

Fighting fire: Local agencies work together in ‘proactive’ fire defense

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

An effort to open roads and create firebreaks to enable quicker access to and control of wildfires in local forests is in full stride this summer.

Known as the Potential Control Line Project, it is the result of consultations between local forestry and fire officials, with input from private landowners, to build potential control lines between privately owned forests and U.S. Forest Service property east of Sweet Home.

“You’ve got to attack fire quick,” said Milt Moran, president of Cascade Timber Consulting, which manages 145,000 acres of timberland in Linn County, much of it east of Sweet Home. “A small fire is a cheap fire, a safe fire. A big fire is expensive.”

The PCL project is a partnership between Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District and the USFS Sweet Home Ranger District to establish “Potential Operational Delineations” and “Potential Containment Lines” in some 1,300 acres of forestland bordering and on the Sweet Home Ranger District north of Soda Fork.

In late May SHFAD representatives met with Willamette National Forest Service leaders for the first time since Sweet Home Fire’s newly established Wildland Crew began working to complete the project last fall.

Sweet Home Fire Chief Nick Tyler said the project’s goal is to build “shaded field breaks” between Forest Service and private forestlands, which involve fuels-mitigation clearing designed to reduce the intensity and spread of wildfires along roadways that border private timberlands.

“What that does, if we have a fire up there, it is a potential area to control the fire and keep its footprint as small as possible,” Tyler said.

Plus, he said, the program gives those managing fire-fighting efforts a big head start on controlling a blaze.

“It allows fire managers to have all this work on a map,

See Fighting Fire, Page 10

Eyes on a Classic



Ty Jewell scrutinizes a Model A Ford as he judges entires during the Sweet Home Sweet Ride Car Show Saturday, June 28. See more photos on page 19 and many more at sweethomenews.com.

Photo by Scott Swanson

Firefighters, governor, converge on Green Peter during fire school's live exercise

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Smoke lofting into the air northeast of Sweet Home Friday morning, June 27, indicated a fire, but it was intentional – set to give students in the Mid-Willamette Valley Interagency Wildland Fire School a chance to test the classroom knowledge they’d gained over the previous five days.

The annual school, based at Sweet Home High School June 23-27, attracted a record crowd – more than 200 wildland firefighters and instructors, who converged on a logged-off slope on Green Peter Mountain, north of High Deck.

Also present was Gov. Tina Kotek, who spoke to the students before heading up to see the action on Green Peter, where she chatted with firefighters on the scene.

“Behind the value of public service lies a simple idea: to help others,” Kotek said. “Our state’s wildland firefighters set the standard for combating wildfires in Oregon, na-



Gov. Tina Kotek, center, talks with firefighters at the Mid-Willamette Valley Interagency Wildland Fire School.

Photo by Scott Swanson

tionally, and internationally. I am inspired by their courage and commitment to safeguarding this state and our communities.”

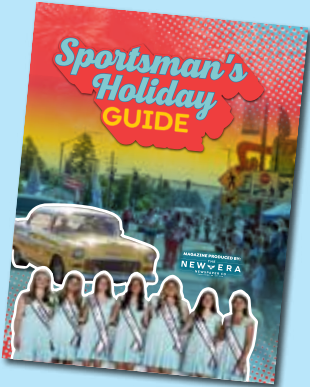
The training culminated with a live fire exercise on Friday, June 27 just outside of Sweet Home. This presents trainees with a final challenge: applying their newly acquired skills and techniques to suppress and mop-up a real fire under con-

trolled conditions.

“The live fire exercise provides an invaluable training experience – working in smoke, hiking through uneven terrain, and working closely with crew members to dig fireline,” said Craig Pettinger of the Oregon Department of Forestry Sweet Home District, who served as incident commander for the

See Fire School, Page 9

Hometown
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**INSIDE: OUR GUIDE TO
SPORTSMAN'S HOLIDAY**



**THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OF
'NEVER GIVE UP' WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS KIDS
PAGE 8**



**LOCAL JBO TEAM
MOVING ON TO
STATE TOURNAMENT
PAGE 15**

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OBITUARIES

Dorothy Johnston

Dec. 28, 1945 - June 22, 2025

Dorothy May (Erwin) Johnston, 79, of Brownsville, peacefully passed away on June 22, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.



Affectionately known as "Gg," "Dot," or "DJ," Dorothy will be fondly remembered for her infectious laughter and her steadfast commitment to her family. Wayne and Dorothy shared a beautiful marriage for 40 years. They made their home in Sweet Home in 1975, where they raised their family together.

Born on Dec. 28, 1945, in Bakersfield, Calif., Dorothy later moved to Molalla, where she grew up with her nine siblings, including her cherished twin brother, Don.

Gg's dedication as a grandmother and great-grandmother was unparalleled, as she actively engaged in their lives, providing guidance, love, and a compassionate ear.

Her daughter Becky was not just her child; she was her closest friend and confidante. Dorothy's laughter was infectious, and even during life's toughest moments, she managed to find humor that uplifted those around her.

Dorothy is preceded in death by her husband, Wayne Howard Johnston, whom she has missed dearly since his passing in 2018.

Dorothy is lovingly remembered and profoundly missed by her daughter, Rebecca Williams, son-in-law, Jon Paule Williams, and daughter Paula Johnston.

She is survived by her grandchildren, Shelby and Melissa Johnston of Sweet Home, Sara and Anthony Hoffman of Sweet Home, Brett and Jessica McCutcheon of Sweet Home, JP and Molly Williams of Brownsville, Haley Johnston of Colorado, Kevin and Annie Johnston of Colorado, along with several great-grandchildren who were lucky enough to know and love their "Gg".

Although the date for the memorial service has not yet been set, her spirit will forever remain in the hearts of all who knew and cherished her.

Dorothy's steadfast faith and belief in a higher power serve as a reminder that our lives are not defined by their endings, but by the joy and love we gather along the way. She had faith and embraced life with open arms, leaving behind a beautiful legacy of love. The joy and warmth that Dorothy shared will continue to echo in the hearts of everyone she touched.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Paid Obituary

Ledeana Lassley

May 31, 1951 - June 23, 2025

Leah Ledean Lassley, 74, of Eugene, passed away June 23, 2025.

She was born May 31, 1951, to Jack Dean and Vivian June (Carpenter) Lassley in Sweet Home.

She was born and raised in Sweet Home.

Ledeana entered the Air Force in 1970 and was honorably discharged in 1980.

During her service she lived in Japan, Charleston, S.C., Birmingham, Ala., Tennessee,

California and Texas.

In Oregon, later in life, she lived in Eugene, Springfield, Turner, Gates and Mill City.

She cross-trained many times in the Air Force as a dental assistant, nursing assistant and journalist. After exiting the service, she was a CNA, and worked for WIC in Lane County.

Ledeana loved to read. She really enjoyed shopping. She liked watching police shows and animal shows on the television. More than anything she loved and adored her cat Kenzie.

She was a member of the Christian Church. Her most recent was the Turner Christian Church.

Ledeana is survived by her sister Elaine (Peter) Evans of Sweet Home, and niece Mandie Lassley of Halsey.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister Fairie Lynn Lassley (2020).

Final placement will take place at Willamette National Cemetery at a later date. Donations can be made to Keitha's Kitty Rescue, 55 Walker Rd #2075, Lebanon, OR 97355-2075.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Paid Obituary

Jon Carrico

Feb. 22, 1952 - June 21, 2025

Jon Roger Carrico, 73, of Sweet Home, passed away June 21, 2025.

He was born Feb. 22, 1952, in Leon, Iowa, to Mildred



Glenella (McConnell) and Melvin Fay Carrico.

He moved to Albany as a child. After graduating from Albany High School he served in the Army from 1971 to 1974. Jon worked at Oremet and then worked at Ti Squared Technologies in Sweet Home, where he retired.

Jon had a love for fishing, hunting, exploring, shooting, and camping. His favorite fishing spot was fishing in a boat on Clear Lake.

He is survived by his children, Maria Baltizore of Sweet Home, Daniel Carrico of Albany, and Cierra Carrico of Sweet Home; sister Glenella Polensky of Belfield, N.D., and six grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father Melvin (1983), his mother Mildred (2014), grandmother Esther McConnell (1998), and his wife, Edith Carrico (2000).

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Lester Coady

Feb. 4, 1928 - June 21, 2025

Lester Troy Coady, Lester Coady, 97, a former resident of Sweet Home, died June 21, 2025, at Jennings McCall Retirement Home in Forest Grove.

Lester was born Feb. 4, 1928, in Doty, Wash., and spent most of his childhood growing up in Vernonia. He had many adventures with his two brothers, Walter and Dale. He served two years in the Navy, from 1945 to 1947.

Lester spent his spare time building boats with his sons, camping with the family and was an avid motorcycle rider. One summer he and his wife rode their motorcycle across the United States.

He lived in Sweet Home until 2021 when he moved to Forest Grove.

In May Les and Delores celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary.

Lester is survived by his wife, Delores; four children, Janice and Jim Strovink of Lake Oswego, Marcia Elliott of Forest Grove, Jeff and Karen Coady of Bend, and Tom and Nita Coady of Hermiston; 11 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

No memorial service is planned at this time.



Jerome Simon

April 20, 1969 - June 13, 2025

Jerome Alan Simon, 56, of Sweet Home, passed away June 13, 2025.

He was born April 20, 1969, to Arlie Patricia Richards and George Simon in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Jerome married Rona in Las Vegas in 1998, and they moved in 1999 to her home in Sweet Home.

After graduating from Sir James Dunn high school, Jerome enrolled in Sault College's Computer Engineering program, where his expertise in computer programming helped him to secure a job working for Lowe's Distribution Human Resource Center as a computer technician.

Jerome loved his job and was a multi-tasker as he not only worked at the computer in the H.R. office, but he also worked as a forklift operator on the warehouse floor, loading appliances when he was needed. He was awarded Employee of the Month multiple times for his dedication and work performance.

Jerome is survived by his parents, Arlie P. Richards and George Simon; stepchildren Josh Borlaugh and Kylah Borlaugh; brother Michael (Terry), sister Karen Triplett (Alan); and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Death Notices

William Marshall

Aug. 23, 1954 - June 27, 2025

William Douglas Marshall, 70, of Sweet Home, passed away June 27, 2025. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. For updated information, visit www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Connie Rye

March 9, 1954 - June 23, 2025

Connie Rae Rye, 71, of Sweet Home, passed away June 23, 2025.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. For updated information, visit www.sweethomefuneral.com.

John VanEpps

Dec. 21, 1960 - June 24, 2025

John Kevin VanEpps, 64, of Halsey, passed away June 24, 2025.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. For updated information, visit www.sweethomefuneral.com.



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TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
June 24	85	52	0.00
June 25	73	54	0.00
June 26	77	52	0.00
June 27	79	57	0.00
June 28	82	53	0.00
June 29	89	55	0.00
June 30	89	59	0.00

PRECIPITATION

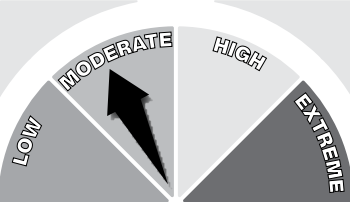
Year to date: 19.24
June 26, 2024: 17.92

FORECAST

DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Partly Cloudy	80	52
Fri	Partly Cloudy	80	50
Sat	Sunny	83	52
Sun	Sunny	86	54
Mon	Sunny	89	56
Tues	Sunny	91	56
Wed	Sunny	90	57

CURRENT LEVELS

Foster Reservoir: 636.2
Green Peter Res.: 958.6



TODAYS FIRE DANGER IS
MODERATE

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

Information for the Public Safety report and Courts in The New Era is sourced from local law enforcement and fire agencies. Incident details, which may not always be available from agencies in time for publication in our weekly paper edition, is often 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. We commit significant effort to following through as cases move through the judicial process.

