



Photo courtesy of OSP

Rescuers tend to the victim, left, while a Snowcat sits waiting to transport her back to the highway.

## Searchers rescue woman in snow off Highway 20

Searchers on Wednesday, Jan. 22, located a woman who was lost in the snow off Highway 20, east of Sweet Home, the Oregon State Police reported.

According to OSP, at 9:15 a.m. Wednesday, an Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Trooper spotted a vehicle on the shoulder of Hwy. 20 near milepost 68 and quickly determined the person associated with the vehicle was lost and in distress.

A missing woman, Nicole Jean Decker, 30, of Redding, Calif., had left her vehicle for unknown reasons before daybreak and walked up a nearby U.S. Forest Service road, the OSP said.

Linn County Search and Rescue members and an OSP Fish and Wildlife K-9 team responded to assist in the search. K-9 Scout tracked the individual and finally lo-

See Rescue, Page 8

## Sweet Home Cheer



Photo by Scott Swanson

Sweet Home Tinies cheer team members, from left, Harper Sinclair, Blair Smith and Emmarie Walls perform at the Sweet Home Cheer Classic competition on Jan. 18 at Sweet Home High School. For more photos, see page 16 and [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

Hometown  
Newspaper of  
**CAROLYN  
KUNZMAN**



**LINN COUNTY'S FIRST  
BABY IS TRUE  
EARLY ARRIVAL  
PAGE 5**



**LOCAL YOUNGSTERS  
FIND THE BASKET IN  
ELKS HOOP SHOOT  
PAGE 7**



**SWEET HOME SWIM  
CLUB MEMBERS MAKE  
THEIR MARKS IN  
WASHINGTON  
PAGE 8**

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## How an 80-year-old and 10-year-old wrote a book together

By Sarah Brown  
*Of The New Era*

The distance between a friend and a stranger is only a smile apart, and age should be of no consequence. Two area residents prove that point with their story of how, together, they wrote a story.

Jim Corley, 80, of Sweet Home, and Ezekiel Wixson, 10, of Lebanon, met in 2022 while they were "booth buddies" at a Christmas bazaar.

Ezekiel's mother, Heidi, was selling her wares while her son had his own little setup of dried herbs, greeting cards, origami and bookmarks. Next to them, Corley was selling one of his books, "Harley the Redneck Shepherd," a short, humorous story about the birth of Jesus.

After getting to know each other, Corley gave Ezekiel a copy of his book and "we became friends," Ezekiel said.

And as often happens with friends, Ezekiel invited Corley to watch him perform in a Christmas play at his grandfather's church. Corley accepted the invitation. A year later, the scenario repeated



Photo by Sarah Brown

Ezekiel Wixson, 10, signs a copy of his book while co-author Jim Corley, left, waits to do the same.

itself. The two, by chance, became booth neighbors at a different Christmas bazaar and, again, Corley accepted an invitation to watch Ezekiel perform in a Christmas play.

That following summer, Ezekiel gifted Corley with a

Scribner pen, which he used to sign his book for the young boy. The octogenarian then learned that Ezekiel was spending the summer reading a lot of books.

Heidi Wixson explained that Ezekiel had a hard

time reading during his first through third grades, which he attended through Oregon Connections Academy, an on-line home-school program, but his third/fourth grade teacher, Carrie Gamache,

See 80-10, Page 9





# OBITUARIES



**Leonard Seadore**  
*Feb. 25, 1941 - Jan. 3, 2025*  
Leonard Duane Seadore, 83, of Lebanon, passed away Jan. 3, 2025.

He was born Feb. 25, 1941, to Henry and Mary (Esterly) Seadore in Billings, Mont.

Leonard is survived by his sister, Madeline Blatchley and her husband Dwight of Lebanon; nieces, nephews and lifelong friends Clint and Linda Borden.

He was preceded in death by his father, Henry Seadore (1955) and mother, Mary Seadore (2018).

A memorial will be at 11 am, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at Lebanon First Assembly of God, 726 W. Oak St. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.



**Pearl Smith**  
*April 15, 1928 - Jan. 22, 2025*  
Pearl (Brown) Smith, 96, of Sweet Home, passed away in Lebanon on Jan. 22, 2025. She was born April 15, 1928, to Filbert Brown and Bethine (Alexander) Brown in Augura, N.C.

Pearl grew up in the hills of western North Carolina. She was of the fourth generation raised on the same plot of land that her great grandfather settled in the mid-1800s. Opportunities were few and the family was very poor.

She was the youngest surviving child of the first family, having a younger brother that passed away shortly after birth. There were a total of 10 children in the first family.

At the tender age of 7 she lost her mother as a result

of a botched surgery. Her father later married Gertrude Luker, who had three daughters. Together they had 11 more children.

Pearl learned early in life to tend to animals, milk cows, garden and sew. Her love of sewing led to years of quilt making, hundreds of quilts, for kids, grandkids, great-grandkids and many others donated.

Pearl married Berlin Smith on Oct. 5, 1945, in South Carolina and moved to Ryderwood, Wash. In 1951 they moved to the place where they would live the rest of their lives, Sweet Home. They proceeded to build a new home and raise their four children.

Pearl loved visitors, friends, neighbors, and especially grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Pearl is survived by her children, Jack, Connie Shaffer (Greg), Burl (Kris) and Jerry. Also surviving her are 15 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and 23 great-great-grandchildren. She has one surviving sister Helen Sweeny and numerous nieces and nephews.

Pearl was preceded in death by her husband, Berlin; granddaughter Brenda Smith; great-granddaughter, Korinne Lad; great-grandson Kyle Crosby; and 22 brothers and sisters.

A viewing will be at noon Saturday, Feb. 1, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. A funeral service will follow at 1 p.m. Private burial will take place at Liberty Cemetery.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements



**Toni Larsen**  
*Jan. 17, 1970 - Jan. 13, 2025*

Toni Rae (Swank) Larsen, 54, of Crawfordsville, passed away Jan. 13, 2025, at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis.

She was born Jan. 17, 1970, to Leon and Donna (Loughmiller) Swank in Lebanon.

She grew up in Sweet Home. Toni was married to her best friend and the love

of her life, Andrew Larsen, for 36 years; they had three sons together.

Family was very important to Toni. Her favorite moments were those spent with her family camping, fishing, hunting and family barbecues. She brought so much life and fun to family time. Her greatest joys were the love of her husband and the gift of being a mom and a grandma. Her eight grandchildren were the light of her life.

In her younger years, Toni loved to draw and paint. She enjoyed being outdoors, rock hounding, wandering the forest, by a river's edge or on the beach. We could often see nature through her eyes in the many amazing photographs of animals and scenery that she took.

Toni had a deep love of animals, both wild and domesticated. She had many pets over the years, her latest being her beloved English bulldogs, Willa and Annie, and cat Twitch.

She was independent, compassionate, and strong-willed. Throughout her life she never lost her childlike spirit. She loved to tell stories and oh, how we will miss them. She was a beautiful and generous soul, never hesitating to help others. Her smile and laughter would light up a room and she brought joy to all.

She lived life by her terms, spending it doing things that made her happy and we are blessed to have been a part of her journey. She will be missed.

Toni is survived by her husband, Andrew Larsen; children Thomas and wife Charlene, Brandon and wife Heather, and Alex and wife Sarah; eight grandchildren, Paityn, Hunter, Rhett, Hadley, Noah, Hazel, Graysen and Dakota; mother Donna Swank; siblings Cindy (Swank) Owen and husband Mike, Steve Swank and wife Pam, Randy Swank and wife Christy, and Michelle (Swank) Schatz; as well as six nephews and their families.

She was preceded in death by her father, Leon Swank.

We owe a special gratitude to the doctors, nurses and comfort care team for the great care and compassion that you showed, not only to Toni, but our entire family.

A celebration of life will be held at noon Saturday, Feb. 1, at Calvary Chapel, 38353 Glass St., Crawfordsville.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

**Brian Adam Pape**  
*Aug. 26, 1979 - Dec. 18, 2024*  
Brian Adam Pape, 45, of Portland, passed away on Dec. 18, 2024.

Brian grew up on his family's farm in Crabtree. He was an active 4-H member for nine years, serving many volunteer roles and even representing Linn County as a State 4-H Ambassador.

After graduating from South Albany High School in 1998, Brian went on to attend Linn-Benton Community College and Oregon State University. He graduated from OSU with a master of business administration degree. Upon graduation, he moved to Portland where he worked as a certified public accountant, recently owning his own company.

Brian loved the outdoors, hiking and hunting. He had a passion for travelling, especially with his daughter Siena (Rory). He will be remembered for his love of family, practicality and logic, quick wit, eye for art/nature's beauty, and sense of adventure.

He is survived by his daughter Siena (Rory) Elizabeth Pape of Portland; parents Patti and David Pape

of Crabtree; brother Jason Pape of Lebanon; sister Becky Czmowski of Lebanon; and nieces Erika Pape and Maddie Czmowski, both of Lebanon.

Memories, photos, or notes can be shared on his memorial page at [www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/beaverton-or/brian-pape-12138041](http://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/beaverton-or/brian-pape-12138041).

**Death Notices**  
**Delores Christiansen**  
*April 6, 1938 - Jan. 23, 2025*

Delores Darlene Christiansen, 86, of Oakridge, passed away Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025. Private burial will take place at Gilliland Cemetery.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For additional information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Marilyn Nelson**  
*Jan. 10, 1935 - Jan. 18, 2025*

Marilyn Joan Nelson, 90, of Brownsville, passed away Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For additional information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

## EVENTS

**Lebanon chorus seeks singers**

The Lebanon Community Chorus is seeking singers as it starts its 2025 schedule.

