

## Local Newspaper Facing Dire Situation

Scott Swanson  
Past Editor/Publisher

Faithful readers of The New Era may recall the issue, several years ago in 2021, in which the top half of the front page was blank.

The point then was to demonstrate how critical the situation was for Oregon newspapers, which were seriously impacted by COVID. I remember writing an editorial explaining what that blank front page was about: a show of support with other newspapers across the state that did the same thing. I also remember writing (with thanks in my heart) that The New Era had successfully stayed afloat, avoided staff cuts, to continue to report Sweet Home's news.

Unfortunately, that is not the case now.

As your newspaper, The New Era has reported a lot of local happenings over the past 95 years – thousands and thousands of stories about life here in East Linn County.

I apologize for the length of this editorial, but I want you to have the whole picture, so you're going to get some very

transparent details. This is hard.

By the end of December, my wife Miriam and I will need to make the very difficult decision as to whether to attempt to revive The New Era into a healthy sustainable local news source, or to walk away and let it die.

### How We Got Here

Miriam and I operated The New Era for 18 years. In spring of 2023 we decided to accept an offer from a former employee, Chris Chapman, to purchase the newspaper. We weren't really looking to "retire," although I was over 60, but we also knew we needed to find a way to keep The New Era in good hands after we left and our experience with Chris gave us optimism that he would be able to do that.

We've always believed and publicly maintained that The New Era is Sweet Home's newspaper and that our role was to manage and be caretakers for this institution, which was part of the community long before we purchased it from Alex and Debbie Paul in 2005. We wanted to hand it off to someone else who could develop The New Era into a news source



The Nov. 10, 2021, issue of The New Era features a blank section to emphasize threats to local journalism.

that caters to a wider age range of readers, to preserve it. Chris has made great strides in branding, creating solid digital platforms, and mainstreaming many of the processes that go into producing a paper and online news.

Recently, though, Chris notified us that The New Era was in trouble. There are a lot of balls that have to be juggled to successfully run a newspaper in today's world, and he told us he had had difficulty keeping all those in the air. He'd had trouble with turnover. Advertising had fallen off precipitously and the newspaper operation was

in jeopardy.

He was right. When we analyzed the situation, we could see that The New Era was, quite honestly, short on staff, and close to collapse financially.

### Why This Should Matter

So what would life be like in Sweet Home without a newspaper that faithfully reports what's happening in the community?

Your local newspaper is essential in keeping you as informed, engaged and empowered as you want to be – and everybody, no matter how disinterested they think they are

See Dire Situation, Page 6

Hometown  
Newspaper of  
**LARRY & MONI  
SHUTTLESWORTH**



**FORMER COUNCIL-  
MAN PLEADS NO  
CONTEST**  
PAGE 5



**WINTER  
SPORTS  
PREVIEW**  
PAGE 12



**SHOP WITH A COP  
SERVES 33 KIDS  
THIS YEAR**  
PAGE 16

*Serving Sweet Home  
since 1929*  
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## Volunteers, Donations Fuel Kids Free Christmas Store

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

Families waited in line out the door for a chance to shop at the 11th annual Kids Free Christmas Store on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Like Santa's elves, 30-plus volunteers (some wearing shirts that read, "Keep Calm, I Have Gifts") were busy in different stations.

Some signed in the children and helped them list out who they were shopping for. Then the kids were escorted to the "store" where presents for different age groups and genders were separated out. Volunteers helped the kids select a present for each family member, and then ushered them to a side room where the kids could either watch a movie or create a craft while they waited for the presents to be wrapped.

Korrin Matney, known as the "head gift wrapper," has been helping at the Christmas store for 10 years. She said the first half hour is always a bit hectic until the rhythm of the process smooths out.

Meanwhile, as children had



Photo by Sarah Brown

Volunteer Emma Whitton helps a young girl select a present for her sister.

all the fun of shopping and then watching a movie, parents and guardians waited in the lobby.

According to organizer Nancy Patton, the KFCS originated out of the Home Sweet Home For Christmas committee and started the first year from her husband's Christmas bonus check. After that, she's been able to secure donations and sponsors from throughout the community

to support what has become a well-used resource for the community.

As the program expanded, the KFCS moved from the former American Legion to Sweet Home Evangelical Church to Hope Church. This year it moved to Freedom Hill Church. Patton reported they had 219 kids shop at the store this year, leaving with a combined total of almost 1,000 presents. On average, she

said, the store serves about 185 to 200 kids per year.

While the store is for children shoppers up to age 12, Patton said she would like to see the opportunity made available to teens, as well.

"They live in families too, and a lot of kids still don't have jobs," Patton said, adding that she felt bad because she had to turn away a few teens who wanted to take part this year.





# OBITUARIES



## JoAnn (Spratt) Albert August 31, 1942 – November 29, 2024

JoAnn (Spratt) Albert, 82, died Friday afternoon at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center. She was born on August 31, 1942, in Forest Grove, to Russell and Helen (Brockman) Spratt.

The family moved to Sweet Home in 1943. She attended Sweet Home Union High School; she continued her education at Linn Benton Community College. JoAnn married the love of her life, Tom Albert on January 17, 1958, in Foster. Barring a three year stint when Tom worked for the US Forest Service at the Ripplebrook Ranger Station, they lived their nearly 67 years together in Sweet Home, 52 of those years in their current home.

They raised two sons and a daughter together, and welcomed into their home many of their children's friends who needed a safe harbor during troubling times.

JoAnn was an office manager for Dr. Frederic Baier, GP, Sweet Home. She later worked as a receptionist for the USFS. After retirement, she volunteered for the Oregon Jamboree for 16 years, working in the information booth and in back stage hospitality. She enjoyed RVing, traveling throughout the US and Italy, golfing, wine tasting and entertaining close friends. She was determined, loyal and loved life. She loved her family, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, all of whom she doted upon and all of whom will miss her dearly. She was looking forward to

meeting her first great-great grandchild next summer.

JoAnn is survived by husband, Tom; sons, Gary (Lisa) of Tualatin, Greg (Pamela) of Sweet Home; daughter, Lori Conte (Joe) of Yuma, Arizona; 8 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; brother, Michael Spratt of Klamath Falls; sister, Barbara (Spratt) Bake of Kearns, UT; nieces and nephews.

A memorial is being planned for a later date. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).



## Nora Mae Stengrim February 27, 1950 – December 4, 2024

Nora Mae Stengrim, 74, of Sweet Home passed away Wednesday, December 4, 2024. She was born February 27, 1950 in Lewiston, Idaho to Betty Jean (Hewett) and Leo Burrell Carrithers.

Nora has lived in many places in her life: Lewiston, Idaho (1950-1952), McCall, Idaho (1952-1954), Parkdale (1954-1959), Hood River (1959-1968). She attended Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, then moved to Baker City in 1976 where she remained until the summer of 1993 when she moved to Sweet Home.

She spent many years as a bartender in Baker, notably Stockman's, Cattle Kates, Elks Lodge, Stirrup Room, and Scotty's (which she owned for a brief time) and Sweet Home at the Bohemian Club.

Her recent work and passion was with FAC working

with the homeless community doing outreach. She truly found her passion helping with the homeless. She was also involved with the VFW Auxiliary. Nora enjoyed camping, color apps on her phone, VW buses and vintage trailers and most recently a love of painting.

Nora is survived by her husband, Chris Stengrim; daughters: Amy (Craig) Davis, Catrina (Zachary) Bullock; five grandchildren: Andrew, Kyra, and Joslyn Davis, Noah Turner and Leo Bullock; brothers: Ralph (Karletta) Carrithers and Dan (Kari) Carrithers. She was preceded in death by her parents Leo (2007) and Betty (2015).

A celebration of life potluck will be at noon Saturday, December 14th at Sweet Home VFW, 580 Main Street. Donations can be made in her honor to Family Assistance and Resource Center Group (FAC) 1450 24th Ave. Sweet Home, OR 97386 or [give.breastcancer.org](http://give.breastcancer.org). Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).



## Patricia Ann Hemelstrand June 7, 1939 – November 24, 2024

Patricia Ann Hemelstrand, 85, of Sweet Home passed away Sunday, November 24, 2024. She was born on June 7, 1939 to John and Elizabeth (Hall) Smith in Jefferson.

