

Hawthorne Celebrates ‘Knock Out Hunger’ Event

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Hawthorne Elementary School celebrated its “Knock Out Hunger” event with its annual cereal box domino “serpentine” and other entertainment on Tuesday, Nov. 26.

Students and staff used the better part of November collecting cereal, with classes competing to see who could bring in the most cereal boxes. Donating “Milk Money” also counted toward the competition.

It was reported that last year the school collected just over 1,000 boxes of cereal, so this year they aimed to collect 1,100 boxes. This year, Hawthorne kids and staff brought in 1,582 boxes of cereal, far exceeding the goal. Summer Anderson’s class took first place, bringing in 348 boxes, while Colleen Unger’s class came in second (205) and Jerika Spencer’s class came in third (163).

In a special assembly on Tuesday, staff filled the gym with the cereal, lining the boxes up in a domino run to



Hawthorne Principal Mark Looney pushes the first cereal box to begin the toppling of more than 1,500 boxes.

be toppled over. The classes sat along the four walls of the room, and children waved black and gold pom poms as they cheered for the event. Principal Mark Looney set

off the domino effect with a simple nudge of the first box, and for the next one to two minutes the entire room chanted “knock it down” as the boxes fell over.

But that wasn’t the only reward the kids earned for reaching their goal. Darlene Davis, the school’s behavior

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Responders Handle Three Crashes in Three Hours

Sweet Home fire crews responded to three motor vehicle collisions within a three-hour time span on Tuesday, Nov. 26.

The first crash occurred at 4:30 p.m. on Main Street near the intersection of 23rd Avenue. The crash incurred minor damage to the two vehicles involved, with no injuries.

The second crash occurred approximately 30 minutes later at the intersection of Highway 20 and Liberty Road. That crash involved a small sedan and a pickup truck pulling a loaded horse trailer. The driver of the sedan was extricated by firefighters and transported to the hospital by ambulance with serious injuries, but was in stable condition. No other injuries were reported and the horses were also uninjured.

The third crash occurred at approximately 7:20 p.m. on Highway 20 near the intersection of 55th Avenue. This crash involved a full size pickup truck that struck the back of a smaller pickup truck which was traveling in the



SHFAD crews respond to a two-truck crush that occurred near 55th Avenue.

same direction. The smaller pickup rolled onto its top in the ditch, with both vehicles sustaining significant damage. During the crash a chain was thrown from one of the pickup beds, tangling in an overhead power line and

bringing that live wire down. Pacific Power arrived and cut power to the wire, which was causing a significant hazard as bystanders walked under it and drove over it on the roadway. Three occupants of the smaller pickup

and the driver of the full size pickup were evaluated by medics, but all refused transport to the hospital by ambulance.

Fire crews were assisted by OSP, ODOT, and Sweet Home PD.

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TRAFFIC COMMITTEE CONSIDERS 1ST AVENUE ISSUES
PAGE 5



HUSKIES NAMED TO ALL-LEAGUE HONORS
PAGE 13



GINGERBREAD, TREE LIGHTS, HOLIDAY SPIRIT
PAGE 16

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OBITUARIES



Susan Edens
June 6, 1950 - November 5th, 2024

Susan Edens, 74, of Brownsville passed away on Tuesday, November 5th, 2024 in her home. Susan was born on June 6, 1950, to Floyd and Janet Edens. Susan was a nearly 20 year resident of Brownsville and former resident of Cascadia, where she raised her two children, Floyd and Melody Neuschwander.

Susan was born in Bishop, California, and was raised in Minot, ND, moving to California in 1964 after her father passed away. She eventually moved to Cascadia, where she would stay until 2003. In the 1980's she was a reporter for the Linn County correspondent for the Statesman Journal newspaper and worked as a reporter for The New Era Newspaper. She was a teacher at Linn Benton Community College to assist students with disabilities. In addition, Susan volunteered at the Sharing Hands thrift store in Brownsville, for many years. Susan was most recently a member of Brownsville Assembly of God Church.

Susan was an avid reader, Scrabble player, story teller, and poet who loved words and art in a myriad of formats. Though not a lover of cats, two adopted her, DC and OC, both of whom will miss her.

Susan is survived by her sisters Mary Alley of Peoria, AZ and Judy Schoeny of Vancouver, WA, children Floyd Neuschwander of Cascadia, and Melody Neuschwander of Albany, and grandchildren Madelyn Neuschwander of Kodiak, AK and Sicily Neuschwander

of Seattle, WA.

She is preceded in death by her brother Johnny Edens, mother Janet Edens, father Floyd Edens and stepson Steven Neuschwander Jr.

Please join us to honor Susan at her Celebration of Life at the Assembly of God church in Brownsville, on Dec 8th at 3 pm.



Patricia Ann Hemelstrand
June 7, 1939 - November 24, 2024

Patricia Ann Hemelstrand, 85, of Sweet Home passed away Sunday, November 24, 2024. A viewing will be 3 pm to 5 pm Sunday, December 8th at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel 1443 Long St. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.



Orletta Lee Gibbs
July 6, 1938 - November 24, 2024

Orletta Lee Gibbs, 86, of Sweet Home passed away Sunday, November 24, 2024. She was born July 6, 1938, to Orville and Josephine (Web-

ber) Nye in Foster. She grew up in Foster and attended Foster Elementary School through 8th grade and graduated from Sweet Home High School in 1957. Orletta married Bill Trask. They had four children. She went to cosmetology school in Albany and worked at different shops in Sweet Home. She was also a bar tender and enjoyed both of her jobs. In 1971 Bill and Orletta got divorced and in 1972 she married David Gibbs. Together they had one child.

Orletta loved her yard; she would go outside and work in it every day. She liked to hunt and camp with her family. She had lots of animals and enjoyed them all. She was a life member of the VFW and Elkettes for many years.

