businesses through all the bureaucracy; that would really help a lot of people because they get lost in the paperwork of trying to access these grants, so they just can't get to the money.

**Ken Bronson:** If they got a

good business plan, help with the land use, getting through those hurdles. Help with them getting business loans, if needed. Just helping get the base under them, but most importantly steering them through the bureaucracy of city, county, state and federal rules.

**Elaine Evans:** We need to have the city help small businesses by even simple things like the paperwork and helping them in that way.

**Rejeana Hayes:** I think the City Council should actually hire an additional person that could actually help these small businesses wiggle through all the paperwork and that would be their job, because there's so much paperwork that needs to go through and a lot of people can't find that. Even the grants and the promotions that they need to go through to get the business loans and things like that that they need.

**Aaron Hegge:** I think programs like the CEIP grant is a great idea. I know that small businesses sometimes can't put a lot of money into the building they're buying or renting. By utilizing that grant money, that might be something that could make it affordable for small businesses to come into town.

**David Lowman:** I think the city should promote new business, especially when a new business comes into town; give them some incentive to come here and open up shop, like not pay any property taxes for the year, an incentive for people to come here. We've got a ghost town downtown with a lot of shops that are empty, and being a way of giving people a chance to come into our city without paying taxes would probably help.

**Dawn Miller:** We need to support our small businesses and we need to help them in any way we can to help them flourish in this town.

**Angelita Sanchez:** This is another interesting question. We want the city to help small businesses, so that's why I voted 'yes' on buying that Santiam Feed building so we could help small businesses. We have a lack of available space, a lack of an opportunity to rent spaces. So if we renovated that building and sectioned it off into spaces that could be utilized as a small business incubator, that would be a great way to help bring small business into this community.

**Jennifer Victor:** It's sometimes kind of hard for these businesses to get permits and get things going. That has to change; not at the expense of what's right and wrong, how-

ever. We really need to get to a point where the permitting process is so much easier for people that are wanting to come in with new businesses. I would love to see there be some sort of, I don't know, tax incentive. What I want to do, I want to know what are the rules and regulations? What can we as a City Council do to help these businesses really get a good start? It's tough to start a business. We've started multiple businesses; we didn't make any money for the first, you know, so many years. It's tough, so to have some sort of incentive that we as a city could do, that would be huge to, again, entice. We need to have something where if a business is looking to come in, what's the difference between them going into Lebanon or coming into Sweet Home? What are we going to do to entice these businesses to come here versus to go somewhere else? We need to look as a city council, as a city whole, what can we do to provide some really enticing ways to get these businesses to come in, especially the small businesses? Because that really is the backbone of the community, absolutely.

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** I see that the city has put in a lot of effort into maybe bringing tourism and more people into town, and I almost think that they need to use those skills that they have to help the new businesses, help promote the new businesses, get the word out there through all the different avenues that I've seen them use to help with tourism and things like that.

**In recent years, the city, like many others, faces challenges related to homelessness. In general terms, what should the city's policy be in regard to this issue?**

**Chelsea Augsburger:** I think Sweet Home has done a great job providing an area that is safe and welcoming for the homeless population in Sweet Home. I do not believe that the entire funding of that should come off of taxpayers. I think we should continue to utilize county resources. I know that there's a lot of mental health support out there and I know that there's a lot of grants available, so I think we should work for that so that we can support them but not use lots of taxpayer dollars on things that don't benefit the entire community.

**Erin Barstad:** I do think that we should support FAC is great. I do think that tax dollars should not be used to support the homeless.

**Matthew Bechtel:** I like the FAC. We need to promote that organization. The police already provide a sleeping area next to them so people can camp there for the night if they have to. We live in a very compassionate community. There are a lot of churches that are willing to give. There's food, there's a lot of resources that are available for the homeless people. I don't think the city should be paying, the taxpayers should not be paying for any more than they already are.

**Ken Bronson:** I must say that I serve on the FAC Advisory Board. One of the first things we did when we started there, I said "We must take back our city." We've done that. We have a system that's working. Crime is down 85% in that population. Medical calls are down 85% in that population. And 90% of the money comes from outside of the city. So it's working. Let's keep trying to make it better.

**Elaine Evans:** The FAC building is really a great thing and it's something that I'm really proud to have in this town. I think it would be great if it was expanded a little to make sure that all the residents that are homeless would have a place.

**Rejeana Hayes:** I am so thankful that FAC is there and I do believe that we just need to improve on those just a little bit, maybe strengthen the rules that they have for the homeless people that is there and maybe make a few more for them because there's not enough. We still have people out on the street.