She grew up in the Dallas, Monmouth, Independence area. She lived in Independence from 1966 to 1984, Sweet Home from 1985 to 2023 and recently Salem until her passing.

Patricia earned a certificate of practical nursing from Chemeketa in 1973. Patricia worked over 20 years at West Valley Hospital as a surgical nurse. She worked at Lebanon Hospital for another 30 years and Walmart for a year in 2020.

She loved to travel by cruise, Mexico, Alaska and Europe were just a few. Patricia won many blue ribbons for her knitting, crocheting and quilt-

ing. She enjoyed painting and was an avid reader. She went to the Oregon Jamboree faithfully for many years.

Patricia is survived by her husband of 39 years Jack Hemelstrand of Sweet Home; daughters Tamara Watkins of Keizer and Debra Rhodes of Keaau, Hawaii, brother Harold Crook and sister Phyllis Crook both of Salem; stepchildren: Dave Weston, Doug Weston, Sherry Hayhurt, Jack Hemelstrand Jr., and Jeff Hemelstrand; 22+ grandchildren; 20+ great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband James S. Newton (1973), husband Sherman D. Weston (1984); mother Elizabeth Crook (1999), stepfather Raymond Crook (1975), brother Sterling Crook (2021), son James S. Weston (2021).

Donations can be made to Sponsored Children through Compassion International and Vets through Wounded Warrior. 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](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).



## Lolita Colea Powers September 18, 1950 – November 29, 2024

Lolita Colea Powers, 74, of Sweet Home passed away Friday, November 29, 2024. She was born September 18, 1950 in Rapid City, South Dakota to Violet C. (Biggs) and Charles C. Sprague.

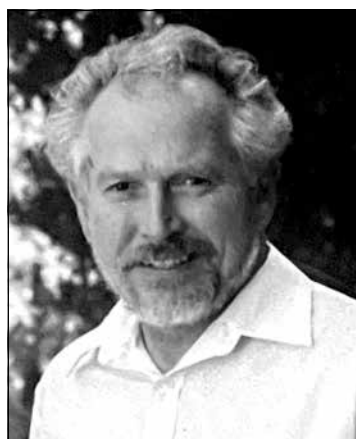
Lolita served in the United States Air Force for over 17 years. She received a commendation medal.

She lived in various places around the country including California, Colorado, Florida and settled in Sweet Home in 2018. Lolita enjoyed traveling, camping and photographing scenery and wildlife. She worked as an administrator for a mental health residential treatment center.

Lolita is survived by her husband, Keith; daughter, Nicole; step-sons: Alex and Greg; daughter-in-law, Mallo-ry; and granddaughter, Emery

Alice. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A viewing will be 12 pm followed by a funeral service at 1 pm, Wednesday, December 11th at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. Final burial with military honors will be 2 pm Thursday, December 12th at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://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. He was born April 17, 1936 to Archie and Ann (Waterberry) Knutson in Bowman, North Dakota.

The Knutson family lived in California for a time then moved to Holley. Dean graduated from Sweet Home High School in 1954 and served in the Navy until 1958. He was united in marriage to Darlene J. Hutchins on January 29, 1959 and renewed their vows on November 15, 1997.

Dean's greatest joy was racing motocross which he did until age 69. He liked spending time with his family and friends, camping, hiking, visiting the coast and traveling. He loved to work on motors as well. Dean would always lend a hand where needed and always had a smile on his face.

He is survived by his four children: Michelle Hoelsing, Angela Knutson, Paula Patton, Darin Knutson; sister Kay; eight grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren and countless nieces and nephews. Dean is preceded in death by his parents Archie and Ann Knutson, brother Don Knutson, sister Donna Plummer, wife Darlene Knutson, grandson Andrew Patton.

A funeral service will be 10 am Monday, December 16th at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. Burial with military honors will follow at Gilliland Cem-

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# The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

**SWEETHOMENEWS.COM**  
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DRAWDOWN STATUS

CURRENT LEVELS

Foster Reservoir: 612.9

Green Peter Res.: 847.4

12/13/23 LEVELS

Foster Reservoir: 616.9

Green Peter Res.: 819.17

Almanac

TEMPERATURES

DATE		HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
December 2		34	32	0.00
December 3		36	30	0.00
December 4		37	31	0.00
December 5		35	31	0.00
December 6		40	30	0.00
December 7		54	34	0.00
December 8		50	34	0.34

PRECIPITATION

Year to date: 30.76

December 13, 2023: 31.75

FORECAST

DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Foggy	46	38
Fri	Foggy	46	43
Sat	Showers	47	42
Sun	Foggy	46	39
Mon	Cloudy	44	38
Tues	AM Fog	47	34
Wed	Showers	45	37

MODERATE

HIGH

EXTREME

LOW

TODAYS FIRE DANGER IS

LOW

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

OBITUARIES

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



**Mary Frances Vav Rosky Graf**  
October 1, 1931 - December 3, 2024

After a long and love-filled life, Mary Frances "Francie" Graf (Vav Rosky) passed away peacefully in her sleep on December 3, 2024, in Lewiston, Idaho.

Francie was born on October 1, 1931, in Springdale, Arkansas. She lost her mother at a young age, and her older sisters—Lou, Jo, and Polly—stepped in to help raise her. The bond between the siblings remained strong throughout their lives. She also shared a special connection with her younger brother, Rod, and his wife, Betty. They often teased each other about their mischievous adventures as children and teenagers.

As a child, Francie's family traveled as migrant workers, picking fruit as far away as Washington state during the summers. At just 13, she lied about her age to secure a job at a sewing factory in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where she honed her skills as a talented seamstress.

In 1955, Francie followed her sisters to Lebanon, Oregon. There, she met and fell in love with Jim Vav Rosky and his three young children, who had lost their mother to illness. Francie and Jim married and welcomed two more children, Mike and Sherrie, completing

their family of five. Together, they owned and operated the Bohemian Club and East Side Outdoor Store in Sweet Home, Oregon. Francie balanced her role as a working mother with her love of family activities, which included hunting, fishing, camping, and celebrating holidays outdoors. Later, she found joy in gardening, quilting, and doting on her grandchildren.

In 1982, Francie faced the sudden loss of Jim to a heart attack. She eventually moved to Tillamook, to go into business with her son Mike and his wife, Linda, owning mobile home parks. Later, she relocated to Prineville, where she continued to work alongside her family while cherishing time with her grandsons, James and Matthew.

In 1983, Francie's sister introduced her to Harry Graf on a blind date. Though it took a few dates to win her heart, Harry became her beloved partner. They shared a love of crafting, laughter, and afternoons spent dancing to big band music. Francie and Harry married and enjoyed many happy years together until his passing in 1999.

After Harry's death, Francie moved to Corvallis, to be closer to her daughter. There, she found joy in her community, where she made lifelong friends, attended potlucks, gardened, and volunteered by assembling care bags for women affected by domestic violence. She also became known for her playful spirit, often eating dessert first at Red Hat Society events.

In 2013, after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Francie made the courageous decision to move to Wedgewood Terrace Assisted Living in Lewiston, Idaho. There, she formed deep friendships and brought joy to the staff with her sense of humor and kindness.

Francie is survived by her children: Ron Vav Rosky (Darlene) of Sweet Home, Mike Vav Rosky (Linda) of Julietta, Idaho; and Sherrie Frank (Michael) of Philomath. She leaves behind nine grandchildren—Kathy, Marcy, Ryan,

Anne, Zachary, Nicolas, James, Matthew, and Katie; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Jim Vav Rosky and Harry Graf; her son, Roger Vav Rosky; her daughter, Robbie Kruesi; her granddaughter, Mindy Kruesi; her parents, Robert and Rena Sisemore; and eight siblings: Ellis, Earl, Lou, Claude, Polly, Aidene, Jo, and Rod.

Francie's family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Wedgewood Terrace Assisted Living for the compassionate care she received.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 16, at Waterloo chapel, near Lebanon Oregon. Luncheon to follow.