She is survived by her husband David Gibbs; her children Dennis (Kathy) Trask, Terry Gibbs, Diana (Gary) Bondesen, David Gibbs; nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her son Robert Trask; her parents Orville and Josephine Nye; sister Melva Gregory.

A viewing will be 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, Monday, December 2nd, followed by a 1 pm memorial service at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.



Dale Franklin Burnett
October 2, 1927 - November 27, 2024

Dale Franklin Burnett, 97, of Sweet Home, passed away on November 27, 2024.

He was born on October 2, 1927, in Lebanon to William "Lester" and Loletta Barr Burnett. He was raised on the family farm with his sisters Lois, Meredith, and Sharon.

Dale graduated from Sweet Home Union High School in 1946 and then joined the Army, serving much of his two years in Japan. After returning, he worked at Willamette Industries (1948-1987). His real passion was farming. He was a cattleman, and he could always be found working cows, mending fences, and riding his 4-wheeler.

Dale married twice. He married Billie May Pace in 1948, divorcing in 1962. They had three children: Karen Elaine Thompson (Caldwell, ID), Gloria Dawn Burnett (Medford), and Roger Dale Burnett (Sweet Home). In 1964, Dale met the love of his life, Cathy Ann Lais, while square dancing. They married in 1965 and spent 60 beautiful years together. They have one daughter, Lori Jo Tuter (Sweet Home).

Dale and Cathy travelled the world, visiting Europe, Australia and New Zealand, Panama Canal, Alaska, and Canada. They were snowbirds, flying south to Arizona to golf and spend time with friends in the sun. More than anything, they loved the Oregon coast, owning a home that Dale built in Seal Rock for 30+ years, and then a timeshare in Depoe Bay. Wherever they were, Dale cherished every moment he got to spend with his sweetheart.

Sports were always important to Dale. He lettered in football, basketball, baseball, and track, and he had the same reserved seats for the Husky football games for 50 years. He was often seen at baseball, volleyball, and basketball games cheering on the kids. Go Huskies! He loved golfing, and he belonged to a bowling league; his high game was 288! Dale loved playing cards and Bunko with friends. His laughter was contagious and will be remembered by all who knew him.

Dale has 9 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lester and Loletta Burnett, his sisters, Meredith Yarborough and Lois Gray, and granddaughter, Shawna Robb. His younger sister, Sharon Care, lives in Spokane, WA.

You are invited to Dale's Celebration of Life on Sunday, December 8 at the Sweet Home Community Chapel at 1:00pm at 42250 Ames Creek Rd in Sweet Home. The reception will follow at the Elks from 2:00-4:00 at 440 Osage St. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

John Francis Neely
November 2, 1943 - October 27, 2024

John Francis Neely has departed us and gone on to the other side. John, who stood above the crowd was a spiritual, articulate, philosophical, kind and wise trusted mentor. He was a dear and loving friend to many. Thoughtful, caring and respected.

John lived and worked in Sweet Home for many de-

cedes. He retired from Sweet Home School District. John volunteered in our community in many ways. His wisdom/knowledge of agriculture stands out.

John leaves behind his niece Melissa Neely of Montgomery, Alabama; who he raised from a youth to become a beautiful established business woman with the same characteristics as "Uncle John".

A celebration of life will be held in the spring.

JoAnn Albert
August 31, 1942 - November 29, 2024

JoAnn Albert, 82, of Sweet Home passed away Friday, November 29, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Evelyn Mae Brown
June 13, 1931 - November 23, 2024

Evelyn Mae Brown, 93, of Albany passed away Saturday, November 23, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

William Marshall Crane
April 8, 1956 - November 28, 2024

William Marshall Crane, 68, of Sweet Home passed away Thursday, November 28, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Dean Arthur Knutson
April 17, 1936 - November 21, 2024

Dean Arthur Knutson, 88, of Sweet Home passed away Thursday, November 21, 2024. A funeral service will be 10 am Monday, December 16th at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. Burial with military honors will follow at Gilliland Cemetery. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

William "Bill" Kennedy
May 19, 1936 - November 29, 2024

William "Bill" Kennedy, 88, of Sweet Home passed away Friday, November 29, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

David Leroy Knapp
April 20, 1951 - November 21, 2024

David Leroy Knapp, 73, of Sweet Home passed away Thursday, November 21, 2024. A viewing will be 1 - 3 pm Saturday, December 7th at Sweet

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The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

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-Matthew 18:20

Following public concerns over the Foster Mud Flats event last January, the US Army Corps of Engineers is requiring the South Santiam Four Wheelers Association to monitor soil and water quality around the event to address its effects on Foster Lake. Concerns revolve around pollutants and erosion.

Traffic Committee Considers 1st Avenue Issues

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

The Public & Traffic Safety Committee talked about options for stop signs on 1st Avenue and 12th Avenue during its Nov. 13 meeting.

Chair Frank Gallagher said he'd like to see better and more prominent signs at 1st Avenue and Highway 20 to warn drivers that commercial vehicles are not allowed on 1st Avenue. He believes that the current signs are not large enough or explanatory enough for commercial drivers to realize they shouldn't be driving through there.

Gallagher suggested they also consider the possibility of creating a three-way stop at Nandina Street and 1st Avenue.

"It does meet some of the requirements there for stop signs because it is an intersection with a low-volume entering a high-volume street," he said.

Prior to this meeting, the City Council had decided a more formal process should be followed when it comes to requesting and approving stop signs. Assistant City Manager Cecily Pretty informed the committee about this new rule, adding that



Photo by Sarah Brown

The Public & Traffic Safety Committee discusses stop signs for 1st Avenue and 12th Avenue.

they will consider new stop sign requests once the formal process is outlined.

Interim City Manager Jason Ogden noted that a resident at 12th Avenue and Tamarack Street requested a stop sign at that corner where the streets turn into each other at a 90-degree angle. He recalled he's been to crashes at that site after drivers took the corner too fast and broke through residents' fencing.