Following is a list of abbreviations that may appear in our log reports: LCSO (Linn County Sheriff's Office); SHPD (Sweet Home Police Department); OSP (Oregon State Police); LCCC (Linn County Circuit Court); LCJC (Linn County Justice Court); SHMC (Sweet Home Municipal Court); LMC (Lebanon Municipal Court); FTA (failure to appear); FTC (failure to comply). A roman numeral listed after a charge means that the charge is that numbered-degree: theft I (first-degree theft).

June 29
12:49 a.m. - Craig Daniel Edgmand, 44, arrested by Clackamas County Sheriff's Office on SHMC warrant for FTC in DUII case. Cited to appear July 23.
2:08 a.m. - Nicholas Mottellang, 31, of Corvallis, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured and failure to obey traffic control device, 27600 block Hwy. 99, Halsey. Report taken.
3:43 a.m. - Philip Mejia, 23, cited for driving uninsured, 1200 block Clark Mill Rd. Tow

cancelled after driver obtained insurance.
1:07 p.m. - Marisa Rose Ross, 33, arrested on AMC warrant for FTA in theft case, 13th Ave./Kalmia St., following report of physical disturbance between male and female in that location. Officer determined it was verbal only. Ross cited and released.
1:45 p.m. - Deputy located illegal camp on Green Peter, 49700 block Quartzville Rd.
5:10 p.m. - Hit and run reported in 400 block N. Main St., Brownsville. Investigation

ongoing. Report taken.
10:38 p.m. - Dylan Scott Gates, 30, cited for driving while suspended, 2400 block Main St.
10:59 p.m. - Aurora Rose Green, 19, cited for speeding, 47/25, 2000 block Main St.
June 28
1:54 a.m. - OSP trooper came upon Toyota Camry in ditch near Chevron station, Milepost 3 on Hwy. 228, Brownsville. According to OSP, trooper noticed signs of impairment and driver, a 25-year-old male from Fresno, Calif., whose last name was not available in the report, was arrested for DUII and taken to Lebanon jail, where he provided a BAC of .19%. He was cited and taken to the motel where he was staying. Vehicle towed.
8:26 a.m. - Kasi Savolt, 62, of Sweet Home, cited to appear at Lebanon Justice Court following report of dog biting neighbor's dog in 26700 block Rowell Hill Rd. Report taken,
10:57 a.m. - Caller reported that employee had not been in contact for more than a week and requested welfare check. Officer responded, contacted employee's mother who reported she had seen him the night before and that he was

staying at friend's house and was OK. Employer advised.
12:37 p.m. - Deputy responded to report of disturbance in 40300 block Holley Heights Loop. Report taken for unlawful entry into motor vehicle and theft. Value of missing items still being calculated. Report taken.
1:35 p.m. - LCSO evicted two bats from residence in Cascadia, 48900 block Hwy. 20.
8:52 p.m. - Driver, who was not identified in Sheriff's log, cited for driving while suspended, Dew/Liberty roads.
June 27
7:15 a.m. - Resident flagged down officer to report that someone entered her yard in 1800 block Grape St. and stole cans valued at approximately \$25. Report taken for theft III.
9:49 a.m. - April Denise Ferabee arrested by Baker County Sheriff's Office on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear July 23.
12:28 a.m. - Brent Anthony Prather, 37, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in trespass case, 3200 block Main St. Cited and released.
12:55 p.m. - Zachary David Allen, 19, cited for speeding, 4300 block Main St.

1:56 p.m. - Serchelle Dayton, of Sweet Home, arrested for DUII, reckless driving and reckless endangering, Brownsville Rd./Rock Hill Dr. Report taken.
2:47 p.m. - LCSO responded to incident in 43700 block North River Dr. which turned out to be adults engaged in yelling match about using the same area of lake shore and a dog getting loose.
4:47 p.m. - Vehicle burglary reported in 45000 block Quartzville Rd., east of Sunnyside Park. Estimated \$3,000 to \$5,000 worth of camping gear and other personal property stolen from vehicle while owners were swimming. Report taken.
6:25 p.m. - Andrew Edwin Amundson arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrant for FTC in resisting arrest case. Cited to appear July 23.
6:48 p.m. - Deputy spotted illegal fire on bank of Foster Lake, 44700 block Quartzville Rd.
6:51 p.m. - Austin Jackson, 29, of Albany, arrested on outstanding warrant, 44700 block Quartzville Rd. Report taken.

See Public Safety, Page 14

CIRCUIT COURT

Warrants are out on the following individuals: Travis Alexander Ayres, Scott David Citro, Christopher Frances Ciullo, Kelsey Nicole Ciullo, Hope Marie Connors, Ashlee Dee Flanagan, Sean Doyle Gay, Nicholas Gregory Godell, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Noe Hernandez-Reyes, Michael Trevor Hilton, Faron Walter Kennedy, Tyler Bruce Lanz, Charles James Marvel, Thomas Junior McCarthey, Bryce William McGowan, Eric Wayne McKnight, Carrie Lynne Miller, Thomas Elbridge Miller, James Keith Mortensen, Nicholas Alan Nelson, Daniel Austin Phillips, Tammy Lavonn Robinson, James Ryan Routon, Kristina Marie Sleutel, Joshua Alexander Williams

Amber Dawn Barton, 46,

charged June 23 with burglary II, theft III and unlawful possession of methamphetamine.
Esteban Scott Garcia, 29, sentenced June 17 to five years suspension of driver's license, lifetime revocation of a driver's license, 70 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and three years post-prison supervision after pleading guilty to assault III, aggravated driving while suspended or revoked and DUII (intoxicants, controlled substances, or both). Charges of assault II and reckless driving dismissed.
Cody Michael Lobdell, 29, sentenced June 20 to one year suspension of a driver's license, 144 hours jail, 24 mos. bench probation and a \$1,000 fine after pleading

guilty to DUII (controlled substances) and no contest to reckless driving. Charge of recklessly endangering another person dismissed.
Sean Ever Robinson, 41, charged June 23 with burglary II and theft III.
Nicholas Scot Warren, 45, charged June 26 with two counts of criminal trespass

II, offensive littering, aggravated harassment, attempted assaulting a public safety officer, and resisting arrest. Bail set at \$1,000.
Elijah Aaron Winney, 19, charged June 26 to felon in possession of a firearm and unlawful possession of a machine gun.



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Crossword KEY

Puzzle on page 17

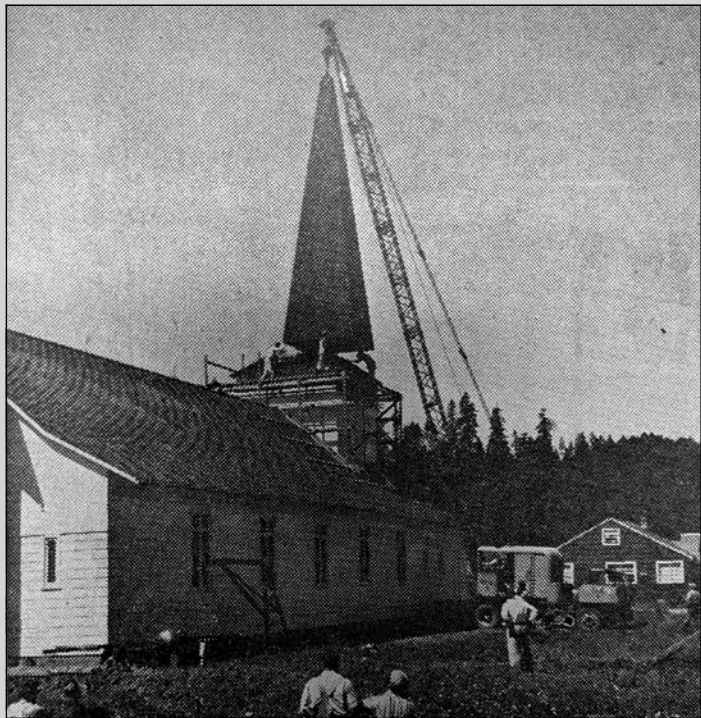
M	A	L	T		A	S	H		M	A	M	A						
A	L	O	E	S		I	T	O		O	D	E	R					
S	C	R	A	P	E		O	R	R		M	O	L	A				
H	A	I	L	E	R		L	A	M		E	N	I	D				
						C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A			
C	A	R	O	U	S	E		E	N	E	T	S						
P	I	M	P	L	E	D		S	E	I								
A	N	A	S	A							T	R	O	V	E			
						T	S	H		A	M	E	N	D	E	D		
						C	A	E	C	A		P	A	R	A	D	E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

SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 17

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

FROM OUR FILES



Santiam Lumber company workmen, using the company's crane set for an 80-foot reach, are pictured in 1950 as they raised the steeple on the new Community Church, Methodist, followed by affixing a stainless steel cross.

July 6, 1950

The Sweet Home area received its first 1950 anti-mosquito spray by air and pickup truck this week after a delay from the original schedule. The project was funded through collections organized by the Sweet Home Active Club, and some of its members helped spray areas that were inaccessible to planes. About 350 gallons of a mixture containing 5% DDT and 2% pyronone were sprayed to completely blanket the city and log ponds.

The New Era received two new pieces of equipment: an automatic newspaper folder and a Speed Graphic news camera. Prior to the purchase, all newspapers were folded by hand.

The new Community Church, Methodist was fitted with its steeple this week as construction of the church's sanctuary nears completion. The steeple measures 37 feet and weighs under five tons. The church, located at Sixth and I streets, was financed by pledges totalling \$30,000.

July 3, 1975

About 200 feet of new docks are nearly complete at Sun-

nyside Park. Of the 14 parks owned or operated by Linn County Parks Dept., Sunnyside is the most expensive to operate and maintain, a chairman of the parks committee said. He also said they would like to add a swimming area and boat ramp and docks at Lewis Creek Park, but there are complications; the DEQ are nearly regulating parks right out of development; and they are concerned the Forest Service is not getting enough money to upgrade their parks.

July 5, 2000

Dick Coffin and a slew of other volunteers have been busying themselves with projects involved in moving the Calapooia Roundup Arena from 49th Avenue to Long Street. The ground has been tilled multiple times, fences built, rebuilt four driveways and dug trenches for power. The new location will provide more rodeo and vendor space and parking.

LeAnne Rimes canceled her appearance in the Oregon Jamboree lineup along with 29 other shows, citing strained vocal cords as the reason.

Opinion: 'Affordable housing' anything but – especially for you, the taxpayer

By Randal O'Toole

So-called affordable housing is anything but affordable.

Instead, it is mainly a scam that benefits developers far more than it helps low-income people. By restricting most development to less than 1.5 percent of land in the state, Oregon's land-use planning has made housing expensive.

Politicians have responded by spending more tax dollars on subsidized housing, but this won't make housing more affordable for most people and may even make it less affordable.

Congress started subsidizing housing on a large scale in 1950 by large housing grants to city governments. The projects that resulted were expensive and often proved unlivable, with some torn down just 17 years after they were built.

In 1986, Congress decided that the private sector could do a better job, so it began offering tax credits to developers worth as much as 70 percent of the cost of projects. In exchange for the credits, developers were required to rent apartments to low-income tenants at below-market rates for 30 years.

The credits are allocated to state housing agencies based on state populations, and the agencies give them to devel-

opers using competitive processes.

Since then, Congress has created several more developer grant programs that have been joined by many state and local subsidized housing programs. The developers and the bureaucracies that fund them are often called the affordable housing industrial complex.

The scam works like this: A developer plans a housing project and seeks grants to cover 80 to 100 percent of the cost. This typically includes several million dollars in "developer fees" that the developer keeps up front.