Francie's life was a testament to resilience, love, and joy, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

**Paul Gregg Ingram**  
June 5, 1936 - October 31, 2024

On October 31, 2024, Paul Gregg Ingram, loving husband and father, passed away at age 88, with faith in Jesus as his Savior. A memorial service to celebrate his life will be 2 p.m. Saturday, December 14th, at Community Chap-

el, 42250 Ames Creek Road, Sweet Home, Private burial will be held in Baker, OR. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com)

**Everett Leo Reynolds**  
July 20, 1927 - November 27, 2024

Everett Leo Reynolds, 97, of Sweet Home passed away Wednesday, November 27, 2024. A graveside service with military honors will be 2 pm Saturday March 22nd at Gililand Cemetery. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://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. A celebration of life will be in the summer when the steelhead are swimming. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Teddy Ray Van Cleave**  
December 29, 1942 - November 30, 2024

Teddy Ray Van Cleave, 81,

of Foster passed away Saturday, November 30, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Jerry Lanig Sr.**  
July 15, 1938 - December 1, 2024

Jerry Lanig Sr., 76, of Sweet Home passed away Sunday, December 1, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Larayne Lynn Spratt**  
August 06, 1954 - December 4, 2024

Larayne Lynn Spratt, 52, of Sweet Home passed away Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Kristine Lynn Hisey**  
August 17, 1954 - December 4, 2024

Kristine Lynn Hisey, 70, of Sweet Home passed away Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

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Crossword KEY

Puzzle on page 15

E	X	T	R	A	S	T	I	T	L	E	S		
U	N	L	O	O	S	E	A	B	R	A	D	E	R
P	O	M	E	L	A	N	O	M	A	S	M	O	
P	A	N	E	S	T	A	I	P	E	T	I	T	
E	M	U	S	M	E	N	S	A	S	E	T	A	
R	P	M	P	A	D	M	B	A	L	O	T		
E	L	A	N	N	I	C	E	N	E				
S	A	R	O	S	R	A	G	E	S				
E	R	A	S	E	S	T	E	R	R				
C	A	T	S	A	T	M	A	D	A	R	E		
U	P	O	N	C	A	R	A	T	S	P	E	D	
L	A	R	I	D	B	U	R	A	A	H	E	D	
A	H	C	R	A	B	B	I	E	S	T	V	A	
R	O	S	E	A	T	E	S	A	T	I	R	E	S
S	O	R	T	E	D	A	R	I	S	E	S		

SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 15

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







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.

Dec. 2

10:28 a.m. - Dylan Rolfe, 32, of Albany, cited for speeding and illegal alter/display of plates, 200 block Main St.  
10:29 a.m. - Report taken for fraudulent use of a credit card. Loss valued at \$500.  
10:53 a.m. - R. Stillwell, 44, cited for driving while suspended and using a cell phone, 200 block Templeton St., Brownsville.  
11:15 a.m. - Brian Lee Lindsay, 26, arrested for attempt to elude after officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop, 1300

block Hawthorne. He was cited for speeding 40/25, driving while suspended, and driving uninsured. Booked, cited and released.  
2:29 p.m. - Caller reported a male knocking on his door and holding luggage, 800 block Long St. Male told officer he was looking for a place to stay.  
4:23 p.m. - David Arnett, 47, cited for speeding and careless driving, 29700 block Santiam Hwy.  
8:40 p.m. - Deputy Ryan Longinotti cited an unidentified person for driving uninsured, 5900 block Poplar St.  
9:28 p.m. - Deputy Ryan Longinotti cited an unidentified person for driving while suspended and driving uninsured, 3200 block Hwy. 20.

Dec. 3

2:24 a.m. - Jadrien Clugston, 22, cited for driving uninsured and driving while suspended, 2700 block Stoltz Hill Rd., Lebanon.  
5:57 a.m. - Gregory Allen Tibbs cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of third degree theft.  
10:57 a.m. - Caller reported dog barking and whining since 2 a.m., 1800 block Tamarack St. Property owner believes a male is camping on the property


with the dog and will be asked to leave when he returns.  
1:05 p.m. - Stephanie Mitchell, 43, cited on a Benton County warrant.  
1:32 p.m. - Giana Christine Stephenson, 32, cited for speeding 70/45, 1300 block 53rd St.  
4:35 p.m. - Caller reported his mother stole a battery pack he loaned her and is now threatening him, 1000 block 13th Ave. Mother said son is threatening to come to her house and won't stop calling her. Battery pack was returned.  
6:24 p.m. - Caller reported female digging in dumpster, 2500 block Long St. Female said she was looking for food for her rabbit.  
8:56 p.m. - Deputy took a report of money fraud totaling \$70,000 in cash deposited into a Bitcoin ATM, 28100 block Liberty Rd.

Dec. 4

2:02 p.m. - Christopher Barreras, 44, arrested on a warrant.  
4:54 p.m. - Chelsea Morford, 49, cited for driving uninsured, 39100 block Richardson Gap Rd.  
7:17 p.m. - Brian Lee Richardson, 50, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of third degree theft.  
See Public Safety, Page 7

Former Councilman Pleads No Contest to DV Charges

A sentence was handed down to a former Sweet Home city councilman after he pleaded no contest to two of the original charges. James Joseph Goble, 50, was charged in April 2024 with first degree rape, first degree sexual abuse, domestic violence strangulation, domestic violence fourth degree assault and interference with making a report, and indicted in August with two of the original charges: domestic violence strangulation and domestic violence fourth degree assault. He pleaded no contest to the indicted charges, receiving 240 hours jail, 10 days compensatory service in lieu of more jail time, 24 months supervised probation, and \$200 in fines. Additionally, Goble is subject to a lifetime prohibition for possession of firearms or ammunition, must refrain from having contact or knowingly associating with the victim, and must complete a Batterers Intervention Domestic Violence Program. Goble secured a position on city council in 2016 and completed his term at the end of 2020 when voters did not re-elect him.



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(091923 120284-1723)

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## DIRE SITUATION

From page 1

at this moment, will likely want to be informed, engaged and empowered at some point.

The New Era's history in this community goes back nearly a century, almost as old as the city itself. It's deep-rooted. It has been here for generations, telling the stories of the Sweet Home's growth, struggles, and triumphs. It is part of the community's identity, connecting the past with the present, and, depending on how this current situation works out, possibly future generations, giving residents a sense of belonging and continuity.

Researchers who have looked into the struggles facing newspapers have identified a variety of key impacts that can or will affect a local community that has lost its newspaper.

**Less government accountability:** Without a reporter in the room, government officials do not feel that presence and, frankly, can find it easier to go places they shouldn't. The media provide constraints, public scrutiny of government activities. Government officials who are not experiencing scrutiny from the media may be less inclined to be transparent and responsible with public funds, and more prone to abuse of power. When you support your newspaper, your money helps pay the cost of keeping a reporter in the room.

**Reduced civic engagement:** Without access to local news, people are less likely to stay informed about community events, participate in local politics, or vote. Facebook and other popular social media generally do not cut it for voters looking for non-biased analysis of a candidate's qualifications, experience and perspectives on issues – particularly on the

local level. Typically, if such is provided, it's by your newspaper. Maybe you're not a regular reader, but if The New Era disappears, you will no longer have that option when you want to engage in public life.

**Diminished sense of community:** Not only do local newspapers report what's happening in a community's political and other arenas, but they also can play a role in fostering a shared identity and understanding within a community.

They report on such elements of community life as sports and academic achievements, talented people and their accomplishments, volunteerism, exceptional endeavors and successes, the unique accomplishments of individuals who might otherwise go unrecognized.

Unlike the broad and sensational topics that dominate national news and people's personal devices, The New Era is hyper-local in its coverage of politics, local organizations and local activities that might otherwise go entirely unreported or publicized in the sensationalized context of social media.

If activities, trends or challenges within a community are not reported accurately and sensitively, how can the community respond to them?

Newspapers provide local relevance.

**Lost historical record:** Your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and others can find details about life in Sweet Home through archived newspapers.

The New Era staff regularly fields questions from people, often on social media, about the history of an event, person or place in the city. Unless the answer can be dredged up by a still-living person's memory or a book written on the matter, one of the few other places to find rich details is in your local

newspaper.

