

## Truck Rollover Closes Quartzville Road for Winter

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

Hazardous materials from an overturned semi truck and trailer on Quartzville Road have been successfully removed, but the road will remain closed through the winter, U.S. Forest Service officials said last week.

The truck was carrying solid pesticides for commercial sale when the driver lost control on a hairpin turn and rolled down a steep embankment shortly after 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 near milepost 32 on FSR 11 near Minniece Creek, which is a tributary of Quartzville Creek. The truck rolled down a steep embankment with the vehicle landing on its roof above the creek.

The driver had been directed to take Quartzville Road by a Google map app, said Erin Zysett, of the state Office of Emergency Management.

The truck was carrying 42,000 pounds of Ortho Bug-Geta Snail & Slug Killer2. Officials said initially that there was a "small initial release" of the pesticide material spilled in the accident, but on Thursday the USFS reported



Photos courtesy of U.S. Forest Service and OEM

**An overturned truck and trailer lie on an embankment off Quartzville Road last week after failing to negotiate a hairpin turn.**

that the pesticide remained intact on the trailer until it was removed Thursday morning, after five days of work to stabilize the truck on the embankment and drain it of diesel fuel to avoid water contamination. Zysett said that the cleanup operation was a multi-agency effort.

"This was not a chemical spill," she said. "This is a salvage operation. No chemicals were released into the environment."

She said a small amount of diesel fuel also spilled, but also was immediately cleaned up and remaining fuel and fuel tanks have been drained.

The Oregon Department

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## Editorial: Community Turns Out To Save TNE

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

Having lived in Sweet Home for 20 years and having published your newspaper for 18 of those, I am well aware of something this community is very confident of: Its willingness to step up when there is a real need.

Well, I can only say that I and my wife Miriam have witnessed that on the most personal level over the two weeks. Following the publication of the editorial – for lack of a better word – in the Dec. 11 edition, alerting the community about the dire state of The New Era, the response has been such that we are fully engaged in seeking to right this ship. You've given us what we need to go for it.

The day after the article appeared in Sweet Home mailboxes, we opened the door of the office to several people who were standing there, waiting and ready to chip in to help us. They were the first of a nearly constant stream of readers and community members who have thrown their lot in with us to make this happen.

We received one early donation so generous that tears were shed and we were suddenly filled with optimism that yes, we can fully engage in the process of rebuilding your newspaper.

Thank you so much, Sweet Home.

The paper isn't saved yet, but it is closer than it was a few weeks ago. We are working to hire some necessary staff and get ourselves organized with the employees we have – all of whom are people we've worked with in the past, which helps a bunch.

When I mention generosity, I'm not just talking about individuals. Businesses and other organizations have stepped up with advertising, which is crucial to this process.

One reader stopped in to suggest that he organize a fun run to raise money for the newspaper, like we did to help Steelhead Fitness weather the COVID shutdown. I can't say I'd thought of that, but it sounds like a good reason for folks to get in shape, which has its own benefits.

More on that to come, but it's planned for Feb. 8, a reincarnation of the Sweetheart Run. So start working on it. The run, he says, will be donation-only, which means you can contribute whatever you want to run a 10K (6.2 miles) or a 5K (3.1 miles) or simply walk all or part of that distance.

We've heard from multiple people who are willing to volunteer, which is something I thought might become a necessity when we previously owned the newspaper. It's always been the community's newspaper, as I've stated previously, but we are definitely interested in finding ways to get the community more involved in its production. So all those would-be volunteers will be hearing from us, once we get things organized a little bit.

One prominent citizen offered to personally go door-to-door to solicit subscriptions.


We thank all these people who have generously stepped up, and we hope that we can get to the point that they and you, the readers, will be reliably served by this publication for many years to come.

We've received some large donations of money and, as I wrote in the previous article, we want to be transparent with how we're using it. Put bluntly, without the money we've received, we would have had very little, if any, confidence in moving forward. But the revenue that has been contributed gives us something to work with in a business in which most of the costs are up-front (if you don't have the cash, you don't get printed.)


Due to the significant financial response, we have contacted several community members who have experience as board members and managers, and three have agreed to serve as an accountability group for us. So far, they are: Bob Burford, former police chief and current president of the Sweet Home Community Foundation; Steve Hanscam, a retired local CPA who is a board member for the Sweet Home Alumni Foundation and the Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees; and Kristin

**See Community, Page 5**


Hometown Newspaper of  
**WES & SHANNON STRUBHAR**



**2024 SANTA LETTERS**  
PAGE 6



**THE INNKEEPERS**  
PAGE 9



**GIRLS BASKETBALL CONTINUE TO SURPRISE**  
PAGE 15

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OBITUARIES



**Claude Max Thompson Jr.**  
*April 8, 1938 - December 12, 2024*

Claude Max Thompson, Jr., 86, of Brownsville passed away Thursday, December 12, 2024. He was born April 8, 1938 to Claude Sr. and Kathryn (Lively) Thompson in Germfask, Michigan. He grew up in the Germfask, Michigan area. He married Lucy Abram in Curtis, Michigan on July 15, 1960. He moved to Oregon with Lucy in 1963. His main work revolved around timber, concrete and ended as a millwright at Georgia Pacific in Halsey, retiring in January 2002. They maintained a small Christmas tree farm near Brownsville and sold trees for 41 years. Claude enjoyed fishing, hunting, hiking and liked to

mushroom hunt. He took up martial arts after retirement and obtained a black belt. Claude loved life. He is survived by his wife Lucy Thompson of Brownsville, son Chris Thompson of Halsey; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; two estranged children. He was preceded in death by granddaughter Sofie Salvador (1995); grandson Trapper Thompson (2018). Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).



**Hildegarde Thums**  
*April 6, 1925 - December 13, 2024*

Hildegarde Thums, 99, of Sweet Home passed away Friday, December 13, 2024. She was born on April 6, 1925 to James and Amalie (Linsmeier) Thums in Rib Lake, Wisconsin.

sin. Hildegarde spent her school years in Oregon. Her life was shaped by the extraordinary events of her time, including the trials and triumphs of World War II. These experiences instilled in her a resilience and strength that defined her character throughout her 99 remarkable years. In 1958, Hildegarde made her way to California, where she made a home in the Bay Area and became deeply rooted in the Half Moon Bay community until her relocation in 2019 back to Sweet Home. Her love for the region was matched only by her passion for gardening, which brought her immense joy and served as a symbol of her nurturing spirit. Hildegarde's contributions to her community were profound. She was a dedicated member of the Young Ladies Institute and a devoted parishioner at Our Lady of the Pillar Church in Half Moon Bay, where she generously volunteered her time and talents. Her unwavering support for these organizations reflected her commitment to uplifting others and making the world a better place. Hildegarde had an insatiable curiosity about the world, which fueled her love of international travel. Whether

exploring distant countries or immersing herself in new cultures, she cherished the opportunity to broaden her horizons and connect with people from all walks of life. Her travels brought her immense joy and countless stories, which she delighted in sharing with family and friends, inspiring them to see the beauty and diversity of the world. To her family, Hildegarde was more than a sister—she was a pillar of strength and wisdom, always ready with a helping hand and a warm heart. She treasured her role as an aunt and great-aunt, and her home was always open, her heart always full. Hildegarde is survived by her siblings Mary, Frances, and Herbert, who will forever cherish the memories of her boundless love, her steadfast faith, and her ever-present smile. She was ever present for her nephew Michael, his wife Gail, and their three children Aidan, Elise and Amalie. Her family and friends take comfort in knowing that her generous spirit and lasting impact on her community will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her. Hildegarde's zest for life was as vibrant as her spirit. If you happen to love gin on the rocks, please lift up a glass in her honor, celebrating a life well-lived and the joy she brought to so many. Recitation of the Rosary will take place at 10:30 am and Funeral Mass will follow at 11:00 am on Friday, December 27th at St. Helen Catholic Church. Final burial will be 2:00 pm at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Lebanon. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com)

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**Phyllis Jean Powers**  
*November 10, 1947 - December 19, 2024*

Phyllis Jean Powers, 77, of Lebanon passed away Thursday, December 19, 2024. Viewing will be 10:30 am Monday, January 6th at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Lebanon. Funeral service will follow at 11 am. Burial will follow at Gilliland Cemetery in Sweet Home. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Roberta Ruth Birman**  
*March 6, 1954 - December 19, 2024*

Roberta Ruth Birman, 70, of Albany, formerly from Sweet Home, passed away Thursday, December 19, 2024. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

EVENTS

**Fundraisers for Habitat for Humanity**  
Fundraisers to benefit Lebanon Area Habitat for Humanity will be held this year through a variety of options. 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 until Jan. 5. To register your home, visit <https://bit.ly/3Zb57IW>.