After putting up almost none of their own money to build the project, they rent it out and, after paying operating costs, earn almost pure profits on those rents. When the 30 years are up, some developers keep rents low, but others have doubled or even tripled rents.

In the 1990s and 2000s, researchers found that subsidized housing projects typically cost 20 percent more per square foot than unsubsidized housing.

Moreover, 10 to 20 percent of the tax credits go to non-profit organizations whose costs are another 20 percent higher than subsidized housing built by for-profit companies.

The non-profits give the

programs an aura of respectability but pay many of their staff members hundreds of thousands of dollars per year.

The non-profits don't build housing themselves. Instead, they contract it out to the same construction companies that build other subsidized housing.

Once built, they often contract operations out to for-profit housing managers, making the non-profits nothing but middlemen taking a cut of the housing funds. Worse, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, many cities decided that they wanted high-density, transit-oriented developments along light-rail and other transit lines.

These four- to six-story developments require more steel, concrete, and elevators, making them far more expensive than the two-story apartments that were commonly built with subsidized housing funds in the 1990s.

Surveys repeatedly show that about 80 percent of Americans would rather live in single-family homes than apartments, so many transit-oriented developments must be subsidized. Cities turned to low-income housing tax credits and other affordable housing programs for

See Opinion, Page 5

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EVENTS

Fourth of July fireworks show at Radiator Supply

Sweet Home will celebrate the Fourth of July Friday, July 4, with a fireworks display at Radiator Supply House, 1460 47th Ave.

The show will begin at 10 p.m. Gates open at 8 p.m. Parking is by donation, which will benefit the Sweet Home High School drill team.

Lumberjack Breakfast returns this weekend

The East Albany Lions Club's Lumberjack Breakfast, a beloved community tradition is returning to Timber Linn Park this summer.

The event runs for four consecutive mornings, Thursday, July 3, through Sunday, July 6, from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Guests can enjoy generous portions of eggs, pancakes, sausage, and other favorites, along with bottomless coffee and beverages to fuel the day, lumberjack-style.

Admission is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children.

Proceeds from the Lumberjack Breakfast support the local service projects of the East Albany Lions Club, including programs that benefit the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation. Learn more about the Foundation's impact at www.olshf.org.

After 5 Connections Dinner, program July 8

After 5 Connections - a gathering for women - will host "It's All in the Family" dinner and program from 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8, at Ma's Restaurant, 2416 S. Santiam

Hwy., Lebanon.

Guest speaker will be Brenda Peterson, a floral artist from Washington who will share her story of "Heart Strings."

She explains how she went from brokenness in the choices made as a teen to a life of peace and happiness.

Soloist Kristin Guzman, of Albany will sing, and the featured presentation will be from Colleen Cook of the Lebanon Genealogy Society.

She will share the history of the Lebanon club and how it was formed, and give advice and tips on how to research family genealogy.

Cost for dinner is \$18; credit cards cannot be accepted. To RSVP, contact Sherri at 541-258-6414, or Nancy at 541-259-1396 or by email at NancyPinzino@comcast.net.

Spend time at Healing Garden

Lebanon Community Hospital is hosting a series of monthly cultural events at the Boulder Falls Event Center and patio, 605 Mullins Dr. through the summer.

Garden Grooves Community Concert; Saturday, July 26, at 6 p.m. - The Fabulous Bad Cats, an original rockin' blues band, will play classic hits from Johnny Cash to Prince. They have performed throughout the Pacific Northwest since 2002.

Melodies and Masterpieces: Sunday, Aug. 3, from 1-3 p.m. - The Orchid Trio, a Portland-based string trio, shares chamber music appreciation.

Enjoy music while learning new art forms: Japanese origami class from 1-2 p.m., kokedo-

ma (moss ball) class from 1-2 p.m., koto (a Japanese harp-like instrument) demonstration at 2 p.m.

Healing Garden Lecture: Thursday, Sept. 18, at 6 p.m. - Diane Durston, curator emeritus from the Portland Japanese Garden, will discuss Japanese philosophies of Wabi Sabi and forest bathing. Registration is required.

For more information or to register, visit samhealth.org/LebanonHealingGardens or contact Brandy O'Bannon at bobannon@samhealth.org.

Museum sale needs donations, volunteers

East Linn Museum is seeking donations for its annual yard sale fundraiser, held during Sportsman's Holiday, July 11-12.

Donations can be dropped off at the museum, which is open Thursday through Saturday each week from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

TV's, electronics or large furniture cannot be accepted. Items should be clean and usable.

Also, volunteers to help with the sale are needed. Sale hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, email eastlinncountymuseum@gmail.com or call (541) 367-4580.

Local author book reading

Local author Jim Corley and his granddaughter, Madalyn Coleman, will present a reading of a book they co-authored at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 26, at the Sweet Home Public Library, 1101 13th Ave.

The children's book (ages 4-8), "The Water Speaks: A Wilderness Adventure of Friendship," follows the story of a grumpy wolverine and a sensitive lynx, a pair who don't like each other but learn valuable lessons from a wise owl.

P.E.O. berry sale for women's education

Sweet Home P.E.O. Chapter DD is conducting its annual berry sale to raise money for educational scholarships, loans and grants to women in the Sweet Home community.

Columbia Star blackberries and blueberries, frozen in nine-pound pails, are available.

Orders can be picked up Saturday morning, Aug. 23, on Long Street behind the Rio Theatre.

For more information or to purchase berries, contact Nancy by phone or text at (541) 912-6579 or email SweetHomePEO@gmail.com.

Community Market every Saturday

Sweet Home's Community Market is held every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Sept. 27 in Library Square, at the corner of Kalmia Street and 12th Avenue.

Some two dozen vendors sell a wide range of food and other fun stuff.

Space is available for a limited number of vendors.

For more information or to apply to be a vendor, visit www.sweethomeor.gov/community/page/2025-community-market-vendor-applications-open-now or contact Joy Kistner at (541) 367-5007.

Deliver for Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels of Sweet Home is in urgent need of volunteer drivers, delivering free meals to local seniors and disabled adults in the Sweet Home area.

Delivery days are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. The role is best suited for people available in the mid-day, as meals go out at noon. Volunteers work one to two days a week for about 2.5 hours each shift.

Meals on Wheels is managed by Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments and operated by local volunteers. Volunteers package fresh meals in the kitchen and the drivers deliver them. Many local people count on this food as a primary source of nutrition.

Email to volunteers@ocwcog.org or call Heidi at 541.812.6015. Each volunteer must fill out an application and complete a background check.

Stand By Me Day in Brownsville

The annual Stand By Me Day in Brownsville will be held Saturday, July 26, throughout Brownsville. More details to come.

Museum needs help from locals

East Linn Museum is seeking volunteers and items that are needed for the operation of the museum.

The museum operates three days a week from Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call the museum at (541) 367-4580.

OPINION

From page 4

such subsidies. This dramatically increased the costs of subsidized housing.

Federal data show that, between 2002 and 2019, funding for subsidized housing more than doubled, yet the number of units built each year declined so that the cost per unit increased by 130 percent.

This is unfair to taxpayers and potential low-income renters, but developers are happy to collect their millions of dollars in fees.

Subsidized housing does nothing to make housing more affordable. Studies have found that five new units of subsidized housing crowd out the construction of four units of market-rate housing. This drives up the price of the single-family homes that most people want.

Nor does subsidized housing particularly help low-income renters. Studies have

shown that the developers capture more of the benefits of subsidized housing than the renters.

Plus, in recent years, many units have passed their 30-year requirement for below-market rents, with more units expiring in some years than are being built, so the annual net increase in affordable housing is small.

Congress, state legislatures, and local governments should stop enriching developers who build expensive but cramped apartments that few people really want to live in.

To make housing affordable again, Oregon and other states should abolish the land use laws restricting new single-family housing developments.

People who still need housing assistance should get it in the form of vouchers they can use for the housing they want rather than the housing some planner thinks they should have.

- Randal O'Toole is an Oregon-based transportation and land-use policy analyst. He is an adjunct scholar at Cascade Policy Institute, for which he authored the 2024 report "The

Affordable Housing Scam." He is the author of several books, including "American Night-



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County facing funding decrease for marine patrol services

By Alex Paul
Linn County Communications

The Linn County Sheriff's Office will lose about \$77,000 in Oregon Marine Board funding over the 2025-27 biennium, Sheriff Michelle Duncan told Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker Tuesday, June 24..

Duncan was responding to a question posed by Chairman Nyquist.

Nyquist said he learned that the state Marine Board was going to receive less federal funding, due in part to Oregon being a sanctuary state and not assisting federal immigration officials.

Duncan said she plans to staff the county's marine patrol as usual for this summer, but there may need to be staff cuts next summer.

Nyquist asked staff to research whether the county's Transient Lodging Tax might be used to help "backfill the Marine Board funding".

Nyquist said tourism continues to grow as a segment of the local economy and our "local bodies of water must be safe."

He added that there are accidents on local waterways every year.

"Reducing service is not an option," Nyquist noted.

Duncan said her office remains committed to water safety.

In other business, the commissioners:

Learned that the Linn County Emergency Operations Plan has been updated. It was last updated in 2022. Linn County Emergency Manager Ric Lentz said that project was a collaborative effort that involved

"multiple county departments and partner agencies." He added that a "significant portion of the update focused on incorporating lessons learned from the 2023 and 2024 wildfire seasons, as well as our 2024 winter storm." Keeping the Emergency Operations Plan updated helps the county maintain compliance with FEMA and eligible for future grant opportunities.

Approved a three-year contract with Avaya phone system maintenance. The contract is for \$59,582.94; \$61,668.35 and \$63,826.74 annually.

Accepted an easement along Lulay Road for the Lulay Road Cross Culvert Replacement Project. Cost was \$300 and the grantor is Gary D. Teigan as Trustee of the Melvin and Evelyn Revocable Living Trust.

Approved a contract with the Jackson Street Shelter to provide a bed used by the Linn County Mental Health Response and Stabilization Service youth clients. Daily rate will be \$148.53 and includes meals, laundry and items for basic needs.

Were informed by Juvenile Director Torri Lynn that 29 young people from Linn County were held for 308 days in May; three youth from Benton County were held for six days; two youth from Lincoln County were held for three days. There were 41 referrals to the Probation Department and there are 156 young people in the Probation Unit. The county's Intervention Specialist is serving 175 youth. 165 have not had involvement with law enforcement. The victim advocate made 120 contacts in May.

Approved a contract to provide Lincoln County with access to beds at the Linn Benton Juvenile Detention Center at a rate of \$175 per day, per bed.

Wrote off the following as uncollectable accounts that are more than 180 days old: Mental Health Services, \$11,667.93; Alcohol & Drug Treatment Program, \$12,743.98; Public Health, \$1,591.36.

Announced the Board of Commissioners will not meet on Tuesday, July 1.

Congratulated and thanked retiring Senior Administrative Assistant Marsha Meyer, who retired Friday after 27 years serving Linn County in the Commissioners' Office. A party in her honor was held Friday afternoon, June 27, in the Board Room.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.

-Matthew 18:20

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Chief: Fire season this year already been 'catastrophic'

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Fire Chief Nick Tyler told the Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District Board of Directors during its June 17 meeting that this year is already shaping up to be one of the worst in Oregon's history.

"We're in June and fire season is here, and it came fast and heavy," he said.

It's his understanding that, after talking with partners with the Oregon State Fire Marshal's department, this year's fire season is already the third "most catastrophic, in terms of structure losses" in Oregon's history. As of June 17, Tyler believes more than 50 primary residences and 90 outbuildings have been lost so far.