A couple of recent examples include details about why Frontier Days was renamed Sportsman's Holiday (and answering the question about whether it was named after the Sportsman family or sportsmen in general), and the history of The Church Mouse building.

A hundred years – or even a decade – from now, will your descendants be able to find quotes from residents, details from meetings, and factual information about anything, really, from social media platforms that may no longer even exist in the future?

Community newspapers have always been one of the best one-stop-shop, go-to sources for rich details that future generations will appreciate. There is little reason to depend on social media's ability to provide accurate, historical information dating several decades – or even centuries – back.

How often have you fruitlessly searched for something on social media that you know you saw just a week ago?

**Increased political polarization:** Newspapers can provide access to diverse political viewpoints, usually in a non-confrontational (even-handed) tone and manner. When all people listen to is commentary and purported news that confirms their biases, that's not health.

Social media are notorious for the spread of incomplete or outright false information. Communities without a newspaper tend to become more divided along political lines.

**Potential for misinformation:** When a community lacks a reliable news source, it is subject to all manner of false or misleading information, perpetuated (consciously or unconsciously) by individuals or

entities that may not be committed to truth and integrity.

**Absent Economic Contribution:** Despite the competition from social media, community newspapers continue to provide a very affordable option for businesses seeking to promote themselves to local people, who are the most likely to become loyal customers.

Newspapers also provide business coverage, stories about local entrepreneurs, and generally provide visibility to small businesses, which contribute to a thriving local economy. I don't think I'm the only one who appreciates business news that is fair, if not sycophantic.

**Absence of In-Depth Reporting:** What you get from social media, radio and TV is usually cursory, at best. Even though the newspaper can't do all we'd like to – mostly because of staff limitations, I don't think anybody would argue that they can't get more in-depth coverage from The New Era than from other sources, other than maybe one-on-one with knowledgeable sources (which are the people we get our news from). No newspaper, no in-depth reporting at all.

So here's the point: Now, five years short of its centennial, The New Era, which has provided all of the above, is facing the end – unless you, the community are able to step up.

### How Can We Correct This?

Your help is needed to keep The New Era alive.

I'm confident that Miriam and I have the demonstrated ability and knowledge necessary to run a successful newspaper and, with proper staffing, restore it to financial health. January through March, though, are the leanest months for newspaper revenue and so, of course, that just makes this more difficult. Unfortunately, if

we make the attempt to restore The New Era, we cannot personally provide all the financial resources that we anticipate will be necessary to make it through these low-revenue months.

The New Era is a service – to you. While we made a modest – sustainable – living from the newspaper operations when we owned The New Era, we didn't draw large take-home checks. Since I left The New Era, I've spent a lot of time as a substitute teacher in local schools and I can honestly say I make a better living doing that than I did as publisher of your newspaper.

But I believe that Sweet Home's residents will be the losers if their newspaper disappears. If you agree, then the question is what can you do to help?

- Businesses can help by advertising, promoting themselves on the pages of the local newspaper as often as possible.

- Individuals can help by purchasing subscriptions – I know the increased price has been a stretch for many, but it's still a lot better deal, frankly, than even buying a cup of coffee once a week in today's economy.

- Anyone who doesn't need to advertise can simply contribute. We did a little quick math and if every subscriber were to contribute \$10, that would be enough to meet the needed additional funding to keep the paper in the black for a month. If you can give more, that would help for the future months.

You can be sure that, if you step up and we are able to move forward, you will be kept apprised of how we're doing. We are concerned about keeping this transparent. We will report, honestly, what we've received and how we're spending it as long as it takes to get this thing turned around.

For more details you can contact me or Miriam personally, email us at [scott@sweethomenews.com](mailto:scott@sweethomenews.com) or [miriam@sweethomenews.com](mailto:miriam@sweethomenews.com) (yep, our old email addresses), call me or Miriam at (541) 367-2135, or stop by at 1313 Main St. after 11 a.m. on any weekday other than Tuesday.

We thank you in advance for your consideration! Sweet Home is a "can do!" community, we have seen you rally for many needy situations. We would love to see The New Era continue for many generations to come!

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 5

nal charge of driving while suspended.

**Dec. 5**

5:58 a.m. - Kristopher Ray Moak, 38, arrested for: felon in possession of a firearm; a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of criminal driving; a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for probation violation third degree theft and felon in possession of a weapon; a Lebanon Justice Court warrant for probation violation failure to appear; an Oregon State Parole Board warrant for parole violation; and a Del Norte Sheriff's Office warrant for grand theft, burglary/possession of burglary tools, driving while suspended, possession of drug paraphernalia, vandalism, carry conceal weapon, and illegal dumping of hazardous material.

10:28 a.m. - Fawn Marie Burleson, 40, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of fraudulent use of

a credit card.

12:54 p.m. - Caller reported a male threatened him and pushed a trash can into his vehicle, 1900 block Main St. Report taken for first degree criminal mischief.

2:52 p.m. - Tracy Louise Roberts, 62, cited for speeding 30/20, 22nd/Long.

4:27 p.m. - Clifford Lawrence Stoner, 51, arrested for first degree criminal mischief, lodged at Linn County Jail.

4:42 p.m. - Caller reported two-vehicle collision, blocking traffic, 15th/Main. Report taken.

7:00 p.m. - Tommy Matlock, 35, cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured, and arrested on a warrant, 600 block Holley Rd.

8:20 p.m. - George Eral Scott Dunn, 22, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of second degree criminal trespassing.

**Dec. 6**

3:06 a.m. - Officer approached people in parked vehicle, 2300 block Main St. Male

said he and small child are living in their car.

9:42 a.m. - Subject, identified only as Jones, 64, cited for failure to obey a traffic control device, 1200 block 15th Ave.

9:56 a.m. - Cybil Cota, 51, cited for violation of the posted speed limit, 36900 block Richardson Gap Rd.

11:15 a.m. - Wade Felton Lloyd, 61, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of criminal driving.

11:32 a.m. - Deputy responded to report of windows being damaged, 38400 block Glass St. Investigation ongoing.

1:40 p.m. - Caller reported someone violated her "no soliciting" sign, 1200 block 38th Ave.

5:25 p.m. - Caller reported hit and run, 1200 block Main St. Report taken.

5:33 p.m. - Phillip Thomas Swartz, 37, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of criminal driving.

9:55 p.m. - LCSO call for assistance on a call for a van with

**See Public Safety, Page 15**

## 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:** Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Billy Wayne Hatch Jr., Faron Walter Kennedy, Scott Kevin Heinz, Noe Hernandez-Reyes, Michael Trevor Hilton,

Bryce William McGowan, Eric Wayne McKnight, Carrie Lynne Miller, James Keith Mortensen, Nicholas Alan Nelson, Emmanuel Wayne Peters, Daniel Austin Phillips, Tammy Lavonn Robinson, Dustin Lee Taylor, Joshua Alexander Williams.

**Thomas Elbridge Miller**, 48, was charged Dec. 6 with two counts of criminal driving while suspended or revoked, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, resisting arrest, and recklessly endangering another person.

**Kristopher Ray Moak**, 38, was charged Dec. 6 with felon in

possession of a firearm.

**Jeffrey Scott Rowe**, 54, was sentenced Dec. 3 to 15 months with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and 24 months post prison supervision after pleading no contest to unlawful use of a weapon. Charges of menacing and resisting arrest were dismissed.

**Ryan Dale Vanderyacht**, 26, was charged Dec. 5 with DUII (liquor), reckless driving, second degree criminal mischief, recklessly endangering another person, and failure to perform the duties of a driver when property is damaged.

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# Thanksgiving Poured Out for Donations

**By Sarah Brown**  
*Of The New Era*

The Sweet Home Emergency Ministries food pantry received a total of 22 pallets of food from the LDS Bishop's Storehouse on Thanksgiving week.

SHEM volunteers expressed their gratitude for all who volunteered their time and the many donations the food pantry received during the holiday season.

"The shelves look so much nicer," board member Debby Lawrence said. "They were so bare before."

A semi truck from Salt Lake City arrived early on Nov. 26 to a group of waiting volunteers who were ready to unload the truck as efficiently as possible so the driver could get back home in time for the holiday.