Rehearsals have started at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Lebanon.

The Lebanon Community Chorus is an unauditioned, mixed-voice chorus often accompanied by piano. All voices are welcome. Participants should be able to carry a tune, enjoy singing, and can cooperate in a musical environment with others.

The chorus' spring concert will be April 27. Director is Terence Madlangbayan and the accompanist is Bill Langdon.

For more information, visit [lebanoncommunitychorus.org](http://lebanoncommunitychorus.org).

**New art show at City Hall**

A new art exhibit is on display

in the City Hall Gallery, 3225 Main St. featuring work of local artist Colene Wiley.

Wiley specializes in very fine line and pointillism ink, and watercolor pencil graphics. Many of her creations focus on animals. City Hall is open from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, except for legal holidays.

**Mini Market Continues**

The 3rd Saturday Mini Market will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. until April 19 at The Rez, 1621 53rd Ave., Foster.

Vendors offer items such as sourdough bread, soaps, crafts, jewelry, cookies and wellness products. Open every third Saturday of the month (Feb. 15, March 15, April 19).

**Feb. 8 fun run for The New Era**

A fun run will be held Saturday morning, Feb. 8, to raise

See Events, Page 13


## CORRECTION

Game time for the Unified basketball game on Friday, Jan. 31, will be 7 p.m. Our photo package in the Jan. 22 edition reported the wrong time.


The photo accompanying the swim team report in the Jan. 15 edition should have identified the swimmer pictured as Kylie Melkvik.



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**TEMPERATURES**

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
January	20	44	22
January	21	49	24
January	22	44	23
January	23	44	24
January	24	45	25
January	25	47	27
January	26	47	25

**PRECIPITATION**

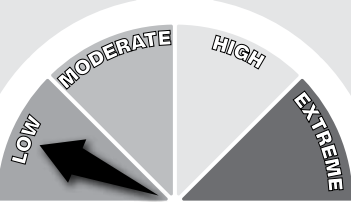
Year to date: **3.82**  
January 31, 2024: **4.12**

**FORECAST**

DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Cloudy	46	38
Fri	Rain	50	41
Sat	Showers	44	35
Sun	Snow Shower	41	34
Mon	Rain	38	33
Tues	Snow Showers	41	32
Wed	Showers	40	31

**CURRENT LEVELS**

Foster Reservoir: **614.2**  
Green Peter Res.: **922.5**



**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)

CIRCUIT COURT

PUBLIC SAFETY

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:** Kristina Larizza Boswell, Bradley Allen Bowman, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Billy Wayne Hatch Jr., Scott Kevin Heinz, Noe Hernandez-Reyes, Michael Trevor Hilton, Faron Walter Kennedy, Tyler Bruce Lanz, Bryce William McGowan, Eric Wayne McKnight, Carrie Lynne Miller, Thomas Elbridge Miller, James Keith Mortensen, Nicholas Alan Nelson, Daniel Austin Phillips, Tammy Lavonn Robinson, Joshua Alexander Williams

**Xavier Alexande Aguilar**, 24, was sentenced Jan. 22 to 75 months with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and 10 years (minus time served)

post prison supervision after pleading no contest to three counts of first degree sexual abuse. A fourth count of first degree sexual abuse and two counts of sodomy were dismissed.

**Nathan Michael Cobat**, 34, was charged Jan. 21 with unlawful use of a weapon (firearm), resisting arrest and unlawful possession of a controlled substance. Bail was set at \$50,000.

**Kelsey Nicole Ciullo**, 37, was charged Jan. 24 with unauthorized use of a vehicle.

**Nicholas Daniel Gaskey**, 41, was charged Jan. 21 with unauthorized use of a vehicle.

**Joshua Martin Hughes**, 22, was sentenced Jan. 23 to three years suspension of a driver's license, six months with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, 12 months post prison supervision and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to fleeing or attempting to elude.

**Caden Jason Scotty King**, 27, was sentenced Jan. 24 to 10 days jail, 36 months super-

vised probation and \$729.47 in restitution after pleading guilty to first degree burglary and second degree theft. A charge of criminal trespass while in possession of a firearm was dismissed.

**Tyler Bruce Lanz**, 37, was charged Jan. 22 with a felony count of failure to appear.

A charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle against **Tamara Lorine Loop**, 53, was dismissed with prejudice Jan. 10.

**Chad Timothy Perreard**, 40, was sentenced Jan. 24 to five years suspension of a driver's license, 90 days jail, 19 months with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, three years post prison supervision and a \$1,500 fine after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .14% BAC and third degree assault. Two additional counts of third degree assault were dismissed.

**Yeriel Daniel Rosas Tenbusch**, 18, was charged Jan. 21 with fleeing or attempting

**See Circuit Court, Page 7**


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.

**Jan. 26**  
4:54 p.m. - Member of public visited Police Department to turn in found wallet, 1950 Main St. Officer located wallet owner, returned it.  
7:26 p.m. - Deputy investigated report of stolen trailers, 43000 block North River Dr. Further details unavailable. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.  
10:01 p.m. - Timothy Loren Ames Jr., 35, of Sweet Home,


arrested on active warrants from Oregon State Parole Board, Linn County Justice Court, Lebanon Municipal Court, and nine from Sweet Home Municipal Court. Additionally charged with identity theft. According to Sheriff's Office, deputies were in the area on a separate call and Ames allegedly fled, then attempted to use someone else's identity when contacted by a deputy, to avoid charges and warrants. Lodged at the Linn County Jail. Cited to appear Feb. 26 at Sweet Home Municipal Court. Report taken. 43000 block North River Dr.  
11:34 p.m. - Kristina Ewing, 40, cited for driving while suspended, 3000 block Hwy. 20.

**Jan. 25**  
12:36 a.m. - Caller reported laptop stolen from her home, 1000 block Nandina St. Officer responded, report taken for second-degree theft. Value estimated at \$500.  
12:50 a.m. - Caller reported someone stole summer sausage in 5400 block Main St. Officer responded, report taken for third-degree theft. Estimated value \$10.

**See Public Safety, Page 5**




**East Linn**  
ROOFING  
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CCB# 110950



**SEEKING APPLICANTS!**

The City of Sweet Home is currently accepting applications to serve on the Planning Commission and the Budget Committee. Applicants must live with Sweet Home city limits to qualify. These are volunteer positions that provide valuable input on the future of our city!

For more information and to request an application, please contact [cpretty@sweethomeor.gov](mailto:cpretty@sweethomeor.gov) or call 541-367-8969.



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**Electrical**  
**SS**ervices

Dan and  
Cindy Rice

**Crossword KEY**  
Puzzle on page 15

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

**SUDOKU KEY**  
Puzzle on page 15

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



## FROM OUR FILES



Sweet Home Jaycees who worked on the Oregon Log Project in 1975 are, from left, Bill Kliever with son Biff, Ray Thompson, Randy Myers, Ken Gregory on truck, Cody Carson, Jim James and Mike Waddle.

### Feb. 2, 1950

Local thermometers indicated a low between one degree and minus seven degrees this week. Pipes froze, automobiles were stalled and fuses blew on power transformers. Most trouble, however, was caused by storms during the weekend. Power and telephone service was out in wide areas and snow on the Santiam Pass forced a bus to turn back.

Postmaster Nealia Haven announced a map showing which streets will have foot delivery and which will have mounted delivery is posted in the post office lobby. Delivery should begin in April. She requested residents begin to have all mail addressed to their street and house numbers. Residents with foot delivery service are to use door slots or mail boxes placed on the house. Door slots must be at least 30 inches from floor level. Regular rural mail boxes will be used for the mounted delivery service.

Rev. W.H. Cooksley of the Evangelical United Brethren church reported that since Linn County failed to match state relief funds, no money is available for relief. As such, the Sweet Home Ministerial Association set up a food and clothing depot at 1135 Long St. to serve 30-50 area families. Churches will take turns managing the depot, and food and clothing will be solicited from homes and organizations.

### Jan. 30, 1975

Last week's heavy snowfall kept Pacific Power & Light crews on the go as widespread outages were reported. The manager for PP&L said the outages were the worst he's seen in his

four years, adding that 30-40 spans of wire were down during the weekend.

Sweet Home's six month experiment in free two-hour downtown parking ended successfully when the city council authorized the removal of the parking meter poles. A councilor was initially skeptical of the plan, noting the loss in meter revenue and fines, but later admitted the free parking was working better than he expected.

The two-year struggle to build a handball court at Northside Park appears over when the council agreed to convert the concrete structure into an interim storage area. They approved using already budgeted funds to put a roof on the building, light it and provide a minimal amount of heat. City Manager Dave Crutcher said the Park Board feels it would be too costly to put the court into a playable condition. Former City Manager Mike Gleason expected donated materials to help with the cost, but those materials never surfaced.

### Feb. 2, 2000

Former owner Ruth Blanchard Home Town Drugs' grand opening of the pharmacy's new drive-thru window and remodel in conjunction with a celebration of 50 years in business. Blanchard and her husband, John, opened Economy Drugs in 1949 in the former post office. She recalled Long Street was still gravel at the time, and Saturday nights' entertainment was watching the fights come out of Bill's Tavern. Dave Redden acquired the business in 1982. Since then, he renamed the business and began remodeling it.

## EDITORIAL

It appears that a hot topic for the Sweet Home City Council is going to be an effort to get voters to approve a rewrite of the City Charter that would enable city residents to elect their mayor directly.

Sweet Home currently uses the council-manager form of government, in which City Council members, elected by voters, hire a city manager to oversee city operations. They also elect one of their own every two years, following the November general election, to act as mayor until the next City Council is elected and sworn in.