It is believed the Rowena fire was human-caused, he reported, adding that pho-

tos appeared to indicate the origin came from a ditch fire along Hwy. 84. It could be from a train, cigarette or chains, which are among the typical things that cause this type of fire.

A fire near Sisters is "more questionable," he said, noting there have been a series of lightning events happening.

In other business, the board approved a \$16.7 million* budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year - of which \$6,594,143 makes up the General Fund - and passed a resolution appropriating unforeseen revenue to the general fund in the amount of \$471,126.09 from conflagration funds.

*The New Era erroneously stated in its May 20 issue that the SHFAD was proposing a \$6,594,143 budget, but that figure was actually total resources for the general fund.

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SWEET HOME OR

Chips-n-Splinters to kick off Sportsman's Holiday events

David Dominy will return this year to emcee the Chips-n-Splinters show alongside new sidekick Kyle Fischer.

The "Dave-n-Kyle Show" promises to deliver singing, skits and "general fun" starting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, at the high school auditorium at 1641 Long St. Going with the "Gateway to the Santiam Playground" theme this year, performances will include outdoor-themed features.

In addition to an appearance by the 2025 Sportsman's Holiday Court and

Junior Court, performers include Amanda Wilde, Blake Keesecker, Booker, Jaeric Cvitanich, Jen Castenada, Joel Keesecker, Karly Ketsdever, Lagea Mull, Matthew Stalheim, Melody Jordan, Milt Moran and Tori Clark.

The variety show is a family-friendly event and free to attend. Chips-n-Splinters is an opportunity for local talent to showcase their skills, from short theater performances to comedy sketches to musical entertainment and everything in between.

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King Tut versus East Linn Museum

By Roberta McKern
For The New Era

Why King Tut?
The real topic is about legacies left behind to preserve the passage of time. King Tut, the Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun, reigned from 1332 to 1323 B.C.
He died young and was given a somewhat hasty burial in a borrowed tomb among other pharaohs' resting places in the Valley of the Kings. His fame came from his having been located and dug up by British archaeologist Howard Carter who was in the employ of Lord Carmarvon, George Herbert, in 1922.
Digging up Egyptian pharaohs was a hobby then, but most tombs were found to have been looted in antiquity. Tut's place of honor had been missed and his gold-adorned sarcophagus and sundry grave goods made of exotic materials remained

intact.
Some of us got to see them decades ago when the collection traveled through chosen cities in the United States, including Seattle.
Although they were originally intended to last Tut into the afterlife, these goods have become a legacy left to most of humanity.
Some of us have no interest in what is preserved unless it attracts fictional archaeologists, like Indiana Jones, by having promises of riches. Tut's tomb was a prototype for this. Upon its discovery, it became a sensation.
Not everyone called the young pharaoh "Tut," however. He was hailed in this country by a recorded song about "Old King Tut, Tut-tut." Unfortunately, the East Linn Museum does not have this recording, nor does it have any of the Egyptionized costume jewelry featuring scar-

abs inspired by the popularizing of Tut's legacy.
Nor do we have Tut's remains, no dried, blackened mummy nor canopic jars carved from alabaster to hold his innards.
The museum does have a few animal hides, but they don't hold up to comparison with the Egyptian habit of embalming respected animals thought to represent certain gods, like cats, bulls, apes and crocodiles.
However, the museum is ahead of King Tut's legacy in many ways. Compared with the 3,500 or more years' age of King Tut's goods, ours are more recent. The Museum is but 50 years old, if we allow for the two years of its being founded and planned to open in 1976, the bicentennial of the United States.
Tut's tomb represented stability and a lack of change. His father, Akhenaten, had



Wikiphtos
Archaeologist Howard Carter examines the innermost coffin of Tutankhamun, 1925.

been a heretic who tried to disbar most of the old Egyptian gods in favor of one god, Aten. King Tut's reign scratched out this attempt and his father's name was erased from all commemoration.
The East Linn Museum commemorates our past as well as change. But we are not really comparing the laying to rest of a pharaoh 2050 years ago with its history. We are looking at legacies left by the long history of humanity deliberately or otherwise done.
Tut's history has been turned into a legacy inherited by us even if only the

See King Tut , Page 8

July 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	July Happenings!! Center Closed Friday, July 4th!! Clear Lake Trip!! Thursday July 24th! Members Only! (Plus one ok.) \$10 if you drive your own vehicle \$15 if you're riding bus- includes hot dogs, side dishes, beverages, & boat ride. Leave Senior Center 9:30 AM Return 3PM
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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KING TUT

From page 7

gods were meant to see his preparation for an immortal future. We know more or less what killed him due to human curiosity and autopsies of his mummy.

At first it was held he was a murder victim, but further examination has him dying of malaria and a possibly infected broken leg. It also showed some congenital problems associated with the inbreeding common to Egyptian royalty, in which brothers and sisters were married to each other to preserve the royal lineage.

Nowadays, the graves of Egyptian pharaohs continue to be sought but none have turned out to be as exciting as King Tut's, having been robbed in antiquity.

If we follow archaeology, we see as much excitement being generated over the discovery of a terra cotta beer bottle as if it is a golden hoard, because a greater attempt is being made to understand the lives of ordinary people like those who lived under the pharaohs.

This is where the museum is ahead. The East Linn Museum has not only a shorter history than King Tut's era, it started out to praise settlers here. Our elites were saw mill

owners, storekeepers, stock raisers and miners like those pictured on the museum walls.

The goods they left us are primarily for day-to-day existence with prized pieces on the side – for the most part, anyway. One exclusion is the steam boat whistle once used by the Santiam Mill to call its workers.

Thinking of King Tut helps us see how different human histories can be and how fortunate we are to have the East Linn Museum as a legacy to pass on. Establishment of the museum was an act of civic pride and considering what can be found in it many contributed.

We wish our museum had the same capacity to draw visitors as King Tut's funeral goods, but since we represent a democracy, not a theocracy, we admire the effort made to collect what we do have.

If it can continue, some day perhaps the East Linn Museum will attract attention similar to King Tut's. History is always being reshaped by the present and recharged memories can bring surprises.

The East Linn Museum does have a little gold on display. In the mining room there is a flake.

It's worth coming in to see, even if it does not grace a sarcophagus.

Oak Heights' Gaskey stepping down after 34 years with special needs kids

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

After more than three decades of gentle guidance, tireless patience and heartfelt care, Karen Gaskey is retiring from Oak Heights Elementary School, where she has served as a special needs assistant and behavior assistant for 34 of her 35 years in education.

Gaskey, a Sweet Home native who grew up in the Sweet Home School District, has spent most of her life nurturing the next generation, including some of her former students' children.

She didn't always plan to be in education. With a degree as a legal secretary, she filled in as a substitute for a school secretary who went on maternity leave. While there, a job for a special needs assistant came up, and she was encouraged to apply.

"I got into this by chance," Gaskey said. "My oldest daughter had just started first grade, and I thought I'd give it a try."

Gaskey discovered that her passion for helping children overcome personal obstacles and become their best selves would lead to a rewarding career.



Photo by Satina Toleman
Karen Gaskey stands in front of well-wishes as she retires from 34 years with special needs children at Oak Heights.

It has not been an easy career, though. Over the years, Gaskey has seen many changes in student needs and behavior.

"There are a lot more kids now with ADD, ADHD, and other needs," she said. "When I first started, it didn't seem as

violent as it does now."

To adapt, Gaskey has completed regular training in behavioral strategies, completing CPI (Nonviolent Crisis Prevention and Intervention) certification every two years,

See Gaskey, Page 13

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FIRE SCHOOL

From page 1

school. "These are all things they'll experience this season as wildland firefighters."

Students got to test out safety principles of fire training, including use of protective gear and tools and looking out for hazards.

"Safety is paramount in every aspect of wildland firefighting, and it begins with our training exercises," Pettinger said. "Working together in a collaborative training setting improves communication and builds effective relationships for all agencies to draw upon during fire season."

Sweet Home was represented by both ODF personnel and members of the new Wildland Fire 21 crew from Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District.

Christian Whitfield, who heads the crew, said that about 20 members were present.

Jake Hepler, one of the more senior members of the new crew, assisted with the preparation of the live fire exercise.

"We lit the piles this morning and now we're helping them hold it, just in case anything gets outside the lines," he said.

Not far away, Kelso Ellis, who's working this summer with the new SHFAD wildland crew, was working with another team on maintaining a fire line.

Ellis, a 2024 SHHS graduate who volunteers with the district while attending college and is aiming to be a full-time firefighter himself, said that at fire school he learned "a lot of classroom stuff, going over safety, situational awareness" and becoming familiar with



Photo by Scott Swanson

Bret Ough of Sweet Home Fire's Wildland Fire 21 Crew sprays water during the live fire drill Friday. Behind him are Bryce Keeney, center, and Bryce Keeney.

tools available to wildland firefighters.

He said he's enjoyed working with the district's wildland crew.

"I work with a great group of guys, we've got great leadership. It's taught me a lot of new things and so I've gotten a lot of new experiences. And I've made a lot of new friends doing it."

Chad Calderwood of the Sweet Home ODF unit, who served as operations section chief for the fire school, said it "went great."

"We had a record number of students from the Oregon Department of Forestry, the BLM and the local fire district, which has the new hand crew coming on this year."

"So we've integrated some more classes for the students, especially in our what we call our 'Level 3 advanced course.'"

As he spoke a Weyerhaeuser chopper carrying a water bucket buzzed by. Calderwood said that was part of the intensified curriculum.

"We added an aviation component," he said. "We're just getting everybody op-

portunities to get further training so then we can send some of these folks that work with helicopters out of state for assignments with aviation."

Adrian Kast, a firefighter in the ODF Sweet Home unit was monitoring a water tank, "keeping the pump going, making sure they've got enough water to get this fire out," he said.

Kast said he was able to take advantage of the higher-level instruction, which will allow him more opportunities for leadership at fires.

"I can take command of a little more complex fires," he said.

Hepler noted that all 20 of the crew members of the SHFAD wildland crew were at the school and that opens up more opportunities for Sweet Home.

"Right now we're able to run a 10-man mod out on fires," he said. "We just got back from Rowena, off that fire. After this school we'll be able to go out with the 20-person full set."

Crew member Bryce Keeney, manning a hose nearby,



Photo by Scott Swanson

Adrian Kast of the ODF Sweet Home Unit monitors a water tank as a Weyerhaeuser helicopter flies overhead.

said wildfires pose different challenges than what he's experienced in fighting structure fires with SHFAD.

"It's been a great experience," he said of the school. "This is my first year here and I'm learning quite a bit."

He said structure fires require all-out effort, "go-go-go, - it's all or nothing."

"Over here, I've learned about communicating with everybody, keeping an even line. That's what works best, staying at an even pace, not getting gassed within the first 10 minutes."

"It's been a great experience. My first year here, learning quite a bit."

Kotek told reporters it was helpful for her to be on the site and see the live fire drill in action.

"What it means to be on the ground, to see a burn, to see what it takes to mop it up, keep it tight during the fire season," she told KMTR TV. "Because we have hundreds, if not thousands, of folks out on the fire line during the fire season. I want to keep them safe, I got to know what they're doing."

"And so this information for me, seeing the helicopters, it will help me advocate for more resources, really educate the public about what we're doing here."

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FIGHTING FIRE

From page 1

instead of having a team scouting the area out," he said.

That could potentially save a week or more of work by responders, because they would already know where the control lines can be, he added.

"They'll be a week ahead of schedule. The work will be done. They'll have it on a map."

The May meeting, he said, gave Willamette National Forest leaders a chance to see work that is being done by SHFAD aimed at giving firefighters a better chance of getting a handle on local forest fires before they get big.

"There's a lot that has happened," he said. "Some of the decisions the Forest Service has made over the last couple of years, a lot of proactive actions are being taken."