**Aaron Hegge:** I think we need to keep going down the road we have with the FAC facility. I think we made huge strides in helping our homeless citizens find a place that they can call home, be warm, be safe. We need to ensure that that program continues and see what we can do to further that and make it easier for people to get through there and help them get out of that situation.

**David Lowman:** I think we've come a long way with the homeless people in the last year or so and I'm glad to see that the city is helping these people that need the help. I really believe that we still need some more work at it and we don't want to be a Portland or a Salem, the way that all the people are sleeping everywhere. Our city has got behind doing this and I'm glad to see that.

**Dawn Miller:** I think the FAC is a good temporary solution for the homeless problem here in Sweet Home. I don't think it is the end-all or be-all for the homeless-

ness, so hats off to them, but I think we need to find a better solution long-term.

**Angelita Sanchez:** This is something that's regulated by the state legislature, so it's something that we had to take care of as a city. It has changed from night to day with the FAC building facility for our homeless, and I just want to say because of what Sweet Home has done with the emergency order, we were able to bring in \$2.9 million to our county to help fund these unfunded mandates, to help clean up our streets, and we've had a great success rate with FAC by placing people in houses. So we've done a really good job.

**Jennifer Victor:** I think we're on a good track with the homeless area that we provided and those resources coming in. I feel like also there's going to be homeless people that don't want to go there. I understand that. We need to also be more proactively reaching out to the ones that are not in that area with our social resource people that are coming in. I know they're going there, and they're trying to get them help, so on and so forth. But, just in the community in general, I feel like we need to do that social community outreach program. Instead of just focusing in that one area, we need to also focus outside of that area and help out the people that are not interested in going in there as well and try and get them help as well. I get that not everyone wants help, I understand that; you can only help people that want it, I get that. But at least reaching out to some of them I think that would be another way that we could continue the efforts we have already done and at least be a tangible way that we could help some of that as well.

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** This one's a really tough one. There really isn't any great or clear solutions. I think if the homeless are doing something illegal, then the police need to take care of that. Otherwise, people need to be able to rest and kind of exist without bothering people.

**Over the last 10 years, the tenure of city managers has been short. In general, do you believe nationwide recruitment searches are the best way to find and retain qualified candidates? Or should the city attempt to recruit potential candidates from within a more local geographic area?**

**Chelsea Augsburger:** I believe that we should recruit

**See Voters Guide, Page 12**



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## VOTERS GUIDE

From page 11

locally when possible. I believe that if you know the demographics and you know our town and you know what our goals are, you can definitely help move us to a brighter future in Sweet Home. I do believe that having the new council be able to have a say in hiring that city manager, going through the interview process and finding someone that's really committed to helping Sweet Home be the best it can be.

**Erin Barstad:** I am for local recruitment for a city manager.

**Matthew Bechtel:** I think the city deserves the best that they have out there. If that requires going nationwide, then that's what we need to do. But we deserve the best here. If we can get them locally, let's do that.

**Ken Bronson:** I support "stop." We got a city manager in place right now. Let's do a hybrid that's working. It's working very well with the police department and the city manager position. He's game. I say we don't do anything for a year. Let this heal and leave our police chief/city manager in place for a year.

**Elaine Evans:** I would say that we need to recruit from locally, Pacific Northwest and Oregon. We have a lot of other input already from outsiders, as some of us call them. So I think that we should tighten our recruiting for city manager.

**Rejeana Hayes:** I feel that we need to recruit locally so that we have someone who knows our city and our town and basically what we really need and want; not somebody from the outside.

**Aaron Hegge:** I think we should recruit locally, if possible; somebody that's invested in the city, in this area, that knows what's going on within their community. Given our track record, I think finding somebody within Sweet Home is our best bet for longevity in that position.

**David Lowman:** I do like the recruitment service because so many people will come and tell us all the different experiences that they've had, and we need that in this city because our city managers are not staying very long.

**Dawn Miller:** I believe we should look locally. We have a lot of talent in this town, that knows this town, has a stake in this town and believes this town can be everything it was and needs to be again. We've lost ourselves here. Taking off the people that come here to represent us as a city manager and they don't know us, they don't know the community, and they're not able to do what somebody inside could do.

**Angelita Sanchez:** Over the last 10 years I don't think it's necessarily always a city manager issue. I think it's a council issue, so if we can get some councilors that can work well with the city manager, I think we might have a greater opportunity. I am for local recruitment and national recruitment because we do deserve excellence, but what's most important to me is that the new council decides who they get to work with for our community.

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** We need to recruit from within Oregon, or the Pacific Northwest at the farthest. We need to get people that are from this area, that are tied to this area, that have the best intentions and have the same

goals as the people of our town. I am positive that there are qualified individuals inside this town that could be a city manager. It is absolutely possible.