Non-perishable food items received included: dry milk, hot cocoa, cake mix, pasta, peanut butter, beans, diced tomatoes, pork & beans, corn, pancake mix, green beans, macaroni and cheese, flour, applesauce, and dishwasher liquid.

SHEM also received Thanksgiving donations from the high



Photo provided by SHEM  
**Volunteers pose for a photo after unloading donated pallets of food from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.**

school Leadership Class, Gregory Home Team, and the Sweet Home Elkettes.

Food banks such as SHEM have been finding it more difficult to source enough food in recent years as more families begin seeking help and provisions decline. Ilynn Winn, from JustServe, helped secure the generous donation from the LDS after she heard about SHEM's struggle to access enough food.

"I have not seen this pantry as low as we were in decades,"

Pantry Manager Cindy Rice said.

She was particularly happy to see that everything received by the different donations last month was shelf-stable. Rice pointed out items of particular interest that recipients have been happy to secure included peanut butter, macaroni, potato flakes, applesauce, flour, and cake mix. According to Rice, those items can be hard to come by.

"It's definitely been a blessing," she said.



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# Huskies Back in Hunt for State Wrestling Trophy

By Scott Swanson

For The New Era

Coming off a state wrestling championship for the boys, with most of the top finishers from that team coming back, Sweet Home's wrestlers are once again eyeing a championship trophy.

But not so fast, cautions Coach Steve Thorpe.

"I think you come off a state title for the boys and, quite honestly, a bunch of people think it's just going to happen again," Thorpe said as he readied for a team practice last week. "That's an adjustment we've had to make this year. It's going to take more work. The competition is going to be better. We've graduated several state placers. It's going to be a difficult task."

The most glaring void in the Huskies' lineup is four-time state champion Kyle Sieminski, now wrestling for Southern Oregon. Sieminski led Sweet Home to its first state title since 2017, and its ninth overall, but he wasn't the only contributor. Eighteen wrestlers qualified for state on the boys side and, Thorpe said, all of them scored points for Sweet Home.

He cited sophomore Jesse Landtroop, returning after winning a state title at 106 pounds last spring.

Also back is senior Ashton Swanson, who also was a state titlist at 175 pounds, and other state

finalists – senior Jacob Landtroop at 150, who won his own title as a freshman in 2022, and junior Luke Rosa at 157.

"We have great leadership on both the men's and women's teams," he said. "We've got these guys coming in who have that experience of being in the state finals, and several other guys who were state placers and we had other guys there who weren't state placers. We got scoring from everyone."

Other state placewinners who are back are sophomore Keegan Jefferson, sixth at 106 pounds; junior Tytus Hardee, fourth at 113; sophomore Kyle Zajic, fifth at 144; senior Dylan Sharp, third at 215; and senior Colton Bennett, fourth at 285.

Rounding out the boys roster are: seniors Jackson Barringer, Killan Boggs, Russell Dickerman and Bode Hart; juniors Dillan Davis, James Hearick, Jackson Knight, Lynkin Royer, Jeremiah Steagall and Keagan Vogel; sophomores David Anderson, Domynic Daniel, Bradley Dewitte, Zeek Gosnell, Liam Martin, Jake Mengore, Mason Pickle, Damian Ryan, Conner Spencer, Cael Stevenson, Riley Vaughn, Zane Vickers and Kason Walters; and freshmen



Boys wrestling team members include, in front, Riley Vaughan, Wesley Raynor, Zane Vickers, Damian Ryan, Skaylar Langdon, Braidyn Borello, Austin Weinman, Keagan Vogel, Keegan Jefferson, Ryder Carr and Jesse Landtroop. In the second row, from left, are Gavin Baker, Mason Pickle, Jasper Victor, Domynic Daniel, Ean Tackett, Martin Chelstad, Thomas Bandy, Zach Davis, Michael Eggers, Cael Stevenson, David Anderson, James Hearick, Jacob Landtroop and Conner Spencer. In the third row, from left, are Bode Hart, Dillan Davis, Russell Dickerman, Jackson Knight, Dylan Hartsook, Brendan Eggers, Eil Cruz, Kyla Zajic, Liam Martin, Killan Boggs, Zeek Gosnell, Brodee Gay, Kason Walters, Jake Mengore and Bradley Dewitte. In the rear, from left, are Luke Rosa, Colton Bennett, Jackson Barringer, Dylan Sharp, Shane Sheppard, Coach Monty Sheppard, Coach Andrew Swanson, Coach Justin Parazoo, Coach Nathan Whitfield, Coach Jeff Landtroop, Coach Tomas Rosa, Head Coach Steve Thorpe, Lynkin Royer, Jeremiah Steagall, Ashton Swanson and Tytus Hardee.



Girls wrestling team members include, in front, from left, Natasha Marin, Lyla Ventura and Alizeah Weikel; in second row, from left, Averi Temple, Hailey Borromeo, Amelia Sullens, Madi Looney, Bella Rico, Rylie Hollingsworth, Bailey Chafin, Tabitha Brzezinski, Emma Pangle, Mahala Gourley-Webster, and Samantha Villa; and in the rear, from left, Eturnyti Allison, Head Coach Steve Thorpe, Coach Shane Sheppard, Coach Monty Sheppard, Coach Andrew Swanson, Coach Justin Parazoo, Coach Nathan Whitfield, Coach Jeff Landtroop, Coach Tomas Rosa, Coach Kami Hart, Coach Lydia Wright and Emmaline Durrett.

Gavin Baker, Thomas Bandy, Braidyn Borello, Ryder Carr, Martin Chelstad, Elijah Cruz, Zach Davis, Braden Eggers, Michael Eggers, Brodee Gay, Dylan Hartsook, Skaylar Langdon, Wesley Raynor, Ean Tackett, Jasper Victor and Austin Weinman.

On the girls side, the Huskies are coming off an eighth-place team finish in the 4A/3A/2A/1A division state championships after winning their second straight regional championship, first among 55 teams.

Junior Bailey Chafin is back after winning her second straight state title, pinning her way through the state tournament.

"Bailey won her second state title; anything less than third would have been disappointing," Thorpe said.

Chafin, who was a dominant competitor in youth wrestling before moving on to high school, did not compete after state last spring due to a shoulder injury, which has since healed, her coach said.

"The timing was perfect," Thorpe said of Chafin's surgery.

She's joined by sophomore Alizeah Weikel, who was one match away from placing last year, and senior Amelia Sullens, who was also a state qualifier last year.

Sullens will provide some veteran leadership, Thorpe said.

"She's mature and she's a good leader.

Rounding out the girls squad are seniors Emmaline Durrett and Samantha Villa; juniors Mahala Gourley-Webster, Rylie Hollingsworth, Emma Pangle and Avery Temple; sophomores Eturnyti Allison and Madi Looney; and freshmen Hailey Borromeo, Tabitha Brzezinski, Natasha Marin, Bella Rico and Lyla Ventura.

"We have 16 girls, several of whom are brand new. The younger kids have come in and they're excited to be part of it. They've bought in to what we're doing. We've won back-to-back regional championships and that has to be our goal this year as well."

Thorpe, who is entering his 34th season with the Huskies, said he's "inspired" by the effort and commitment he's seeing from the 65 kids in his wrestling room.

"I was telling one of my coaches today that this team is probably as hard-working as any team I've ever coached," he said. "Everybody, no matter what their skill level, is working to a point to make themselves better."

"We have 65 kids in the room. When a group comes together like that, you can have special things happen."

He said they're being coached by a "great" staff, including names known to Sweet Home wrestling fans: Andrew Swanson, Clint Sieminski, Jeff Landtroop and Nathan Whitfield. They are joined by newcomers Shane Sheppard, who coached at North Marion for five seasons after wrestling for Stayton, then at Oregon State and Minot State universities; and Justin Parazoo, who won state titles in 2015 and 2016 while wrestling for Scio, going

undefeated in 2016.

"People want to be part of this program," Thorpe said. "That's something I'm very proud of. I don't apologize for it."

They face stiff competition this year, he added.

"Our region is as good as our region has ever been," Thorpe said, noting that Cascade returns its entire lineup after taking fourth in state last year and Philomath finished "sixth or seventh."

"Our region is just loaded," he said. "It's not something we are going to run away with. We're going to have to earn whatever we get."