Lessons Follow 2020



Sweet Home District Ranger Nikki Swanson points to a map showing (bold lines) where roads are being opened and cleared that border the Middle Santiam Wilderness.

Tyler and Sweet Home District Ranger Nikki Swanson said the idea to create improved access and firebreaks got legs following the fires of 2020, followed by what Tyler called "atypically large fires"

over the succeeding four years.

"Ever since 2020, when we saw what fires could really do here, I think it got a lot of people's attention," Swanson said.

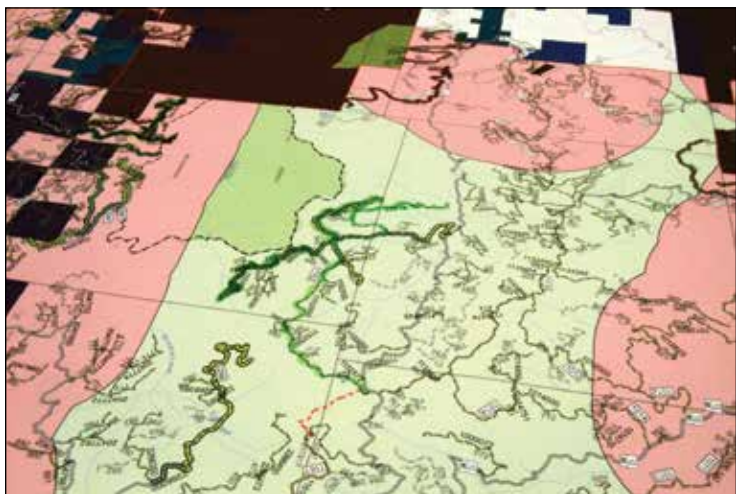
"When you look to the north and the south of us, what you see left today is an island of green, and we want to collectively keep the green green as long as we can."

"That's where the concept started," Tyler said. "What can we do before the fire happens?"

Swanson said fire protection is a big concern for local community members she's talked with, and that's part of what's prompted the PCL effort, which started with some questions: "What can we do during fire season to keep fires as small as possible? And what can we do before fire season, years ahead of time, to try to give ourselves opportunities to keep fires smaller?"

The fire break creation effort by Sweet Home Fire is the immediate answer to those questions, she said.

The Potential Control Line project's initial focus is the area bounding the Middle



Photos by Scott Swanson

This map shows (bold lines) roads around the Middle Santiam Wilderness that either are being cleared or where clearing is planned.

Santiam Wilderness, 35 miles northeast of Sweet Home, located between Highway 20 and Quartzville Road.

That area has been an area of concern for a long time," Swanson said. "The trees in there are really old, 400 years old, and it has really steep and deep canyons."

"You could get a firefighter in there, maybe for an initial attack on single trees. But if you get an established fire in there you can't put people in there because you can't safely get them back."

Plus, Swanson said, after what happened in 2020, local officials and residents woke up to the potential for how fast and how big fires could become in east Linn County and surrounding communities.

"In 2020 I think people saw what could happen and it just - changed," she said.

Fires Changed Landscape

On Aug. 16, 2020, two fires ignited by lightning strikes started on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation near Mt. Jefferson and, that same day the Beachie Creek Fire ignited near Opal Creek, west of

the other two, blamed on a downed power line.

Due to steep, mountainous terrain, firefighters used indirect methods and water drops in an attempt to fight the fires, which grew in size, and on Sept. 7 of that year, powerful east winds began flowing, whipping the three into a single, massive wildfire, named the Santiam Canyon Fire.

That conflagration ended up burning more than 400,000 acres in Linn, Marion, Jefferson and Clackamas counties, killing five people, destroying close to 1,600 structures and causing more than \$25.2 million in damage.

Meanwhile, the Holiday Farm Fire ignited Sept. 7 from downed power lines along Hwy. 126 in the McKenzie Valley, rapidly growing to 173,393 acres and moving northward to threaten Sweet Home even more directly.

Swanson noted that the high-winds factor on Labor Day weekend of 2020 was extremely unusual for local firefighters, and she said lessons from the incident persist.

See Fighting Fire, Page 11

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FIGHTING FIRE

From page 10

"Seasoned firefighters who had been in California, who had fought Santa Ana (winds) fires, were like, 'What the heck? Can that happen here?' Everyone was surprised.

"In hindsight, sure, you could say, 'Yeah, you sat on that too long,' but to be fair about it, we didn't know yet and now we know."

Last summer's Pyramid Fire, which broke out to the north of the Middle Santiam Wilderness in extremely rough, roadless terrain, was another indication that things needed to change, she said.

The fire started in an area in which closed forest roads were scheduled to reopen, she said, but that wasn't due to occur until the spring of 2026.

"They tried to get in and they couldn't before the fire exploded," she said. "So that idea of it being so important to just be able to drive in and put the fire out – it's not rocket science. In addition to fuels treatments on some roads, it might just simply be important to get there fast."

The fire, reported on July 17, grew from three to 60 acres the next day and eventually burned more than 1,300 acres.

USFS Responds

Swanson said forestry officials started discussing what they could do around the edges of the wilderness to keep a fire from spreading in or out.

"We were talking to some folks from the Washington office about this, about how if we could have just driven there, we could have put out the Pyramid Fire, but we couldn't."

The outcome of those conversations was funding: initially about \$500,000 from the Forest Service to address those problems. That amount later increased to \$1.9 million, Whitfield said. .

Swanson said local Forest Service officials were able to partner with the National Forest Foundation, a nonprofit that works with private forestland owners, particularly families, to contract for the thinning projects.

The NFF met with local timber company owners and developed a list of areas that were deemed the most crucial for access to forestlands.

She said forest owners and Oregon Department of Forestry officials in Sweet Home helped identify the problem areas.

"They helped us with the choosing, identifying the original problem on the district, which was 'What is the Forest Service going to do to try to have a different outcome?'"

Thinning in the Works

A roadside thinning project



Photo by Scott Swanson

Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District's Wildland Fire Division staff members pause for a photo before they head out to do brush clearing near the Middle Santiam Wilderness.

was put out to bid and Sweet Home Fire won the contract last July.

It has resulted in the establishment of SHFAD's Wildland Fire Division, which is headed by Christian Whitfield and 22 staffers – six full-timers, three who work 10 months and 13 who are working four months during the summer.

SHFAD last fall purchased three 2023 four-wheel-drive Ford F-350 pickups and a \$350,000 Bandit whole tree chipper that can grind up a 24-inch pine log for the division's use.

Plus, Whitfield said, SHFAD refurbished an "old Suburban" for use with the project.

The chipper was funded through the seven-year bond approved by voters in May 2024, which also funded two wildland fire engines for the district.

The \$1.9 million two-year fuels reduction contract enabled SHFAD to make the necessary hires.

SHFAD Wildfire Division

Whitfield said SHFAD's summer wildland firefighters differ from those employed by Oregon Department of Forestry in Sweet Home in that ODF's crews are engine-based, while SHFAD's are hand crews.

That last detail was a big factor in SHFAD getting the contract, he said.

"The contract was all hand work – no machinery," he said. "That's the only reason we were able to compete on our bid."

The contract requires clearing of roadside fuels 100 feet on each side of what will be a total of 40 miles of roads leading into the Middle Santiam Wilderness area. Debris is chipped or piled per specifications in the contract, he said.

Swanson said the Forest Service estimates the cost of the fuels mitigation at about \$5,000 per mile.

Whitfield said SHFAD has completed "between a quarter

and half of that" thus far. The hand crews do use the chipper, but the rest of the work is

feet-on-the-ground.

"We're on track to meet the contract," he said.

Whitfield noted that the new staffers all took part in

See Fighting Fire, Page 12

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This week's ICEBOX Performer of the Week is Kyle Yeack!

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Thank you, Kyle, for your valuable contributions to RSH. We are truly fortunate to have you on the team!

FIGHTING FIRE

From page 11

the five-day Mid-Willamette Valley Interagency Wildland Fire School held at Sweet Home High School last week.

The contract was a win-win in a lot of respects for the local agencies.

"The project allowed us to hire enough people to start our hand crew," Whitfield said. We were already working through some ideas (to start a wildland fire division) and that allowed us to hire them to work on the project as well as provide coverage for the district."

When a fire occurs in the district, he said, wildland personnel can respond to those - "then they go back to fuels mitigation."

Also, he said, "We can send them out to fires around the state."



Photos courtesy of SHFAD

Sweet Home Fire Chief Nick Tyler speaks to attendees at a meeting of fire officials to discuss Sweet Home Fire's project to create fire lines in the Middle Santiam Wilderness area.

Swanson cautioned that the fuels mitigation and road-clearing efforts are not a cure-all for stopping forest fires.

"There is no fire line in the world, no fire line in the Cas-

cade that is wide enough for that," she said, noting that in large fires the flames get into the forest canopy and can be whipped by winds, with sparks jumping as far as miles away.

"What it does do is it gives us opportunities," she said. "If a fire is burning, it might give us an opportunity to back burn under the exact right conditions, and to deepen that distance and hold a fire in place, which would give us the opportunity to be quicker in our initial attack."

"Number one, you can drive there. Number two, you've already done the roadside work to get in there safely. The hazard trees have already been removed, right? So you've already sort of given yourself a head start."

Moran said he appreciates the fuels mitigation efforts and he's looking forward to seeing more roads re-opened.

"We're working closely with the Forest Service," he said. "This is something that we know is going to help."

Partnership Important

Swanson said she personal-



Christian Whitfield, center right, standing in front of the Wildland Fire Division's chipper unit, speaks to forestry officials at the May meeting.

ly appreciates that people and agencies are working together to come up with solutions.

Both CTC and Giustina Resources, the two largest private landowners in that area, had done "a lot of work" along the property boundary on the west side of the wilderness, she said.

"They built an incredible fire line along there."

Moran said CTC has been creating mechanical fuel breaks on roads on Hill Timber land adjacent to Forest Service lands. Those include clearing trees, using herbicides to battle unwanted brush and planting huckleberries in the open spaces "to help with food sources for people who like to pick huckleberries and for animals."

He said that particular attention is paid to ridges and other locations where fire could spread rapidly.

"Fire knows no boundaries," he said. "It doesn't care whether it goes across Forest Service land or private property."

Tyler said the May meeting involved multiple agencies

that fight local fires, including public forestry agency officials, himself, Whitfield, Wildland Crew 21 Supt. Justin Wolfe and crew member Jake Hepler.

"This is a fun project with a different group of people," Swanson said.

Forest Service officials met with the National Alliance of Forestland Owners, of which both CTC and Giustina are members, which weighed in on the needs in the region prior to issuing the contract.

Moran said he and other NAFO members showed USFS officials what they'd been doing in the region and what they planned.

NAFO membership gives members like CTC and Giustina legal authority to quickly respond to forest fires, even if they are on adjoining Forest Service lands.

"If we can get there quick, we can get it done," Moran said. "We're much more nimble than the Forest Service in getting equipment up there."

That's because CTC usually

See Fighting Fire, Page 20

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GASKEY

From page 13

which has helped her learn how to safely de-escalate situations and protect both the students and staff.

Principal Todd Barrett, who has worked alongside Gaskey for the past six years, said her presence has been a steady, calming force.

"She works with our toughest kids and our toughest behaviors," Barrett said. "She's a role model. The students really look up to her. She's leaving big shoes to fill."

One of Gaskey's favorite stories involves a young man who, as a kindergartener, was so overwhelmed by the classroom environment that he often spent time hiding under tables.

"We finally found a book series he loved, 'Pete the Cat,' and that opened the door to reading for him," Gaskey said. "By fifth grade, we were reading together."