**Beginner Sourdough Class**  
Sweet Home Public Library will host a beginners sourdough class from 2-3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 1101 13th Ave. Due to popularity, a sign-up sheet will be at the library. Class includes a free sourdough starter to take home. For more information or to get on the list, call 541.367.5007.

**After 5 Presents 'Self Defense'**  
After 5 Connection will hold its monthly dinner and program for local women from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Ma's Restaurant, 2416 S. Santiam Hwy., Lebanon. This month's program, "Women's Self Defense," features Lebanon's Community Policing Officer Dala Johnson, who will educate, empower, and equip women to protect themselves against various types of assaults. Soloist Jan Day, of Sweet Home, will sing, and Donna Paris, of Portland, is the guest speaker. The former hairstylist and fitness instructor learned to overcome fears and devastating life situations, which she will use to inspire our guests. Join us and find out how she discovered these vital skills. Cost for dinner is \$18; credit 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](mailto:NancyPinzino@comcast.net).

**Deliver for Meals on Wheels**  
Meals on Wheels of Sweet Home is in urgent need of volunteer drivers, delivering free meals to local seniors and disabled adults in the Sweet Home area. Delivery days are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. The role is best suited for people available in the mid-day, as meals go out at noon. Volunteers work one to two days a week for about 2.5 hours each shift. Meals on Wheels is managed by Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments and operated by local volunteers. Volunteers package fresh meals in the kitchen and the drivers deliver them. Many local people count on this food as a primary source of nutrition. For more information or to apply, stop by the Senior Center, email [lmattewsboc@ocwcog.org](mailto:lmattewsboc@ocwcog.org), or call 541.812.6015.

**Square Dance**  
Sweet Home Squarenaders will host square dance lessons on Sundays from 2:45-

4:30 p.m. at the Foster Elementary School gym, 5526 Poplar St. First two lessons are free; \$5 per lesson thereafter. No partner required. Mainstream level for beginners. Graduation in January. For more information, contact Rod Stidham at 541.367.4939.

**Volunteers, Donations Needed at Museum**  
East Linn Museum is seeking volunteers and items that are needed for the operation of the museum. The museum needs volunteers for its operations to replace retiring volunteers. New volunteers are not required to know anything about the museum or how to operate a computer. The museum operates three days a week from Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Supplies needed by the museum include: copy paper, postage stamps, legal size envelopes, paper towels, toilet paper, glass cleaner, all purpose cleaner and Ajax. For more information, call the museum at 541.367.4580.

# The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

**SWEETHOMENEWS.COM**  
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DRAWDOWN STATUS

CURRENT LEVELS

Foster Reservoir: 612.0

Green Peter Res.: 895.8

12/27/23 LEVELS

Foster Reservoir: 613.4

Green Peter Res.: 908.2

Almanac

TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
December 16	50	44	0.42
December 17	58	49	1.04
December 18	62	48	0.31
December 19	56	43	0.03
December 20	53	41	0.00
December 21	54	42	0.00
December 22	54	41	0.29

PRECIPITATION

Year to date: 34.15

December 27, 2023: 32.29

FORECAST

DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Rain	50	46
Fri	Rain	52	49
Sat	Rain	52	47
Sun	Rain	50	41
Mon	Showers	47	35
Tues	PM Showers	43	39
Wed	Showers	48	40

MODERATE

LOW

HIGH

EXTREME

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)

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. 16**  
10:59 a.m. - Justin Lee Matteson, 45, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of criminal driving.  
11:02 a.m. - Mica Deann West, 34, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of DUII.  
12:45 p.m. - Caller reported attempted theft of rotted maple tree and burls from property, 45300 block Sunnyside Rd.  
5:03 p.m. - Caller reported theft of propane heater from locker. Loss valued at \$70.  
5:05 p.m. - Subject reported her tent was ransacked and items are missing. Officer believes her dog is responsible for damage to tent.  
9:12 p.m. - Benjamin Philip Hyatt, 45, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court war-

rant for failure to appear on an original charge of second degree criminal trespass.  
10:22 p.m. - Caller reported possum in her living room, 1000 block 12th Ave. Officer relocated the animal.  
11:08 p.m. - Christian Michael Rogers cited on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failures to appear on original charges of third degree theft, second degree criminal trespass, and second degree theft.

**Dec. 17**  
7:34 a.m. - Jeremiah James Bowen, 20, cited for driving uninsured, 2500 block Main St.  
7:59 a.m. - Caller reported male disturbing customers and dancing around in the store at Foster Lake Market. Male was told he was not welcome there.  
10:27 a.m. - Caller reported male in front of Safeway with his pants down and seems to be passing out. Male was trespassed.  
3:10 p.m. - Brian Scott Holden, 48, arrested on a Deschutes County Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear on an original charge of felon in possession of a weapon, a Linn County Justice Court warrant for second degree criminal trespass, and a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of second degree theft. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

**Dec. 18**  
11:44 a.m. - Caller reported a male broke into her truck, broke a mirror and stole an

emblem, 1200 block Main St. Loss/damage valued at \$350. Report taken.  
1:57 p.m. - Hunter Gomez, 41, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of third degree theft.  
2:37 p.m. - Terry Ohmer cited for speeding 38/25, 700 block 12th Ave.  
3:27 p.m. - Caller reported aggressive rooster attacking

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, Joshua Martin Hughes, Bryce William McGowan, Eric Wayne McKnight, Brian Lee Lindsay, Carrie Lynne Miller, James Keith Mortensen, Nicholas Alan Nelson, Emmanuel Wayne Peters, Daniel Austin Phillips, Tammy Lavonn Robinson, Joshua Alexander Williams.  
A first degree criminal mis-

children in the area, 1300 block Poplar St.  
8:33 p.m. - Tiara Hoffman, 39, cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured, and cited on a warrant, 400 block 18th Ave.  
11:21 p.m. - Brandon Ryan Freeman arrested on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of first degree criminal trespass. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

chief charge against **Raymond Larry Boda**, 43, was dismissed. In a separate case, he was sentenced Dec. 17 to 90 months with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and 36 months post-prison supervision after pleading guilty to second degree assault and no contest to tampering with a witness. Charges dismissed were: first degree assault, second degree assault, unlawful use of a weapon, and two counts of tampering with a witness.

**Nathan Merle Maze**, 46, was sentenced Dec. 18 to 25 days jail, 24 months supervised probation, and \$200 in fines after pleading no contest to domestic violence fourth degree assault and domestic violence menacing. A strangulation charge was dismissed.

**Nicholas Nathan Nivision**, 32, was sentenced Dec. 10 to five days compensatory service in lieu of jail,

11:59 p.m. - Kevin Earl Terwilliger cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply on an original charge of criminal driving.

**Dec. 19**  
8:59 a.m. - Deputy investigated a crash involving a Linn County Road Dept. semi pulling a dump belly full of gravel, 45700 block Old Huford Dr.

and 18 months supervised probation after pleading no contest to domestic violence fourth degree assault. A strangulation charge was dismissed. On Dec. 18 he was sentenced to 10 days jail after the court found he violated terms of his condition (18 months supervised probation for fourth degree assault).

The court dismissed without prejudice a charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle against **Richard Dean Raison**, 48, on Dec. 16.

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Crossword KEY  
Puzzle on page 15

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

SUDOKU KEY  
Puzzle on page 15

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







ROLLOVER

From page 1

of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), and Regional HazMat Team 5 will demobilize and transfer site management to local authorities and Willamette National Forest staff to complete the salvage operation, the USFS said Thursday.

The Forest Service expressed appreciation for help with the “complicated response” to: Linn and Benton county emergency managers, the Linn County Sheriff’s Office, Benton County Sheriff’s Office, the Oregon State Fire Marshal, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, and OSFM’s Regional HazMat Team 5 (Albany, Corvallis, and Lebanon Fire personnel).

The forest closure order closes FSR 11 between milepost 26 and milepost 34.

“The closure order, which is for public health and safety, is in effect through May 1, 2025, unless modified or rescinded sooner,” the USFS said in a statement.

Travelers are advised to follow road closures and vehicle-length restrictions, especially in winter. Visitors are encouraged to “Know Before You Go” and exercise caution



Photos courtesy of U.S. Forest Service and OEM  
Responders work last week to remove pesticide from the overturned trailer near Milepost 32 on Quartzville Road.

in hazardous weather and on roadways in remote locations. Turn around if roads appear impassable, hazardous conditions warrant, or if your vehicle is not equipped for safe winter driving. Visit TripCheck.com for road conditions and webcams.