Committee member Joe Graybill said "there is none to little cross traffic" in that area, and "not every corner needs a stop sign," adding that people should slow down and be careful; he doesn't believe the corner needs a stop sign. Ogden would like to discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

During the Aug. 27 City Council meeting, a motion was approved to install temporary speed tables on 1st Avenue between Highway 20 and Highway 228, with the intent to study how that affects the conditions on the hotly debated road.

Ogden updated The New

Era that the city has been waiting to hire an engineering director who could work on that project. Engineering firms were just approved for hire during the Nov. 12 meeting.

In other business, Ogden introduced the city's new traffic officer, Daniel Gerkman, to the committee.

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Photo by Scott Swanson
A long line of cars streams out of the Norden Hall parking lot at 15th and Long.



Photo by Scott Swanson
Krystina Tack hands out breakfast to a long line of recipients on Thanksgiving morning at Norden Hall.



Photo by Scott Swanson
Sweet Home cross-country runners enjoy breakfast handed out by Ally Gardner, center they had just finished running several miles on Thanksgiving morning.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

fused medic transport.

8:31 a.m. - Dustin Andrew Clarneau, 50, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of second degree criminal mischief.

1:47 p.m. - Brian Lee Lindsay, 36, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of third degree theft and failure to comply on an original charge of third degree theft.

2:40 p.m. - Annaliese Henry, 29, cited for speeding 30/20, 1100 block 22nd Avenue.

3:45 p.m. - Caller reported hit and run, 1500 block Tamarrack Street. Report taken.

4:47 p.m. - Todd Tackitt, 39, arrested on warrant and cited for driving uninsured and driving with a suspended license, 200 block S Main St., Brownsville.

7:22 p.m. - Callers reported motor vehicle accident with car flipped in ditch, 5500 block Main Street. Report taken for crash with injuries.

8:18 p.m. - Brian Pierce, 26, arrested on warrants.

Nov. 27

1:33 a.m. - Shawn Pruitt, 52, cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured, 2200 block Main Street.

2:16 a.m. - Heather Mae Kelly, 45, arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failures to appear on original charges of second degree theft, third degree theft, harassment, and first degree criminal trespassing; an Albany Municipal Court warrant for failure to ap-

pear on an original charge of second degree criminal trespassing; and a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for second degree theft and first degree criminal trespassing. Booked, cited and released.

10:34 a.m. - Joshua Johnson, 34, cited for using a mobile device while driving, 300 block Holley Road.

11:01 a.m. - Katherine Marie Berghoffer, 43, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of third degree theft.

1:29 p.m. - Craig Snyder, 46, cited on a warrant.

3:05 p.m. - Caller reported a male stealing from McDonald's. Brian Daniel Watkins arrested for third degree theft. Booked, cited and released.

4:08 p.m. - Jeffery Bennett, 30, cited for violating posted speed limit, 6500 block NE Old Salem Road, Albany.

5:56 p.m. - Katrina Lynn Gray cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of second degree theft.

10:44 p.m. - Loa Ann Louise Branton, 34, arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of second degree theft; a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of driving while suspended; and a Linn County Justice Court warrant for third degree theft. Booked, cited and released.

11:07 p.m. - Brandon John Morrissey, 31, cited for second degree theft.

Nov. 28

6:06 a.m. - Caller reported

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EVENTS

Fundraisers for Habitat for Humanity

Fundraisers to benefit Lebanon Area Habitat for Humanity will be held this year through a variety of options.

Sunday, Dec. 22: Habitat will host "Holiday Bingo" from 3-5 p.m. at Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., and 50% of proceeds from the games goes to Habitat.

Tuesday, Dec. 31: Panda Express at 1990 S Main St., Lebanon, will donate 20% of your order to Habitat when you show them Habitat's flier (found at <https://bit.ly/3Zdw9sW>), or if ordering online, use code 381837.

Holiday Light Competition

Julegård: The Christmas Farm and the Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce will host the "Let it Glow" holiday light competition from Dec. 1 to Jan. 5. To register your home, visit <https://bit.ly/3Zb57IW>.

Ski Club Fundraiser

The Sweet Home High School Ski and Ride Club will be having a fundraiser from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5, at the SHHS commons area, 1641 Long St.

There will be a \$10 "All You Can Eat Soup Dinner," a ski movie, and a silent auction featuring a Hoodoo season pass, lift tickets, and lots of gift baskets from local businesses. Proceeds help fund lift tickets, rentals and transportation to Hoodoo Ski Area for students this winter. All payments must be either cash or check.

Genealogy Society Holiday Bazaar

The Sweet Home Genealogy Society is holding their annu-

al Holiday Bazaar, Dec. 6 and 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We have several vendor tables with lots of fun items: gnomes, wreaths, handcrafted items, table runners, Christmas items, baked goods and household items. We also have "Grannies Attic" where we have tons of miscellaneous items as well as 6 Raffle baskets and a quilt. We are located at 1223 Kalmia St. in Sweet Home.

Singing Christmas Tree

The Sweet Home Community Singing Christmas Tree will present "As Long As There's Christmas" from Dec. 6-8 at the high school auditorium, 1641 Long St.

The performance will be at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6-7, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8. Admission is free, but audience donations will benefit the Sweet Home Public Library.

Brownsville Festival of Trees

Brownsville's annual Festival of the Trees will be held on Friday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Dec. 7, in conjunction with the city's "Home for the Holidays" event.

Sponsored by the Brownsville Women's Study Club, the 25 trees, beautifully decorated by volunteer artists, will be found in locations across the downtown business district. The list of locations can be picked up at any business in town.

The 1881 Moyer House will host three of the trees and will be open for free visits those two days. The trees are all available for auction with this year's proceeds supporting the Brownsville Library and the Sharing Hands Food Bank.

Bidding will take place both

days ending at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Winners need to be able to pick up their trees immediately afterwards. For more information, visit the Brownsville Women's Study Club Facebook page.