"I've always lived by the motto, 'don't ever give up,' and this was my biggest 'don't ever give up' moment because you

just don't know how long it will take. Watching him go off to junior high as a functioning little human, that just filled my heart."

That perseverance and love of the children she works with have defined her career.

"The most rewarding thing," she said, "is when you spend years helping a child develop a skill and then finally see that light bulb come on. That moment when they say, 'Oh, I got it!' – that's what makes my heart happy."

Gaskey also credits her success to strong partnerships with both parents and teachers.

"I've had great relationships with families," she said. "And I've loved being part of the team with our teachers. When you're all working toward the same goal, it's fun and fulfilling."

Gaskey is excited for her future, but leaving Oak Heights is not easy for her.

"I've made some really good friends here. I'll miss them most of all."

Though she's stepping away from her full-time role, Gaskey

isn't done with the classroom yet. She holds an emergency teaching license and plans to substitute teach for the next two years.

Still, retirement brings time for new adventures and old passions.

"I've always loved photography," she said. "I just got a new camera and want to learn how to use it well. I want to travel and I have a bucket list to do a ghost town tour, take pictures of old barns and buildings. I love imagining the history behind them."

Twelve years ago, Gaskey and her husband moved to Albany to be closer to their two daughters and five grandchildren. She looks forward to spending more time with them as well.

"I've had an amazing career," she said. "I've worked with amazing people and gotten to meet some amazing kids. Some of my former students are now parents, and they bring their kids in and say, 'Mrs. Gaskey was here when I went to school!' That's pretty special."

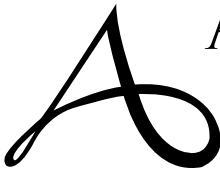


Dr. Michael W. Stoner

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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16: Taco Casserole

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23: Old Fashioned Goulash

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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.



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

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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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Commissioners approve county budget totaling nearly \$280 million

Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker on Thursday, June 26, officially adopted a budget of \$279,995,597 for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year.

The budget had previously been approved by the Budget Committee after a series of hearings in late April and early May. Members of the Budget Committee are the three commissioners, plus Kerry Johnson, chair; Rex Watkins, vice-chair and Dustin Welkers.

The 2024-25 budget was about \$240.9 million.

Commissioners also adopted a tax rate of \$1.2736 per \$1,000 of property valuation and a Law Enforcement Levy of \$2.98 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The total General Fund budget will be \$57,652,602.

County Administrative Officer Darrin Lane thanked

Budget Officer Michelle Hawkins, department heads and elected officials for their hard work and being good financial stewards, which he said makes the budget process easier.

Hawkins said differences between the approved budget and Tuesday's adopted budget were changes to beginning fund balances between May and late June.

Board Chairman Nyquist thanked the volunteer community members who serve on the Budget Committee.

"We are not laying off people and we are continuing to provide services to Linn County residents," Nyquist said. "I want to thank all of our employees, who know that every day is a budget day. We don't get here with magical math."

Nyquist said after the meeting that by and large, Linn County employees are

fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars and he is grateful for that.

Commissioner Tucker said he is amazed that Linn County can provide a wide array of services with a \$1.27 tax rate.

"Other counties have tax rates almost three times ours," Tucker said. "We keep our county alive and going well on \$1.27. It's amazing."

Commissioner Sprenger participated telephonically and said she appreciated the work of the Linn County Compensation Board.

After the Board of Commissioners meeting, Commissioner Tucker called to order the 4-H and Extension Service District annual budget adoption meeting.

A 2025-26 budget of \$1,010,176 and a tax rate of seven cents per \$1,000 property valuation were approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

7:46 p.m. - Scott Richard Fleury, 47, arrested for menacing - domestic, disorderly conduct II after report of disturbance in 2900 block Kalmia St. Lodged at Linn County Jail. Report taken.

10:26 p.m. - Caller reported possible intoxicated driver who almost hit guard rail and multiple curbs. Officer and LCSO responded, located female in 1800 block Main St. who did not appear intoxicated, but may have been experiencing age-related issues, according to SHPD report. LCSO

escorted driver home. Driver to be submitted for retest.

10:50 p.m. - Brian Scott Holden, 49, arrested on LMC warrant for FTA in driving while suspended case, 1800 block Kalmia St. Cited and released.

11:28 p.m. - Burglary reported in 51300 block Quartzville Rd. Buildings broken into, property missing. Report taken.

June 26

1:17 a.m. - Caller reported juveniles headed toward town on Holley Rd. from 3rd Ave. Officer located them eastbound on Main St. near 18th Ave. Juveniles were warned for curfew and all returned home

or were retrieved by parents/guardians.

3:56 a.m. - Overdose reported in 400 block Kay Ave., Brownsville. Report taken.

9:46 a.m. - Erik Hutton, 56, of Sweet Home, arrested for unauthorized use of motor vehicle, possession of meth, trespass II; Farrin Geise, 41, of Sweet Home, arrested for trespass II; Patricia Geise, 70, of California, arrested for trespass II; Alyssa Tenorio, 20, of California, arrested for trespass II after report of trespassers in 27900 block Fern Ridge Rd. Report taken.

See Public Safety, Page 17



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Photos by Jessica Sands

Sweet Home's Junior National Green Team, above, coached by Phil Utter, is state-bound after finishing third in the district tournament. Above left, Dawsen Pruitt connects with a pitch for Sweet Home Green. Below left, Tucker Carr scores a run against Jefferson.

SH teams compete in JBO districts

Sweet Home's Junior National Green Team, coached by Phil Utter, will head to Portland July 11-13 for the JBO State Championship Tournament.

The Huskies finished third in the Valley League district championships hosted by Monroe June 27-29. In the Valley District National playoffs, the top three teams qualify.

Sweet Home, which finished 13-1 in the regular season to top the 13 teams in the Junior

National North division, got off to a rough start with a 13-1 loss to the hosts in its first championship bracket game Friday.

The Huskies recovered to beat Jefferson 5-1 and Lincoln City 9-7 before falling again to Monroe 12-2 to finish third, while Monroe advanced for a rematch against Central Linn, which won 6-1.

Central Linn advances as the No. 1 team from the Valley League, with Monroe second

and Sweet Home Green third.

Also competing last weekend was Sweet Home's Junior American East team, coached by Travis Johnson, which finished third in Silverton, one game out of making state. Sweet Home lost its opener 5-1 to South Albany, then beat Scio 3-1 to take third.

Newport, which went 15-0 in the regular season, beat South Albany in the final.

Fluoridated water on its way out in Sweet Home?

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

During its June 24 meeting, the City Council moved to repeal a 1964 ordinance that provides fluoridation in the city's water system.

With very little discussion on the matter, the council voted 6-0 (Councilor Ken Bronson was absent) to conduct the first two readings of an ordinance that would effectively remove fluoridation of the city's water supply.

Following a special election held in November 1964 revealing residents wanted fluoride added to their water, the City of Sweet Home created Ordinance No. 454 ordering the fluoridation of the city's water supply.

In 2014, residents requested the council consider removing fluoride because they believed the chemicals cause health problems and called it "forced medication." Following a public hearing on the matter - with 10 residents speaking out against fluoride and eight speaking in favor - the council voted to take no action, saying they weren't willing to overturn the vote

of the people but current residents could gather a petition to place it on the ballot again.

During the council's May 27 meeting this year, Councilor Dylan Richards requested the matter be brought forth for discussion at the June meeting. City Manager Jason Ogden informed the council that adding fluoride to the system costs the city about \$20,000 a year.

The council had several options before them: request more research from staff, refer the matter to a ballot of the people, create an ordinance repealing the fluoridation of water, or do nothing.

Deputy City Manager Cecily Pretty told The New Era that the system to fluoridate the water has been broken for several years, so the water has not been fluoridated during that time. Since there is an ordinance requiring the water to be fluoridated, it came before the council to address the matter.

Ogden had provided the general history of water fluoridation in Sweet Home during the June 24 meeting, and Public Works Director

Greg Springman reported the city pays about \$3,000 a year in hazardous waste fees for having the product on site.

A motion to repeal the ordinance was approved without opposition. Pretty told The New Era that given the fact the topic had received much more public scrutiny in the past, she was surprised it sailed through this meeting so smoothly.

The third and final reading of the ordinance is expected to be held at the next City Council meeting on July 8.

In other business, the council:

- Conducted a third reading of an ordinance amending the city's transient lodging

tax;

- Approved the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Sweet Home Police Employees' Association for 2025-2028, which includes: wage increases of 5% in July 2025, 4% in July 2026 and 4% in July 2027; updates to incentive and education pay; and an additional 1% residency incentive;

- Heard from Library Director Megan Dazey the library received a grant to purchase a new door for handicapped access, but part of the grant can also be used on whatever the community wants. A voting form can be found at the library.

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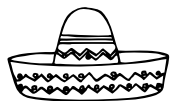
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Feral Cats -- Fixed with shots. Need Homes / barns ASAP. Call Dawn, Sweet Home 970-690-1868 (Jun.25-Jul.16)



FREE GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES To Forever Homes due to relocating: 1 Male, 1 Female, Preferably email me first at: stephaniechristensen59@yahoo.com before Text (541) 655-9477 (Jun. 25 - Jul. 2)

Public Notices

Sweet Home Police Department 1950 Main St., Sweet Home, OR 97386 (541) 367-5181 Notice of intent to dispose of property under ORS 98.245

The Sweet Home Police Department has in its physical possession the unclaimed personal property described below. If you have any ownership interest in any of the unclaimed property, you must file a claim with the Sweet Home Police Department within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice or you will lose interest in that property. You may file a claim that presents proof satisfactory that you are the lawful owner or security interest holder of the property. The unclaimed property may be donated to a nonprofit organization or another government agency; retained for use by the City of Sweet Home; destroyed; or sold at public auction through govdeals.com, ebay.com or Facebook at any time after the 30-day period expires, July 2-Aug. 1, 2025 (PP 25-04): CashApp card for Anna Martel, keys, backpacks with miscellaneous personal items, clothing, blankets, tools. Phones, scooter, sign, bicycles, wallet and cash for Brian Siegmund, Social Security card for Joseph Frost Jr., BB gun, knives, purses with miscellaneous items, pepper spray, lighters, vaping devices, credit/debit/ID/SS cards for several (Jessica Nofziger, Angelica Ruiz, James Wood, Madison Ritherford, Melissa Boyt, Chelsie Baxter), cigarettes, chew, coin change machine, propane tanks. (Jul. 2)

Notice of sale of personal property under Landlords Possessory Lien. Personal property left in the following units have been seized for Non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot, 2887 SW Ferry St Albany, OR 97322 on July 31, 2025 at 12:00pm.** The following units are available for viewing and live public sale at 12:00pm: G0721 (Clark Boyd), I1093 (Kelsey Reynolds), I1048 (Sheri Belcher), F0669 (Greg Dana), J2072 (Ashley Gaffney), E0528 (George Girard), B0216 (Natalie Jones), J2018 (Mandy Lawson), G0737 (Lisa Miller), G0733 (Joetta Owens), J2019 (Debra Tilley), F0633 (Amanda Turcott), K3043 (Mary Wreyford) (Jul. 2 - Jul. 9)

Notice of sale of personal property under landlord's possessory lien. Personal property left in the following units have been seized for non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot- 4199 Main St. Sweet Home, OR 97386 on July 30, 2025.** The following units are available for viewing at 10:00am and will be sold to the highest bidder: Keith R. Groat - A451, Tara Saunders - A456, Diana Hall - B217, Tara Saunders - D310, Jamie Cockrell - D130, Alicia Stewart - B133, Amber Steinborn - D357, Dixie Samson - D434, Otis Lozinto - A212, Katie King - B146, Tony W Jones -