Zysett said travelers should remember that Google Maps is good for navigating in areas that are familiar, but not necessarily in unfamiliar or remote

places.

“Any time you’re rerouting, we encourage people to check TripCheck.com. ODOT is always checking the road conditions. TripCheck is going to give you the safest and best route.”

For current conditions on Quartzville Road, contact the Sweet Home Ranger District at (541) 367-5168 or view the closure order and other alerts at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/willamette/alerts-notice>.

COMMUNITY

From page 1

Adams, chair of the Linn Benton Community College Board of Directors and a member of a number of other boards. We plan to add at least one more, but due to the holidays, that process has been a little slow.

These are people who are known and respected in the community, whom we will report to on a regular basis to keep things above-board and so the community knows that all their donations are going directly to solve the problems we face in rebuilding the newspaper.

Regrettably, the day our editorial appeared was also the day the much-older The Times newspaper of Brownsville died the very death that was threatening The New Era. The Times was in its 139th year. We had no clue that was about to happen until a Brownsville resident called and said she wanted to subscribe – that her newspaper had just stopped publishing.

These are tough times for newspapers. A few days ago, after our editorial appeared, someone handed me a report from the Oregon Journalism Project, a new, nonprofit investigative journalism effort, which points out how Craigslist, Meta and Google, in particular, have sucked up dollars

that not long ago supported local newspapers.

“Across the country, this has driven local newspapers out of business or resulted in zombie newsrooms,” the report states, noting that more than “68% of our state’s incorporated cities, and three entire counties, now lack a local news source.” The state’s three once-largest newspapers, the Oregonian, the Register-Guard in Eugene and the Statesman Journal in Salem are mere shadows of what they once were – thriving, prize-winning, journals that kept politicians accountable with watchdog journalism.

This is reality, but we have seen very clearly how Sweet Home refuses to lie down and let it happen. We don’t plan to either, and we’re optimistic that, with God’s help, we can provide a healthy local news source for Sweet Home.

But it will take continued support, and that will need to continue to come from you, in various ways.

One of the common reasons why newspapers die is because their communities didn’t know, or didn’t wake up, until it was too late. Those who have responded have demonstrated very clearly that you don’t want that to be the case.

Thank you again, Sweet Home. Now it’s time to get to work.

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# 2024 SANTA LETTERS

Foster: Hailey Miller

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Jace A., and I am 7 years old. I have been Naughty Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: Gave hugs to family, cleaned up room, and play with sister. For Christmas this year, I would like: A fire truck, hotwheels, and marble run.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Raiden, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are:I have made good friends. For Christmas this year, I would like: Iphone pro and Bugatti Lego Car.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Noah, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: I was nice to my friends and family. For Christmas this year, I would like: A phone.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Ivan, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: helping my friends, and being nice. For Christmas this year, I would like: Jack in the box, and love from my family.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Autumn, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: Played dolls with my mom and helped my brother when he gets hurt. I also love to feed my cats. For Christmas this year, I would like: A Buzz Lightyear, a cat stuffed animal and cat treats.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Lilly, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: Helping people up when they get hurt on the playground. For Christmas this year, I would like: I want more clothes, a Barbie house, and a dream Barbie house car with barbies in it.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Adeline, and I am 8 years old. I have been Naughty Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: I have helped my clas. I have helped my frieds. For Christmas this year, I would like: A teddy bear.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Isabelle, and I am 8 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: help my sister win she is hurt. For Christmas this year, I would like: A teddy bear, a hot wheel and sumting for my sister it will be teddy bear or my teacher.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Olivia, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: playing whit my friends and hellinging. For Christmas this year, I would like: Rainbow High doll and a book for my mom.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Carson, and I am 7 years old. I have been Naughty Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: I let my siter ride my scooter. For Christmas this year, I would like: a air soft gun and a hurdin bucks to help my dad.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Sophia, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: I helped Lilly up when she fell. For Christmas this year, I would like: A dog toy, a camera and to giv satntu a presint.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Aryn, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: every time my sister comes to my house I pick her up. For Christmas this year, I would like: to more controllers, toi dog, toi cat.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Atticus, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice

this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: I answer my Dad. For Christmas this year, I would like: PS5, Computer, coal, 10,000,000,000,000,000,000\$.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Jace, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: Helping kids up when they fall. I also love to feed my cats. For Christmas this year, I would like: Playstation 5, xbox controller that is decorated, computer.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Freya, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: I was helping people doing work. For Christmas this year, I would like: a toy horse that moves, some candy, and a school surprise.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Cathy, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: I help my brother with stairs.. For Christmas this year, I would like: robucks 10000, green rainbow friends, bunny hop.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Corwin, and I am 7 years old. I have been Naughty Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: played with my friend. For Christmas this year, I would like: A squirrel stuffed animal.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Tanner, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: Helping 1st graders go to the office. For Christmas this year, I would like: candy cane.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Aspyin, and I am 7 years old. I have been Naughty Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: help my sisters. For Christmas this year, I would like: Snow and a toy car.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Harper, and I am 8 years old. I have been Very Nice



Photo by Scott Swanson

Foster Elementary students sing during the school's Christmas program held Friday morning, Feb. 20, in the school gymnasium.

this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: Play with my sister's and hug when I get home I hug my sister's. For Christmas this year, I would like:I want a ex box 360, and a Bluey and Bingo stuffy;s a camera to.

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Amelia, and I am 7 years old. I have been Very Nice this year. A few nice things I did that were nice are: I helped my mom and helping my bro. For Christmas this year, I would like:a puppy toy, 1000000 robux, 70 Air-heads.

Foster: Deanna Neuschwander

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope you are felling well. I have been a little bad and mean to Blake, I will try to be nice to him. How is Mrs. Clause. It would be nice to have a new basket ball, painting set, and canvas's.

Love, Harlee

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope you hav a grat day Santa. I love you Santa. How old are you? How all of or elf has goooing? I mnot a pet gog and a book and a cat.

Love, Archer

**Dear Santa,**  
How is it in the north pull, how are you doing Stanta Claus and Mrs. Claus. I would like to have a lego set and a appl watch and a bizzzy.

Love, Tiffany

**Dear Santa,**  
Hi Santa. How do you and Mrs. Claus and the elf's do? Thank you for the elf. I love Christmas because your in it. I would like a bike because mine is old, a sweatshirt because it is cold outside. And slime.

Love, Aili

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been trying to be a good kid, but I make musaxe som times. I want to no how the reindeer are doing. I wud like a skwodr and tv for my teachr and a berddagno to. Thakek you

Love, Elyza

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope you are goo today. How are the elfs. Wot do you do won it is not christmas. I will like a Bike and a book and a ball. I love Santa

Love, Kattalle

**Dear Santa,**  
I was prity good and how is roo-doof is doing. I wont to be frends. How is Mrs. Clas doing. I wont a little Live pet, blowy toy sets, baby doll.

Love, Skylar

**Dear Santa,**  
I hop you are feeling wel. How is mrs clas. I hop the els's are felling wel are the randeer roodoff feling wel. I omlee 2 these. The playdoe skcoodr playset and gra-see as a puppe.

Love, Rowdy

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope you have a good crismus this yeer. I hope you wonet mined that we wont have a christmas tree at my nana's hows. I donet have much I wont. I wont my dog back.

Love, Karly

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope your well. How are the elfs doing? How old are you? I hope on christmas you are well. How old are the elfs? It would be nice if you could new books.

Love, Gemma

**Dear Santa,**  
I have bine good tise yere. How is your dears and Mrs. clos and your elfs. I wou like LOLs. I wou like Sishche. I wou like moun, moun.

Love, Haygen

**Dear Santa,**  
I have dun good this year. How are you doing. I whut a rc car pleas and rc bote pleas. I whunt a brasline for my teacher pleas. I love my teacher and my airtins and your doing great.