**City Council Rules #19, entitled "Ethics," states "All members of the council shall refrain from expressing an opinion contrary to the official position of the council without so saying." What do interpret this rule to mean?**

**Chelsea Augsburger:** I believe that when you are operating as a council person, that whatever the decision of the council was would be your decision, if you were speaking on behalf of a council person. If you were just speaking on your own opinion, then you can state, as Angelita said, freedom of speech. But even if you're out-voted on council, it's the council decision, majority vote.

**Erin Barstad:** Ethics to me means you do not talk negatively about a decision made by council.

**Matthew Bechtel:** We may have differing opinions of what is voted on and we can state those opinions, but we have to be absolutely clear that this is our personal opinion, and I think we should state those officially, either as a city representative can do that. What Ken was saying, the body language, all that stuff, has to end as well.

**Ken Bronson:** I interpret that to when the discussion time, the council, that's when you debate the issue and settle it then. But once the council has made a decision, that is it. The body language and negativity that goes with it when you don't get your way has no place in the council building.

**Elaine Evans:** I believe it to mean that my opinion should be taken separate from the council and what the council has done, if I believe that, and I need to make my opinion known as separate, if that's the case.

**Rejeana Hayes:** To me, I think it just means that basically it is "my opinion is mine and council is theirs, and I need to keep them separate and to myself until it is time to do so in an appropriate manner."

**Aaron Hegge:** As a council, you need to show a united front. Once a decision has been made, you know, saying you might disagree with it, but you need to make it clear that is not the council, but maybe your personal opinion.

**David Lowman:** I take it as if it's like the good ol' boys. You know, you get a couple people together and it's like



they have their own agenda. All the council should work for the people and hear their concerns and take it that they work for the people, and the people are the most important people in the city.

**Dawn Miller:** Basically I agree with everything Angelita Sanchez has stated, and I have nothing further to offer.

**Angelita Sanchez:** These council rules have sometimes been weaponized and I find them really hard to accept. To me it sounds like it's a violation of our first amendment rights and the freedom of speech. If you look at the Albany Democrat-Herald today, they have City of Corvallis struggling with Council Rules in violation of constitutional rights, so I think you have to be really careful with trying to limit what people say.

**Jennifer Victor:** So, if something passes that I'm not in favor of, at that point it is what it is. That's where we are, majority rules. And so, at that point then, it's my due diligence to get on board with that and do my best to make sure that whatever that ordinance, or whatever that is, goes through smoothly and is carried out in the best interest of our community. That's what we represent is our community. It would do me no good to be indignant about that. I'm sure there's going to be things I might not agree with. So, at the end of the day, when it is voted on, I mean, that is what I need to uphold at that point.

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** I understand this to mean that if the council has made a decision as a unit, that if you are, say, in public or speaking to a citizen, if your personal opinion differs with the decision of the council, you would state that "This is my personal opinion, separate from the council vote," or something like that, that differentiates the two.

**The drawdown of Green Peter Dam is primarily beyond the control of the city government. However, the adverse impacts it makes on the local economy is a concern. Are you in favor of expending significant city funds to challenge this practice? Why or why not?**

**Chelsea Augsburger:** We need to fight for our water here in Sweet Home. Chief Ogden's letter was great and I think pairing with the City of Lebanon so that we are in a united front so that it's more than just our town taking on that battle. I think there's power in numbers, and so I believe that this is definitely a battle worth fighting and

I think that we need to continue on with the path that we're on so that we can get our water source back.

**Erin Barstad:** I think that we should fight the drawdown battle. And I am very appreciative of Chief Ogden and the letter he wrote to include our neighbors; the drawdown had not just impacted Sweet Home.

**Matthew Bechtel:** We should definitely fight. I've read many newspaper articles that range from \$10 million to \$45 million in economic damages between Sweet Home here and Lebanon, and that's just crazy. If we don't fight, what are we gonna do? Just lose it all? To me, that's what it is. If we don't fight for this, then Sweet Home is nothing. We've already lost all our fish. My friend and I went up the river just looking at things; we couldn't find even a mussel, any of our filter feeders. So this is definitely something we need to fight on. All of the species have been destroyed and decimated because of this.

**Ken Bronson:** Continue the fight. Do it as smart as possible. Continue to ally with our neighbors Albany and Lebanon, and continue to search for outside financial help from like-minded sources throughout the country who would help us even battle with this huge problem that we're having with our water system.

**Elaine Evans:** Water is important for life, so I think that we should fight as best as we can with what we have, and fight.

**Rejeana Hayes:** I would always be David on God's side (referencing Sanchez's answer) because, yes, I would fight it every single time because I do believe that our water is very important and if we gotta take it up higher, I think we should. I think our town is worth fighting for.