In addition to those division rivals, statewide, the Huskies should see some tough competition from Crook County, which, Thorpe said, "could be the team to beat," La Grande "which is always well-coached and always tough," and Mazama.

"The 4A Division is a very tough division in our state.

**See Wrestling, Page 15**



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# Swimmers Aiming for State Trophies for Both Boys, Girls



Photo by Kristine Banker

Back row left to right: A.Jay Bronson, Doug Peargin, Shayne Schuster, Arman Marble, Jessica Rice, Mark Cirkosz, Andrew Tolman, Grayson Savri, RJ Abbott, Austyn Hogan, and Henry Jones.



Photo by Kristine Banker

Back row left to right: A.Jay Bronson, Doug Peargin, Daisy Lalonde, Emerson Martineau, Kirsten Sautel, Jessica Rice, Mark Cirkosz, Emma Whitton, Peyton Markell, Kylie Melkvik, Khloe Sautel, Lexi Rundell, Ella Haggas, and Timber Nobles.

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

Sweet Home's swimmers are starting the year with a veteran line-up that gives the Huskies hope for a repeat of the district team championships they won last year and a very real shot at state hardware as well.

But, says fourth-year Coach Ajay Bronson, that won't come easily.

"District-wise, we'd love to repeat on both the girls and boys sides," he said, noting that the girls have won 11 straight district titles. "It's going to be tough, though."

Although the Huskies have five seniors on the girls side and three on the boys, with younger talent also either returning or just arrived, the numbers are lower on the girls side than they have been in recent years, including last year, when the girls placed third at state and the boys fifth – one place out of the trophies.

"A couple of swimmers didn't come out like we expected, and we're down to 10 girls and nine guys," Bronson said. "Everybody is

going to have to step up if we are going to accomplish our goals."

Those would be a state championship for the girls and a trophy for the boys – anywhere from first to fourth. Bronson said he believes the girls have a "70 percent" chance at a state title, but the competition at the top is fierce and one place in a race can make a big difference in the standings.

Among those gone to graduation are Rylee Markell, who was a leader for the girls, and Blake Arthur, who delivered third- and fourth-place finishes at state last year in the freestyle sprints.

But Bronson has a core of solid veterans returning in seniors Daisy Lalonde, Peyton Markell and Kirsten Sautel, all of whom earned medals at state last season, and seniors RJ Abbott, Shayne Schuster, and Arman Marble, who were medal-winners for the boys.

"On the boys side, RJ Abbott will be a big point-getter," Bronson predicted, adding that he expects Marble

and Schuster to be individual qualifiers. Schuster finished sixth at state last year in the 100 Breaststroke. He expects junior Andrew Tolman and sophomore Austin Hogan to also contribute in the relays and possibly as individual state qualifiers.

Also, for the girls, freshman Khloe Sautel comes in with significant experience and success in club swimming and should be able to contribute right away, along with her older sister Kirsten, Bronson said.

"Kirsten has been a big contributor and Khloe can immediately step in and contribute," he said. "It's a five-way tie for everybody else, fighting for relay spots."

Kirsten Sautel won her second-straight 100 Breaststroke state title last season, which, Bronson noted at the time, was the fourth straight year Sweet Home has had an individual champion in that event. She was also third in the 100 Freestyle.

Peyton Markell was third in the 100 Backstroke for the

See Swimming, Page 15



# Huskies Girls Basketball Welcomes Young Team This Year



Photo by Kristine Banker  
Left to right back row Head Coach Erika Evans, Asst. Coach Malory Hegge, Aubrey Newberry, Aaliah Brown, Asst. Coach Leon Booker, Asst. Coach Caytlin Gillespie. Middle row Loralai Mark, Amara Gonzalez, Taylor Gaskey, Paige Flansberg, Brooke Elder. Front row Mailey Brewer, Junior Addy Vanice, Kaylee Silacci.

By Kristine Banker  
Of The New Era

A look at the Sweet Home girls basketball varsity roster brings one word to mind: “young.” The Huskies are starting the 2024-25 season with three juniors, four sophomores and four freshmen on the floor.

Coach Erika Evans is optimistic that her team will see growth, noting that the young roster offers opportunities to establish solid foundations.

“There are several freshmen this season and that will only continue in the next few years,” she said.

Sweet Home plays in one of the toughest 4A leagues in the state,

Among the challenges the Huskies face this year is a continuing one, playing in the always-tough Oregon West Conference, which has historically been one of the top 4A leagues in the state.

Evans is looking forward to matching up with some of these teams, looking to make significant improvements from last year.

“Our girls have put in more time in the off-season than most and are committed to fighting for each other and to make that show on the court,” she said. The team has shifted to a more play-based offense, focusing on timing and decision-making.

Evans hopes that with a mix of experienced players and promising freshmen, her team is eager to face challenges head-on. The Huskies’ goal is to “defy expectations

and win games, doing so as One Family,” one of the core values emphasized at Sweet Home High School.

Evans said she wants to use basketball to teach the fundamentals of how what her players learn in the game can play into their lives off the court.

“We have a lot of great leadership qualities in our program this year and are very fortunate,” she said.

She emphasized that what the program instills into how her girls play on the court, with their success and failures, is practicing how they will handle them in life.

“We are creating better daughters, friends, spouses, and more,” she said.

Key players to watch for this year include returning junior Addy Vanice, whose IQ for the game and being able to use it during practice has “impressed” Evans.

Sophomore Brooke Elder returns at point guard, and Evans said she believes Elder is “on her way to becoming one of the best point guards in our league.”

Rounding out the roster are juniors Loralai Mark and Aubrey Newberry, sophomores Aaliyah Brown, Amara Gonzalez and Mailey Brewer, and freshmen Rylee Mabe, Kaylee Silacci, Taylor Gaskey and Paige Flansberg.

Evans is assisted on the bench by Mallory Hegge, Caytlin Gillespie and Leon Booker.

Off the court, Evans mentioned that the team is plan-

ning a spring fundraiser to support their attendance at summer camps and tournaments. She highlighted the importance of community support.

“These girls put in a ton of work that often goes unnoticed,” she said. “We’re committed to cultivating relationships and growth through basketball.”

The season started last week for the Huskies, as they opened with a 38-14 defeat at Elmira on Wednesday, Dec. 4, then fell 47-30 to Phoenix at home on Friday, Dec. 6.

“Our game wasn’t what we hoped for, but we have a lot to build on,” Evans said of the Elmira game. “Compared to last year’s matchup with Elmira, we’ve made leaps and bounds defensively.”

The intensity picked up in the fourth quarter, leading to key steals as the girls began to familiarize themselves with the work needed to move ahead.

Flansberg and Silacci scored in their varsity debuts. Newberry, known for her defensive grit, drew on her previous year’s skills and drew her first charge of the season. “She had one almost every game last year,” Evans noted.

The Huskies kept the score close against seventh-ranked Phoenix through halftime, showing their grit and willingness to be competitive, but the Pirates pulled ahead in the second half.

Sweet Home hosts Douglas on Dec. 10, and then Cottage Grove on Dec. 13.

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# Boys Basketball Opens Season With Big Hopes



Photo by Kristine Banker

Back row left to right Trenton Templin, JV2 Asst. Coach Zach Luttmier, JV Head Coach Grant Kauffman, Asst. Coach Ryan Graville, Connor Pace, Daniel McCubbins, head coach Drew Emmert, Asst. Coach Cole Emmert, Asst. Coach Ryan Adams, Connor Hagle. Front row Trent Harvey, Braydyn McClure, Gavin Tyler, Kaeson Walker, Jadon Funk, Mason Tyler, and Josh Aker.

By Kristine Banker  
Of The New Era

The Sweet Home boys basketball team is starting off the new season with a young roster. Head Coach Drew Emmert is optimistic about the Huskies' chances in the always-tough Oregon West Conference.

"I am very excited for this year," he said. "We are really young, and that will come with challenges but I am confident we will overcome."

The boys got things off to a good start with a win at Elmira in their opener, followed by a loss to Phoenix at home.

Sweet Home has seven underclassmen on its 11-man varsity roster, headed by experienced seniors Josh Aker (5-9) at point guard, Jason Funk (5-11) and Conner Pace (6-4).