Love, Brantley

**Dear Santa,**  
I have ben good. I have ben nice. I have ben kind to my mom-my and daddy. I want a bick and a

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TV and a noo book.  
**Love Jesse**

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope it,s good up there. I hope you doing good. I dont relly want enveethwang but 1 thangs im 8 and I relly want a new ipad shens mine broke.  
**Love, Aiden**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have ben a rily good kid. I hope you have ben good. I whudlde like a snow-globe pleas. And I whulde like a hello kitty blakit please. I whulde like a unicorn egg.  
**Love, Blair**

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope you are feeling ok this is nant I for christmas I nent a bike. I nant a new lego set and I nant a new pet.  
**Love, Maxwell**

**Dear Santa,**  
I now that I was bad. I will tri to be good nes yer and How are the elfs downen. Good or bad see the won they you felen and if you can ples wil you git me a noow golf clubm and cluren splis.  
**Love, Cambria**

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you deuing. How are the elfs deuing amd how is Mrs. clos, I werd like a class pet please and a lot of snow for christmas and one mor thing plese some scrishmelow please.  
**Love, Camden**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have to be a gud kid. I hav a dox crd. I hop u hav a g day in the sand in to mimo chrivsmagan per hava tad it per. I will umimoa.  
**Love, Walter**

**Hawthrone: Michelle Hatchard**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Chistmas I wish for a new Barbie house. I saw online on the tv and I am going to get rid of my Barbie house.  
**Love, Alayna**

**Dear Santa,**  
So, How are things going. Thanks for the elf. I wish for a hamster and a stuffed pig and

snow and a new blanket and a Happy Christmas.  
**Love, Lydia**

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope I get to hang around with all of my family.  
**Love, Charleigh**

**Dear Santa,**  
I wish for Army toys and Every-one has enough food to survive.  
**Love, Sky**

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you? I want for Christ-mas is an electric scooter and ski masks.  
**Love, Harry**

**Dear Santa,**  
Hi Santa how are you doing. I am doing good. I am doing great this year. I want a xbox 360. I love Jesus.  
**Love, Carter**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I wish for my name to not be Jonah. Leave my last name and Lego race car.  
**Love, Johah**

**Dear Santa,**  
I wish I can see my brother Sy-lus.  
**Love Dexter**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I want a go kart for christmas.  
**Love, Gunnar**

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope you have a merry christ-mas, I wish for pink slime, pink rainbow high doll, pink cat kid, iphone, pink barbie dream house, barbie dream best. Yes I wish Levi liked me too, because I have a crush on him.  
**Love, Aspen**

**Dear Santa,**  
I wish for Jesus to have a Happy birthday and a letter from Santa and snow.  
**Love, Ellie**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I wish for a nin-tendo switch.  
**Love, Rhett**

**Dear Santa,**  
May I have, Anime coloring

book, athmey, squishmellows, dragon coloring book, and christ-mas candles.  
**Love, Angel**

**Dear Santa,**  
I just want to go see you so much cus I love you santa. Can I get a squishmellow and can I get a dalmatian puppy and can you please give all the boy and girl puzzles to and masher I get puz-zles too.  
**Love, Jocilyn**

**Dear Santa,**  
I would love to see my cousin on christmas. And it to snow it has not snowed in a long time.  
**Love, Hazel**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I wish for watch snow fall, hot chocolate, and a blanket too. And for my coat to come back.  
**Love, Chelyenne**

**Dear Santa,**  
I wish for a Dalmation puppy and an elf on the shelf.  
**Love Guwen**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I wish for a gas powered go cart.  
**Love, Calder**

**Dear Santa,**  
Can I have a Meif'wa from Aphmau! You to be?  
**Love, Hailey**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I want bunnies and a monitor and a x-box.  
**Love, Porter**

**Dear Santa,**  
Everything is going good with Holly and she was in pretty good spots. I want pokemon and sour strips.  
**Love, Drake**

**Dear Santa,**  
I wish I had a VR Head Set and Takis.  
**Love, Vincent**

**Dear Santa,**  
I wish for a PS5 and \$100 v-bucks card and a telescope too.  
**Love, Drew**



Photo by Scott Swanson

**Students perform during Hawthorne Elementary’s Christ-mas program, held Dec. 9 at the Sweet Home High School Auditorium**

**Hawthrone: Hunter Johnston**

**Dear Santa,**  
For christmas I would like a puppy and stress toys please.  
**Love, Olivia**

**Dear Santa,**  
I don't want a present. I want my family.  
**Love, Tommy**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I would like a ka-raoke machine and microphone. Thanks Drive Safe.  
**Love, Evelyn**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I want you to go on a vacation for the weekend.  
**Love, Abigail**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I want a skate-board, a car for kids and a quad for kids. Please and Thanks  
**Love, Dayton**

**Dear Santa,**  
I really want a safe with some money. Thank you.  
**Love, Regan**

**Dear Santa,**  
For christmas I want a kitten please Santa and I want miniature doll house stuff too. Santa Please.  
**Love, Teyah**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I would like a puppy. Thank you  
**Love, Theo**

**Dear Santa,**  
I want a kitten for Christmas. Thank you.  
**Love, Benny**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I want a build for a puppy house and a elf on the shelf please. I left you a present.  
**Love, Ivoryie**

**Dear Santa,**  
Please get me a elf on the shelf and please get presents for the elfs. I will try too get cookies for you.  
**Love, Addy**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas would like a toy elf. Please Love Santa.  
**Love, Sadie**

**Dear Santa,**  
I don't want a present. I want good luck to go to america's got talent. Thank you very much.  
**Love, Phoebe**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I want the series of graphic novel “Piggy” please and thank you for everything you do for us.  
**Love, Lukas**

**See Santa Letters, Page 8**

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=and=


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Expires 12/31/2024



# SANTA LETTERS

From page 7

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I would like a puppy please. Also a VR Headset please.  
**Love, Aubrie**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I want a ps5 game, takis, Ve head set. Please and thank you.  
**Love, Hunter**

**Dear Santa,**  
I won a hoverboard, go cart, and nerf guns. Thank you.  
**Love, Levi**

**Dear Santa,**  
I want a vr head set for Christmas. Thank you.  
**Love, Sterling**

**Dear Santa,**  
Can I have a rc car please and a lanky box egg.  
**Love, Sawyer**

**Dear Santa,**  
I want a real baby bunny for Christmas. Please I will leave milk and cookies out.  
**Love, Harper**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I would like a gaming headset and a vr head set please and thank you. Be Safe.  
**Love, Aiden**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I would like a lot of takis, Please and a phone so my brothers do not steal it.  
**Love, Autumn**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I want to see you in real life! Thank you.  
**Love, Porter**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I would like a good elf and a camera that pushes out the pictures that you take please.  
**Love, Kira**

**Dear Santa,**  
I like you. You are the best Santa in the world. I will see you on Christmas. I want my cotton candy elf.  
**Love, Zoey**

## Oak Heights: Pamela McCoy

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been really good this year. I would like a v bucks.  
**Love, Jakob**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been good this year. I would like a light saber and chihuahua and a Lamborhini.  
**Love, Sam**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been really good this year. I would like a nintendo switch.  
**Love, Caleb**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been really good this year. I would love to get a microphone. Please send our elf on Saturday. I also want a real puppy. Please get my mom an Iphone.  
**Love, Faith**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been really good this

year. I would love to get a tablet and a bike.  
**Love, Bailey**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been really good and bad this year. I would love to get to see my dad again and a real puppy and a real kitten. Love you Santa. You are the best in the hol world.  
**Love, Kaia**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been really good this year. I would love to get a cat.  
**Love, Milo**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been good this year. I would love a hatchimal.  
**Love, Leila**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been really good this year. I would love to get a Barbie camper van. I would also like a stanley cup.  
**Love, Evelyn**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been good this year. I want 1000000000 Minecraft coins, tablet, hatchimal, Xs box viedo games, baby unicorn and baby duck.  
**Love, Lorelei**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been really good this year. I would like a barbie everything and a simple modelncup.  
**Love, Sofia**

## Oak Heights: Ashley Patton

**Dear Santa,**  
This year I have been nice. For Christmas I'd really like: A Nintendo Switch because I want to play Among Us.  
**Love, Florence**

**Dear Santa,**  
This year I have been nice. For Christmas I'd really like: Mrs. Clause to come to my house a arctic Fox Stuffy, a Fox Stuffy for Aggie and a pet corn snake. I lost my last pet snake.  
**Love, Kyia**

**Dear Santa,**  
This year I have been very nice and a tiny bit naughty. For Christ-



Photo by Scott Swanson

**Oak Heights sixth-graders perform "A Pirate Christmas" Thursday evening, Dec. 19, in the school gymnasium. The musical play, directed by Mindie Medina, told the story of how a bunch of rascally pirates find out what Christmas giving is all about after they meet up with Santa and elves.**

mas I'd really like: I really want a puppy or if you cant do that I would like a Rc car.  
**Love, Ethan**