**Aaron Hegge:** We need to fight. If we can get this stopped, we need to do that. Not just the economy, but the wildlife, so much stuff has been affected. And if we can't stop it, how much more money are we gonna lose as a community if it continues year after year?

**David Lowman:** We should fight because it's really hurting the economy, the environment, and tourists won't come here to fish because there is no fish because they're killing it by draining it down.

**Dawn Miller:** We need to fight this, but strategically. Not only has it impeded our right to clean water, it has also wiped out our recreation. It's wiped out peo-

ple coming to our town. We do need to fight. We need to fight it, we need to stand and fight for our rights on this.

**Angelita Sanchez:** If we had an unlimited amount of money, I would certainly want to take the next 10 to 20 years that it would take to process this in court, but we're a David in a Goliath situation, so I'm just really concerned about who's gonna pay for this. We're so strapped as a city right now. Where's the money gonna come from? If we had it, I would definitely want to; I would want to take on the environmentalists as well, not just the Army Corps of Engineers. But somebody's got to pay for it.

**Jennifer Victor:** I feel like it's a delicate dance with (the Army Corps) because we need them for so many more things other than just this one situation. However this one situation is causing huge, huge impacts to our community. So by taking legal action, I feel like our hands were a little bit tied and we didn't really have any other options. So, I feel like, given the very limited options that the city did have, I feel like that was what they needed to do and absolutely I understand and support that. I do still feel like, though, we need to maintain a relationship with them. Like I said, it's such a bigger issue than just that one issue. We need them for our whole community that relies upon them as well. I feel like we need to be respectful of the legal process and what that looks like, and also be respectful of them as an entity as well. I support the city and the legal action. It's just so impactful to our whole city.

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** After reading Chief Ogden's letter that he submitted, he did such an excellent job. I really think that our city has to fight this battle. It's vital. The water is vital to our life and we have a really good, reasonable explanation behind it, and we have to fight it.

**City committees, such as the Public & Traffic Safety Committee, are set up to provide greater opportunities for public feedback before the city council takes any action. If elected, how would you suggest greater public input before action is taken by the city council?**

**Chelsea Augsburger:** Notification to the citizens would be one of my main council goals, if elected to council. I was at that council meeting when Angelita talked about lots of different

ways that we could increase notification to citizens. I feel like in today's day and age, we probably almost everyone in the audience has a cell phone on them. I know that the school district has various different apps that they use when they need to notify citizens. I feel like you could sign up if you wanted to receive those notifications for specific areas of town, and council could really do a better job notifying the community.

**Erin Barstad:** I think that we need better ways of notification.

**Matthew Bechtel:** I think the council needs to have trust in the committees because the committees are just us normal people are volunteering our time and we put in a lot of hard work. I serve on two of the committees. It always seems that we get a little public response for at least the committees that I'm on, so if we could have a better outreach and get some more interaction from the public at the committees, I think that would help get the message to the council better.

**Ken Bronson:** We have a great example here at 47th Street and Long Street. There is a Traffic Safety Committee that this goes before, the changes, and that committee brings it to the council and the council makes a reading on that. But the mass is not getting the public. That's a really big deal and that's not just one stop sign and one intersection. That's a whole traffic plan out there. And that's what we need to do, is look at it in the bigger picture and make sure that we get the word out to the neighbors.

**Elaine Evans:** I would expect the committees to send out personal letters to neighborhoods when they're going to put up stop signs, for one. I learned that because I live at 47th and Long, and it would've been nice if we had known somehow. So that would be the best thing, is more communication.

**Rejeana Hayes:** I feel that we could use our community boards more because everybody looks at the community board, especially the big one by Les Schwab. We could post those up there when big changes are happening. We also have community boards inside the post offices. You can post them in there and all the other ones. There's also Facebook and newspapers, and everybody's always on those. We can use all of those.

**Aaron Hegge:** I think communication is key for the committees. Getting the

word out, having the public input to those committees, and also having the council members who are on those committees, making sure that they're there. They should be the experts when the issues are brought back to council. They should be the ones speaking to those issues because they're part of that committee and they can give good advice.

**David Lowman:** I think we should have better communication, have the community more involved in these decisions because it does affect them. And I think just that they just need to be aware of what's going on.

**Dawn Miller:** Communication is what this town is lacking. We have a lot of members that have come forward to say, "I didn't even know that was going on." The response is usually, "Well, it was at the council meeting, or there was a committee meeting on it." We're not getting the information out there to let the people know that they need to pay attention. So communication, communication, communication.