Sweet Home's mayor acts as chairperson of the council and leads council meetings, enforces rules, and determines the order of business. In Sweet Home's system, the mayor votes as a councilor. Other responsibilities include signing council actions, making appointments to city commissions and boards, serving as a spokesperson for the community, and representing the city at official functions and in interactions with other government bodies.

Simply put, the mayor is the leader of our City Council – no more, no less. But there's a desire for change. All 12 candidates in last fall's City Council election, including the three who were elected, to some extent backed electing a mayor separately from the council.

The Mayor-Council arrangement is more common in larger cities, such as Portland, where the mayor is often full-time and may even assume city manager-type responsibilities.

This form of government is also more common in the East and the Midwest, and it's the one employed by both Lebanon and Brownsville, although their mayors are not "strong" mayors. Lebanon's mayor only votes to break ties. Brownsville's, when present, votes on all

council decisions.

The council-manager form is actually the most common form of city government in the United States. According to the International City/County Management Association, it actually grew from 48% usage in 1996 to 55% 10 years later.

But that's enough for the civics lesson.

This push to elect the mayor by the people is not a new issue in Sweet Home. It was batted around in the 2016 election, in which the eight City Council candidates offered differing opinions on the issue. The idea went into hibernation for a while as the council got busy with other things, but it has now revived.

Candidates in last November's election complained about a lack of transparency, accountability and communication from the city – and by extension, the council. These are not new issues, and when perceived discord among council members is factored in, it's not hard to reach the conclusion that a change in council structure might help.

But will it? Supporters of the elected mayor form of city government argue that it would give the people more of a voice because the mayor would control more of what is addressed by the council. The mayor already controls the meetings, if not most of what goes on the agenda, so the question would be what "increased control" would entail.

Some proponents of the mayor-council structure maintain that by electing, rather than appointing, a mayor, political leadership is established by the people. A mayor elected by the people would be more accountable, they believe.

Another argument is that a people-elected mayor gives the city a political spokesperson who has a high degree of visibility and more clout on a regional

level. They argue that separation of powers provides healthy independence, debate and creative tension.

It would be unlikely that Sweet Home voters would opt for a strong mayor form of government, in which the mayor basically acts as city manager. Despite recent councils' difficulties in retaining city managers – that's another issue – having an administrator with management skills often comes better through the hiring process than through a popularity or name-recognition contest, which, unfortunately, is what local elections often become.

Some believe that a mayor elected by the people would help stabilize the city government and provide more transparency than the current arrangement.

Frankly, the success of electing a mayor by the people versus electing one by the council really comes down to who that mayor is, what skills and qualities they possess. Some argue that it would be preferable for that person to have to convince the general voting population rather than just a majority of six colleagues. If we trust those six to make a wise decision, there shouldn't be an issue.

Whether an elected mayor would reduce turmoil and increase order in city government is a good question. Turmoil is generally the result of a lot of things, including political posturing and politicking that isn't always appropriate at this level of government. The City Council is a non-partisan entity. Its members' role is to serve Sweet Home residents by making policies that will advance the community's interests, not their own or their political aspirations – which sometimes happens.

Certainly, there are times, such as in the Green Peter debacle, in which the city must take a public stance. And when that time comes, it's incumbent on the council and its members to agree on a unified front in stating the city's position on issues that go beyond our borders. An elected mayor might be super at that, but so could one chosen the current way.

The success of local government, as in just about every other realm of life, is dependent on people working together, getting along.

As far as transparency is concerned, the City Coun-

See Editorial, Page 13

## The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

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# First baby of 2025 is a true early arrival

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

The final day of 2024 was not comfortable for Aleah Hard Vandehey. And then she wound up in Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital. The good news is that by the end of New Year's Day, she was holding a baby – the first of the year for east Linn County.

Nearly 36 weeks pregnant, Aleah was experiencing false labor – or at least that's what she thought.

"I had been going through prodromal labor for, like, two weeks. Tuesday (Dec 31), I kept having it," she said.

She and her husband Caleb texted her midwife, Maggie Rex, for advice. "She said, 'OK, just try to relax,'" Aleah recalled.

That night, New Year's Eve, "I was able to sleep a good amount, through all the fireworks and stuff," she said. "But I kept waking up to contractions and stuff."

The contractions continued on Wednesday, and they were shifting to cramping – or so she thought. "We were still convinced this was false labor," Caleb said, chuckling.

"I had Maggie come over and she's like, 'OK, just try to relax,'" Aleah said.

She and Caleb went over to her parents' house, where she tried soaking in a tub full of warm water.

"We don't have a bath in our house. I thought this would help me relax and so we were hanging out there and I was in the hot tub and I thought, 'OK, I don't feel very good.'"

They went home and called Rex.

"I said, 'Maybe we should get checked, to make sure,'" Aleah said.

So the Vandeheys and her mother went to the birth center.

"(Rex) checked to see if my cervix was softened and dilated and it was," Aleah said.

Eight centimeters, as a matter of fact. Full dilation, which typically means a woman is ready to give birth, is 10.

They got busy, rushing to the hospital, Aleah said.

At 8:29 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1, the Vandeheys were holding their daughter, Selah Cove Vandehey.

Four weeks early (35 weeks and six days), she weighed 6.6 pounds and measured 18½ inches.

"My boss will be very surprised that I won't be going to work on Monday," Aleah said, laughing. Prior to Selah's

arrival, Aleah had worked at Hazella Bakery since 2021.

The thought that their baby might be the first of the year didn't really occur to them, Caleb said.

"Once we got here they told us, 'You'll probably be the first baby of the year. You might be in the paper and stuff because that's a thing.' We thought, 'Cool.'"

They were a little preoccupied, Aleah noted.

"I was not prepared. We had nothing packed. My mom had to go to our house and bring us clothes and stuff."

The couple said they had their family and friends try to guess the arrival date, the baby's weight and gender.

"Nobody guessed this date," Caleb said.

One of the benefits of having the year's first baby was a big gift basket full of baby items, which was presented by the Girod Birth Center nursing staff.

The Vandeheys met a few years ago at the Lebanon Calvary Chapel church, where Caleb, 20, now is a staff member, handling maintenance.

"Mainly, we got to know each other through the youth group," said Aleah, 21.

They were married in August of 2023.



Photo by Scott Swanson

Aleah and Caleb Vandehey hold their new daughter, Selah Cove, east Linn County's first baby of the year.

Aleah is one of 12 children and Caleb has four siblings. His brother is married to one of Aleah's sisters.

Selah tips the balance between girls and boy cousins on both sides of the family, Caleb said.

"She was the tie-breaker between girls and boys on both sides, I guess," he said.

"Now there's six girls and five boys on (Aleah's) side, and on my side she's the fifth grandchild – three girls and two

boys."

Selah, who, Caleb noted, is named after a word in the book of Psalms in the Bible that means to pause to meditate, joins a big family.

Her dad said he hopes Selah will live up to her name.

"Our heart behind Selah Cove is we're just praying that God would grow her to love God's word and to meditate on God's word and to hide it in her heart. Cove is just a hiding place. A resting place."

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

2:26 p.m. - Officer located laptop reported stolen earlier in week.

4:39 p.m. - Caller reported someone stole items from vacant trailer in 5300 block Main St. Officer responded, report taken for third-degree theft, warning issued for trespass.

5:07 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle used weigh station as passing lanes, then began following cars very closely and swerving. Officer responded, contacted vehicle owner, who stated her husband was driving the vehicle. Male declined to speak to law enforcement, denied allegations. Westbound Main from Hilltop Market.

5:22 p.m. - Caller reported that suspects had burned trash on timber company land, 45000 block Whiskey Butte Dr. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

8:19 p.m. - Theodore Shinall, 46, of Sweet Home, cited for driving while suspended and failure to carry proof of insurance. Hwy. 20/46th Ave.

10:12 p.m. - Kirstin Mengore, 53, of Sweet Home, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured and failure to register vehicle, Nandina St./13th Ave.

11:48 p.m. - Mikel Victor,

21, cited for speeding, 60/35. Failure to renew registration and failure to carry registration card, 22nd Ave./Main St.

Jan. 24

2:47 a.m. - Richard Guy Tegen, 35, arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply in harassment case. Cited to appear Feb. 26.

4:34 a.m. - Officer performed death investigation in

1800 block Grape St. Report taken.

7:39 a.m. - Caller reported that youngsters waiting for school bus regularly yell at people, bang on trash cans and try to push them over and run into roadway near intersection of 12th and Poplar. Officer responded. Juveniles were gone. Investigating of-

See Public Safety, Page 7

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# Girls lose numbers game at JC swim meet; boys win big

Sweet Home's girls swimming team isn't as deep as it's been in some recent seasons and that, together with the absence of one of their top point-scorers resulted in the Huskies' first dual meet loss in recent memory Friday, Jan. 24, at Junction City.

The Tigers put 15 girls in River Road pool in Eugene, where the meet was held. Sweet Home, which was missing senior Kirsten Sautel, had nine and that gave Junction City enough to win, 86-75.

The boys won every event, finishing with a 102-45 win.

"It was a good meet," Head Coach A Jay Bronson said. "We aren't as deep as we are when we go to districts, and that's kind of where Junction

City caught us, because one-on-one we don't have 15 people."

Also, he noted, the absence of Sautel meant the loss of 12 pretty much guaranteed points, in addition to two relay wins.

The girls team of Peyton Markell, Khloe Sautel, Kylie Melkvik and Lexi Rundell won the 200 Medley Relay in 2:15.73.