Kids Free Christmas Store

The Sweet Home Kids Free Christmas Store will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 7, at Freedom Hill Church, 2470 Main St.

Kids aged 2 through 12 may shop free for the family they live with. Volunteers will be available to wrap their presents. The kids can also make a craft and watch a movie, and each shopper is given a healthy sack lunch.

For more information, contact Nancy Patton at 541.409.4276, or visit <https://www.facebook.com/kidsfree-storeonlineauction>.

Christmas Tree Auction Dec. 7

The Sweet Home Alumni Foundation will present its annual Decorated Christmas Tree Auction at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Community Center, 880 18th Ave.

Entitled "The Jingle Ball," the event will include a silent auction (including baked goods, hand crafted items, holiday gifts, and themed baskets) and the headliner event, the auctioning off of 18 top-quality, freshly cut, highly decorated Christmas trees to raise money for scholarships that will be presented to Sweet Home High School graduates. The Alumni Association awarded more than \$90,000 in scholarships in 2024.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. General admission is \$50.

For tickets, visit SHAFgives.org or call 541.401.4019. Seating is limited, so reservations are required.

To donate items, or for more information, contact Laurie Carlson at 541.401.3148 or email lauri_97386@yahoo.com, or contact Brenda Winslow at 541.401.0816.

The decorated trees will be on display for public viewing from 10a.m. to 2 p.m. on the day of the event.

Albany Christmas Parlour Tour

Albany's 45th annual Christmas Parlour Tour will be held from 2-7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, allowing participants to tour.

Enjoy the sights and sounds of an old-fashioned holiday celebration through Albany's nationally registered historic districts by touring beautifully decorated homes and other historic buildings that highlight architectural styles such as Queen Anne, mid-century modern, and craftsman.

Tickets are \$15 and available online until the day before the tour at monteithhouse.org; click the link under "Upcoming Events." On the day of the tour, bring your e-receipt to the Albany Visitors Association (AVA), 122 Ferry St. SW, and redeem it for a wristband and ticket, which includes a map and information about the homes. Both ticket and wristband are needed to enter the homes.

Tickets also will be available the day of the tour beginning at 1 p.m. at the AVA office; cash or check only.

Visitors may tour the homes in any order they choose, ride the Albany Trolley to most of the sites or catch a ride on a horse-drawn wagon that will

tour on a limited route, and enjoy refreshments at the Albany Regional Museum and Monteith House.

Visit other historic buildings, such as Whitespires Church, United Presbyterian Church, the Downtown Carnegie Library (where visitors can take the chill off around the library's cozy fireplace), the Cumberland Community Center, and the Historic Carousel Museum.

Sign up at the Albany Regional Museum for a chance to win free tickets to the 2025 Summer Interior Homes Tour, which will be held Saturday, July 26, 2025.

For more information, contact the AVA at 541.928.0911, or email info@albanyvisitors.com.

Women's Group After 5

After 5 Connections will host "Joyful Sounds of Christmas," a gift exchange and special program for women and men from 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at Ma's Restaurant, 2416 S. Santiam Hwy., Lebanon.

The evening promises to be fun, food, and a traditional sing-a-long. The program will start with a buffet dinner, followed by festive Christmas carols. There will also be a creative Christmas story with audience participation in the "Right-Left" game; please bring a wrapped pair of fun socks for this gift exchange game.

Guest speaker this month will be Laura Loffredo, of Portland. She is a retired Chicago area bed and breakfast owner. Her specialty is dramatic re-enactments of famous people from long ago times. Come and be entertained by her acting talents.

Cost for dinner is \$18; credit

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CHRISTMAS SHOPPING & EVENTS GUIDE



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12/15/24 3:00 PM

Sweet Home High School Auditorium

Admission is FREE!

"The Innkeepers" is an original stage production depicting the Nativity story from the unique perspectives of the Innkeeper and his wife. Back by popular demand, "The Innkeepers" is returning to Sweet Home for the second year and promises to be even better than last year. Bring your friends and family and don't miss out on this amazing experience!



SHHS Band will have fundraising in the foyer for those who wish to support them



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Photos by Scott Swanson

It's all about a hard workout Saturday morning as wrestlers use sledgehammers to pound tires as part of the team's annual outdoor practice.



Senior Dylan Sharp, center, flips a heavy tire as teammates, from left, Ashton Swanson, Liam Martin and Lynkin Royer urge him on.



In an exercise designed to teach wrestlers to depend on each other, teammates hoist heavy tires.



Bella Rico, foreground, carries heavy railroad rails as Tabitha Brzezinski, left awaits her turn. Behind them, center, is Jasper Victor.




Coach Steve Thorpe, left, gives directions to his wrestlers during the Sweet Home wrestling team's annual outdoor workout held Saturday, Nov. 23, in the rain at Sweet Home High School.



Conner Spencer, left, and teammates, fling heavy chains during the outdoor workout.

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

Thriving with chronic cancer support group
Wednesday, Nov. 13 | 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 27 | 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
This group provides a safe space to support one another while navigating life with chronic cancer. During this virtual support group, you will explore ways to find joy and hope during challenging times by practicing relaxation, meditation and emotional regulation skills. To register, call Heidi Garza at 541-768-5340.


Learn about anesthesia and pain relief options during labor
Thursday, Nov. 14 | 7 to 9 p.m.
Join a free virtual seminar and learn about epidural pain control options during labor and delivery. An anesthesiologist will explain and discuss the benefits and risks. To register contact Maternity Care Coordinator Mandy Clark at 541-768-6908 or manclark@samhealth.org.

Shop at the holiday bazaar
Friday, Nov. 15 | 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital's annual holiday bazaar is back, offering a festive showcase of handmade gifts and holiday items crafted by talented hospital employees and volunteers. This free, public event happening at the hospital is the perfect opportunity to discover unique, locally made treasures. Vendors will accept cash, check and credit card payments (when applicable). Don't miss this celebration of community talent and creativity!