**Angelita Sanchez:** I think community outreach and communication is something that we're severely lacking. I've advocated for newsletters being sent out in utility billing. I've advocated for direct mail being sent out to people on a quarterly basis. I've requested ads to be put in the newspaper. I have requested text messages to be sent as a campaign-style type of community outreach. So I would love to have councilors that would like to spend a little bit of money to get more public involvement by a greater reach.

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** In the old days, public notification was printed in the newspaper. We have a very good newspaper here in town. That would be a very easy and good resource to notify the public. Also, I really believe that if the city is going to make any major changes in the neighborhood, the landowners should be notified by mail. Anyone else that does any kind of changes to land has to notify, the city also should have to.

**What would your closing argument be as to why the people of the Sweet Home community should vote for you?**

**Chelsea Augsburger:** I would really love to earn your vote. I am, again, a life-long Sweet Home resident. I would definitely work

**See Voters Guide, Page 15**



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Public Notices

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon For the County of Linn  
In the Matter of the Estate of: Patricia McGarr, Deceased.  
Case No. 24PB08398  
Notice to Interested Persons  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the estate, 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 representative, Melinda M. Brown.  
Dated and first published on October 16, 2024.  
Personal Representative  
Kim Y. Brown  
2357 SE Madison St.  
Albany, OR 97322  
(Oct 16 - Oct 30)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN Probate Department Case No. 24PB08645  
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS  
In the Matter of the Estate of Jeffery L. Koop, Deceased.  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Cynthia D. Koop has been appointed as the personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned attorney for the personal representative at 1211 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 1900, Portland, OR 97204-3795, 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.  
Dated and first published on October 23, 2024.  
Cynthia D. Koop  
Personal Representative  
Jessie Y. Minger, OSB #023123  
Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, PC  
Attorneys for Personal Representative  
1211 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1900  
Portland, OR 97204-3795  
Tel (360) 597-0811  
Fax (503) 796-2900  
Email: jminger@schwabe.com  
(Oct 23)

**Sweet Home Police Department**  
**1950 Main St., Sweet Home, OR 97386**  
**(541) 367-5181**  
**Notice of intent to dispose of property under ORS 98.245**  
*The Sweet Home Police Department has in its physical possession the unclaimed personal property described below. If you have any ownership interest in any of the unclaimed property, you must file a claim with the Sweet Home Police Department within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice or you will lose interest in that property. You may file a claim that presents proof satisfactory that you are the lawful owner or security interest holder of the property. The unclaimed property may be donated to a nonprofit organization or another government agency; retained for use by the City of Sweet Home; destroyed; or sold at public auction through go-deals.com, ebay.com or Facebook at any time after the 30-day period expires Oct. 30, 2024-Nov. 29, 2024 (PP 24-06.2 through 24-07.1)*  
Lighters, fish hook, flashlights, rubber tube, wallets for Anthony Pagano and December Christman, license for Gabriella Carmona, phones, purse and cash for Breanna Johnston, bike and purse for Errin Montoya, earbuds, trailer and personal items, vehicle registration, propane tank, air mattress, cigarettes,

Public Notices

vehicle registration for Richard Erickson, wallet, purses and wallets for multiple people (Alexandria Farrel, Becky Foster, Dakota Stokesbary, Diana Hall, Elizabeth Dodd, Robert Sharp, Shannon Shook, Shellie Pruett, Tiara Higholt), ID for multiple people (Mark Burnham, May Ayres, Leslie Maynard, Justin Walker, Rikki Abercrombie, firearms, ammunition, magazines, bag of personal items, scooter, vaping device, glasses, wooden baton, keys, knives, machete, prescription medication for Michael Matthews, , bag of clothing, personal documents for Chelsie Baxter and Tony Jones, Bi-mart card for Guy Tenbusch. (Oct 23)  
Notice of Lapse of Mineral Interest Pursuant to ORS 517.180, White's Electronics, Inc., 1011 Pleasant Valley Road, Sweet Home, OR 97386, hereby notifies the holder of the Mineral Interest described in that certain deed between Oregon & Western Colonization Company, Grantor, to S.W. Bowser, Grantee, recorded at Book 104, Page 369 in the official deed records of Linn County, Oregon reserving to the Grantor a Mineral Interest for "all coal, iron, oil or other valuable minerals in or upon said lands, together with the right to use so much of the surface as may be necessary in exploring for said minerals, or in mining and removing the same" on, in, or under the following affected real property: Lots numbered One (1) and Two (2) in Section Thirty-One (31) Township Thirteen (13) South of Range One (1) East of the Willamette Meridian. The holder of said mineral interest must submit a statement of claim to the Linn County Clerk within 60 days after the date of last publication or the mineral interest of the holder may be extinguished. The date of first publication of this Notice is October 23, 2024.  
Dated October 21, 2024  
WEATHERFORD THOMPSON, LLC  
/s/ Scott G. Cowgill  
OSB #143013  
PO Box 667  
Albany, OR 97321  
Attorney for White's Electronics, Inc.  
(Oct 23)  
Statewide Notices  
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SERVICES: Wesley Financial Group, LLC. Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 844-487-0221.  
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VOTERS GUIDE

From page 13

to be fiscally responsible with your tax dollars, and I would listen to the citizens and be your voice on council. I would definitely be accountable to the citizens for council action. I would appreciate your vote.