Markell and Khloe Sautel were double winners for Sweet Home, Markell taking the 200 Freestyle (2:22.06) and the 500 Freestyle (6:04.67), which she won by four-hundredths of a second over the Tigers' Lily Jackson.

"It was back and forth the whole way," said Bronson, noting that he stuck Markell

in that event "because we needed something to score some points."

"She wins it. It was back and forth the whole way. Peyton was beating her on the straightaways and Lily was winning on the turns, over and over again. It was a fingertips finish."

It was also the fifth-fastest time among district swimmers.

Khloe Sautel won the 100 Freestyle (59.30) and 100 Breaststroke (1:18.80) and Daisy Lalonde added Sweet Home's other win, in the 100 Breaststroke (1:16.27).

The boys won all three relays and every individual event.

Individual winners were Grayson Avri in the 200 Free-

style (2:05.29), RJ Abbott in the 50 Freestyle (24.38) and 100 Breaststroke (1:14.11), Andrew Tolman in the 200 Individual Medley (2:27.28) and the 100 Freestyle (58.01), Shayne Schuster in the 500 Freestyle (5:29.67), Henry Jones in the 100 Butterfly (1:12.13) and Arman Marble in the 100 Backstroke (1:05.64).

"Shane did well in that 500 Freestyle as well," Bronson noted.

Up next for Sweet Home is a home meet Saturday, Feb. 1, against Stayton, North Bend and Salem Academy, beginning at 11 a.m.

Lexi Rundell (SH) 29.21; (3) Bebe Dussell (JC) 31.50; (4) Kylie Melkvik (SH) 33.48; (5) Emma Whitton (SH) 36.13.

100 Butterfly - No Sweet Home entrants.

100 Freestyle - (1) Khloe Sautel (SH) 59.30; (2) Lexi Rundell (SH) 1:03.34; (3) Laura Henderson (JC) 1:03.45.

500 Freestyle - (1) Peyton Markell (SH) 6:04.67; (2) Lily Jackson (JC) 6:04.71; (3) Ella Haggas (SH) 6:42.39; (4) Emma Whitton (SH) 7:53.81.

200 Freestyle Relay - (1) Junction City 1:55.81; (2) Sweet Home (Khloe Sautel, Daisy Lalonde, Ella Haggas, Peyton Markell) 1:59.89; (3) Junction City "B" 2:26.87.

100 Backstroke - (1) Daisy Lalonde (SH) 1:16.27; (2) Kylie Henderson (JC) 1:19.52; (3) Kylie Melkvik (SH) 1:19.80; (5) Emerson Martineau (SH) 1:46.95.

100 Breaststroke - (1) Khloe Sautel (SH) 1:18.80; (2) Bebe Dussell (JC) 1:23.17; (3) Kylie Holton (JC) 1:36.05; (5) Timber Nobles (SH) 1:47.69.

400 Freestyle Relay - (1) Junction City 4:18.94; (2) Sweet Home (Ella Haggas, Kylie Melkvik, Daisy Lalonde, Lexi Rundell) 4:37.86; (3) Junction City "B" 5:34.80.

**Boys Results**

Team Scores - Sweet Home 102, Junction City 45

Top 3 and Sweet Home Finishers

200 Medley Relay - (1) Sweet Home (Peyton Markell, Khloe Sautel, Kylie Melkvik, Lexi Rundell) 2:15.73; (2) Junction City 2:49.95; (3) Junction City "B" 3:07.72.

200 Freestyle - (1) Peyton Markell (SH) 2:22.06; (2) Laura Henderson (JC) 2:25.29; (3) Kylie Henderson (JC) 2:26.30; (4) Daisy Lalonde (SH) 2:34.43; (6) Emerson Martineau (SH) 3:14.90.

200 Individual Medley - (1) Lily Jackson (JC) 2:40.30; (2) Ella Haggas (SH) 2:54.96; (3) Timber Nobles (SH) 3:14.28.

50 Freestyle - (1) Libby Fox (JC) 28.79; (2)

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 5

ficer to contact Student Resource Officer.

11:12 a.m. - Caller reported their house had been broken into in 1200 block 47th Ave. Officer responded. Report taken for first-degree burglary.

12:17 p.m. - Thomas Ray Pimental turned himself in at police station, 1950 Main St., arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply in hit-and-run case. Cited and released.

3:29 p.m. - Deputy performed death investigation in 48100 block Cascadia Dr. Elderly male with "extensive health issues," per Sheriff's log, died in his home. Report taken.

3:32 p.m. - Lester Lee Hendrix Jr. arrested by Lebanon police on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply in criminal driving case. Cited to appear Feb. 26.

4:07 p.m. - Caller reported male attempted to use fake bills at Napa Auto Parts store, 800 block Main St.

6:46 p.m. - Caller reported theft by juvenile in 4800 block 48th Loop. Officer responded. Report taken for second-degree theft and items seized for safekeeping. Items missing included vape pen, electronic tablet and cell phone totaling \$150. All were recovered from a 13-year-old female rela-

tive of the victims. The juvenile was referred to the Linn County Juvenile Department.

8:56 p.m. - Amy Phillips cited for driving while suspended, Thriftway parking lot.

10:48 p.m. - Anthony Nicholas Scott, 40, cited for driving uninsured, 1500 block Main St.

### Jan. 23

7:28 a.m. - Deputies responded to multiple-vehicle crash at intersection of Pleasant Valley Rd./Northside Dr. According to Sheriff's Office, Vicki North, 75, of Sweet Home, was driving a 2008 Toyota Prius and failed to stop at a sign, hitting a 2002 Ford F250 driven by Conner Stevens, 18, of Lebanon. Both vehicles were towed, and North was taken to the hospital with minor injuries. Report taken.

11:04 a.m. - Jamie Castro-Hernandez arrested by Albany police on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply in criminal driving case. Cited to appear Feb. 12.

1:09 p.m. - Caller reported shed broken into and archery equipment stolen in 4800 block Nandina St. Report taken for second-degree burglary and first-degree theft.

1:42 p.m. - Caller reported receiving four or five calls from individuals identifying themselves as Linn County Sheriff's Office sergeants who threatened to "beat up" caller.

Further details unavailable.

2:36 p.m. - Deputy informed citizen that drones cannot be flown within 500 feet of Foster Dam.

7:20 p.m. - Jamie Daniel Carpenter, 48, arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear in menacing case. Cited and released.

9:33 p.m. - Gilbert Alonzo Martinez, 49, arrested on Sweet Home Municipal Court warrants for failure to appear in assault and criminal trespass cases. Caller had reported male walking around Tamarack Ridge Estates park in 1500 block Tamarack St. and peaking into houses. Cited and released.

9:50 a.m. - Morgan Lee Belcher, 30, arrested on Linn County Sheriff's Office warrant for contempt of court in theft case, Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for failure to comply in theft case. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

### Jan. 22

6:45 a.m. - Caller reported spotting stolen truck in 1700 block Main St. Truck was stolen Jan. 21 (see below) and was recovered. When the truck was recovered, officers also recovered a PJ lift trailer, unknown value, which had been stolen out of the Tangent area but had not yet been reported stolen when it was recovered. Report taken.

days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 36 months supervised probation and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to unlawful use of a weapon. A menacing charge was dismissed.

Delbert Joe Tunnell II, 50, was sentenced Jan. 23 to five days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 24 months bench

probation and \$2,500 restitution after pleading no contest to first degree theft and computer crime. Another count of first degree theft and computer crime were dismissed.

Shantell Rene Watkins, 28, was placed in the diversion program after pleading no contest to DUII (liquor) with a .27% BAC.

## Hoop Shoot 2025



Photos by Jessica Sands

Winners of the 10-11 Girls Division are, from left, Amirah Spradlin, Chloe Roberts (who competed in the 12-13 Division) Lainey Foster and Addalee Smith.



Winners of the 8-9 Boys Division stand with organizers Randy Claasen, left, and Bobby McDermid at the Sweet Home Elks' annual Hoop Shoot, held Jan. 18 at Sweet Home Junior High. They are, from left, Eli Beskae, Rayden Samson and Liam Luehring. See [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com) for more photos and results of the event.



Bentley Black fires a free throw during the boys 10-11 competition.

## CIRCUIT COURT

From page 3

to elude, and reckless driving.

Casyah Taelour Thomas, 29, was charged Jan. 21 with second degree burglary. Bail was set at \$15,000.

Julie Anne Thompson, 56, was sentenced Jan. 24 to 10

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## Clayton Homes Donation to Christmas Store

Sweet Home Kids Free Christmas Store Director Nancy Patton, with microphone, speaks during a check presentation by Clayton Homes of Albany recently. Clayton donated \$1,000 to the Free Christmas Store, which is held each year on the first Saturday of December and gives children ages 2 through 17 an opportunity to shop for gifts for the family they live with – for free. Also pictured are, from left, Matt Bixby of Clayton Homes,

Larry Patton, Tyson Patton and on far right, Ashley Patton. Clayton's donation will go toward the purchase of new items for the store event, which will be held for the 11th year this December. A bingo fund-raiser for the event will be held at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at RezRock, 1621 53rd Ave. Cost is \$15 for four Bingo cards. For more information in sponsoring, donating, volunteering or more about the store, contact Nancy at (541) 409-4276.

# Sautel posts Futures qualifying time at Washington swim meet

Three Sweet Home swimmers competed Jan. 17-19 in the Washington Open swimming competition, at Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center in Federal Way, Wash.

The meet included swim clubs from all over the West Coast including teams from Colorado and Canada, with over 1,000 athletes in attendance.