**Dear Santa,**  
This year I have been nice. For Christmas I'd really like: an American girl because I love to play with dolls. An I wont a nintendo switch cause myn broke an I wont a new nintendo switch. An I wont stic on naois cause I won't to play with Thom with my frends.  
**Love, Penelope**

**Dear Santa,**  
This year I have been nice. For Christmas I'd really like: A bike for Christmas.  
**Love, Amy**

**Dear Santa,**  
This year I have been nice. For Christmas I'd really like: Vbucks, Hoverboard, VR Set. critter. Phone. 10000 V Bucks because I will play with them. Hi Santa call you say Hi to my Elf Lucky.  
**Love, JT**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: Stick on nails, puppy, painting set. I want these presents because me and my mom paint on the paper and put them on the walls with our names on them.  
**Love, Chelsea**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: A snake, new phone,

and a puppy. I want these presents because I have been waiting for a long time.  
**Love, Taylor**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: Hoverboard, Snow Globe, Critter. I want these presents because I wanted a hover board ples and I wot all utias Bkus I was wodit.  
**Love, Tristan**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: a Elechrieke Dirt Bike, 3D Pen, and a snack. I want these presents because I have dreamed for thame.  
**Love, Carlin**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: Squishmellow, 3D Pen, Puppy. I want these presents because I would like them. I will have lots of fun with them.  
**Love, Scarlett**

**Dear Santa,**  
This year I have been realy nice and kid of naughty. For Christmas I'd really like: this year I really whant a 3D pen because I've been Whanting this for ever and a real life puppy, perity please thank you Santa you are the best Santa!!!!  
**Love, Marcilla**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very naughty this year. I hope you bring me: Phone, Nintendo, Snake and Cat. I want these presents because They are cool, fun, and awesome.  
**Love, Noah**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: Smash Brothers book, Elders Word, Elf from Monie. I want these presents because they will be fun to play with. How is Rudolph doing? Is Mrs. Claus do-

See Santa Letters, Page 10

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, wishing all Peace & Joy and a Healthy & Prosperous 2025



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# The Innkeepers' Brings Nativity Story to SH



Innkeeper's Wife (Karla Boren) learns that the Innkeeper (Nick Boren) has given Mary and Joseph a space in a stable.



Mary (Lauren Miles) looks at baby Jesus following his birth in a stable in Bethlehem, while Joseph (Andrew Miles) and the Innkeeper's Wife (Karla Boren) gather water and supplies for them.



Joseph (Andrew Miles) speaks to Mary (Lauren Miles) as baby Jesus lies in the manger.



Guests gather around to marvel at the newborn Jesus, held by the Innkeeper's Wife (Karla Boren), seated by the Innkeeper (Nick Boren). Mary (Lauren Miles) and Joseph (Andrew Miles) are seated at left.

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# SANTA LETTERS

From page 8

ing well?  
**Love, Hank**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: Squishmellow, 3D Pen, Puppy. I want these presents because I would like them. I will have lots of fun with them.  
**Love, Scarlett**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good and bad this year. I hope you bring me: a Electric Scooter, a doll, a snow globe. I want these presents because I love them and I will take riley good care of them. I love you and Mrs. Clase  
**Love, Clarise**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: Avengers Action Figures, Squishmellow, Artic Fox Plushie. I want these presents because I like Christmas a lot!  
**Love, Sam**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: Nintendo Switch, 3D, Phone. I want these presents because I've been playing with my sister. I love christmas and I got a christmas tre too and I cant wat for these to come ples come to heos.  
**Love, Luna**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: Squishmellow Cow, Projector for drawing, pet snake. I want these presents because So I can prank my mom with a snake.  
**Love, Amara**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very happy this year. I hope you bring me: PS 5 VR, Xbox, Electric Scooter. I want these presents because I want to share my gifts with my sister Rena has been mean this year and I'm worried she won't get her own gifts  
**Love, Archer**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: American Girl Doll, a tablet, Ninteado Switch. I want these presents because I want a tablet.  
**Love, Kaleesia**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: Citia, Snow Globe, Microphone. I want these presents because I Love I love Nudm.  
**Love, Calliope**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me: Tablet, VR Set, Squishmellow. I want these presents because I like presents.  
**Love, Lilyanna**

## Holley: Tenille Sayer

**Dear Santa,**  
I wunt an ipad. I would like to spend time with my famly.  
**Love, Katara**

**Dear Santa,**  
I wunt a nintendo switch for Crit mis pleas. FOr my frend a I fone for Noah.  
**Love, Jayce**

**Dear Santa,**  
May I have a pig squishmellow a Iron max prow and a lamp uv you a cat.  
**Love, Mckinley**

**Dear Santa,**  
I want a 2000000 inch tv. I want a reindeer and popit. I want a tiger. I want a scooter.  
**Love, Killian**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been good this year. I want a snow globe and some other things.  
**Love, Tyler**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been wanting a drag r/c and 1 mil robux.  
**Love, Carter**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been really good this year. You would be so proud of me. I would like to have a red nerf



Photos by Katie Dargis

## Students perform during Holley Elementary's Christmas program, held Dec. 10 at the Sweet Home High School Auditorium.

gun. I would like 20 bucks.  
**Love, George**  
**Dear Santa,**

Love your fred. Best wishes your so cool and I wish you a merry christmas. I love you Santa. My freinds love you. Best wishes.  
**Love, Easton**

**Dear Santa,**  
I would like some new legos and I would like a phone.  
**Love, Gatlin**

**Dear Santa,**  
For me I will want more time with my family. Oh yeah tell mrs Claus I said Hi.  
**Love, Ruby**

**Dear Santa,**  
You are the best. I want more famille time pleas. I want the mario rpg game please.  
**Love, Lincoln**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I realy want a miny oven and Iphone sixteen, and a dirt bike. I need my own reindeer to. I want chocolate please.  
**Your Frend, Brylee**

**Dear Santa,**  
I love that you bring presents. About that I was good to my mom. If i'm on the good list. I would like a smart watch, figet cube. Thank you for being Santa Claus.  
**Love, Naomi**

**Dear Santa,**  
I be good Santa. I want a stufe

Animl. I am grateful mom and dad.  
**Love, Olivia**

**Dear Santa,**  
I want you to give my dog a toy. Ples can I have a pes of candy.  
**Your Friend, Evelini**

**Dear Santa,**  
I will like a lizard for my tanek. I whunt the lizard to be a beaded dragen. I will like a lizard RC. I will like a tablit with robloxs and minecraft the uther game on ro-bloxs my tablit it is called fether falmer on robloxs and I whunt all of the robloxs. Santa I love you. You are the best.  
**Love, Brailey**

**Dear Santa,**  
I was good this ear. Say hi to Mrs. claws for me. I want a guitar.  
**Love, Rylee**

**Dear Santa,**  
I want a dog and I am good. I am cers do you like donuts? I want a wach.  
**Love, Maeson**

**Dear Santa,**  
I've been really good this year. You would be so proud of me this year. I want 5 kittens and allso 5,000 squishmelos and new shoes.  
**Love, Irie**

**Dear Santa,**  
I want Moana 2 avencher. I oso want a big sclimell.  
**Love, Ivy**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been a good kid this year. For Chrismas I would like a ipad, and a lego friends set. Say hi to Mrs. Claws for me.  
**Love, Elise**

**Dear Santa,**  
I wont nerds gummy clusters lots and lots of them. One jar of slim and a fvoov books.  
**Love, Ingrid**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been good. My flanuly is nose. I love cookies lots. I love my flanuly. Tell rudolph I love him.  
**Love, Cassydee**

**Dear Santa,**  
I wood like fire bending. I wood also like 20,000,000,0 v-bucks.  
**Love your Friend, Chase**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been really good this year. I want a venom toy. A Loch and a dog. Running shoes. A lap-top. A ironman toy.  
**Love, Noah**

## Sweet Home Charter: Tori Ingram

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For Christmas I want chips and a squishmello. I need deodorant. What do you do in winter?  
**From, Jaxton**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year for Christmas, I want a nerf gun and a stuffy fox. What is your favorite color?  
**From, Hunter**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For Christmas, I want a new bike and a Science Kit, I need new paint supplies. Do you like Christmas?  
**From, Liam**

**Dear Santa,**  
I was nice this year. I want craft supplies and I want horse supplies. What is two of your elves names?  
**From Paisley**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice for this year. For Chrismas I want craft supplies and a new mop. I need a new stool! What do you do in the summer time?  
**From, Payton**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For christmas I want a we-ding dress and robot! I need a phone. What

See Santa Letters, Page 15

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# A Little Locomotive Lore

**By Roberta McKern**  
*For The New Era*

We looked at Col. T. Egenton Hogg and his train track dreams last time. As we saw, his expectations of a railroad running from the Yaquina Bay to Ontario with eastward connections ended at a short length of track near a volcanic rock on the Santiam Pass named for him, Hogg Rock.