**Erin Barstad:** I think the people of Sweet Home should vote for me because I do not shy away from giving the truth, even if it is hard. I am respectful of both the community and the people. I care about our community and I work every day to make it better. I would be accountable and respectful of the people if elected. I would work hard for the people.

**Matthew Bechtel:** My family first came to Sweet Home four years ago when we bought our first house, and we plunged our roots deep into the soil of Sweet Home with volunteering and community involvement. As I've stated, I serve on two of the committees already. I've already began working on my first goal of communication throughout the city. I've sat down individually with Mayor Coleman, with Chief Ogden, with all the remaining councilors except one. Almost everybody on this panel I've sat down with, and I'm confident that we can get the agenda items accomplished that the people want. I would appreciate your support in this.

**Ken Bronson:** Why vote for me? I'm a numbers guy. Right here I have this year's budget. Last year's budget, let's start with that. It was \$37 million. Big number. This year's budget, \$97,654,400. A much bigger number. I get it. I understand these. I've worked with them all my career. I know numbers. I'm a team builder. I used to run a lumber mill for 15 years. I went six years without a lost time injury. Now that takes some real serious team building. I can do it. Common sense. COVID. Transportation. We found a system to spray our buses to sanitize them each night. When I found that within a month, I had the order, we had it installed – would be six weeks of that – we were the first operation in Oregon to do that. That year I was also Transportation Manager of the Year. So I'm asking you to vote for me for council.

**Elaine Evans:** I'd like to ask for your vote because I will fight for this town like nobody's business because of all the years that I've spent here, 35 of my 61

years, and there's so much that should be going on that isn't going on. All we have to do is band together, work a little harder, and we can do great things here. I would improve communication, number one. I'd like to spend some time, myself, if elected, at the coffee shop and do what the mayor does, take an hour every week and just be there for the rest of the town to come in and chat with you. I think that's a great idea. If elected, that would be something I would want to do.

**Rejeana Hayes:** If I'm elected, I will work very hard for you and I will see what I can do for our water and our wastewater treatment. I do feel that it does need to be finished and it's very important to us. I also want to work for our homeless shelters. I do think that we do need to expand that. I'm seeing more and more in the winter time coming out, and it's very heartbreaking. I also want to see more for our children. Instead of them going to the skate park or any of that, I want them to be with their families hanging out in an arcade or bowling, something togetherness. We need families together and we need to bring more businesses to our city so that we could have revenue here and we can expand. If I'm elected, I am going to work very hard to get that done.

**Aaron Hegge:** If elected, I'll be a responsible and responsive council member. I'll always be putting the community needs at the forefront and any decisions that are made. I want to ensure that everyone in our community feels valued and represented. I'll show up ready to work and get stuff done. I humbly ask for your vote for City Council, and let's help the City of Sweet Home in the right direction.

**David Lowman:** If elected, I promise to work for you, the community of Sweet Home. My ears will be open for your concerns, to bring to all council meetings. I'd like to also see a monthly newsletter, like Brownsville does with all their people so they can inform them of any new fees, new taxes or what's going on in the community. I would also fight for every grant that's possibly out there to save tax dollars for the community. I would love to have your vote.

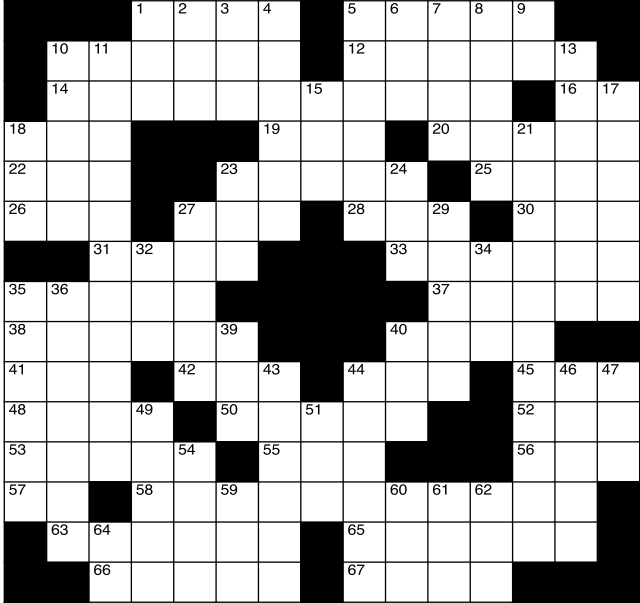
**Dawn Miller:** If elected, I am promising to everybody, all community members that have reached out to me, to break up the super majority that has dominated our council for far too long. We

need a council that is non-partisan, for the people and our community. We can't have our council hamstrung like they've been. Unless the super majority likes what's happening, it goes through. If they don't like what's happening, you don't have a chance of getting anything passed or fixed. If you elect me, I intend to bust the super majority apart.