Public Notices

B233, Brad Taylor & Cynthia Johnston - B135, Elizabeth Herbert - B313, Renee Godell - A480, Brian George - A429, Carmen Espinosa - A324, Alexine Alewine - C178. (Jul. 2 - Jul. 9)

Summons For Service In the Circuit Court Of The State of Oregon for the County of Linn Jacqueline Torres, Plaintiff /Petitioner v. Jose Manuel Ruetas Torres, Defendant/ Respondent Date of First Publication: June 11, 2025 (response must be filed within 30 days of this date). Case No. 25DR07319. Jacqueline Torres has filed a custody case asking the court to order a child custody. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT Jose Manuel Ruetas Torres: READ CAREFULLY! You must "appear" in this case or the other side will win automatically. To "appear," you must file a legal Response, Answer, or Motion. Forms may be available through the court above or online at www.courts.oregon.gov/forms. Talk to a lawyer for information about appearing by motion. Your response must be filed with the court named above within 30 days of the date of first publication (noted above), along with the required filing fee (go to www.courts.oregon.gov for fee information). It must be in proper form. You must show that the other party's lawyer (or the party if they do not have a lawyer) was formally served with a copy of your response according to the service rules. Service rules are in the Oregon Rules of Civil Procedure (ORCP) Rule 9. If you have questions, see a lawyer immediately. If you need help finding a lawyer, you can call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at 503.684.3763 or toll free in Oregon at 800.452.7636, or go to www.oregonstatebar.org. (Jun. 11 - Jul. 2)

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 819 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 7/10/2025. The sale will be held at 10:00am by SANTIAM TOWING & RECOVERY 611 MAIN ST LYONS, OR 1963 CHEVY BOX TRUCK VIN =3T623P100338 Amount due on lien \$8883.00 Reputed owner(s) PANTLE, FREDERICK LIVINGSTON, MARK GIST (Jun. 25 - Jul. 2)

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE CONTENTS OF STORAGE ARE MISC HOUSEHOLD ITEMS Unit #4 Ashley Stinson Unit #9 Tracia West Unit #14 Robin Craig Unit #25 Sheri Draheim Unit #39 Aaron Heintzman Auction by big13.com July 11 - July 20 A Good Choice Self Storage 1580 W Airway Road Lebanon, OR 97355 (541) 224-7895 (Jun. 25 - Jul. 9)

Notice of sale of personal property under Landlords Possessory lien. Personal property left in the following units have been seized for Non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot, 111 Davidson St. NE Albany, OR 97321 July 31, 2025 at 10:00am.** Poole, Kelly #C149; Garcia II, Abel #C104; Payne, Leslie #C147; Baker, Phillip #F109; Soto-Galvan, Angel #F104; Whitecotton, Roger #A33 (Jul. 2 - Jul. 9)

Notice of sale of personal property under landlord's possessory lien. Personal property left in the following units have been seized for non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot- 36666, Hwy 34, Lebanon OR 97355** on July 25th, 2025 at 10:00 am: Andy Erikson CC22; Rachel

Public Notices

Hodson DL7; Hannah Horn DL3; Stevie Johnson DC40; Nicholas Bober F16; Tina Goodenough AL08; Laura Hughes BL36; Joshua Koenig DC72; Scott Lawrence DC85; Kathleen McClure FC71; Joy Stackhouse BL48. (Jul. 2 - Jul. 9)

Statewide Notices

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Structural fires dominate calls Saturday

Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance responded to multiple calls for two back-to-back structure fires starting at around 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 28.

In a press release, SHFAD reported that the first fire was initially called in by a passing motorist who could see smoke near a shop at 28160 Hwy 20. The first responding unit was initially investigating smoke in the area when it was discovered that there was a structure fire in the bay of an unoccupied shop.

A first alarm was dispatched and four apparatus responded with 10 firefighters to fight the blaze. The structure was a large shop with a mechanics bay that had an interior fire burning out into the eaves.

After ensuring that no one was inside, firefighters took advantage of the building's construction type and prevented the fire from spreading into the rest of the shop by using a technique that prevents oxygen from getting to the fire and cooling the room of the fire rapidly. The fire was contained to the room of origin, but everything was lost or severely damaged in that bay. The fire is believed to have started from an electrical issue with an extension cord underneath some tires and rims.

While restoring equipment on scene at the first fire, another crew was dispatched near 5191 Redwood St. after SHFAD was informed the



Photo courtesy of SHFAD

Fire crews extinguish a fire located under the trestle bridge over Wiley Creek.

train trestle bridge over Wiley Creek owned by Albany and Eastern Railroad was on fire.

Crews made access to the bridge and extinguished the fire using water and foam. A civilian who worked near the area saw the smoke and responded with a fire extinguisher, diminishing some of the flames prior to firefighters arrival.

The railroad ties and some of the structural members were flame-damaged, but remained structurally intact and will be inspected by the railroad company to ensure safety. SHFAD reported the fire appears to have been

started beneath the bridge near a structural member from a pile of trash, and remains under investigation.

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry also responded to both fires and supported SHFAD with engines, water and personnel. Sweet Home Police Department and Linn County Sheriff's Office also assisted, and off-duty personnel at SHFAD provided medical emergency response for the district.

According to a SHPD report, an investigation is continuing and a report was taken for arson II, criminal trespass I, criminal mischief I and reckless endangering.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 14

10:07 a.m. - Justin Lee Smith, 43, cited for driving uninsured, expired registration and improper display of plate, Towne Pump.

12:08 p.m. - Kolby McBeth of Brownsville cited for unspecified traffic violations in 37600 block Northern Dr.

12:27 p.m. - Officer located vehicle in parking lot at 1950 Main St. after allowable hours. Vehicle towed.

1:43 p.m. - Miguel Alfredo Gutierrez, 42, arrested by Eugene police on SHMC warrant for FTA in giving false information to police officer case. Cited to appear Aug. 13.

2:56 p.m. - Devin Robbie Ward, 28, arrested on LMC warrant for driving while suspended, 1950 Main St. Cited and released.

5:13 p.m. - Deputies conducted death investigation in what LCSO described as apparent suicide of 75-year-old male from Bend. 48800 block Quartzville Rd. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

5:19 p.m. - Dustin Andrew

Clarneau arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear July 23.

5:29 p.m. - Sara Kay King, 33, arrested after she turned herself in at SHPD, 1950 Main St., on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case, LMC probation violation warrant. Cited and released.

6:12 p.m. - Thomas Junior McCarthey, 61, arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrants for FTA in criminal driving cases. Cited to appear July 23.

6:54 p.m. - Jason Auten, 49, of Sweet Home, arrested for assault IV-domestic following disturbance in 400 block 50th Ave. Report taken.

7:38 p.m. - Diana Lynn Hall, 68, of Sweet Home, arrested on multiple warrants for contempt of court, offensive littering and parole violation after she flagged down OSP officer while hitchhiking (using a walker) near Milepost 24 on Hwy. 20. Hall cited and released. Friend arrived to give her a ride to town.

7:58 p.m. - Crystal Ann Gonzalez, 37, arrested on LMC warrant for contempt of court,

3200 block Main St. Cited and released.

8:10 p.m. - Diana Lynn Hall, 68, arrested by OSP on SHMC warrant for offensive littering. Cited to appear July 23.

10:44 p.m. - Christian Michael Rogers, 30, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant in theft case. Cited to appear July 23.

11:29 p.m. - Theft reported in 33100 block Hwy. 228, Halsey. Report taken.

June 25

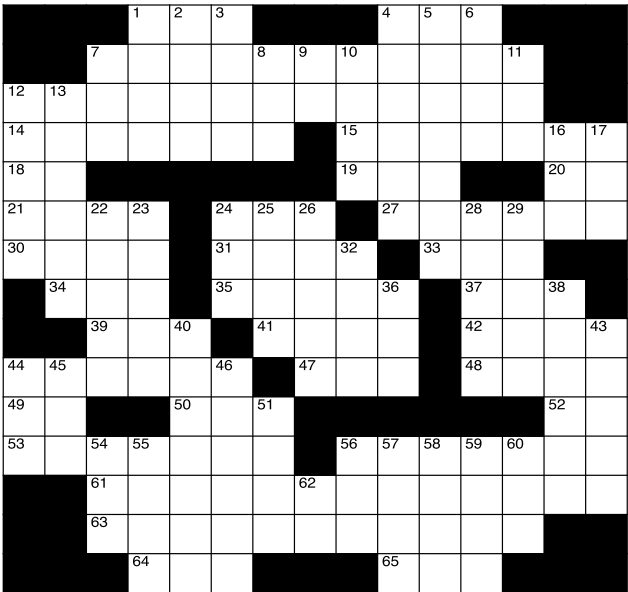
1:06 a.m. - Renee Ruth Carr, 59, arrested on LMC warrant for driving while suspended, 1500 block Tamarack. Cited and released.

2:39 a.m. - Nicholas Scott Warren, 45, arrested for escape III, resisting arrest, attempted assault on public safety officer, aggravated harassment, criminal mischief III, depositing trash within 100 feet of waterway, two counts of offensive littering and three counts of criminal trespass, 1100 block 10th Ave. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

9:09 a.m. - Caller reported

See Public Safety, Page 18

CROSSWORD



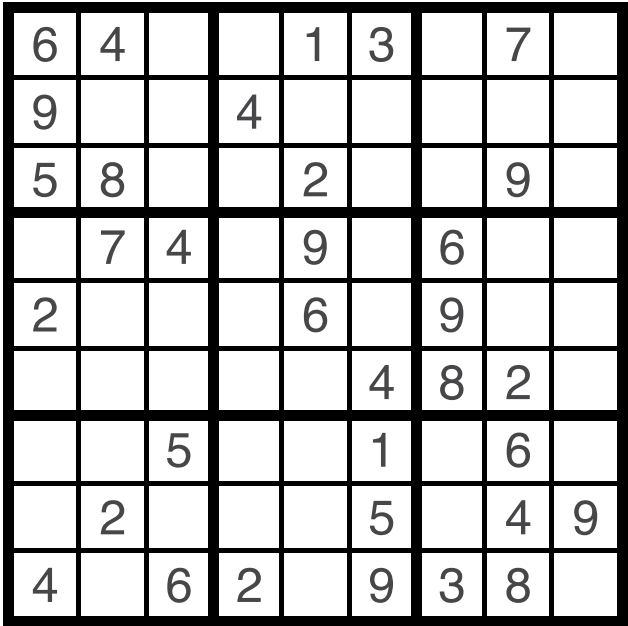
CLUES ACROSS

1. Formed by burning tobacco
4. Luxury automaker
7. Religious residences
12. Crusaders
14. Puzzled
15. In a curt way
18. Selling tool
19. Solid material
20. Gold
21. Thick piece of something
24. Pouch
27. "Wonder Years" actor Fred
30. Strong and healthy
31. Waste matter
33. Apply lightly
34. Type of squad
35. Secret political faction
37. Mock
39. Immoral act
41. Early Syrian kingdom
42. Neutralizes alkalis
44. Loud, confused noise
47. Sweet potato
48. Yemen's largest city
49. Farm state
50. Bird's beak
52. Measures distance
53. Pacify
56. Spanish noble
61. Lodging supplied for public convenience
63. Womanized
64. Not divisible by two
65. Monetary unit

CLUES DOWN

1. Used in perfumery
2. Arabic man's name
3. Assess
4. Prickly plants
5. Falsely assess
6. "___ the whistle"
7. Mama
8. Rocker ___ Vicious
9. Toward
10. Prefix meaning within
11. Midway between south and southeast
12. Cause to be embarrassed
13. Pandemonium
16. Fall behind
17. Cantonese
22. Shad
23. A way to make dark
24. Specialized systems consultant
25. Wings
26. Taxi driver
28. Linear units
29. Large Philippine plant
32. Celebration
36. Fugitives are on this
38. Chinese tree
40. Not sour
43. "Bourne" actor Matt
44. Former OSS
45. Runners run this
46. Offered again
51. Sanctuary
54. Food suitable for babies
55. Caused by a reflection of sound
56. Mortar trough
57. Days in mid-month
58. Exhibit the courage to do
59. Disk of the sun in Egyptian mythology
60. Protects from weather
62. Manganese

SUDOKU



Level: Beginner

Defensible space, building materials make big difference in fire test

In less than an hour, a model home in Salem was reduced to ashes by fire while the one next door saw minimal damage.