The three, RJ Abbott, Kirsten Sautel and Shayne Schuster, all seniors at Sweet Home High School, represented the Sweet Home Swim Club in the event.

Sautel posted lifetime best times in all four events she swam at the competition. She set a club record in the 50 Breaststroke, swimming 30.18 and placing 10th in the finals.

In the 100 Breaststroke Sautel placed eighth at finals in 1:05.02, which qualified her for a Futures cut. The Futures Championships are a series of meets that serve as a stepping stone for swimmers to move up to the Junior Nationals and National Championships.

She also set PRs in the 200



Sweet Home Swim Club members, from left, RJ Abbott, Kirsten Sautel and Shayne Schuster stand next to the pool at the Washington Open swim meet.

Breaststroke, placing 34th with a time of 2:30.42, and 47th in the 50 Freestyle, in 25.31.

Schuster also posted lifetime bests in all three of his events: 30:38 in the 50 Breaststroke, placing 82nd; 1:05.64 in the 100 Breast-

stroke, good for 128th place; and 24.87 in the 50 Freestyle to place 231st.

Abbott swam the 100 Butterfly in 57.44, placing 184th; the 200 Freestyle in 1:53.38, placing 140th; and the 100 Breaststroke in 1:06.09, placing 137th.

## RESCUE

From page 1

cated her about a mile from the vehicle at about 11:20 a.m. She was suffering from some lacerations and exposure to the weather, the OSP said.

Troopers remained with her, built a fire, and provided food and emergency blankets until Search and Rescue members arrived with a Snowcat to transport her back to the highway.

Medics from the Sweet Home Fire Department then transported the woman to an area hospital for medical evaluation.

While the rescue was under way, the Linn County Sheriff's Office received two additional calls from motorists stranded on forest roads in the snow.

"This is a good reminder for motorists to always have a plan and adequate equipment if traveling or recreating in the snow," said Sheriff Michelle Duncan. "Always let a friend or family member know your destination and carry a cell phone or rescue beacon. It's always a good idea to keep your car winter ready with safety



Photo courtesy of OSP

OSP Troopers Zach Cochran and Shae Ross stand with Scout, the OSP canine who helped track a woman who wandered off the highway in the snow. In the rear is Sheriff's Corrections Lt. Nathan Berger, the Snowcat operator.

items such as extra blankets or warm clothing, extra food and water, a first aid kit, and other survival items."

Oregon State Police Capt. Kyle Kennedy said: "Winter weather can be unpredictable and conditions can change quickly. This rescue was a great team effort and we are grateful this individual was quickly located and

transported to safety.

"It's important to highlight the quick reaction of localized resources – from the Fish and Wildlife troopers, who were able to begin the search with K-9, to the Search and Rescue resources the Linn County Sheriff's Office mobilized. Those resources in unison created a successful outcome."

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# Huskies, missing regular starters, still close fourth in Reser's wrestling

A somewhat depleted Sweet Home wrestling team finished fourth at Reser's Tournament of Champions Saturday, Jan. 25, but Coach Steve Thorpe was not unhappy.

"We weren't at full strength," he said, noting that he inserted four wrestlers who are normally in junior varsity competition into the varsity lineup against 27 teams representing some of the top competition in the state from all divisions.

The Huskies finished fourth in a tight finish with 154 points, half a point behind perennial 6A contender Newberg. Crater won the tournament title with 186.5 points, followed by Canby (167).

"That tournament was quite a tournament," Thorpe said. "I was very proud of what we entered."

Riley Vaughn (113), Tytus Hardee (126) and Luke Rosa (175) were the Huskies' top finishers, all taking third.

Three others placed fifth in the varsity competition: Keegan Jefferson at 106, Dillan Davis at 132, and Kyle Zajic at 157.

"They all finished on an odd number," Thorpe said.

Vaughn, he said, had a "huge win" over Crook County's Alejandro Vargas, winning 2-1 in the third-place final, and Hardy also had a big win over the Cowboys' Chase Hemphill, who beat him earlier this season, in their bracket final.

"I think Riley Vaughn probably had one of his better tournaments he's had this year, and he came off of being sick," Thorpe said. "It was a great effort from all those guys. Luke beat the 6A state runner-up (Forest Grove's Brandon Cook), and then got a fall (over West Linn's Lucas Gray) in his third-place match. Luke's wrestling as good as he's ever wrestled right now, and so, you know, and that



Photo by Scott Swanson

Riley Vaughn gets set to pin an opponent earlier this season. Vaughn, along with Tytus Hardee and Luke Rosa, were Sweet Home's top finishers at Reser's.

gives him a lot of momentum going into state.

"For us to take fourth in that tournament, we weren't at full strength and that showed our depth of our guys."

He noted that both Cael Stevenson at 120 and Jeremiah Steagall at 190, both up from the JV, scored points for the Huskies by making it into the Saturday brackets.

Stevenson won a major decision over West Linn's David Wheeler to get into the consolation bracket quarters before losing 7-0 to eventual consolation champ Trey Smith of Canby.

In the JV competition, Sweet Home was seventh with 128 points, behind Thurston (272), Canby (171.5), Crater (169.5), Dallas (151), Redmond

(141) and Crook County (130).

Freshman Elijah Cruz, at 175 pounds, Jackson Barringer at 190 and Liam Martin (285) all won their consolation brackets. Conner Spencer was sixth at 132.

Up next for Sweet Home is a home dual on Wednesday, Jan. 29, hosting 6A Division North Salem at 6 p.m.

## 80-10

From page 1

worked with him a lot.

"I really think that teacher played a huge role in his academic success," she said. "He's worked really hard to now be able to read, but also really enjoys reading."

Ezekiel added, "Yeah, I really like reading," noting that the Sugar Creek Gang series is one of his favorite adventure mysteries to read.

Upon hearing how much reading the young boy was doing, Corley asked when he was going to start writing his own books, and suggested that they could write something together. Immediately Ezekiel knew what it should be about: another "Harley the Redneck Shepherd" story called "Harley and the Not so Very Wise Men."

While Corley essentially wrote the story (and shortened the title), it was the precocious boy who offered up the premise of the book, reviewed it and offered suggestions, and wrote the last paragraph himself.

"It was fun," Ezekiel said of the experience.

Between writing, review-

ing and editing, it took only a couple months to complete the 20-page story, self-published through Amazon. As Corley explained about the process, he pulled out \$4.18 and tossed it on the table toward Ezekiel.

"We're sharing the royalties 50-50," Corley said.

It was Ezekiel's first payment for the first few books that had sold on Amazon, including one purchased by Gamache.

The book, "Harley and the Melvins Meet the Wise Guys," follows Harley and his brothers, Melvin and Melvin, as they meet three wise men who came to visit Jesus on his first birthday, and learn about the true spirit of giving.

"There's some humor in it, there's some of the biblical story," Corley said.

When asked what age group the book would be suitable for, the pair had to take a minute to think about it.

"Little, little kids might think it's boring at first because it doesn't get as exciting and funny as quick," Ezekiel said. "When I tried to read it, my little brother (5 years old), he sorta got bored."

In the end, Corley decided the story is probably good for all ages over 8 years old.

When asked whether Ezekiel had more stories he wanted to write, the answer was affirmative.

"Me and Mr. Corley are actually collaborating on that."

It will be another Harley book, but coming from the perspective of the Melvins. Ezekiel provided a sneak peek that the brothers think Harley is too controlling, and hinted that the idea might come from Ezekiel's own personal experience with four brothers.

As a fifth-grader who's already created products to sell and now has his first co-authored book complete, it seemed like a good time



Photo by Sarah Brown

Jim Corley, at left, and Ezekiel Wixson show their book collaboration, "Harley and the Melvins Meet the Wise Guys."

to ask what he wants to be when he grows up, but, alas, he doesn't know yet. Corley joked he will be a wise guy.

"He has an entrepreneurial

bent and he's very creative," Corley said. "So if his career isn't being a content creator, I can imagine him being a business whiz, easily."

## The ICEBOX Performer Of The Week



This week's ICEBOX Performer of the Week is Lisa Thomas! Lisa keeps the wheels turning and the radiators moving as she delivers to our customers up and down the I-5 corridor. When she isn't delivering radiators, she's busy keeping the office organized and clean.

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# Two wish books and the East Linn Museum

By Roberta McKern  
For The New Era

After the lull of winter the East Linn Museum will soon open again.

In the meantime, during the coldest part of the year, we have been reading two wish books to keep fresh our knowledge of various artifacts in the museum. These books are new copies of Sears-Roebuck catalogs acquired from the modern day Multiple Mercantile business, Amazon. Like Sears-Roebuck used to be, Amazon will sell you about anything you want but with more rapid delivery.

The new, old, catalogs we've been scanning through are for 1893 and 1923. They are reproductions and we wanted to get the oxymoron of new in there.

In looking at the wish books, as we know they were called in the past, a particular interest was kept in mind. The 1920s

are often looked upon by historians as a demarcation date separating the population of the United States into more urban than rural.

Needs for military supplies created by the Civil War between the states plus high rates of immigration from European countries suffering from divisive internal politics kicked American industrialization into high gear with good supplies of raw materials, transportation and labor.

The three leading countries of the 19th and early 20th centuries were the United States, Germany and Japan when it came to industrialization. (An ominous concentration for the 20th century as we now know).

By the 1920s, farmers' children had better chances of finding jobs around manufacturing hubs, the kind that kept Sears Roebuck supplied with the proliferation of goods that

made catalog readers from Maine to Washington state want more, especially when the mail, including parcel post after the 1890's, brought longed for purchases to the dreamers who could afford them.