Aker is "a strong defender," Emmert said, and Pace is "a dominant scorer and rebounder down low," while Funk is "a quick, scrappy guard."

Also back is sophomore Bradyn McClure (6-0), who is the top returning scorer from last year's team.

Fellow sophomores Trent Harvey (5-8) and Daniel McCubbins (6-4) will join the varsity for the first time.

"They are ready to contribute at the varsity level and I'm excited to see what they can do," Emmert said.

Also back, along with junior Trenton Templin (5-11) are sophomores Gavin Tyler (6-0), Kellen Hartsook (6-2), and Kaeson Walker (6-1), who "will continue to be a part of this team's success," Emmert predicted.

The Huskies welcome a

promising freshman, Mason Tyler (6-0), an athletic wing with strong scoring potential.

"He will play a big role in his first varsity season," Emmert said. The Tylers have basketball DNA as both their father, Nate Tyler, and uncle, Nick Tyler, were among the top players ever for the Huskies.

Emmert is assisted on the bench this year by coaches Ryan Graville, Ryan Adams, Cole Emmert, Grant Kauffman, and Zach Luttmier, all former Huskies.

Emmert said he is particularly excited to see how his younger players contribute at the varsity level, showcasing the program's "depth and potential."

The team will play an "aggressive, high-energy style on both ends of the floor, using a pressing defense to challenge opponents," he said.

The Huskies aim to make the state tournament this year, with Emmert emphasizing the importance of taking it one game at a time.

"Our goal this year is to make the playoffs and see what happens," he said.

The Oregon West Conference will be its normal self – "good," Emmert predicted.

"As it is every year, it will probably be the toughest conference in the 4A. Cascade is the preseason No. 2 and Newport and Philomath are pre-season top-10. North Marion and Stayton both have potential to be really good as well."

However, he added, "I think we will be able to be very competitive in our league this year."

Their first game was a positive start for the Huskies on

Wednesday, Dec. 4, with a 59-49 win at Elmira – despite a last-second attempt by the Falcons to narrow the gap with a three-point attempt.

"We played solid team defense," Emmert said.

In his first high school game, Mason Tyler came close to a school record of three-pointers in one game with five, shy of the record of seven held by now-JV Head Coach Grant Kauffman, who set the single-game scoring record at 46 points in 2013. Tyler put up 19 points for Sweet Home, mostly in the second half. Jason Funk had some big shots in the first half.

Pace added 13 points for the Huskies.

"We have a lot to work on but it was a good first game and nice to get the win," said Emmert after the game, adding that the Huskies gritted their way through some adversity.

"We had a lot of fouls tonight but they showed diversity coming in and finishing that last half strong."

At home Friday against Phoenix, the Huskies fell behind as the third-ranked Pirates dropped six 3's in the first quarter. Sweet Home battled back, tying the score at one point, but then fell 55-39.

Emmert said the game was a "learning experience" for his young Huskies as they aim to refine their high-energy playing style and build on their season goals.

Sweet Home will host Sutherlin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, followed by a 5:30 p.m. matchup with Cottage Grove on Friday, Dec. 13. They will travel Dec. 17 to Estacada.



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**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, 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)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LAVERNE J. ADAMS, deceased, Case No. 24PB10662  
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 Jessica K. Meyer, Morley Thomas Law, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon, Oregon 97355, within four months of the date of first 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 December 11, 2024. Janis A. Breen, Personal Representative. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242 Morley Thomas Law. Attorneys at Law, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355. (Dec 11)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN Probate Department**  
In the Matter of the Estate of SUSAN LYNN EDENS, Deceased. Case No. 24PB10560 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on November 27, 2024, Floyd Anthony

Public Notices

Neuschwander, was appointed as Personal Representative of the above-referenced estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Personal Representative or to Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney, at the addresses listed below, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. Personal Representative Floyd Anthony Neuschwander 48034 Santiam Highway Foster, OR 97345 (541) 409-2209 Attorney for Personal Representative Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney OSB023915 PO Box 81 ~ 1195 Main Street Suite 2 Sweet Home, OR 97386 (541) 270-2406 ~ Mealer@action-net.net (Dec 11)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN Probate Department**  
In the Matter of the Estate of RANDY MCCUTCHEON, ALSO KNOWN AS RANDALL R. MCCUTCHEON, Deceased. Case No. 24PB10498 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on November 25, 2024, Michelle M. Morrow, was appointed as Personal Representative of the above-referenced estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Personal Representative or to Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney, at the addresses listed below, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. Personal Representative Michelle M. Morrow P.O. Box 3257 Salem, OR 97302 (503) 308-4800 Attorney for Personal Representative Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney OSB023915 PO Box 81 ~ 1195 Main Street Suite 2 Sweet Home, OR 97386 (541) 270-2406 ~ Mealer@action-net.net (Dec 11)

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 7

blood dripping out of the back, Ridgeway/Marks Ridge. Van unoccupied, determined to be reported stolen vehicle.

### Dec. 7

10:55 a.m. - Caller reported theft of electric bike off front porch, 1200 block 44th Ave. Loss valued at \$1,300. Report taken.

12:33 p.m. - Caller reported a trespassed subject has returned and sleeping in shed, 2200 block Main St. Report taken.

1:03 p.m. - Caller reported family members stole his uncle's ashes, 1400 block Long St.

11:24 p.m. - Caller reported group of teens ringing doorbells and running off, 1200 block 38th Ave.

### Dec. 8

12:48 a.m. - Marcus Wesley Hesson cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of resisting arrest, an Albany Municipal Court warrant

for failure to appear on an original charge of harassment, and a Benton County Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of resisting arrest.

3:05 a.m. - Caller reported brother is throwing things, 300 block W Holley Rd.

5:40 a.m. - Tamara McCorkhill, 60, cited for driving uninsured and driving without a driver's license, 000 block S Main St., Lebanon.

3:29 p.m. - Michael Anthony Bly, 52, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of first degree criminal trespassing.

4:05 p.m. - Paulette Tepper, 67, arrested for attempting to assault a public safety officer, 28400 block Ridgeway Rd.

6:54 p.m. - Caller reported a female stealing, 1900 block Main St. Male and female subjects trespassed from location. Nicholas Gregory Godell cited on a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of first de-

gree criminal trespassing.  
6:54 p.m. - Casyah Taelour Thomas arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failures to appear on original charges of third degree theft and second degree theft; a Linn County Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear on original charges of second degree burglary, second degree theft, identity theft, computer crime, and first degree forgery; an Albany Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of second degree theft; and a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of third degree theft. Booked, cited and released.  
8:49 p.m. - Caller reported a female flagged her down and stated a male punched her in the face, 2400 block Main St. Anthony James Coonradt arrested for domestic violence fourth degree assault. Lodged at Linn County Jail.  
10:45 p.m. - Lane Hunter, 21, cited for speeding 78/55, 5100 block Santiam Hwy.

## WRESTLING

From page 9

We're going to see all of those teams at some point during this year."

Which brings up the schedule, which Thorpe terms "the toughest ever" for the Huskies, who already have regularly wrestled at least several two-day events. This season that will be five.

"We've set our schedule up to go after tough competition in those," he said.

"It's inspiring to me to see what the kids are doing - working hard, staying after, coming in early, doing the extra stuff. It's a good time to be a Sweet Home wrestler right now.

"We're on a wave and I don't

know when that wave will crash. We've got about 130 kids in Mat Club. Our middle school program is set to do great things this year and our high school has 65 kids.

"I'm excited for what we are going to accomplish and I won't be disappointed if we put in our work. I'm very grateful for the people who support us."

The Huskies opened their season Wednesday, Dec. 4, at the 12-team Dick Weisbrodt Duals, hosted by Lebanon.

The boys went 3-0, defeating West Albany 43-29, McKay 60-18, and Dallas 44-33.

The girls were 3-1 after defeating West Albany 42-34, Tigard 60-18, and Cascade 48-24, and falling to Dallas 48-36.

"It is great to open up a season at the Dick Weisbrodt

Duals," Thorpe said. "Everyone got matches and it is nice being close to home."