The difference? The surviving home was built to the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety's Wildfire Prepared Home standard using defensible space best practices and non-flammable materials. During the live demonstration, hosted by the Oregon State Fire Marshal on June 25, IBHS showed the research-based actions Oregonians can take to better protect their homes and properties.

This event comes at a critical moment. Fire season is here and projected to be above average for the entire state. It follows on the heels of the historic season last summer. From 2020 to 2024, wildfire seasons have grown increasingly complex with larger and more frequent fires moving farther north and west into communities not historically affected. Last year alone, Oregon saw a record-breaking 1.9 million acres burned.

"Wildfire is no longer a rural issue or something that affects just one region of the state; it's a growing threat for all Oregonians," said State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple. "Today's demonstration makes that reality personal. Seeing the way bark mulch, shrubs and building materials burn helps people connect the dots between small, affordable changes and real protection."

According to IBHS, embers are the leading cause of home



Photos courtesy of IBHS

A model house, left in both photos, which lacks defensible space, is reduced to ashes while one that has a 5-foot noncombustible zone around it and is built of fire-resistant materials and free of leaves and debris is not.

ignition from wildfires.

"Research should guide us in finding effective solutions," IBHS CEO Roy Wright said. "We know that maintaining a five-foot noncombustible zone around your home helps to ensure embers landing in that area just fizzle out. Fortunately, you don't have to compromise curb appeal at the expense of safety – there are smart, attractive ways to have both."

Oregon homeowners now have the opportunity to earn IBHS's Wildfire Prepared Home designation, based on the latest wildfire research, after they follow the standard's system of actions addressing the three most vulnerable areas of a home, including having a Class A roof, installing exterior features such as ember-resistant vents, and maintaining a noncombustible 0-5-foot zone.

"The good news is that most homes in Oregon already have a Class A roof," Wright said. "The other actions can be low-cost and often done as DIY

projects. And perhaps the best part – the actions that make a home survivable also make it insurable."

The work of IBHS aligns closely with the efforts to ensure the availability and affordability of insurance across Oregon. The Division of Financial Regulation, the state's insurance regulator, has collaborated with the Oregon State Fire Marshal and IBHS to examine approaches to wildfire-related challenges over multiple wildfire seasons.

"It is exciting to see the next evolution of our work with IBHS begin, and through this event remind people of the steps they can take now to protect lives and property," said TK Keen, Oregon's acting insurance commissioner.

"The IBHS work will allow us to follow the science in mitigation and fire resistance, which is instructive to carriers in setting property insurance rates."

Why did one home survive, and the other did not?

The house that burned:

- Bark mulch in the 0-5-foot

zone created easily ignitable fuel right next to the house, allowing embers to quickly start a fire at the foundation.

- Plants growing against the house provided continuous, flammable material that allowed fire to spread rapidly to the structure.

- A wood pile stacked against the house acted as a direct ignition source, fueling flames that could easily reach siding and windows.

- Leaves and debris collected in gutters and on the roof caught embers and ignited, spreading fire along the roofline and into the home.

- Untreated cedar planks, plastic/vinyl gutters, and open eaves were highly combustible and allowed embers to enter and ignite the home.

The house that survived:

- Cement pavers in place of bark mulch in the 0-5-foot zone eliminated easily ignitable fuel near the home's foundation, preventing ember-driven fires from taking hold.

- Plants were spaced away

from the house, reducing continuous fuel and slowing fire spread near the structure.

- Wood piles were kept far away from the house, removing a direct source of ignition that could carry flames to the home.

- Gutters and roofs were clear of leaves and debris, minimizing places for embers to ignite and spread fire.

- The home was built with fire-resistive siding, aluminum gutters and vent mesh screens, which prevented embers from igniting the structure and blocked fire entry points like open eaves.

Creating defensible space and hardening your home doesn't have to be overwhelming or expensive. Simple steps can make a big difference. To learn how to get started, including how to schedule a defensible space assessment, visit oregondefensiblespace.org. To learn more about Wildfire Prepared Home, including how to earn a designation, visit wildfireprepared.org. For more on IBHS, visit ibhs.org.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 17

dirt biker blowing through stop signs in area of 7th Ave./Dogwood St. Officer unable to locate rider following report.

11:23 a.m. - Deputy warned two males for trespassing on Calapooia Tree Farm, 43000 block Upper Calapooia Dr.

11:45 a.m. - Deputy warned group of people who had set up camp on Giustina land, 43000 block Upper Calapooia Dr.

12:20 p.m. - Assault reported near Green Peter Lake, 45000

block Quartzville Dr. According to LCSO, this was a physical fight that was reported to have occurred several days prior at campsite on Quartzville Rd. Investigation continuing.. Report taken.

12:56 p.m. - Crash reported in 28100 block Brownsville Rd., Brownsville. According to LCSO, Alix Osinga, 19, of Lebanon, driving a Ford Ranger, over-corrected while looking down at the radio and drove off the roadway onto the shoulder. After Osinga over-corrected a second time, the truck rolled

onto its roof. Osinga was transported to the hospital for evaluation and cited for careless driving. Report taken.

1:23 p.m. - Crash reported on Hwy. 228 at I-5 exit (216). According to OSP, an Infiniti QX6 driven by Michael James Konkolis, 37, of Philomath, was northbound on I-5 and exited, then proceeded through the intersection to re-enter the freeway. According to OSP, Konkolis failed to stop at the stop sign and rolled through the intersection. A Volkswagen driven by Donald Terri

Mohr, 29, of Sweet Home, was westbound on Hwy. 228 and T-boned the Infiniti. At least one passenger, Megan McCarthy, 37, was involved but report was unclear regarding which vehicle she was in. No one was transported. Konkolis was cited for multiple violations unspecified in the OSP report, as well as driving while suspended. Vehicles were towed.

2:06 p.m. - Vehicle vs. pedestrian crash reported in area of Mountain View Rd./22nd Ave. Officers responded and learned that it wasn't a crash.

Male occupant of wheelchair had fallen out when female operator of vehicle came to hard stop. No injuries. Declined medics. No damage.

2:10 p.m. - Caller reported someone had left two bikes in 1700 block 54th Ave. Officer responded, bikes seized.

2:14 p.m. - Caller reported someone left bike in 4300 block Main St. Officer responded, bike placed in property.

2:39 p.m. - Larry Dean Bergstrom, 60, arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrant in theft case. Cited to appear July 23.

7:25 p.m. - Jacob Robert Langley, 34, of Eugene, cited for speeding, driving uninsured and failure to register vehicle, Hwy. 228/Walker Lane, Brownsville. Report taken.

8:55 p.m. - Caller reported multiple people at Northside Park "yelling, doing drugs and one male polishing a BB gun." Officer responded, individuals left except for two, who were advised of park hours and would be packing up.

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Photo courtesy of Colin Davis

With coach Josie Macklin, left, at Hayward Field are, from left, Kasey Kast, Jack Simmons, Dillan Davis and Ryker Burr. Relay anchorman Kolton Wilmarth was not available for the photo.

Huskies compete with nation's elite at Nike Outdoor Nationals

Six Sweet Home athletes competed June 19-22 at the Nike Outdoor Nationals held at Hayward Field at the University of Oregon.

The 4x400 relay team of Ryker Burr, Kasey Kast, Dillan Davis and Kolton Wilmarth finished 22nd in a field of 37 teams from as far away as New York and Alaska in the Emerging Elite division.

Also competing were seniors Jack Simmons and Peyton Markell, both in the javelin.

Markell finished 27th in a field of 50 competitors with a throw of 104-7, which was three inches over the mark she set in placing third at the Oregon West Conference, but well under the PR of 112-4 she set in early May. That throw would

have placed her 14th in the competition.

The Emerging Elite competition was won by Jaedyn Swindall of Ardmore, Okla., who threw 134-4. The Championship Division competition winner was Najiah Harris of the Ironclad Throwers Academy of California, who threw 153-10.

Simmons was 23rd in a field of 48 competitors with a throw of 157-9, short of the 166-7 PR he threw at the state championships. That throw would have placed him 10th in the Emerging Elite division at Nike, which was won by Carter Johnson of the Phillips Exeter Academy Track Club of New Hampshire (182-5). The Championship Division was won by Bryson Jacobs of Drexel, Mo.,

who threw 220-3.

Sweet Home's relay quartet finished in 3:30.37, a little slower than they did at state three weeks earlier at the 4a state championships on the same track (3:25.67). Splits for Nike were Burr 55.65, Kast 52.85, Davis 51.45 and Wilmarth 50.41. If they had been able to match their run at state, they would have been fifth in the Nike Emerging Elite competition. Eastwood (Ohio) Track Club won the race in 3:24.36. The Championship Division race was won by Cedar Falls (Iowa) Track Club in 3:15.15. Marshfield's team was ninth in the Championship race, in 3:19.76, as anchor Bodey Lutes ran 46.63, the fastest leg of the day.



Photos by Scott Swanson

Spectators take in the details of classic cars Saturday at the Sweet Home Sweet Ride Car Show.



Bob Weidner of Sweet Home relaxes next to his 1958 Studebaker Silver Hawk.



Spectators eyeball a row of vehicles all owned by Danny Wilson of Sweet Home, starting with this 1930 Model A Coupe, and, moving to the left, a 1947 Chevy pickup, a 1967 Chevy Camaro, and, on the end at left, the black 1930 Model A Tudor sedan. Closeups of all four, along with dozens of other photos from the show, are at sweethomenews.com.

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From page 12

has logging contractors and road-building crews, along with its own employees, in the forests during fire season and “all those guys are trained, just like we are” and can respond quickly with equipment to a fire.

“They know the drill and if they can get there before it’s big, it’s well worth it,” he said.

Moran credited Swanson for being “real receptive” to the actual situation in the forest.

Swanson said that cooperation has been key to getting things moving.

“What I sometimes see in other places is landowners or the Forest Service or whoever – people get territorial. This isn’t the time to be territorial. This is the time to fight the fires together, right?”

“It’s time for all of us to rally, for all of us to bring whatever we have, whether it’s knowledge or skills or equipment or operators or whatever it is, and bring it together and to see what we can do to get in front of it.

“We need to discuss together what’s the most important work and then do that work together.

“I think things we all learned in 2020 is you can never evac-

uate too early and we need to be better prepared, than to get surprised.”

Local Benefits

Tyler, who took over as fire chief in Sweet Home in 2022, said that although SHFAD is doing the work, he credited Forest Service officials for supporting the efforts to employ “out-of-the-box stuff we’re doing” to protect the area.

“We’re the only green canyon in the area right now, sandwiched between black on both sides.”

He said local residents have made it clear they are concerned about fire safety.

“Our community feels inadequately protected,” he said. “What we can do to help make the area safer, help ease some of the anxiety, is very important to me.

“Nobody wants fire on our landscape. We are all committed to getting on fires, keeping them as small as possible.”

Moran also said the public is not just about saving dollars but about public safety.

“This gives us a chance to stop it,” he said. “Once a big fire gets started, we know we don’t want it escaping, whether it’s burning more Forest Service ground or our property.

“It’s a public safety issue and an air quality issue.”

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