Honor and remember loved ones
Sunday, Nov. 17 | 2 to 4 p.m.
During the winter holidays, Samaritan Evergreen Hospice hosts a celebration called Light up a Life. This annual event brings people together to remember loved ones who have passed and to support hospice patients and their families. This year's event in Lebanon will offer both in person and virtual participation options. Although Light up a Life focuses on patients who have passed away during the previous year, it is also open to community members who wish to donate in someone's memory. For more information, or to make a donation, visit samhealth.org/LUAL or call 844-768-4256.



Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital
samhealth.org



Q: What are the worst drinks for my teeth?

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


- 1. SODA.** Two of the most harmful things for our teeth are sugar and acid, and carbonated beverages are full of both! The teeth literally start dissolving under the attack of the acid, leading to cavities.
- 2. SPORTS DRINKS.** Like soda, they are often full of sugar and are highly acidic. One study showed that lemon-lime Gatorade dissolved more tooth enamel than any other drink, including Coke.
- 3. FRUIT JUICE.** After reading to this point, you probably know why this is on the list. Juice has lots of sugar and acid too. While it could be considered a healthy option, most fitness experts will advise you not to drink your calories. Eat the entire fruit instead, and enjoy the health benefits of the fiber. Drink lots of water, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle, and see your dentist regularly, to be sure your teeth stay in good shape!

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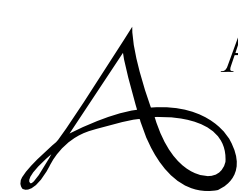


Q: Do I have dry eyes or allergies?

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

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Commission Approves Next Phase in Wiley Creek Campus

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

The Planning Commission approved the division of a 27.52-acre lot into multiple lots situated behind Wiley Creek Manor during its Nov. 21 meeting.

The lot, located at 4901 Hwy. 20, is approximately 1,198,771 square feet. Plans submitted in the application indicate the land owner, Sweet Home Residential LLC, wants to divide the parcel into five lots for development and a larger sixth lot for possible development at a later time.

The lot sizes on the first five parcels would range in size between about 10,000 and 26,806 square feet, and the sixth lot would be about 1,216,112 square feet to be reserved for future land division and development. The land owner intends to prepare the lots for future housing development in line with the allowed densities within the zone.

Wiley Creek borders the east side of the property.

Wiley Creek Manor and the Spring Terrace subdivision (Mimosa Circle and Maple Drive) border the west side of the property. Mountain Fir Street, running east-west and dividing Wiley Creek Manor from Spring Terrace, dead-ends at the property line, but Mountain Fir Street would extend into the new development and connect with a future street.

Planning & Building Manager Angela Clegg's report indicates the property has an active wetland delineation on it, to expire in 2028, and the overall project may at some point require a permit application for wetland removal-fill.

Britany Randall, of BRAND Land Use, representing Sweet Home Residential LLC, said they plan to build four-plex dwellings.

Associated with the new Wiley Creek Memory Care facility, Sweet Home Residential LLC will use the homes for assisted living.

Nearby resident Hank Blomberg submitted a let-

ter expressing concern about spawning fish in Wiley Creek. He wrote: "This subdivision is on the border to Wiley Creek which is a spawning location for salmon, steelhead and trout. This property has a large spring and ground water runoff into Wiley Creek. I do not see any catch basins, nor remediation of nitrites which will be introduced to Wiley Creek from this development. I feel this could negatively impact the salmon and steelhead and trout. I ask the City of Sweet Home Planning and Building Department to review this project and determine if this will negatively affect Wiley Creek watershed and take action to protect this natural resource."

Addressing this letter, Randall stated they are "sensitive to the environmental features" and their design is in line with the city's Safe Harbor guidelines, which provides 50-foot setbacks to the riparian areas.



An outlined aerial shot shows where the next phase of development at Wiley Creek will be.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 6

neighbor moved her trash cans and trash was not picked up, 1800 block Vine Street.

8:40 a.m. - Willie Joseph Williams, 47, cited on a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on original charges of contempt and driving while suspended. Tracy Lynn Waterman, 51, cited on a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on original charges of resisting arrest and criminal mischief.

2:40 p.m. - Jimmy Varner, 57, arrested on a warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of DUII, cited on a warrant for third degree theft, and cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured, 29800 block Berlin Road.

2:51 p.m. - Jimmy Rodger Varner, 57, arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of third degree theft.

9:51 p.m. - Jamie Daniel Carpenter cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of menacing.

10:37 p.m. - Caller reported neighbors making too much noise by opening their car doors and trunk, 1400 block 22nd Avenue.

Nov. 29

8:04 a.m. - Caller reported someone keeps siphoning gas from car and stole wheels, 1300 block Clark Mill Road. Report taken.

9:27 a.m. - Caller reported someone pitched a tent on his empty lot, 5900 block Nandina Street.

9:54 a.m. - Camper warned for overstaying 14 day camp limit, 51100 block Quartzville Road.

11:04 a.m. - Caller reported someone stole gravel from a construction site, 1200 block 49th Avenue.

3:12 p.m. - Robert Michael Butterfield cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of third degree theft.

7:31 p.m. - Steven Lee Ballweber, 35, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of hit and run, and an Albany Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of contempt of court.

7:51 p.m. - Kyle James Elmer, 33, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of third degree theft.

8:49 p.m. - Christina Rachelle Briones cited on a Salem Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of DUII.

9:20 p.m. - Bryanna Sue Harley cited on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failures to appear on

original charges of third degree theft.

Nov. 30

8:41 a.m. - Nickolas Ryan Shoulders, 35, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of third degree theft.

10:55 a.m. - Jarred Brennan, 38, cited for driving uninsured, 4400 block Main Street.

8:03 p.m. - David Michael Russell, 43, arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of third degree theft, a Linn County Justice Court warrant for a PRC violation - unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, and an Albany Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of second degree theft. Booked, cited and released.