As Sears reassured its customers, it sold only what people wanted at reasonable prices. When we think of the past as being a foreign land, catalogs like the ones put out by Sears make promising guide-books.

With the 1897 catalog, we can see how things were going before the Victorian era was shot literally dead by the Great War of 1914-18.

We are looking at bucolic here, the horse and buggy days when dowagers wore black for mourning and well-dressed gentlemen wore Prince Albert suit coats and smoked Prince Albert tobacco. These were

definitely horse and buggy days, and the 1897 book displays around 50 pages advertising buggies, wagons and horse tack.

Guns, ammunition and hunting gear take up to 28 pages, in contrast, and that includes bird calls and a favorite - grass suits, designed to make a hunter look like a small hay stack or a big tussock for only \$1.75.

Medicinals haul in at 25 pages and include enough opiates and other poisonous chemicals to kill off a few rich relatives. Homeopathic medicines only treated with pinches of this or that or a droplet and were not as hazardous as laudanum and opium or rat killer.

The music department runs to 29 pages, which includes instruments from parlor organs to Jews harps. A bugle similar to the one in the museum's military room can be had for \$1.50

and is a cavalry bugle. Bigger and fancier ones for artillery and infantry respectively are priced at \$3.20 and \$3.25.

Often, we think of eras as being marked by women's clothing styles. We know the hustle of the bustle was Victorian and realize it took many yards of fabric to clothe the queen.

By 1897 the big sleeve took precedent over fuller skirts, but those were long. Younger women wanted to be busty and wasp waisted, and Sears sold corsets to help them squeeze down to 18-inch waistlines.

By going to the 1923 catalog, we can get a jolt because ladies fashions are among the first things featured and flat-chested, waist-less boyish look was in. Women had bobbed hair and shortened hemlines. Comfort corsets advertise a tubular figure.

It was an "Oh, you kid" time, when women gained the right to vote in 1920 and more free-

See Wish Books, Page 11

February 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- Quilters 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- Quilters 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Meals on Wheels 12:00 Pinochle 12:30	Exercise 8:30 Meals On Wheels Senior Meals 12:00	February Happenings!! Bowling at Linn Lanes Lebanon! Thursday, February 20th Bus leaves at 11:15! Cost \$3 dollars per game for members, \$4 dollars for non members. \$3 dollar shoe rental. \$1 dollar bus ticket.
Exercise 8:30 Crafters 10:00 Meals on Wheels Senior Meals 12:00 Bridge 1:00	Qi Gong 9:00 Jolly Stitchers- Quilters 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- Quilters 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Meals on Wheels 12:00 Pinochle 12:30	Exercise 8:30 Meals On Wheels Senior Meals 12:00	If you have ideas or suggestions for activities or trips, please stop by the front desk and speak to Summer, our activities director!
Exercise 8:30 Crafters 10:00 Meals on Wheels Senior Meals 12:00 Bridge 1:00	Qi Gong 9:00 Jolly Stitchers- Quilters 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- Quilters 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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## WISH BOOKS

From page 10

dom of opportunity in general. (Prohibition was also in effect, but the pages that might show us copper tubing like the museum's example are missing. Our copper tubing was said to have been lost by a boot legger.)

Twenty-six years separate what is seen in the 1897 catalog from that of the 1923 one and we know changes did not take place overnight.

By 1923 parcel post and rural fee delivery enhanced Sears' mail order service. Another change came in 1906 when the Pure Food and Drug Act passed and Sears' dealings in medicinals shrank considerably.

Gone from the page are the cure-alls of yore. People were advised to use good soap and shampoo and to brush their teeth. Cleanliness became a road to health. Nostrums relying heavily on alcohol had to be found elsewhere, as was determined by the Pure Food and Drug Act and Prohibition.

A would-be poisoner, however, could look under bug killers, where displayed was Paris Green, a form of arsenic.

Jews harps and ocarinas are no longer featured in the music department of the 1923 edition, but there are five hand-cranked record players featured and a selection of Columbia records, sacred songs and the blues included.

We can recognize classic titles like "I Want a Girl Just Like the Girl that Married Dear Old Dad" and "How Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm?" World Was I added the song "After They've Seen Paree?"

One remarkable change involves the advertising of guns. The 1897 book shows pages of different rifles and pistols. The

1923 one displays eight shotguns plus one page of ammunition. Otherwise, there are two air rifles.

Under Miscellaneous Police Goods, a number of Colt revolvers appear, as do handcuffs, police whistles, a badge and a club. In other words, far less armament is featured than in the 1897 book. Does this reflect the decline of the American frontier, like some historians who tie such an end in with urbanity?

Something else going on, too, is the rise of specialty stores in growing towns. Sweet Home had a confectioner's store briefly, for instance, as a taffy cutter in the museum's collection proves.

In urban areas customers were less securely tied to Sears. What the 1923 book shows is modernity hovering on the horizon.

Radio, for instance, was coming and a customer could order parts needed for a do-it-yourself radio.

More striking is a page advertising "Sport Bodies for Ford Cars." The horse and buggy were still on the scene, but Sears now devoted more pages to the automobile and its parts and Ford was a primary featured model.

Too, electricity was coming in, but slowly for rural areas. For years some people in Sweet Home and Foster could buy electricity from Hans Wodtli and his Foster enterprises, but it was only on when he was up and stirring. When he went to bed, at 8 or 9, off went the electricity.

Perhaps one of the biggest surprises in the 1923 catalog is its offering of kits for building houses and ones for farm buildings, including barns as well as for sheds and cottages that bolted together.

Available concrete mixers

aided in setting things up. With a house kit came pre-cut lumber, doors, windows and basically all that was needed plus even paint and varnish.

A would-be-builder could guarantee better success by sending for Sears' free book, "House Bilt; Modern Homes." Since no floor plans appear in the catalog, the free book appears essential.

Available, too, is a bathroom kit containing a commode, tub and basin. A septic tank was also available for those forsaking their privies, necessary in many towns. This also brought about the availability of toilet paper to replace the catalog pages, which could be used in outdoor privies after reading them, but which were disastrous in this new indoor plumbing.

It is interesting to look at catalogs like Sears because of the unexpected which lurks in their pages. We think of the coming of electricity to the East Linn area and wonder when street lights came in.

The 1897 book has an answer: kerosene lanterns in four variations, of which may bring to mind a song about the old lamplighter who made the night a little brighter wherever he went. At around \$4.00, a street lamp seems a reasonable price, although we'd have to figure in lamplighter wages.

May we all do the same to brighten up winter.

Speaking of this, we want to thank The New Era for the support it gives the East Linn Museum. It continues to be of great importance and we continue being grateful.

The museum opens again in February. Visitors can come in and look at the old catalogs or travel back into history, that foreign land, while viewing the displays.

## 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.



Dr. Michael W. Stoner

### 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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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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A flame to remember

Micaela King, at left, lights the first candle in honor of her sister Mariah King, who died last summer. Friends and family of Mariah gathered together on Saturday, Jan. 25, at Northside Park to hold a vigil for the 29-year-old who was found dead in her Sweet Home home on July 18, 2024. Initially viewed as a possible suicide, an investigation led police to charge Mariah's boyfriend with murder. During the vigil, friends and family shared memories they have with Mariah, and spoke out against domestic violence. Jerod L. Norman, 40, is being held without bail on charges of second degree murder and first degree abuse of a corpse.

Photo by Sarah Brown

Sweet Home Senior Center

5: Spaghetti

Ever popular spaghetti, served with veg, salad, dessert

♥ 12: Valentines Lunch ♥

Come be our Valentine and let us serve you a sweetheart of a meal! Beef Bourguignon over creamy mashed potatoes, Caesar salad, peas a la francaise, and chocolate mousse.

Please sign up for this special lunch, at the reception desk or during Wednesday lunch.

19: Chicken & Rice

Tender chicken and rice in a creamy southern style casserole, served with veg, salad, dessert

Dessert provided by Wiley Creek Senior Community

26: Beans & Ham

Old fashioned beans with ham, served with coleslaw, cornbread, dessert

Dining room open 11:15

Lunch served 11:30-12:30

\$5 dine-in \$5.50 take-out

Please call at least one day ahead if you plan on 3 or more take-out lunches.

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Please sign up to attend lunch on Feb 12



## EDITORIAL

From page 4

cil doesn't need a different council structure to do that. City Council members need to be involved, as has been pointed out many times previously on this page. The current mayor has been very involved, frequently seen at public events and in meetings that she is not obligated to be at. That has not always been the case with either Sweet Home mayors or City Council members, and that helps immensely to improve transparency.

The very nature of this job should be to serve the community: to interact with community members in general, not just the people a councilor feels comfortable with. It should be to behave civilly and stick to the matters at hand, the business of the city and the real challenges it faces. When voters see councilors drawing lines in the sand and posturing, when they don't see them in public places where others gather, it's no wonder that they doubt the transparency of city government and the City Council.

A new method of electing a mayor likely won't change that.

## Hwy. 20 now designated as 'National Medal of Honor Highway'

Highway 20 is now the National Medal of Honor Highway.

President Biden on Dec. 17 signed into law a bill sponsored by Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden and U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA) to designate U.S. Route 20 as the National Medal of Honor Highway.

The 3,365-mile Highway 20 (Main Street in Sweet Home) runs from Newport, Ore., to Boston, through Erie County, Pa., which is Kelly's district. The passage in the U.S. House comes after legislatures and governors in all 12 states along U.S. Route 20 have designated their state Medal of Honor Highways. Highway 20 crosses Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska,

Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts.

"This designation covers more than 3,000 miles through Erie County and along U.S. Route 20, America's longest highway. By designating U.S. Route 20 as the 'National Medal of Honor Highway,' we commemorate all 3,519 recipients of the award, both living and passed," Kelly said.