If we look at the history of railroads in Oregon with Wikipedia we can see many short lines started and ended between the 1860's and 1960's. So how did this even start? In the beginning was Locomotive I, a steam engine capable of running on rails at tremendous speeds over 5 to 10 miles an hour at a time when 25 miles an hour was considered lethal for humanity. This first train was developed in England by George Stephenson in

1830 and Queen Victoria took a ride. Locomotive contagion struck Europe and America in particular and railroads proliferated.

Just thirty years later in the United States a transcontinental railroad running east and west was under construction despite the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln supported its development having worked for a railroad in Illinois, and he actually set the gauge by which railroad tracks would be measured, assuring uniformity and the ability for a train to switch from one track to another.

Stephen Ambrose wrote in his book about the transcontinental juncture made by the Central Pacific from San Francisco and the Union Pacific from Council Bluffs, Iowa, Nothing Like It In the World,

published in 2000. Work on the Transcontinental started during the middle of the Civil War in 1863. Such an undertaking might have occurred even earlier, but the South had to secede first because northern interests wanted the railroad line to run above the Mason-Dixon line where slavery was prohibited and the South wanted to run a southern course through Texas on to California allowing the formation of more slave states. As long as southern and northern congressmen canceled each other out the transcontinental line did not receive a go-ahead.

Railroads built already in the North and in the South demonstrated how handy moving troops and material could be. Railroads became of great importance during World Wars I and II in keeping supplies of

men and equipment going and in bringing them home again exemplified in the World War II classic Chattanooga Choo-Choo.

Before 1860 a map of America's railroads shows more in the north than south and how they ended east of the Missouri River which brings us to a little locomotive lore. The railroad in Missouri stopped at St. Joseph with the Missouri River separating St. Joe from Kansas. Kansas wanted a railroad, however, and a clever and ingenious plan was made. In the freezing winter cold when ice covered the river a track was laid tied to telegraph poles (under the rails, we suppose). A small steam locomotive revved up was set to travel on those rails and there must have been doubt if the ice would hold. But the train turned loose, crossed successfully. (I've seen this story twice, but details are scanty. Was an engineer on board? Did the train halt in a snow bank?)

The transcontinental railroad and the further contagion of "Locomotive Fever" and the building of interconnecting lines also fed the commercial expansion following the Civil War. Major wars disrupt populations, stir people up and set them on the move. For railroads this means settlement along the tracks where trains can obviously haul people and freight in and haul them out again. As we look around the East Linn Museum we are often aware of how similar its artifacts are to ones seen all across America. Why? Because in the late 1800's and early 1900's the time most often represented, mail order catalogs abetted by rail transportation homogenized America.

With this in mind, we've looked at a copy of an 1897 Sears Roebuck catalog. On page two where we're told how to order there is the picture of a train. When we look at freight and express rates on

**See Locomotive, Page 12**

January 2025					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Exercise 8:30 Crafters 10:00 Meals on Wheels Senior Meals 12:00 Bridge 1:00	Qi Gong 9:00 Jolly Stitchers 10:00 Meals on Wheels Senior Meals 12:00	Exercise 8:30 Painters/Paper-crafters 10:00 Lunch 11:30 Ponytail 1:00 SALT 10:00	Qi Gong 9:00 Jolly Stitchers 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Meals on Wheels 12:00 Pinochle 12:30	Exercise 8:30 Meals On Wheels Senior Meals 12:00	<i>January Happenings! No trips are planned for January. If you have ideas or suggestions for activities or trips, please stop by the front desk and speak to Summer, our activities director! Happy 2025 New Year!!</i>
Exercise 8:30 Crafters 10:00 Meals on Wheels Senior Meals 12:00 Bridge 1:00	Qi Gong 9:00 Jolly Stitchers 10:00 Meals on Wheels Senior Meals 12:00	Exercise 8:30 Painters/Paper-crafters 10:00 Lunch 11:30 Ponytail 1:00	Qi Gong 9:00 Jolly Stitchers 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Meals on Wheels 12:00 Pinochle 12:30	Exercise 8:30 Meals On Wheels Senior Meals 12:00	
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# TRANSPORTATION

**Dial-A-Bus** – The Sweet Home Dial-a-Bus is a curb-to-curb transportation system within the Sweet Home area within the School District #55, from Crawfordsville to Cascadia and as far west as Santiam Terrace. Rides are \$1 within a five-mile radius of our office at the Sweet Home Senior Center. Over five miles, the charge is \$2. Ten ride tickets are available for \$10. Caretakers riding with a passenger ride at no charge. Call 24 hours in advance to schedule a ride at (541) 367-4775.

**Linn Shuttle** – The Linn Shuttle operates on a scheduled route, traveling from Sweet Home with stops in Lebanon and Albany. It leaves 10 times a day, Monday through Friday, and six times a day on Saturdays, from the Sweet Home Senior Center 880 18th Ave. Any requests for route deviations must be cleared through the Transportation Director. Rides are \$1 each way. Through an agreement between Linn-Benton Community College and Linn Shuttle, LBCC students ride free of charge upon showing their current ID card. Multi-Ride tickets are available from the bus driver and at the office. The mission of the Linn Shuttle is to provide a safe transportation service that supports the economic, social, transportation and environmental needs of the community it serves.



**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.

**Wolthuis Family Dentistry**

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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# LOCOMOTIVE

From page 11

pages 5 and 6 we see lists of cities to which goods are sent. The nearest to us are Portland and Salem. But, thanks to the Southern Pacific Railroad running north and south in the Willamette Valley a closer point could be Halsey and with the addition of connecting lines, Lebanon, Brownsville or Albany on what is now the Albany and Eastern line.

The Sears Roebuck catalog was a household cornucopia for many years. The index lists runs from abdominal corsets to zither hammers. But you could buy the zither, too, listed on page 504 for the low price of \$3.70 for one in a cardboard case or up to \$11.00 for a concert zither. If a buyer could not find what was wanted, there were other choices, one being an untarnishable silverine pocket watch with a gilded picture of a locomotive and its coal tender on the front reminding us that our time zones were developed so trains from east to west could arrive at the announced hour.

And it wasn't just goods being moved either. Immigrant trains transported entire families and their possessions. Those companies who had received land grants alongside the railroad tracks to help defray the costs of building the line encouraged the sale and settlement of those acres. Other railroaders saw how having growing populations added income from developing markets.

In 1913 three families we know of left northern Kansas to come to Oregon on an immigrant train. They auctioned off their farm implements and animals, bringing only those felt to be necessary. They had to travel to Kansas City where

they rented box cars and bought tickets for the women and children who would ride in the passenger cars while the men and older boys rode with the horses and cows and family belongings in the box cars. The mother of the largest family had filled a wash basket with loaves of freshly baked bread. A hungry offspring could be given a chunk of bread for the time being. One family later lived on Fern Ridge, another at Waterloo. How many families of the East Linn area came this way we cannot say since our interest in emigrant trains exceeds what we've so far found out.

For our vicinity, the real importance of having railroad connections came in the early 1930's when Sweet Home got a depot and a spur line was built to Dollar Camp on the Upper Calapooia. This coincided with the increase in logging in the Cascades. Dollar Camp existed as a reloading point for timber being cut on the Calapooia watershed. Sweet Home, too, rapidly grew as a timber town with sawmills and another reloading point.

Suddenly Sweet Home expanded from having a population in the low hundreds to ten times that size. A lack of city utilities brought the nickname of "Privy City". As a sign of the times, people moved in not by train, but by traveling in cars and trucks. The mobility of cars and trucks which could go wherever a nearly decent road existed worked against the immobility of train tracks and better roads eroded the reliance on trains. In the meantime, trains still operate among us but many of the old lines have been merged into what's called a duopoly by Wikipedia made up of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe or BNSF and the Union Pacific. Com-

muter lines reduce pollution around Portland and other cities and Amtrak comes through offering passenger service to designated points not always where you meant to go.

Yet our link to trains remains rich and varied. Trains have been featured in song and in story. On the dark side, we can imagine wrecks and hold ups and a picture in the East Linn Museum features a train wreck near Albany. Some passengers from our area were aboard. It looks like those and others are gesturing and exclaiming, "Will you look at this?"