Dec. 1

12:07 a.m. - Caller reported an intoxicated female at Chewy's Pub refuses to leave and trying to start a fight.

1:00 a.m. - Caller reported a male threw his keys at her and left, 1300 block 56th Avenue.

10:34 p.m. - Shawna Jean Tidwell, 37, cited on a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of second degree theft.

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EVENTS

From page 7

cards cannot be accepted.

To RSVP, contact Sherri at 541.258.6414, or Nancy at 541.259.1396 or by email at NancyPinzino@comcast.net.

Fall Leaf Pick-Up

The City of Sweet Home's annual fall leaf pick-up runs until Dec. 13.

Leaves need to be raked to the side of the street in a neat

pile. Any piles that contain other debris such as sticks or animal waste will not be picked up - this is for leaves only.

To request a pick-up, email publicworkscrew@sweethomeor.gov or call 541.367.6359. Service may be requested as many times as needed during the program's active period. Crews will get to the pile as soon as they are able based on their daily workload, and pickups will be scheduled from Monday to Friday of each week.

Mini Market

The 3rd Saturday Mini Market will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. between Nov. 16 and Dec. 21 at The Rez, 1621 53rd Ave., Foster.

Open every third Saturday of the month, vendors offer items such as sourdough bread, soaps, crafts, jewelry, cookies and wellness products.

'The Innkeepers' Play

Playwright Satina Tolman brings back her nativity story,

"The Innkeepers," on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 14-15, at the Sweet Home High School auditorium, 1641 Long St.

Immerse yourself in a mesmerizing journey as the innkeeper and his wife retell the nativity story from their unique perspective, a story that reminds us of the power of compassion, love and the true meaning of Christmas. With its captivating narrative, heartwarming characters and inspiring songs, "The Innkeepers" promises to be a

must-attend event this holiday season.

Admission is free. Shows will be performed Saturday, Dec. 14, at 3-4:30 p.m. and 7-8:30 p.m., and on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3-4:30 p.m.

For more information and updates, visit the Facebook event page at Facebook.com/theinnkeeperssweethome. For inquiries or to become a sponsor, contact Satina via email at authorsatinatolman@gmail.com or tolman-satina@gmail.com.

Oregon Rep. Chavez-DeRemer, Trump's pick for labor secretary, says she received bomb threat

By Julia Shumway

Oregon Capital Chronicle

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com>

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office confirmed Wednesday that it responded to a threat against U.S. Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer, an Oregon Republican selected by president-elect Donald Trump to lead the federal Department of Labor.

Chavez-DeRemer tweeted that she received a pipe bomb threat on Tuesday at her Happy Valley home, and that she and her family were safe.

"This kind of violence harms not just the intended targets but entire communities," she tweeted. "It is an unacceptable way to express opposition, and it will not deter President Trump and the team he has assembled from doing the work on behalf of the American people."

A spokesman for the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office confirmed that the office responded to a

threat and that the FBI is handling an investigation, but declined to answer other questions. A spokesman for Chavez-DeRemer did not immediately respond to questions.

The FBI said in a statement that it was aware of "numerous bomb threats and swatting incidents targeting incoming administration nominees and appointees."

"We take all potential threats seriously and, as always, encourage members of the public to immediately report anything they consider suspicious to law enforcement," the statement continued.

Trump spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said in a statement that several officials received "violent, un-American" threats ranging from bomb threats to "swatting," a term that describes prank calls intended to cause a large number of heavily armed police officers to show up at an address to respond to a non-existent



Photo by Julia Shumway Oregon Capital Chronicle

U.S. Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer, R-Oregon, speaks to reporters on Oct. 9, 2024.

threat.

U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, a New York Republican and Trump's pick for ambassador to the United Nations, also

reported receiving a bomb threat at her home. Former U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin, another New York Republican tapped to lead the Environmental

Protection Agency, said on X that he was a victim of a "pipe bomb threat" with a "pro-Palestinian themed message."

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Huskies Named to All-Oregon West Conference Honors

The following Sweet Home athletes, pictured below, are among Oregon West Conference All-League honorees in sports other than football: from left, Ivan Ogden, Honorable Mention, boys soccer; Ryker Burr, Second Team, cross-country; Peyton Markell, Honorable Mention, girls soccer; Emma Whitton, First Team All-League, First Team All-State, cross-country; Jack Simmons, Second Team, boys soccer; Karissa Jewell, Second Team, volleyball; Khloe Sautel, Second Team, Honorable Mention, girls soccer; Annabelle Morris, Second Team, girls soccer; Tiara Reynolds, Second Team, volleyball; Amelia Sullens, Second Team, Honorable Mention, girls soccer; and in individual photo at lower right, McKenzie Miller, Second Team, cross-country.



The following Sweet Home athletes are among OSAA 4A Special District 3 All-League honorees in football: from left, Dillan Davis, Second Team defensive back, Honorable Mention kick returner, wide receiver; Jayden Mancilla, Honorable Mention offensive tackle; Dylan Sharp, Honorable Mention offensive guard, inside linebacker; Bode Nichols, First Team punter; Lynkin Royer, Honorable Mention tackle; Luke Rosa, Second Team inside linebacker; and Kayo Ebbs, Second Team running back, Honorable Mention inside linebacker.





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Classifieds

Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN PROBATE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BETTY A. McCONNELL, deceased
Case No.: 24PB10536

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned Personal Representative in care of the undersigned attorney at: 319 Sixth Street SW, Albany, OR 97321 within four months after the date of the publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.

DATED and first published December 4, 2024.

Personal Representative
RICHARD M. REIMER
3216 West Rosewood Avenue
Spokane, WA 99208
Attorney
DAVID B. BECKHAM
319 Sixth Avenue SW
Albany, OR 97321
(Dec 4)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Jill Elizabeth Thomas, deceased,
Case No. 24PB10520

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to said personal representative at the office of Hannah F. Silverman, Morley Thomas Law, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon, Oregon 97355, within four months of the date of publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the personal representative or the attorneys for the personal representative at the address stated, or from the records of the Court.