"It's my sincere hope that the millions of Americans who travel the highway each year – from Bend to Chicago to Erie to Boston – will take a moment to reflect on the extraordinary sacrifice, courage, and devotion exhibited by every single Medal of Honor recipient. We owe them a debt we can

never repay. Designating this highway is just one way and we can cement their legacy in American history."

You can watch Rep. Kelly's speech on the House floor about the legislation at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQXN7tXOKdg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQXN7tXOKdg).

The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest military award for valor, presented by the president in Congress's name. U.S. service members who distinguish themselves "through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty" can receive the medal.

Redesignating U.S. Highway 20 – the longest continuous highway in the United States

– as the "National Medal of Honor Highway" would honor each state's current and future Medal of Honor recipients and recipients from any state who travel on it, according to a statement from Kelly's office.

The 12 states along U.S. Highway 20 account for about 62 percent of all 3,519 Medal of Honor awards presented since the Civil War.

The legislation is supported by the Bend Heroes Foundation, Military Officers Association of America, American Legion, Legion of Valor, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States.

## EVENTS

From page 2

money to support The New Era as the newspaper owners work to rebuild the newspaper.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club, the race will be "a true fun run," which will be timed, but rather than having an established entry fee, it will be up to participants to donate whatever they desire to support the newspaper.

The run, which is also be-

ing supported by Steelhead Fitness, will start and end at Sankey Park and will be timed "the old-fashioned way," with a stopwatch at the finish line.

5K run/walk and 10K run courses will be designated for participants and a water stop is planned at a point midway on the courses, which will overlap each other. Those events will start at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Bronson at 541.954.7198, or Steelhead Fitness at

541.262.1560.

## Chamber Awards Banquet Feb. 8

The Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce will present its 81st annual Awards Banquet from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Sweet Home Boys and Girls Club, 890 18th Ave.

Social hour begins at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. Cost is \$75 per person or \$525 to sponsor a table of eight.

The theme will be "Gateway to the Santiam Playground."

Table sponsors are encouraged to highlight outdoor work or recreation in their table decorations. The facility will be open from noon to 2 p.m. on the day of the event for decorating.

For more information, contact Lagea Mull at 541.367.6186 or [lagea@sweethomechamber.com](mailto:lagea@sweethomechamber.com).

## Oak Heights Open House

Oak Heights Elementary

See Editorial, Page 15

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Consumer Disclosure/Award Rules: All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation and choose to make a purchase will receive a \$50 Visa card. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both collaborating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Card may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a card of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail or emailed within 30 days of receipt of the promotion form provided at presentation. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Visa and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Except in the states of MD, NY and DC, where the gift card offer is limited to \$25. Offer not available in the states of CA, IN, PA and MI. Expires 2/28/25. LeafGuard operates as LeafGuard of Oregon in Oregon under license number 22337. \* Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free.

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Public Notices

FIRST NOTICE  
Persons in possession of TAX-  
ABLE BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPER-  
TY located in Linn County as of  
January 1, 2025, are required by  
Oregon law to file a CONFIDEN-  
TIAL PERSONAL PROPERTY RETURN  
with the Linn County Assessor's  
Office.  
THIS IS A REMINDER TO FILE YOUR  
BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY IN-  
FORMATION. ADDITIONAL PENALTIES  
ARE INCURRED AFTER MARCH 17,  
2025.  
EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TO  
BE REPORTED BUT NOT LIMITED TO:  
FURNITURE/FIXTURES/EQUIPMENT/  
SUPPLIES/HANDTOOLS/ETC, UTILIZED  
FOR  
RETAIL/WHOLESALE  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
FIXED LOAD/MOBILE  
PAINT/REPAIR/REMODELING  
RESTAURANT/TAVERN  
APARTMENTS/HOTELS/MOTELS  
BARBER/BEAUTY SHOPS  
LOGGING/ROAD CONSTRUCTION  
It is the responsibility of persons  
in possession of taxable  
personal property to file a re-  
turn, even though they may not  
have received a personal prop-  
erty return. Failure to file may  
subject them to penalties man-  
dated by law.  
The Linn County Assessor's of-  
fice is available to assist with  
the proper filing of the return.  
Phone (541)967-3808 ext 2561  
tsthompson@co.linn.or.us  
(Feb.5)

NOTICE OF PENDING ADMINIS-  
TRATIVE DECISION AND REQUEST FOR  
COMMENT. The Sweet Home Communi-  
ty and Economic Development De-  
partment received an application  
for a Partition, and the Plan-  
ning and Building Manager will  
decide on this request soon. The  
Department is now seeking  
your comments and suggestions.  
REQUEST: The applicant is re-  
questing to partition an approx-  
imately 38,988 square foot lot  
into two parcels per Sweet Home  
Municipal Code 17.98. Proposed  
Parcel 1 shall be approximately  
23,103 square feet. Proposed  
Parcel 2 shall be approximately  
15885 square feet. The subject  
property is in the Residential  
Low Density (R-1) zone.  
APPLICANT: Laura LaRoque, Ude-  
ll Engineering & Land Surveying,  
LLC.  
PROPERTY OWNER: Jeffrey and Tif-  
fany Lynn.  
FILE NUMBER: P25-01.  
PROPERTY LOCATION: 1021 Mt. View  
Road, Sweet Home, OR, 97386;  
Identified on Linn County Asses-  
sor's Map as 13S01E32AC Tax Lot  
400.  
REVIEW AND DESIGN CRITERIA:  
Sweet Home Municipal Code (SHMC)  
Sections: 17.10, 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: January 23, 2025.  
Comments must be received no  
later than: 5:00 PM on February  
12, 2025. Written comments may  
be submitted to the  
Community and Economic Devel-  
opment 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

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Public Notices

line of your comments. Notice of  
the decision on this application  
will only be mailed to the ap-  
plicant, property owner, those  
who provided written comments  
on the proposal, and those who  
requested a copy of the deci-  
sion. The failure of an issue to  
be raised in writing within the  
specified time frame, or failure  
to provide sufficient specifici-  
ty to afford the decision mak-  
er 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 docu-  
ments and evidence relied upon  
by the applicant and applicable  
criteria are available for in-  
spection 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 con-  
tact the Community and Economic  
Development Department at 3225  
Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon  
97386; Phone: (541) 818-8029  
(Jan. 29)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY  
OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE  
ESTATE OF VICKI J. HEROLD, de-  
ceased, Case No. 25PB00186  
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, Mor-  
ley 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 representa-  
tive or the attorneys for the  
personal representative at the  
address stated, or from the re-  
cords of the Court.  
Dated and first published this  
29th day of January, 2025.  
Patrice Luneski and Kristin L.  
Reakoff, Personal Representa-  
tives. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB  
#053242 Morley Thomas Law. At-  
torneys at Law, 80 E. Maple St.,  
Lebanon OR 97355.  
(Jan. 29)

AMENDED NOTICE OF PENDING ADMIN-  
ISTRATIVE DECISION AND REQUEST  
FOR COMMENT. The Sweet Home  
Planning and Building Depart-  
ment received an application  
for a Partition, and the Plan-  
ning and Building Manager will  
decide on this request soon. The  
Department is now seeking  
your comments and suggestions.  
REQUEST: The applicant is re-  
questing to partition an approx-  
imately 24,829 square feet (0.57  
acres) lot into three parcels  
per Sweet Home Municipal Code  
17.98. Proposed Parcel 1 shall  
be approximately 7,003 square  
feet. Proposed Parcel 2 shall  
be approximately 7,003 square  
feet, with a total of 10,337  
square feet including the flag  
strip. Proposed Parcel 3 shall  
be approximately 7,260 square

Public Notices

feet. The subject property is  
in the Residential Low Density  
(R-1) zone. APPLICANT AND PROP-  
ERTY OWNER: Gary Hodgson, Hodg-  
ie 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: January 22, 2025.  
Comments must be received no  
later than: 5:00 PM on February  
11, 2025. Written comments may  
be submitted to the Community  
and Economic Development De-  
partment 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 ap-  
plicant, property owner, those  
who provided written comments  
on the proposal, and those who  
requested a copy of the deci-  
sion. 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 crite-  
ria 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 con-  
tact the Community and Economic  
Development Department at 3225  
Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon  
97386; Phone: (541) 818-8029.  
(Jan. 29)

In the Matter of the Estate of  
GENE WALTER ESSIG  
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS  
Linn County Case No. 24PB11299  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the  
Circuit Court of Linn County,  
State of Oregon, has appointed  
the undersigned as Personal Rep-  
resentative of the Estate of GENE  
WALTER ESSIG, deceased. All per-  
sons having claims against said  
estate are required to present  
the same, with proper vouchers,  
to the personal representative  
in care of Sarah Castleton, At-  
torney 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 af-  
fected by the proceedings may  
obtain additional information  
from the records of the court,  
the personal representative or  
the attorney for the personal  
representative.  
DATED and first published: Janu-  
ary 29, 2025.  
Personal Representative  
c/o Sarah Castleton  
Ivers & Miller Law  
PO Box 1033  
317 First Ave W., Suite 302  
Albany, OR 97321  
(541) 928-5875  
(Jan. 29)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY  
OF LINN PROBATE DEPARTMENT  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
CECIL D. TURNER, deceased. Case  
No.: 25PB00264 NOTICE TO INTER-  
ESTED PERSONS  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the  
undersigned has been appointed  
Personal Representative of the  
above estate. All persons hav-