The 1897 Sears catalog does not show a toy train. Actually, it doesn't seem to display toys at all although garden seeds are available. This is not a catalog designed for the frivolity of being read by children. The Sears Roebuck company still exists, but like railroads it is not its old self either. Or maybe like locomotive travel it was always a part of transitions.

There are those of us old enough to recall the whistle of a train crossing a trestle over a small river in the middle of a summer's night. And there was a time when we trepidatiously walked that trestle in the afternoon, fearing all the while a train would surprise us and cause us to leap for safety, hopefully not into the green river water below.

At Christmas trains serve as icons of a Victorian past when little toy steam locomotives sat on tracks under a well decorated tree and we can still, perhaps, find ornaments depicting those little trains to hang on our tree. Because the two hundredth anniversary of Stephenson's Locomotive I will soon be upon us, maybe we can all say "Chug, chug, toot, toot, off we go."

Off the rails, many might think. Happy New Year 2025.



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**CALL TO SCHEDULE**  
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## Sweet Home Community Center

**880 18th Ave**  
**(541) 367-4775**

### Senior Activity Center

#### Hours:

**Monday-Friday,**  
**8 a.m.- 4 p.m.**

### Senior Center Board of Directors

Murya Scherer, President  
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Sally Pelham, Treasurer  
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Danny Bidwell, Director  
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Tonni Hutchinson, Director  
Ruben Rivas, Director  
Carliiss Bates-Stanley, Director  
Dawn Mitchell, Executive Director



# Siletz Tribal Grant Funds Life-Saving Devices for SHFAD

Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District received grant funds on Aug. 2 in the amount of \$9,235.80 from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund to assist SHFAD with the purchase of two automated chest compression devices.

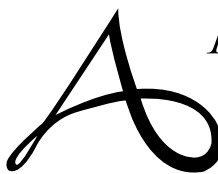
SHFAD had two of these machines in service prior to the grant, which had been purchased with funding from a separate grant. With the added machines, the district now has the ability to place a machine on each of the four ambulances.

The devices are used in response to cardiac arrest calls, to perform the most effective chest compressions possible with the least amount of interruptions. This significantly improves survival rates for victims of cardiac arrest. The use of this equipment



also decreases the number of rescuers required to effectively treat cardiac arrest patients, allowing rescuers to remain available for additional emergencies.

The new units arrived last week and were placed in service immediately. SHFAD wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks to the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund for their continued commitment to the health and safety of our local communities.




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Sweet Home Senior Center

January Menu

8: Brunch for Lunch

Biscuits & Sausage Gravy, Cheese Quiche, Muffins, Fruit

15: Meatloaf

Meatloaf, mashed potatoes & gravy, veg, salad, dessert

22: Chicken Stroganoff

Tender chicken in a savory gravy over noodles, veg, salad, dessert

Dessert provided by Wiley Creek Senior Community

29: Chinese New Year!

Sweet & sour pork, fried rice, vegetable chop suey, dessert



\$5 Dine-in    \$5.50 Take-out

Please call at least a day ahead if you plan for 3 or more take-out lunches

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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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# Classifieds

## Public Notices

In the Matter of the Estate of Rhonda Lee Kerr NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Linn County Case No. 24PB10476 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Circuit Court of Linn County, State of Oregon, has appointed the undersigned as Personal Representative of the Estate of Rhonda Lee Kerr, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the personal representative in care of Sarah Castleton, Attorney at Law, Ivers & Miller Law 317 W 1st Ave, Suite 302, Albany, OR 97321, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative. DATED AND first published: December 26, 2024. Sean Bass Ivers & Miller Law P.O. Box 1033 317 First Ave W., Suite 302 Albany, OR 97321 (541) 928-5875 sarah@ivers.law (Dec 25)

NOTICE OF PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT. The Sweet Home Community and Economic Development Department received an application for a Partition, and the Community and Economic Development Director will decide on this request soon. The Department is now seeking your comments and suggestions. REQUEST: The applicant is requesting to partition an approximately 24,829 square feet (0.57 acres) lot into three parcels per Sweet Home Municipal Code 17.98. Proposed Parcel 1 shall be approximately 7,000 square feet. Proposed Parcel 2 shall be approximately 10,309 square feet, including flag strip. Proposed Parcel 3 shall be approximately 7,291 square feet. The subject property is in the Residential Low Density (R-1) zone. APPLICANT AND PROPERTY OWNER: Gary Hodgson, Hodgson Construction, LLC. FILE NUMBER: P24-10 PROPERTY LOCATION: 42nd Avenue, Sweet Home, OR, 97386; Identified on Linn County Assessor's Map as 13S01E33DB Tax Lot 1800. REVIEW AND DESIGN CRITERIA: Sweet Home Municipal Code (SHMC) Sections: 17.10, 17.42, 17.44, 17.58.030, 17.58.050, 17.58.070, 17.98.010-17.98.060, and 17.124. STAFF CONTACT: Angela Clegg, Planning & Building Manager. Phone (541) 818-8029, Email: aclegg@sweethomeor.gov. DATE MAILED: December 16, 2024. Comments must be received no later than: 5:00 PM on January 4, 2025. Written comments may be submitted to the Community and Economic Development Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386 or to the staff contact listed above. Please include reference to the file number in the subject line of your comments. Notice of the decision on this application will only be mailed to the applicant, property owner, those who provided written comments on the proposal, and those who requested a copy of the decision. The failure of an issue to be raised in writing within the specified time frame, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals based on that issue. A copy of the application and all documents and evidence relied upon by the applicant and applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. A copy of the staff report will be available for inspection at no cost when it is complete, and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. You may contact the Community and Economic Development Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Phone: (541) 818-8029. (Dec 25)

## 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 SALLY J. MORGAN, Deceased. Case No. 24PB10829 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Joel R. Morgan has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the attorney for the Personal Representative at Willamette Valley Law Group, 494 State Street, Suite 430, Salem, Oregon 97301, within four months after the date of 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, Willamette Valley Law Group, 494 State Street, Suite 430, Salem, Oregon 97301. DATED AND PUBLISHED: December 25, 2024 . Stephen E. Montgomery Stephen E. Montgomery, OSB No. 153941 Attorney for Personal Representative (Dec 25)

## Statewide Notices

SERVICES: DIVORCE \$130. Complete preparation. Includes children, custody, support, property and bills division. No court appearances. Divorced in 1-5 weeks possible. 503-772-5295. www.paralegalalternatives.com legalalt@msn.com.

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](https://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.

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ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/29/24.) Call 1-855-341-5268.

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.weightwatchersoffer.com/39](https://www.weightwatchersoffer.com/39).

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# SANTA LETTERS

From page 10

do you like to do in the Summer?  
**From, Taylor**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice and naughty this year. For Christmas, I want a new tv remote and a switch. I'd like to give you a sunstone for christmas.  
**From, Noelle**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For Christmas I want you and a car. I need my moms credit card. How much money does my mom have in her credit card?  
**From Sawyer**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been both naughty and nice this year. For Christmas I want LOL dolls. Can you replace my mom's broken vases. It's green with sparkles.  
**From, Dahlia**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For Christmas I want a buzz light year lego set. I need new shoes.  
**From, Declan**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For Christmas I want a big play area. I need a dog! What do you like to do in the summer?  
**From, Violet**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice. I want a link game. I want a new switch. I need new pants. What is it like to have a reindeer?  
**From, Tate**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For Christmas, I want a robot and a new bed. I need a new elf. Can you see my imaginary friends?  
**From, Roland**

# Sweet Home Girls Basketball Continue to Surprise Opponents and One Another

By Kristine Banker  
*Of The New Era*

Sweet Home's girls basketball team came back from a four-point halftime deficit to defeat Estacada 36-33 on the road Tuesday, Dec. 17.

"It was the first time we've been behind at halftime and came back to get the win," said Head Coach Erika Evans. The victory marked a 20-point swing from last season's 15-point loss to Estacada.

"We are seeing huge improvement this season," Evans said. "We handle pressure much more gracefully, are taking two or three times as many shots, we have better shot selection overall, are forcing more turnovers, and committing far less of them."

The Huskies faced a tough challenge against Molalla, falling 48-33 to the seventh-ranked Indians at home on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Evans is optimistic about the team's progress.



Photo by Scott Swanson

Students perform during Sweet Home Charter School's Christmas program, held Thursday morning, Dec. 19, at the school.