Dated and published on December 4, 2024.

Glenn W. Thomas, Personal Representative. Hannah F. Silverman, OSB
#204965 Morley Thomas Law. Attorneys at Law, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355.
(Dec 4)

Notice of Preliminary Determination for Water Right Transfer T-13911

T-13911 filed by Willamette Valley Land LLC, c/o Paul Kuehne PO Box 99 Lafayette, OR 97127, proposes an additional point of diversion and changes in places of use under Certificates 11960, 20900, 24544, 43292, and 46454. Certificate 11960 allows the use of 0.33 cubic foot per second (cfs) from Crabtree Creek in Sec. 7, T11S, R1E, WM for irrigation in Sec. 7, T11S, R1E, WM and Sec 12, T11S R1W, WM. The applicant proposes an additional point of diversion in Sec. 1, T11S, R1W, WM and to change the place of use within Sec. 7 T11S, R1E, WM and Sec. 12, T11S, R1W, WM. Certificate 20900 allows the use of 0.25 cfs from Crabtree Creek in Sec. 1, T11S, R1W, WM for irrigation in Sec. 1 T11S, R1W, WM. The applicant proposes an additional point of diversion in Sec. 1, T11S, R1W, WM and to change the place of use to Sects. 1 and 12, T11S, R1W, WM. Certificate 24544 allows the use of 0.25 cfs from Crabtree Creek in Sec. 1, T11S, R1W, WM for irrigation in Sec. 12, T11S, R1W, WM. The applicant proposes an additional point of diversion in Sec. 1, T11S, R1W, WM and to change the place of use within Sec. 12, T11S, R1W, WM. Certificate 43292 allows the use of 0.41 cfs from Crabtree Creek in Sec. 7, T11S, R1E, WM for irri-

Public Notices

gation in Sec. 7, T11S, R1E, WM, and Sec. 12, T11S, R1W, WM. The applicant proposes an additional point of diversion in Sec. 1, T11S, R1W, WM and to change the place of use within Sec. 12, T11S, R1W, WM. Certificate 46456 allows the use of 0.32 cfs from Crabtree Creek in Sec. 1, T11S, R1W, WM for irrigation in Sec. 12, T11S, R1W, WM. The applicant proposes an additional point of appropriation in Sec. 1, T11S, R1W, WM, and to change the place of use within Sec. 12, T11S, R1W, WM. The Water Resources Department proposes to approve the transfer, based on the requirements of ORS Chapter 540 and OAR 690-380-5000.

Any person may file, jointly or severally, a protest or standing statement within 30 days after the last date of newspaper publication of this notice, 12/11/2024. Call (503) 986-0935 to obtain additional information. If no protests are filed, the Department will issue a final order consistent with the preliminary determination.
(Dec 4 - Dec 11)

Statewide Notices

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SERVICES: When you want the best, you want Omaha Steaks! 100% guaranteed and delivered to your door! Our Butcher's Deluxe Package makes a great gift and comes with 8 FREE Burgers ONLY \$99.99. Call 1-844-763-2348 and mention code 77318CZJ or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Deluxe9670.

SERVICES: Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-695-9265 today!

SERVICES: Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!

SERVICES: We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-249-8679.

SERVICES: We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-980-4382.

SERVICES: The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-847-9778.

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SERVICES: Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/29/24.) Call 1-855-341-5268.

Statewide Notices

SERVICES: Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-557-1912 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

SERVICES: The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-844-989-2328.

SERVICES: Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-839-0752.

SERVICES: Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-536-8838.

SERVICES: Call LeafGuard and say goodbye to gutter cleaning for good. No cleaning. No leaking. No water damage. No more ladder accidents. Get LeafGuard today and be protected for life. FREE estimate. Financing available. 20% off total purchase (Restrictions may apply.) Call 1-877-300-7977.

SERVICES: Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-877-916-0803.

SERVICES: Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-373-9175.

SERVICES: DIRECTV OVER INTERNET - Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-602-2009.

SERVICES: Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 844-955-3417.

SERVICES: Is 2024 your year? We're here for it and here for you. Reach your goals this year with WeightWatchers. Get started with THREE months FREE, visit www.weightwatcher-soffer.com/39.

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.

SERVICES: Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-844-655-0972.

Shop Fire Damages Building, Classic Car

Fire crews responded to a shop fire off Mountain View Road on Monday, Nov. 25.

The Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District responded to the fire after a 911 call was placed at 12:30 p.m. A command vehicle carrying a water tank and pump arrived within four minutes and began a defensive attack on the fire from the exterior of the building until other units arrived. Soon after, an engine, a medic unit, and a ladder truck arrived on scene. The engine company made entry into the structure knocking the fire down, then requesting removal of a rollup door in order to remove a classic vehicle from the structure to salvage it from any further damage from heat and fire-fighting operations.

The vehicle, a 1931 Ford Model A, was removed from the structure, but it was found to have already sustained damage. The fire was knocked down by 12:47 p.m., and crews worked to overhaul the structure to ensure that the fire was completely extinguished.

Also on scene were officers from Sweet Home Police Department and personnel from the City of Sweet Home Public Works who assisted with traffic control. Bystanders, including both a former Sweet Home fire chief and a



Photo courtesy of SHFAD
After the fire was extinguished, contents left inside the structure reveal the damage left in its wake.

former Sweet Home police chief, also assisted crews at the scene.

Damage to the structure and contents are estimated to be in excess of \$30,000.

The cause of the fire was determined to be unintentional, resulting from combustible materials too close to a wood burning stove. No injuries were reported.