Public Notices

ing claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned Personal Representative in care of the undersigned attorney at: 319 Sixth Street SW, Albany, OR 97321 within four months after the date of the publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. DATED and first published January 29, 2025. Personal Representative DAVID R. TURNER 3232 SE 16th Avenue Albany, OR 97322 Attorney DAVID B. BECKHAM 319 Sixth Avenue SW Albany, OR 97321 (Jan. 29)\_\_\_\_\_

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN PROBATE DEPARTMENT**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BETTY R. WHIPPLE, deceased. Case No.: 25PB00184 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned Personal Representative in care of the undersigned attorney at: 319 Sixth Street SW, Albany, OR 97321 within four months after the date of the publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. DATED and first published January 29, 2025. Personal Representative CONNIE R. WHIPPLE-MILLS 606 Calapooia St. SW Albany, OR 97321 Attorney DAVID B. BECKHAM 319 Sixth Avenue SW Albany, OR 97321 (Jan. 29)\_\_\_\_\_

EVENTS

From page 13

will host an open house from 5-6:15 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10, at 605 Elm St. The community is invited to come see the newly renovated school, funded for seismic retrofits through a grant and further upgrades by the school district. **‘Star is Born’ film original at LBCC** The movie classic “A Star is Born” will be screened at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Russell Tripp Performance Center at Linn-Benton Community College. The film will be a color remastered version of the 1937 classic in which young actress Esther Blodgett pursues her dream of Hollywood stardom with the help of seasoned actor Norman Maine. This original film inspired remakes starring Judy Garland in 1954, Barbara Streisand in 1976 and Lady Gaga/Bradley Cooper in 2018. Tickets are \$10 for gen-

Public Notices

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Jessica S. Hill has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Willis Walker Hill, deceased, Linn County Circuit Court Case #25PB00642 All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months from the date of publication of this Notice to the Personal Representative at Danielle M. Myers, Esq., Attorney at Law, LLC, PO Box 173, Brownsville, OR 97327, or they may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or from the Personal Representative’s attorney. DATED and published: January 29, 2025 /s/ Jessica S. Hill, Personal Representative (Jan. 29)\_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.paralegalalternatives.com) legalalt@msn.com.

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

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

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

SERVICES: We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or

Statewide Notices

junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-980-4382.

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

SERVICES: Safe Step. North America’s #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-833-395-1433.

SERVICES: Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 3/30/25.) 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.

Feb. 15, at 440 Osage St. Hosted by the Sweet Home Elkettes, the dinner includes one freshly-caught cooked crab, corn on the cob, coleslaw, baked beans, Texas toast and dessert, with a no-host bar. Proceeds benefit area charities. Group reservation and to-go options are available. Reservations are required by Monday, Feb. 10, limited to the first 150 tickets. Call or text Corinda Stubbs at 541.905.6127 or Tracey Weidner at 541.788.7503 for payment options, or pay at the Elks Lodge bar.



**ECONOMY DRUGS**

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Located inside Thriftway  
541-367-6777

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CROSSWORD

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60			61		62					63			64	
65		66						67				68		
	69									70				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Plays

7. Hymn

13. Larval frog

14. A member of the British order

16. Stomach muscle

17. Helper

19. East of NYC

20. Influential Norwegian playwright

22. School for healing

23. Of the cheekbone

25. Disco rockers The Bee \_\_\_\_

26. Gorged

28. Khoikhoi people

29. Payroll firm

30. A hiding place

31. Georgia rockers

33. Spanish soldier El \_\_\_\_

34. Deerlike water buffalo

36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
38. Frocks

40. Nostrils

41. Spoke

43. Information

44. Where wrestlers work

45. Dash

47. Cool!

48. Tiny child

51. People of northern Assam

53. Austrian spa town

55. Written reminder

56. Italian monetary units

58. Tell on

59. More abject

60. Farm state

61. Cleveland’s hoopsters

64. Famed NY Giant’s nickname

65. Los \_\_, big city

67. Rechristens

69. Shopping trips

70. Values self-interest

CLUES DOWN

1. Pressed against lightly

2. Rural delivery

3. Semicircular recesses

4. Groan

5. Donation

6. Mariner

7. One who accepts

8. \_\_ King Cole, musician

9. Streetcar

10. Silk fabric

11. \_\_ route

12. Used to make plastics

13. Swampy coniferous forest

15. Angry speeches

18. A way to soak

21. One who divides

24. Deeply cuts

26. A very large body of water

27. “Raisin in the Sun” actress Ruby

30. Medicated

32. Single unit
35. Parasitic insect’s egg

37. House pet

38. African nation

39. Saddle horses

42. Press lightly

43. One of 12 sons of Jacob

46. Cause to suffer

47. Hang ‘em up

49. Breakfast dish

50. Wrongful acts

52. NASCAR driver

54. Indian dish

55. Type of giraffe

57. Selling at specially reduced prices

59. Czech city

62. “Orange is the New Black” character

63. Records electric currents

66. Country doctor

68. Chronic, progressive disease (abbr.)

SUDOKU

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Level: Advanced



# Cheer Central at SHHS



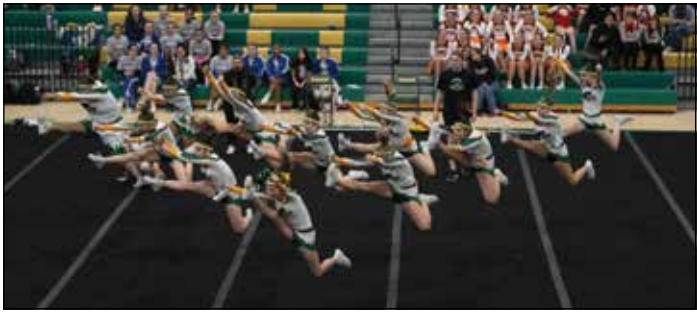
Photo by Scott Swanson

Sweet Home's Tinies cheer squad members demonstrate their technique at the Sweet Home Cheer Classic competition hosted by Sweet Home High School on Jan. 18.



Photos by Kristine Banker

Sweet Home High School's cheerleaders, above and below, put on an exhibition during the day-long event, which attracted top teams representing all age groups, from all over western Oregon. See more at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).



You are invited to

Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce's

81<sup>st</sup> Annual Awards Banquet

February 8, 2025

Doors Open- 5:00pm

Dinner- 6:00pm

Sweet Home Boys & Girls Club, 890 18th Ave, Sweet Home OR

Catered By: Cheffry's Gourmet Grub

plus Moore Family Vineyards serving our favorite drinks

Tickets at [SweetHomeChamber.com](http://SweetHomeChamber.com)

or at the Sweet Home Chamber Office,

1575 Main Street

# Sweet Home girls struggle against state's top-ranked 4A basketball team

The Sweet Home girls basketball team opened league play with a pair of tough matchups, falling to No. 2 Philomath 55-11 at home Tuesday, Jan. 21, and then to top-ranked Stayton 60-25 on Friday, Jan. 24.

Despite the losses, Coach Erika Evans emphasized the team's improvement over the week, crediting their focus and effort in practice.

"Tuesday's performance showed us the consistency and intensity it takes to compete in the toughest 4A league in the state," Evans said. "But by Friday, you could really tell the girls had paid attention to detail and applied our practice focuses to the game."

Against Stayton, the Huskies showed early energy, starting the game with a jump ball win, an inside bucket from Aaliyah Brown, and a steal by Addy Vannice. The team's increased confidence and physicality stood out, with Sweet Home achieving



Photo by Kristine Banker

Amara Gonzalas defends the hoop against Stayton's Breeci Hampton.

one of their goals of drawing offensive fouls – earning two charges during the game.

"We've had a habit of being hesitant to create contact and be confident, but you could see the difference in our post play and our guards attacking the key," Evans said. "The improvement this week is 100% on the girls, and I'm really proud of them."

The Huskies (0-2 in league

play) will look to build on this progress in two key games this week: a road matchup at North Marion on Tuesday, Jan. 28, followed by a home game against Newport on Friday, Jan. 31.

"We'd love to have as much community support as possible on Friday as we strive to reclaim our close loss to Newport at home last season," Evans said.

# Husky boys open league play with tough losses

Sweet Home's boys basketball team faced a challenging start to their first league games in the 4A division. Losing to Philomath 48-29 and a 54-28 loss to Stayton.

The Huskies hosted Philomath on Tuesday, Jan. 21, where they struggled against the Warriors' dominance on the boards. Despite shooting a better percentage than Philomath and playing solid defense, Sweet Home got out-offensive rebounded 19-4 leading to a tough loss.

"The physicality of league was a bit of a wake-up call for us," said Coach Drew Emmert. "Philomath dominated us on the rebounds. We defended well, but that kind of disparity on the boards is hard to overcome."

Sweet Home then hit the road Friday, Jan. 24, to take on Stayton (No. 5), a team that lived up to its billing. Stayton's defensive intensity caused problems for the Huskies, and their "hot shooting" proved too much to handle.

"Stayton is a top-10 team in the state and played like it," Emmert said. "Their physicality on defense gave us trouble."

Sophomore Kellen Hartsook was a bright spot for Sweet Home, leading the scoring efforts throughout the week. Get Pics of the books. See if there's others we can mention too



Photo by Kristine Banker

Gavin Tyler puts up a shot in the paint.

Looking ahead, the Huskies aim to bounce back when they travel to North Marion (No. 7) on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

And host the Newport Cubs Friday, (No. 8) Jan. 31.

"We need to win the rebound battle and take care of the ball," Emmert said. "They

shoot too well, so we'll need to fly around defensively."

Sweet Home will need to bring its best effort as it navigates the 4A-3 West Conference, what Emmert calls "the best league in the 4A competition."