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For Christmas I want a vr and a electric bike. I need new socks. How do you get gifts?  
**From, Ethan**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For Christmas I want a gumrd oin a robot dog. I need more school jackets. Why do you live in the North Pole?  
**From, Uriah**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice. For Christmas I want a comic book sheet and a puppy. I need a cow. What do you want for Christmis?  
**From, India**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For Christmas, I want paper Mario, the origami king and a phone. I need a dishwasher. What do you do after x-mas? Make sure to not throw your naughty or nice list in your fireplace on accident!  
**From, Archer**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For Christmas, I want coffee in the morning and a pizza party. I need glue sticks. Can you get me a rat for Christmas?  
**From, Adam**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For Christmas, I want coffee in the morning and a pizza party. I need glue sticks. Can you get me a cat for christmas?  
**From, Adam**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been good this year. For Christmas, I want cute clothes and cute shoes. I need a new bed. What happens if you run out of toys?  
**From, Alaina**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For christmas I want a smart watch and a boomerang. I need new shoes. How do your reindeer fit?  
**From, John**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been naughty this year. For Christmas, I want a dog and a big house. I need a new hat. Why do you go through the Chimney instead of the door?  
**From, Hanani**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice this year. For Christmas, I want a new PC and a phone. I need new clothes. What do you do in the north-pole?  
**From, Kevin**



Photos by Kristine Banker

Aubrey New berry (Sweet Home) and Evelynnn Stephens (Molalla) scramble for possession.

"We will continue to surprise teams - and ourselves - with how much we've improved," she said.

The Huskies will compete in a tournament at Gladstone High School during the break, on Jan. 3, where Evans plans to focus on player develop-

ment.  
"The break gives us a chance to work on fundamentals like free throws, which helped us last season," she said. They're improving with each game, proving that they're ready to compete against - and surprise - anyone in their path."

# CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

## CLUES ACROSS

1. A way to pick up

5. Presents

10. Type of guitar

14. Actor Idris

15. A citizen of Iran

16. Creative

17. Harness

18. Weight unit

19. You better call him

20. Utterly devoted

22. Male cat

23. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

24. Risk-taker

27. A team's best pitcher

30. Cool!

31. Women's \_\_ movement

32. Georgia rockers

35. Step-shaped recess

37. The princess could detect its presence

38. Type of truck

39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Angry people see it

41. Lines where two fabrics are sewn together

42. Soviet city

43. Carpet

44. Traveled all over

45. Thin, straight bar

46. Body art (slang)

47. Congressman (abbr.)

48. No seats available

49. Breaks apart

52. Arabic name

55. Ballplayer's tool

56. Type of sword

60. Baseball team

61. Upper bract of grass floret

63. Italian Seaport

64. Ancient Syrian city

65. Shoelace tube

66. The Miami mascot is one

67. South American nation

68. Popular video game "Max \_\_"

69. Body part

## CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title

2. Ancient Greek City

3. Ancient Hebrew calendar month

4. Long-legged frog family

5. Photo

6. Delivered a speech

7. Lute in classical Indian music

8. Decorated

9. Take a seat

10. Belonging to a bottom layer

11. Member of a Semitic people

12. Part of a ticket

13. Defunct Guinean money

21. Challenges

23. Popular BBQ food

25. Subway dweller

26. By way of

27. Shady garden alcove

28. Egyptian city

29. Partner to "flowed"

32. Widens

33. Old Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly

36. European pipeline

37. Al Bundy's wife

38. Ocean

40. Root eaten as a vegetable

41. Sound units

43. Style of music

44. A way to drench

46. Hot beverage

47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish

49. Rumanian city

50. Urge to action

51. Vaccine developer

52. Canadian law enforcers

53. Wings

54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond

57. Small fry

58. \_\_ Clapton, musician

59. Take a chance

61. Bland food

62. Consumed

# SUDOKU

2			7				
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Level: Advanced



# Huskies' Durrett Second as Three Girls Place in Reno Wrestling

Sweet Home's Emaline Durrett was the top finisher for Sweet Home Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Reno Tournament of Champions, taking second in one of the most competitive competitions in the western United States.

She was one of three girls who placed for the Huskies.

Junior Bailey Chafin was fourth at 125 pounds and freshman Bella Rico was seventh at 130.

No boys placed in the 86-team boys competition, but the Huskies were 31st as a team.

The Sweet Home girls finished 15th out of 47 teams, scoring 59 points.

Coach Steve Thorpe said it was "an incredible tournament" for Sweet Home.

"Our boys finished in the top third and our girls were 15th

(out of 48 teams)," he said. "We wrestled great."

Sophomore Jesse Landtroop was the top finisher for the boys, just missing a shot at a medal with losses to Izayah Chavez of Allen, Texas, the second-ranked wrestler in the country, who finished second at 120 pounds, and then to Luke Schoch of Las Gatos, Calif.

The tournament included teams from all over the West, including some giants in the world of wrestling. St. John Bosco, out of Southern California, was the winner with 306 points, followed by Poway, from the San Diego area, with 256.5. Layton, Utah, was third with 201 points. The Huskies scored 31 points. Crook County was the top Oregon finisher, placing 21st with 84.5 points.

"St. John Bosco is a pri-

vate school that's like an athletic academy," Thorpe said. "The fields were huge, 64- to 128-person brackets."

"All the boys competed well. They tested themselves. They got to wrestle against some of the best in the country."

On the girls side, the top finisher from Oregon. Poway, Calif., was the girls winner with 157.5 points, followed by Allen, Texas (154) and Toppenish, Wash. (148.5).

Durrett's tournament didn't start till Saturday because she got a bye in her 235-pound opener, he said, but the senior who is in her second year of wrestling scored a crack-down single takedown against Brighton Wise of Bear River High School, Utah, and then pinning her in 1:21.

"That was a little bit of an upset," Thorpe said. "That girl ended up third."

Then, in the semifinals, Durrett pinned Brianna Reid of Chico, Calif., who ended up fourth in the tournament, before losing to Adyson Knight of Wasatch High School, Utah, by a fall in 42 seconds.

"That speaks volumes to the work that (Assistant Coach) Kami Hart has done with her and Emma's willingness to work," Thorpe said.

He credited Chafin with providing leadership for her teammates over the weekend.

"Bailey is used to being in these big tournaments," he said. "In both her losses she kind of got caught. Both of those were matches I think she could win. She needs to do that. But the leadership on her part was a huge help to us."

Chafin pinned Marabelle Brown of Wasatch, the No. 3 seed, in the blood round to stay alive, Thorpe noted.



Photos by Scott Swanson

**Kyle Zajic scores a takedown Wednesday evening over Cascade's Brody Copple on his way to a 17-1 tech fall over Copple, who was third in state last year.**

## Sweet Home Duals

On Wednesday, Dec. 18, the Huskies hosted Cascade, Newport and Stayton, winning all three duals on both the girls and boys sides.

Thorpe said Kyle Zajic and Tytus Hardee performed "very well" for the boys, Zajic scoring a 17-1 tech fall over Cascade's Brody Copple at 157 pounds, who placed third at state last year.

"That was a very big, dominant win."

Thorpe said he was also impressed with Hardee, "the way he is wrestling with a new sense of confidence."

On the girls side, he noted that although sophomore Lyla Ventura lost to Cascade's Alexis Cruz at 110 pounds, "she wrestled a girl who was a returning state placer."

"She didn't win, but I was very pleased with the way she competed."

The Huskies will be back in action Friday and Saturday, Dec. 27-28, at the Northwest Duals at the Linn County Fair-

grounds in Albany. Action starts at 9 a.m. both days and spectators are advised to bring lawn chairs because there is no seating.

## Sweet Home Duals Boys Results

### Sweet Home 78, Newport 3

106 - Keegan Jefferson (SH) won by forfeit; 113 - Damian Ryan (SH) won by forfeit; 120 - Riley Vaughan (SH) pinned Silas Moss (N) 1:45; 126 - Jesse Landtroop (SH) pinned Sebastian Duronslet (N) 1:50; 132 - Tytus Hardee (SH) pinned Evan Hernandez (N) 4:53; 138 - Ivan Wagner (N) dec. Jasper Victor (SH) 13-8; 144 - Russell Dickerman (SH) won by forfeit; 150 - James Hearick (SH) pinned Michael Miller (N) 1:13; 157 - Kyle Zajic (SH) won by forfeit; 165 - Jacob Landtroop (SH) won by forfeit; 175 - Luke Rosa (SH) won by forfeit; 190 - Ashton Swanson (SH) won by forfeit; 215 - Dylan Sharp (SH) won by forfeit; 285 - Colton Bennett (SH) pinned Nathan Roberts (N) 1:29.

### Sweet Home 55, Cascade 21

106 - Keegan Jefferson (SH)

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