**Angelita Sanchez:** In four short years during multiple emergencies, so much has happened. I pushed back on mask mandates and forced vaccinations for city employees. The city did not have an audit for two to three years when I was first elected, and now we are in compliance. My relationship with electeds and my quick thinking brought in millions of dollars to our community to cover us for those unfunded mandates. I've stood up to the Army Corps; I demanded that they do not remove our dams, keep our hydro-power to ensure our energy bills stay low. My ideas have implemented ways to save time and money on public works contracts just by requiring site visits prior to bid. I've pushed for a traffic engineer and an updated transportation plan to prepare our table for our growing needs. I'm consistently pushing back on taxes, fees and penalties, while offering solutions and creative ideas that are innovative, some not even costing a dime. I'm deeply committed to continuing to do all that I can for Sweet Home, even if I'm not your councilor. But I am asking for your vote tonight, and I am asking for you to very deeply consider if we can elect three more people that can work with me.

**Brandy Wysong-Frick:** If I'm elected to City Council, I will bring years of accounting, finance and compliance knowledge. That is what I'm good at. I research, I find the answer, I implement the answer, and I teach, in my case, other accountants so that they become better and stronger accountants, and it makes better and stronger business for the companies that we work for. Personally, my agenda for City Council is really to try to get things finished up before we jump into things that may be new and exciting. We really need to get the big things done, get our water treatment plant finished; all these sort of things that are necessities to life. They just need to be done before we go on to sparkly, shiny, new, fun things.

CROSSWORD



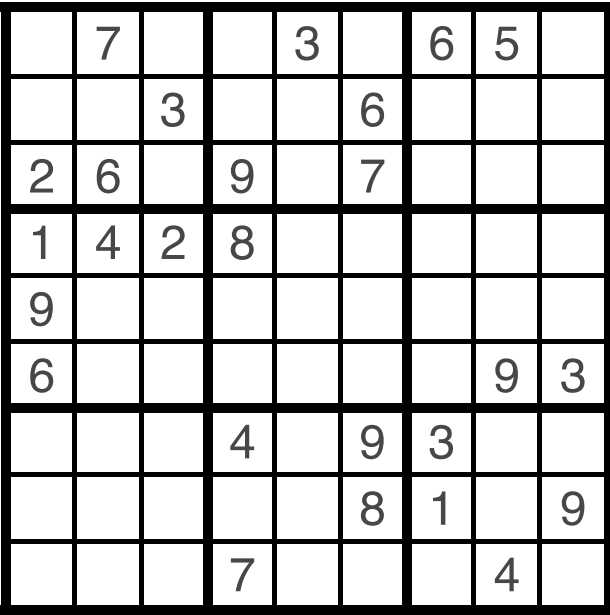
CLUES ACROSS

1. Flat tableland with steep edges
5. Where there's \_\_, there's fire
10. Talked incessantly
12. Skill
14. Without shame
16. Where teens spend their days (abbr.)
18. Boxing's GOAT
19. Used to anoint
20. Cluster cups
22. Footballer Newton
23. They make up a forest
25. Split pulses
26. Self
27. Post-office box
28. Test for high schoolers
30. Large, flightless bird
31. Expectorated
33. Falsehood
35. Prickly, scrambling shrub
37. French river
38. Told on
40. Hillside
41. Peyton's little brother
42. Soviet Socialist Republic
44. Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire
45. Witness
48. Brews
50. Yellowish-brown
52. Arctic explorers, abbr.
53. Mexican agave
55. A type of "cast"
56. Encourage
57. Atomic #52
58. Relating to position north of south of equator
63. Gadget whose name you forget
65. Another recording
66. Small blisters
67. Dark brown or black