DEAR EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I wanted to thank the Sweet Home Veterans Club for hosting the Thanksgiving free dinner this year. We fed nearly 200 people which was about double last year's attendance. 12 turkeys and 3 hams were cooked to perfection by club volunteers, some of whom got up at 3 am to prepare this huge feast. From set up, to serving, to clean up the Veterans Club members sprang into action with flawless execution. It really could not have gone better. Veterans once again showed their commitment to serving their country and their community. I look forward to next year's event being even bigger as we continue this tradition.

James Risinger
Sweet Home Liquor Store

Gina Riley's family traveled to Cancun for her youngest grandson's graduation trip as he prepares to attend OSU. They brought with them their "traveling paper," a December 2011 copy of The New Era, which is photographed for and written on during each trip they take. From left are Tim Riley, Colby Montigue, Mark Montigue, Gina Riley, Crystal Montigue and Mason Montigue.

CROSSWORD

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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Commoner

5. Tea leaf

11. They save you a table

14. Submissions

15. Secretly revealed

18. Personification of the sea (Norse)

19. Unreal

21. No seats available

23. Bangladeshi currency

24. Leaders

28. Famed garden

29. Denotes past

30. Not living

32. Midway between south and southeast

33. Small island (British)

35. Woman (French)

36. Wife

39. Two-toed sloth

41. Blood group

42. Soaks

44. Biu-Mandara language of Cameroon

46. Japanese prefecture

47. Place to be during a rock concert

49. Fully grown humans

52. Emaciation

56. Sparkling

58. Fruits you peel

60. Derived from a noun

62. Popular items to grill

63. Port in Yemen

- CLUES DOWN
1. Before

2. Actress Dunham

3. This (Spanish)

4. Director Peter

5. Dominant

6. English artists' society (abbr.)

7. NY Giants legend

8. It's in the ground

9. No No No

10. Pesky insect

12. Danish-American muckraking journalist

13. Kids love to do it

16. Good Gosh!

17. Fakes

20. A citizen of Denmark

22. Mystic syllable

25. Commercial

26. Letter of the Hebrew alphabet

27. Helpers

29. Water (French)

31. Young woman

34. Red-brown sea bream

36. Messenger ribonucleic acid

37. Comprehends

38. Walk with confidence

40. Home of the Flyers

43. Appetizer

45. News organization

48. Source of the Nile

50. A way to march

51. Soluble ribonucleic acid

53. Egyptian bull-god

54. Children's author Blyton

55. Baseball pitching stat

57. Rude young person

58. Table napkin

59. Monetary unit in Asia

61. One-time AL MVP Vaughn

SUDOKU

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Level: Intermediate

KNOCK OUT

From page 1

ior specialist, kissed a goat. Also, staff wore blow up and turkey costumes all day, one teacher dyed her hair, one staff member dressed like an old lady, Counselor Stefani Brown performed the “Gobble Gobble” song, and the kids got an extra recess.

Secretaries Jessica Barrett and Carrie Brown performed a dance-off while wearing their blow up costumes. By a show of cheers, Barrett won that competition. Students Colt Keeney and Emmett Villines were given the honor of smooshing a pie in the face of teachers Brittany Kauffman and Amber Rosa, while Braiden Clark and Willow Goble got to “shave” Principal Looney’s head. Since a shaver was not available, however, he helped them carefully cut his hair.

The boxes of cereal will go toward the school’s Food Pak kids and Sweet Home Emergency Ministries.



Colt Keeney smooshes “pie” into the face of teacher Brittany Kauffman, who prepared for the invasion by stuffing their noses with tissue and wearing goggles and a hair cap.

Photo by Sarah Brown



Behavior Specialist Darlene Davis kisses a goat to fulfill her obligation for the school reaching a goal of collecting 1,100 cereal boxes.

Photo by Sarah Brown

Gingerbread and Tree Lights Initiate City’s Holiday Spirit

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

City Hall was the site for some of the first signs of Christmas spirit in Sweet Home on Saturday, Nov. 30.

The evening started with the sixth annual Gingerbread Competition. This year there were five entries; one in the child category, one in the teen category, and three in the group category.

Taking first place in the group category was a snow-covered, two-house scene complete with a marshmallow family, A-frame home made from pretzel sticks, and clear blue lake. Candy and Boston Beans added color and texture to the other family home, and a wood pile made of pretzels lay stacked up near the A-frame. Mom and dad marshmallow stood outside like smiling snowmen as they watched one child on a sled and another making a snow angel.

Other entries used pre-made kits or made-from-scratch building blocks. Plenty of icing, candy, fruit and other creative finds from the pantry were utilized to dream up these gingerbread dioramas.

Lagea Mull, executive director of the Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce, said in the past there have been some spectacular entries, including a hobbit home, working merry-go-round, two-story house with a



The sole child’s entry consists of a homemade gingerbread with candy decorations.

Photo by Sarah Brown

Christmas tree and cake inside, and the Weddle bridge.

Sponsored by Julegård: The Christmas Farm, owners Tony and Shelly Larson donated mugs for visitors, which conveniently could be used for hot chocolate and hot apple cider being offered at City Hall that night.

A good handful of families visited City Hall, using the time to snack on shortbread cookies, take a photo with the gingerbread man (Madi Coleman), vote for their favorite gingerbread house, and stay warm until the lighting of the Christmas tree was to begin.

At the proper time, people gathered in the parking lot to watch the lighting of the tree. Members of The Singing Christmas Tree sang favorite Christmas carols and Mayor Susan Coleman led the countdown of the tree lighting, which she said is a symbol of light in the world.

When the tree lit up with dots of different colors and one large star at the top, the crowd cheered.

“It’s a time we celebrate the true light of the world,” Coleman said. “As we share our light with other people and be nice to them, this is a great time to do that.”



Members of The Singing Christmas Tree perform Christmas carols after the tree in front of City Hall was lit up.

Photo by Sarah Brown



The first place winner for the group category reveals a winter wonderland scene with marshmallow people, creative houses and a clear blue lake.

Photo by Sarah Brown