Emma Durrett went undefeated for the girls, as did Jesse Landtroop, Tytus Hardee, Russell Dickerman, Kyle Zajic, Lynkin Royer and Colton Bennett for the boys.

"This tournament lets us know where we need to improve," Thorpe said. "We did not compete like we need to, but I remind myself that it is early and right now is not as important as February."

Up next, the Huskies will host Cascade, Elmira, Newport, and Stayton at home on Tuesday, Dec. 18.

and Lexi Rundell taking third for the girls in the 200 Freestyle Relay.

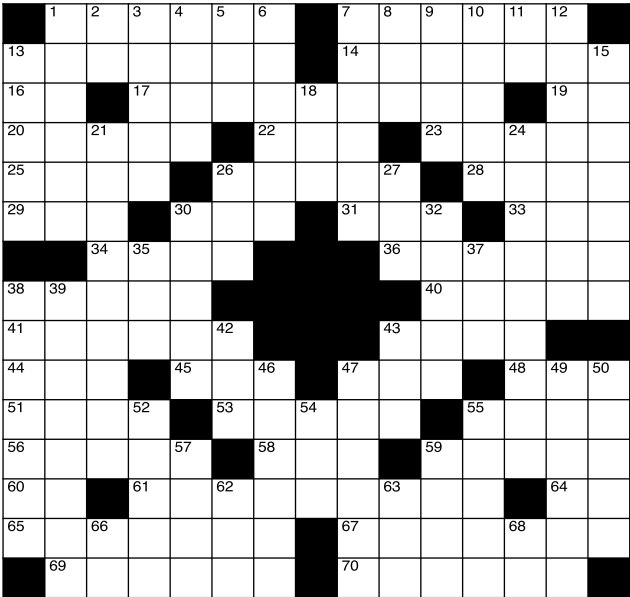
"We're really focusing on the relays more than anything else because it doubles your points," Bronson said. "And, especially for the club kids, it's not something they do every day."

The coach said he expects competition from the other members of the 13-team 1A/2A/3A/4A Special Dis-

trict 3 to be challenging, particularly at districts.

"Everyone else also graduated a good number of people," he said. "But, as happens in most years, we're really good against a single team, but at districts it's always hard. Philomath, Cascade, Marist and Salem Academy could normally have the numbers (to be a threat at districts) - 30-plus swimmers."

## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Bonus materials

7. Formal names

13. Free from restraints

14. One who scrapes away

16. Type of device

17. Skin cancers

19. The Show Me State

20. Plate glasses

22. Red-brown sea bream

23. Small (Fr.)

25. Flightless Australian birds

26. High IQ group

28. Stiff structures

29. Revolutions per minute

30. Where a bachelor lives

31. Licensed for Wall Street

33. A place to park

34. Energy, style and enthusiasm

36. An important creed in Catholic Church
38. 18-year astronomical period

40. Furies

41. Removes from the record

43. Noted child psychiatrist

44. Feline

45. High schoolers' test

47. Not happy

48. They \_\_\_

51. On top

53. Precious stones unit of weight

55. Moved quickly

56. Seagulls

58. A seed with hooks or teeth

59. Partner to "oohed"

60. Exclamation of surprise

61. Most unpleasant

64. Organization help service members

65. Type of cockatoo

67. Humorous criticisms

69. Went through and organized

70. Wakes up

### CLUES DOWN

1. Settle in tents

2. Big

3. Books

4. Masses of eggs in fish

5. Language

6. Not standing

7. Chinese philosophy

8. Computer giant

9. A device to catch

10. Emits coherent radiation

11. Actor O'Neill

12. Smallest interval in western music

13. Not lower

15. Revolves

18. Leavened bread

21. Number above the line in a fraction

24. Cable

26. Adult male

27. Airborne (abbr.)
30. Bullfighting maneuvers

32. Broadcast

35. \_\_\_ Angeles

37. Vehicle

38. Not religious

39. North American peoples

42. A baglike structure

43. Body art (slang)

46. Picked for a role

47. Actress Tomei

49. Former hoopster "Big Country"

50. Icelandic poems

52. More pleasant

54. It can add flavor to meat

55. Self-immolation by fire rituals

57. Expression of annoyance

59. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)

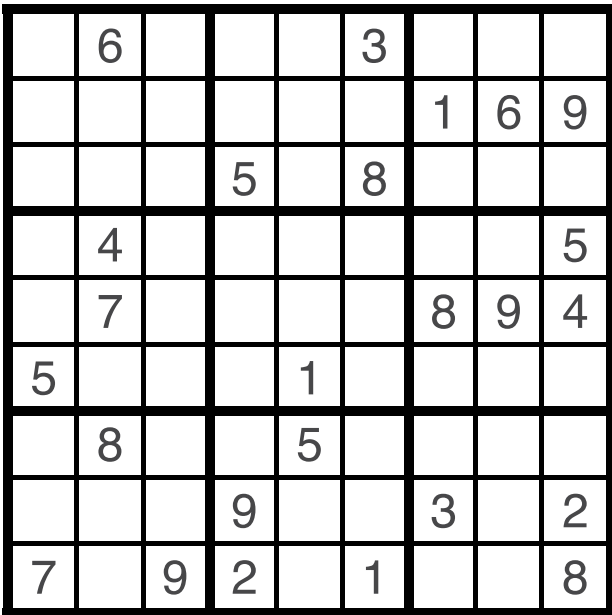
62. Consumed

63. Body part

66. Thus

68. In reply (abbr.)

## SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

## SWIMMING

From page 10

Huskies and also qualified for state in the 200 Freestyle.

Rounding out the boys team are sophomores Henry Jones and Seth Cox, and freshmen Ethan Bonneville and Grayson Savri, who come in with some club experience, Bronson said

On the girls side, the roster also includes junior Kylie Melkvik, sophomores Ella Haggas and Lexi Rundell, and freshman Emma Whitton.

Sweet Home's big strength has been in the relays, in which both boys and girls finaled in two events at state, the boys team of Marble, Schuster, Abbott and the now-departed Arthur taking third in the 200 Medley Relay and LaLonde, Kirsten Sautel, Payton Brookfield

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# Shop With A Cop Serves 33 Kids This Year

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The annual Shop with a Cop event took place Saturday, Dec. 7, offering an opportunity for kids to pick Christmas gifts for their family members.

Sweet Home Police Department officers, Linn County Sheriff's Office deputies, Oregon State Police troopers and a Linn County Parole & Probation officer each paired up with a child and took them shopping at BiMart using a \$100 gift card.

"It's an experience for our little ones to get out there, meet an officer and go have a fun interaction with them," said Sean Morgan, SHPD community liaison.

Facilitated through SHPD, low income families apply to the program. This year SHPD was able to invite 33 kids to participate. Morgan explained the program is funded entirely by donations to the Kids Program, a majority of which comes from donations collected at Angila Tack Food Services' free Thanksgiving breakfast.

"We deeply appreciate all the donations that come in," Morgan said.

After selecting toys for siblings and more grown up items, such as blankets, for parents, the items were then carted back to the police station where the Sportsman's Holiday Court and volunteers from the Linn County District Attorney's office wrapped each present.

"People come here and they help kids," Morgan said. "It's not the police department doing it; we're a facilitator. This is the community helping kids."



Deputy Piper Engler, right, helps Kaleesia, left, shop for a Christmas present for her mother.



Ozzy, bottom right corner, looks at blankets while Detective Sean Potter, second from right, helps him find presents for his family.



Stormy, right, shows Deputy D. Klein, left, a dinosaur puppet he's considering getting as a Christmas present for a sibling.



Photos by Sarah Brown

## Holiday Bazaars in Sweet Home

Sweet Home crafters came out in full force over the weekend to offer their goodies at annual holiday bazaars held in the city. The talent of this city's residents covers a range of skills, as made evident at the bazaars.

Warmly decorated vendor tables presented bushy Christmas wreaths, stuffed critters, Christmas stockings, handmade ornaments, wind chimes, painted rocks, baked goodies, bird houses, paper crafts, pre-packaged gift baskets, quilted kitchen items, kids clothing, jewelry, wood-crafted toys, and other goodies alongside proven goods such as Mary Kay, Pampered Chef and Mia Bella candles.

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