CLUES DOWN

1. Licensed for Wall Street
2. " \_\_ and flow"
3. A very large body of water
4. Accumulate on the surface of
5. Central cores of the stem
6. Angry
7. Ceramic jar
8. Scraped a car
9. \_\_ route
10. Soviet labor camp system
11. Strong hostilities
13. Vitamin of the B complex
15. Go quickly
17. Toast
18. A team's best pitcher
21. A Philly culinary specialty
23. Small child
24. Unhappy
27. Trims away
29. Characterized by crying eyes
32. Soft touch
34. American spy organization
35. A person's chest
36. Came from behind to win
39. Fall back
40. Nellie \_\_, journalist
43. Great places to kayak
44. Suffer patiently
46. Majestic bird
47. Electroencephalograph
49. Organic compound used as an antiseptic
51. Objects connected to the web (abbr.)
54. Ship as cargo
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
61. Judge in OJ Simpson trial
62. One's grandmother
64. Siberian river

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced





Photo provided by Jason Ogden

# All State OCCA Cheer Competition

Sweet Home had an impressive showing. In the 1A-4A stunt group category, one of the cheer groups placed first. The winning team consisted of Peyton Lindsey (1), Ember Ogden (2), Emma Rosa (4) and

Taylee Rosa (3). Ogden also competed in the individual routine for 4A and placed third, earning her a \$500 scholarship. The second Sweet Home stunt group – featuring Abby Foss, Grace Gardner,

Katriona “Peanut” Harris, Rebecca Hindman and Hannah Sieminski – placed fifth in the same category. Additionally, both Ogden and Sieminski were selected to the All State Team.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

State Parole Board Violation. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

3:37 p.m - Nicholas Scott Warren, 44, was arrested for reckless burning.

4:29 p.m - Chase Lee Davis, 32, was arrested on a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for contempt of court.

4:57 p.m - Ronald Kolbee Credille, 28, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for failure to report as a sex offender.

11:37 p.m - Machaelray

Jensen, 43, was arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to appear on charges for second degree criminal trespass and third degree criminal mischief.

**Oct. 17**

2:03 a.m - Kelly Duane Kearns, 52, was arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to appear on charges for carrying a concealed weapon and second degree theft.

9:24 a.m - Jay Boyd Marsh, was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for second degree

theft.

10:59 a.m - Timmy Jay McMahan, was cited for failure to carry proof of insurance.

11:38 a.m - Sheri Bower was arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to appear on five counts of second degree criminal trespass, a Linn County Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge for possession of methamphetamine and an Albany Municipal Court warrant for contempt of court.

3:37 p.m - Parker William Stephens-Tilley, was arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to

# Volleyball Splits Matches Against North Marion and Newport

By Sky Chappell  
Of The New Era

The Sweet Home Huskies split two volleyball matches last week, securing a 3-1 victory over North Marion on Oct. 17 but falling 0-3 at home to Newport on Oct. 15.

In their matchup against North Marion (1-11), the Huskies were led by strong individual performances. Keira Johnson went 25-for-25 from the service line with six aces and recorded nine kills. Kaitlyn Kennedy added 13 kills and eight aces. Natalie Smith had five kills, and Aaliyah Brown added four. Smith and Trinity Victor set up the Huskies’ attack with 14 assists and 18 assists.

On defense, Karissa Jewell went 12-for-12 from the service line and had 22 digs to anchor the Huskies’ back row. “Jewell did a good job on

serve receive,” head coach Katie Dargis said.

Two days earlier, Sweet Home faced Newport (5-12) at home, but struggled to keep up with their opponent, falling 0-3. Despite the loss, Kennedy went 16-for-16 serving with three aces, and Victor went 11-for-11.

At the net, Johnson led with six kills. Kennedy and Sophia Stock added four and three kills, respectively. Brown went 4-for-4 from the service line.

“At the net, we were a little low on our kill percentages and overall kills,” Dargis said.

The Huskies will look to build on their win over North Marion as they prepare for upcoming matches. Sweet Home played at Stayton (11-9) on Oct. 22 and will host their final home game against Cascade (10-7) on Oct. 24.

Jr, 26, was arrested for criminal driving while suspended.

11:30 p.m - Thomas Michael Studer, 51, was arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on a charge for hit and run.

**Oct. 18**

7:42 a.m - Kale Finnegan, 29, was cited for driving while suspended.

10:31 a.m - Lisa Johnston, 49, was cited for a warrant.

2:31 p.m - Lisa Dawn Johnston was arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge for second degree theft.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DAWN C. MILLER

BACK TO BASICS



Listening to Your Needs:

Dawn is about communication, prioritizing open conversations with residents.

Grassroots Support:

Powered by the people, for the people  
Dawn puts our community first,  
not outside interests.

Local First:

Committed to a "Sweet Home First" approach, ensuring our town's needs come before anything else.

Tight-Knit Community:

Dedicated to preserving and enhancing the close, supportive nature that makes Sweet Home special.

DAWNFORSWEETHOME.COM